

Deliverable 29: Report on the fourth seminar on Trivers

February 2018

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Implementing the Water Framework Directive to temporary rivers: tools for the assessment of their ecological status
LIFE13 ENV/ES/000341

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Abstract

This deliverable reflects the organization of the fourth stakeholders' Meeting of TRivers on 26 January 2018 in Barcelona. The meeting aimed at showing the importance of public participation processes in water management, and governance, with special attention to temporary rivers and streams. During the meeting, different perspectives within the TRivers project that involve the participation of citizens were presented and discussed, including the use of interviews for the classification of stream regime and their application by stakeholders, as well as citizen science with the new hydrological components of the RiuNet app for smartphones. Finally, a workshop was undertaken to explore the ecosystem services provided by temporary rivers.

Participants' opinions about their involvement on the management of temporary rivers were very constructive, especially regarding the app. The debate on ecosystem services was very active and contributed to increase the social awareness of this type of water bodies. In addition, the meeting contributed to enlarge the links with society and create synergies with other ongoing projects involved in public participation.

1. Organization

The LIFE+ project TRivers organised the third stakeholders meeting on 26 January 2018 in Barcelona.

The meeting preparation consisted of:

- First announcement of the meeting. A save-the-date email was sent to stakeholders by the project coordinator.
- Creation of an online application for registration.
- Preparation of the programme (Figure 1).
- Announcement at the website and twitter. The announcement contained information about the nature of the event, the programme, link to the online registration form, address of the place, and contact details (Figures 2 and 3).
- Last announcement. A final reminder was sent to all invited stakeholders.
- Room booking at Casa de l'Aigua in Barcelona.
- Preparation of material to be distributed to participants. This pack consisted of TRivers leaflet and postcard, meeting programme, and list of participants with contact details. All materials were environmental friendly and low ecological footprint.
- Preparation of presentations. PowerPoint presentations were prepared by TRivers partners and external contributors.

26 gener 2018

Participació ciutadana en la gestió dels rius temporals

Casa de l'Aigua, Carrer de Garbí, 2

Nou Barris, **Barcelona**

10:00- 10:15	**Presentació de la Jornada.** El vincle entre la societat i la gestió del medi natural *Lluís Pagespetit (Fundació Vincles i SCEA)*
10:15-10:30	**El context: quin és el paper del ciutadà en el projecte TRivers?** *Núria Cid (Universitat de Barcelona)*
10:30-10:45	**Hidrologia social: TREHS i les dades obtingudes amb enquestes als ciutadans** *Francesc Gallart, Jérôme Latron, Maria Soria (IDAEA-CSIC).*
10:45-11_00	**Aplicació de les enquestes per la classificació hidrològica dels rius de les conques internes de Catalunya.** *Carolina Solà (ACA)*
11:00- 11:15	**Ciència ciutadana i rius temporals: RiuNet** *Maria Soria (IDAEA-CSIC i Universitat de Barcelona)*
11:15-11:45	**Pausa-cafè**
11:45- 12:15	**Gestió dels rius temporals i la importància de la participació ciutadana** *Alba Ballester (Experta en processos de participació ciutadana i gestió de l'aigua)*
12:15-13:45	**Taller participatiu: Serveis ecosistèmics dels rius temporals i percepció social** *Alba Ballester (Experta en processos de participació ciutadana i gestió de l'aigua)* *Dídac Jordà (ICRA)*
13:45-14:00	**Cloenda**

Figure 1. Programme of the meeting (in Catalan).



desembre 21, 2017 / In Notícies

VINE A LA QUARTA REUNIÓ DE STAKEHOLDERS DEL PROJECTE TRIVERS: PARTICIPACIÓ CIUTADANA EN LA GESTIÓ DELS RIUS TEMPORALS

El projecte LIFE + TRivers té com a meta crear noves eines per millorar la gestió dels rius temporals basant-se en els objectius de la Directiva marc de l'aigua (DMA). Després de les tres reunions realitzades a València, Múrcia i Saragossa en 2015, 2016, i 2017, respectivament, el dia 26 de gener es celebrarà la quarta reunió dedicada als experts en gestió fluvial i a altres parts interessades.

