

## **Cover Note for Workshop Participants**

Dear participant,

The main aim of this workshop is to provide a platform for consultation and exchange between REFORM scientists, European technical experts working on river degradation and restoration, and members of the WG A Ecological Status (ECOSTAT) of the CIS for the WFD (2000/60/EC).

At the workshop, the first results of REFORM will be presented and invited experts will have the opportunity to give their feedback during interactive breakout sessions. The breakout sessions (parallel working groups) will address different topics relevant to the various types of rivers and pressures across Europe. They will also address REFORM's outputs and plans for the next stages of the project and also reflect on relevant activities in the EU Member States and other European countries.

On **Day 1** of the workshop, 6 working groups will take place in 2 different discussion rounds.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> discussion round, 3 parallel working groups will take place on “Lowland rivers”, “Highland/midland rivers” and on “Mediterranean rivers”. The goal is to allow for discussion among participants who share similar problems and potential solutions, in order to have more profound and to-the-point discussions.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> discussion round, 3 parallel working groups will take place on “Unraveling the impact of hydromorphological pressures in multiple-pressure settings”, “Designing programmes of measures”, “Heavily modified water bodies”.

For details see programme at:

<http://www.reformrivers.eu/events/stakeholder-workshop/programme>.

On **Day 2** of the workshop, summaries of the working group discussions will be reported and discussed in the plenary room.

The Workshop Discussion Paper (see <http://reformrivers.eu/events/stakeholder-workshop/documents>) provides a progress update on the REFORM results (with brief problem descriptions and conclusions from the main work-packages) and establishes connections between the workshop programme and the REFORM deliverables. The paper also aims at identifying issues that should be discussed, by proposing some key topics to be addressed at the workshop.

We also recommend that participants become familiar with the conclusions and recommendations of the CIS Ecostat workshop on hydromorphology (Brussels, 12-13 June 2012), to avoid repeating earlier discussions.

### **Organisation of working groups (breakout sessions)**

At the registration desk, you will be asked to sign up for one of the following working groups:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> discussion round

- WG 1: Lowland rivers
- WG 2: Highland/midland rivers
- WG 3: Mediterranean rivers

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> discussion round

- WG 4: Unraveling the impact of hydromorphological pressures in multiple-pressure settings
- WG 5: Designing programmes of measures
- WG 6: Heavily modified water bodies

In the working groups, there will be an active involvement from every participant using specific moderation methods that will be introduced at the workshop.

To facilitate these discussions, the organisers would like to invite participants to prepare themselves for the workshop by considering the following questions:

For each specific topic (hydromorphological pressures in multiple-pressure settings, programmes of measures, HMWBs) or group of rivers (lowland, highland/midland, Mediterranean rivers):

- What are currently the **key problems and open issues** of Member States and other stakeholders relevant to the assessment and management of hydromorphological pressures and to hydromorphological restoration (technical or socioeconomic nature)?
- **What approaches are applied** in the Member States to address key problems and open issues (see previous question)?
- What are the participants (Member States and other stakeholders) **recommendations to REFORM?**
- What **requests** do participants (Member States and other stakeholders) have to orientate the **work programme of REFORM?**

At the workshop, we would also like to ask each participant to set priorities to all issues that will be raised.

We look forward to meeting you and hearing your views and contributions in Brussels,

*The workshop organisers*