



Project Partners



University of Ljubljana

Faculty of civil and geodetic engineering

Chair of Hydrology and
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LJUBLJANICA CONNECTS

LIFE10 NAT/SI/142



The Application and Outcomes

The project started on 1st January 2012 and will last until 31st December 2015.

Within the project three groups of measures will be performed: concrete restoration actions, ecohydrological and fish monitoring.

The entire reconstruction and modernization of the technical measures will enable free migration of fish species along the whole river channel. Once uniform fish population of the Ljubljanica and Sava Rivers, will be united again.

The results of ecohydrological observations will be used for hydrological modelling of the Ljubljanica River. The model might later be used for automatization of the river gate managing system.

The data gathered from fish monitoring will contribute to a better understanding of fish migration along the Ljubljanica and Sava River.



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<http://ksh.fgg.uni-lj.si/ljubljanicaconnects>

This project has been funded with support from the European commission. This publication reflects only the view of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Restoration of the Ljubljanica River
corridor and improvement of the
river's flow regime



The Initial Situation

The heavily degraded area of the Ljubljanica River corridor upstream and downstream of the Ljubljana urban area is an important habitat for the fragmented and heavily endangered population of Danube Salmon (*Hucho hucho*), Danube Roach (*Rutilus pigus*) and Striped Chub (*Leuciscus souffia*). Nowadays, the water level upstream of the weir on the Ljubljanica River is too low, therefore during low flow conditions the main Ljubljanica River channel is not connected to its tributaries. This represents a great obstacle for the habitat connectivity along the river reaches which is worsened by the improperly working fish passes.



The Project Objectives

The main objectives of the project are to restore the biodiversity of the Ljubljanica River corridor and to improve the ecological function of the area. Additionally, the project objective is to promote relatively simple river restoration measures for improving the ecological status of the river to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. The project also aims to raise the awareness of general public, local stakeholders and decision makers at local and national level who due to past river management still consider the Ljubljanica River mainly as a threat rather than a vital element of the environmental quality. The ecohydrological survey will present the foundation for working plan preparation, implementation of restoration actions and additional habitat conservation and restoration works.

The Project Actions

The most visible actions on the project are concrete restoration measures: reconstruction of the sill, upgrade of two fish passes of which one is severely damaged and the modernization of barrier's lifting system.

Throughout the duration of the project ecohydrological monitoring on 17 newly constructed water stations is performed and discharge is measured with HydroSurveyor system. The impact of the measures is evaluated using the data collected with fish migration monitoring. Fish harvest is performed in cooperation with fishermen, then fish is measured and tagged before released into the water.