L'objectiu principal d'aquesta reunió és donar a conèixer les accions socials del projecte TRivers, que ha implicat a gestors, científics, entitats i sobretot ciutadans interessats en la gestió dels rius. En primer lloc, TRivers ha integrat en el *software* TREHS (*Temporary Rivers Ecological and Hydrological Status*) coneixements de la població sobre la hidrologia dels rius temporals utilitzant enquestes senzilles. Això ha ajudat a aconseguir dades on no hi havia cap tipus de registre anteriorment (per exemple, degut a la manca d'estacions d'aforament), ajudant així a la detecció d'impactes hidrològics. En segon lloc, s'ha desenvolupat una versió simplificada del TREHS que pretén implicar la ciutadania en l'avaluació de l'estat hidrològic i ecològic dels rius mitjançant una App per a mòbils (RiuNet). Finalment, s'ha realitzat un procés de participació ciutadana per a la sensibilització sobre els rius temporals, el seu diagnòstic i l'elaboració d'una proposta de mesures de gestió, referides tant a la millora del seu estat actual com a la seva conservació.
A més, la jornada comptarà amb una sessió interactiva per reflexionar i discutir sobre la percepció social dels rius temporals i dels béns i serveis que ens proporcionen.

Us podeu **inscriure** a través del següent enllaç: https://goo.gl/forms/DceckStVdG9PZaAm1

Descarrega el programa.
Per a més informació escriu-nos a: lifetrivers@ub.edu

O visita: www.lifetrivers.eu

Figure 2. Announcement of the meeting at the TRivers website.



Figure 3. Announcement of the meeting at the TRivers twitter account and other institutions.

2. Summary of the meeting

On January 26, the fourth stakeholder meeting of the LIFE+ TRivers project took place in Barcelona. The meeting aimed at present the social aspects of the project, which involved managers, scientists, NGOs and citizens interested in river management:

- The **TREHS software** (Temporary Rivers Ecological and Hydrological Status): it has been developed to integrate knowledge extracted from citizens about the river hydrology by using interviews. This is crucial for obtaining hydrological data in those temporary water bodies in order to overcome the frequent lack of gauging stations, as well as the limitations of the flow records for characterizing the regime of temporary streams and the identification of hydrological impacts.
- **RiuNet App**: the project has developed a simplified version of TREHS that aims at involving citizens in the evaluation of hydrological and ecological status: the RiuNet app for smartphones and tablets.
- **Participatory process**: during October and November 2017, TRivers carried out a public participation process to raise awareness on the conservation of temporary rivers, their diagnostic and management. This process allowed to gather information on impacts at the water bodies where we worked and to propose different management measures (action B3).

Once the social aspects were presented, a workshop on the citizens' perception on the ecosystem services provided by temporary rivers and streams was developed.

Thus, the meeting was divided in two parts: (1) follow-up of the TRivers project results from citizen participation and, (2) workshop on ecosystem services in temporary rivers and streams. In total, 23 participants involved in water management attended the meeting and different profiles were present, including:

- Water managers from the Catalan Water Agency.

- NGO’s such as Fundació Vincles, Cel Rogent and other entities such as Museu del Ter.

- RepresentativeS of the Diputació de Barcelona.

- Enterprises related with science communication, dissemination and citizen science.

- Researchers of the University of Barcelona (FEM Research Group) with many years of experience in the development of indicators using biological organisms that live in rivers.

- Researchers of the IDAEA-CSIC (Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research) that mostly focus their work on river hydrology.

