



MERLIN INNOVATION AWARDS 2023

MIA 2023 Award Ceremony, 15 February 2023

Meet the Jury Members

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C O N N
E C T O
L O G Y



The MERLIN project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101036337.



Arantza Unzurrunzaga

Engineer at Gipuzkoa Provincial Council

Daria Sikorska

Assistant Professor at Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Department of Remote Sensing and Environmental Assessment

Matea Jarak

Project Officer for Sustainable Island Projects at WWF Adria

Silke-Silvia Drexler

Senior Scientist

Thomas Hein

Full Professor

both University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management

Tibor Erős

Senior Scientist at Balaton Limnology Research Institute



RESTORATION PROJECT: Deba river restoration (Spain)

Innovations to be applied:

Generally, river restoration based on the removal of barriers focuses on a single obstacle. In the framework of the MERLIN project, our restoration action acts simultaneously on 10 obstacles located in the main river channel. It is therefore a basin-wide restoration action.

RESTORATION PROJECT: Kampinos wetlands (Poland)

Innovations to be applied:

innovative approach to the planning, design and implementation of measures aimed at naturalisation of artificial ditches and surrounding wetlands, as well as monitoring of effects of those activities, conducted in a nature protected area of the National Park and Natura 2000 site

RESTORATION PROJECT: Peatlands of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Innovations to be applied:

(expected) implementation of carbon-crediting project(s) for sustainable restoration and conservation (rewetting), in collaboration with hydropower companies

RESTORATION PROJECT: Danube floodplain (Austria)

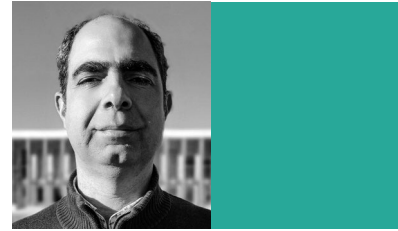
Innovations to be applied:

- use of an integrative and adaptive catalogue of measures
- realisation of measures of a common river section management plan in terms of ecology and inland navigation to reach the good ecological and good navigation status
- recycling of removed riprap (circular economy)
- riverbed widening to counter-act riverbed deepening

RESTORATION PROJECT: Danube floodplain (Hungary)

Innovations to be applied:

The project's innovative character is that the water management body, the drinking water supply company and the protected area manager body were also partners in the project. The redesign and translocation of the drinking water supply tube made it possible to remove the rockfill dam of the side-branch.



Albert Scricciu

Scientific Researcher, Head of Interdisciplinary Research of the Fluvial Environment Department at National Institute for Research and Development of Marine Geology and Geoecology (GeoEcoMar)

Tamás Gruber

Freshwater Programme Manager at WWF Hungary

Christina Hess

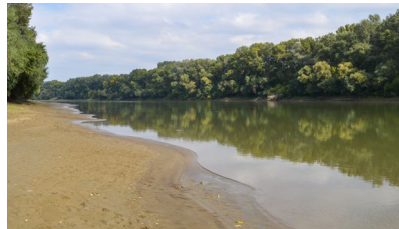
German Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG)

José Maria Santos

Research Assistant at the Forest Research Centre (CEF) of the University of Lisboa

Seppo Hellsten

Leading Research Scientist, Associate Professor, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Marine and Freshwater Solutions, Ecosystem Functions



RESTORATION PROJECT:
Danube floodplain (Gârla Mare, Romania)

Gârla Mare was selected to demonstrate the benefits of reconnecting former / transformed wetlands back to the natural flood pulse of the Danube, to enhance the benefits provided to nature and local communities.

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Tisza (Hungary)

Innovations to be applied:

- designing and implementing a modern way of the traditional floodplain farming
- harmonising irrigation infrastructure with nature-based water retention measures

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Germany’s Blue Belt (Germany)

Innovations to be applied:

a combination of complete removal of bank protection and nature-based modification of river banks in a highly frequented waterway

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Sorraia floodplain (Portugal)

Value of the case:

- riparian rehabilitation (clearing of sedges and woody debris, bank stabilisation and removal of exotic woody vegetation)
- removal of exotic invasive plants (water hyacinth, Brazilian milfoil) in river and canals
- creation and maintenance of ecological set-aside areas
- fish passes in weirs and river crossings

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Komppasuo peat extraction area (Finland)

Innovations to be applied:

evidence-based results to guide decisions over future land-use / restoration measures in abandoned peat extraction sites and to scale up goal-oriented planning approach in / to the case study area



Yaron Hershkovitz

Managing Director at Tel Aviv University, Israel National Center for Aquatic Ecology

Pieter Boets

Research Assistant at the Provincial Centre of Environmental Research, Belgium

Amy Pickard

Aquatic Biogeochemist at the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Edinburgh

Svenja Karnatz

Project Manager at Emschergenossenschaft (EGLV)

Andrea Schneider

Research Associate at University Duisburg-Essen



RESTORATION PROJECT:
Tzipori catchment (Israel)

Innovations to be applied:

- ecohydrological restoration
- watershed partnerships
- remote sensing
- continuous water quality monitoring
- improving wildlife crossing

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Scheldt catchment (Belgium)

Innovations applied and to be applied:

online monitoring and specific types of tailor-made agreements with the farmers

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Forth catchment (United Kingdom)

Innovations to be applied:

Demonstration sites in the catchment will partner with the University of Stirling's Forth ERA programme. This will facilitate the collection of high-resolution data in freshwaters undergoing restoration, and data provision to the wider community. Restoring connections between rivers and their floodplains well as in-stream restoration and wetland creation, to contribute to natural flood management and the restoration of valuable habitats

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Emscher catchment (Germany)

Innovations to be applied:

innovative large-scale technical solution for mowing high dikes with collection and use of the cutting material



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Thank you for participating!

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