

# INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS "LIFE TO RIVERS"

**Tuesday, 19. 5. 2026**



08:00	Registration
09:00	Opening in the Sava Hall
09:10	Honorary opening speeches dr. Lidija Globevnik, Director-General, Water Directorate, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Slovenia dr. Lidija Kegljevič Zagorc, acting director of Slovenian Water Agency dr. Damijan Denac, director of Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, video doc.dr. Anže Županič, director of National Institute of Biology Martin Janes, Chairman of the European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR)
09:40	Instructions and logistics
09:50	Keynote speaker: Stage Zero concept, Matt Parr, Environment Agency, United Kingdom
10:30	Coffee Break
11:00	Workshops sessions: River Restoration and Stage Zero
	1A - Soča Hall - Identifying opportunities for stage zero measures in the Pšata catchment - Lead: Matthew Parr
	1B - Mura Hall - Opportunities for integration of stage zero approach in regular water maintenance works - Lead: Smiljan Juvan, Aljoša Petek
	1C - Drava Hall - Community engagement and social readiness in river restoration - Lead: Bart Fokkens, Martin Janes
	1D - Sava Hall - Balancing biodiversity needs and hydropower production - Lead: Michael Döring
13:00	Lunch
14:30	Plenary reporting back from workshops - Sava Hall
15:40	Coffee Break

16:10	Project networking
16:40	A - River Restoration (general) - Sava Hall
16:40	B - River revitalisation (specific) - Drava Hall
16:40	C - Monitoring Tools - Mura Hall
16:40	Project matchmaking - Soča Hall
18:00	Music & Cocktail party

## Wednesday, 20. 5. 2026

8:30	Registration
09:00	Start of the day
09:10	Keynote speaker: The IUCN Global standard for Nature-based Solutions, Fabien Kufel, IUCN French Committee
09:50	Keynote speaker: Nature-based solutions for resilient riverscapes and communities in practice, Piet De Becker, Research Institute for Nature and Forest, Belgium
10:30	Coffee Break
11:00	Workshop sessions: Applying IUCN Global standard for Nature-based Solutions in riverscapes
	2A - Mura Hall - Is every 'green' flood protection measure a NbS? - Lead: Urša Koce, Polona Pengal, Mojca Hrovat
	2B - Sava Hall - Designing NbS for flood resilience in complex systems - Lead: Piet de Becker
	2C - Drava Hall - Co-creating NbS for resilient riverscapes with stakeholders and communities - Lead: Romain Bellier, Aljoša Petek
	2D - Soča Hall - Planning adaptive and evidence-based management of NbS - Lead: Fabien Kufel
13:00	Lunch
14:30	Plenary reporting back from workshops - Sava Hall
15:40	Coffee Break
16:25	Poster session
	A - River Restoration - Sava Hall
	B - NbS and River Stewardship - Drava Hall
	C - Monitoring and Research - Mura Hall
	Project Matchmaking - Soča Hall
18:00	Social Dinner
19:00	Music

## Thursday, 21. 5. 2026

8:00	Registration
08:30	Start of the day
08:40	Keynote speaker: Environmental participation and its implementation, Senka Šifkovič, PIC
09:15	Keynote speaker: France's "GEMAPI" Law: a new era in river management and practical restoration examples from the Upper Jura Regional Nature Park, Romain Bellier, PNRHJ, France
09:50	Coffee Break
10:10	Workshop sessions: Science & Policy
	3A - Drava Hall - From Opposition to Cooperation: Engaging Communities in Post-Flood Planning - Lead: Dragana Prijanovič, Romain Bellier
	3B - Sava Hall - Rethinking the EIA: Comparative Insights and a New Model for Slovenia and beyond - Lead: Aljoša Petek
	3C - Mura Hall - Water Governance Challenges and a Proposal for a New Deliberative Institution (only in Slovenian language) - Lead: Andrej Lukšič, Luka Dekić, Barbara Beznec
12:25	Plenary reporting back from workshops and wrap up - Sava Hall
	Reporting back from workshops - presenting the statements for the Policy Brief and Manifesto
13:30	Lunch
15:00	Goodbyes

*The Organizing Committee reserves the right to change the congress program.*