The session started with a presentation by the project manager, Núria Cid, on the importance of citizen involvement in TRivers, summarizing the outcomes from different actions of the project including this approach. The next presentation, by Francesc Gallart from the IDAEA-CSIC (Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research) explained the TREHS -Temporary Rivers Ecological and Hydrological Status- software tool (Gallart et al., 2017) and highlighted the relevance of qualitative information obtained from interviews to citizens to classify the river regime. He explained the methods behind this and how the hydrological metrics were obtained and compared with quantitative data (Gallart et al.,2016). Afterwards, Carolina Solà, from the Catalan Water Agency, showed their experience as stakeholders when using these methods in the Catalan Internal Basins, mainly for the detection of hydrological alterations and for adapting best sampling dates in temporary rivers. Maria Soria, from the IDAEA-CSIC and UB, presented the new version of the RiuNet app and described the new features and functions regarding hydrology, showing how citizens can contribute not only to the assessment of the ecological status but also to the detection of hydrological alterations. In addition, she explained that by providing information on observations of three aquatic phases (flow, disconnected pools or dry phase) with the app, citizens could feed the TREHS and participate in gathering qualitative hydrological data. She also presented the upcoming events such as the World Water Day and other to encourage participants and users involved in citizen science to participate and disseminate the use of the RiuNet app. Finally, the coordinator of the participatory process Alba Ballester, explained the duties, rights and necessity of public participation in temporary rivers, and presented the main features and a preliminary analysis of the results of the public participation process.



Figure 4. Different members of the TRivers team during the presentation of the socials aspects of the project and the associated activities. Pictures: N. Cid and Agustín López.

The workshop on ecosystem services was organized with the contribution of the expert in participatory processes in water management, Alba Ballester, and the researcher Dídac Jordà (ICRA), expert in the identification and assessment of ecosystem services in river ecosystems. Dídac Jordà started to introduce the ecosystem services concept and their classification in regulating, provisioning and cultural ecosystem services. Then, Alba Ballester explained the workshop. It consisted on an identification of the most important ecosystem services provided by temporary rivers, a relation between each ecosystem service and different phases of different types of intermittent rivers (ephemeral, intermittent dry, intermittent with pools) by using pictures taken in different seasons (Figure 5), and a discussion about the effect of some anthropogenic impacts to ecosystem services provision.



Figure 5. Materials used during the workshop of ecosystem services and temporary rivers. Picture: N. Cid.

In conclusion, participants expressed they interest on the contents of the project and their future involvement on temporary rivers management, mainly regarding the RiuNet app and its potential use in dissemination and education activities towards the protection of temporary rivers. Nevertheless, one main concern emerged during the workshop regarding public participation in temporary rivers: Public involvement on temporary rivers management is low. Sometimes because it is not a priority of society, others because stakeholders think participation is useless, as the results of deliberation do not have a tangible impact in water policies. In this regard, two thoughts were highlighted. First, water authorities must be committed with public participation and its results. Second, there is a need to make the intangibles of participation more visible (namely: knowledge building, network capacity, increase motivation to get involved in public matters, increase effectiveness of public policies, among others), as they are one of the most relevant outputs of public involvement and they are crucial for societal transformation and for achieving a good environmental status of temporary rivers.



Figure 6. Stakeholders and scientists attending the meeting in Barcelona. Picture: N.Cid.

3. After the meeting

After the meeting, a *thank you* email was sent to the participating stakeholders (Figure 6) and the links to media where the event appeared. For more information on media related with the event see 'Deliverable 26: Press release report'

4. References

Gallart, F., Cid, N., Latron, J., Llorens, P., Bonada, N., Jeuffroy, J., Jiménez-Argudo, S-Mª., Vega, R-Mª., Solà, C., Soria, Mª., Bardina, M., Hernández-Casahuga, A.J. Estrela, T., Munné, A., Prat, N. (2017). TREHS: An open-access software tool for investigating and evaluating temporary river regimes as a first step for their ecological status assessment. Science of the Total Environment, 607, 519-540. DOI: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2017.06.209

Gallart, F., Llorens, P., Latron, J., Cid, N., Rieradevall, M., Prat, N. (2016). Validating alternative methodologies to estimate the regime of temporary rivers when flow data are unavailable. Science of the Total Envionment, 565, 1001-1010. DOI:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2016.05.116