

# Outcomes and main recommendations of CERCEAU (French) study

## Europe INBO 2014 Natural Water Retention Measures River restoration



# An overview of foreign examples of RR projects with a focus on communities involvement

## Origin

- ✓ How to develop an ambitious RR project ?
- ✓ These projects have consequences on the territory (changes on local infrastructures, water uses, agricultural practices, flood, ...)
- ✓ We must develop convincing arguments for various stakeholders
- ✓ Have a look on successful conditions to avoid pitfalls

## **Benchmarking: 12 case studies and 3 tools**

- ✓ Define the project context (initiative, networks mobilized)
- ✓ Tell the story of each case (describing the main events of the implementation)
- ✓ Analyse the strategic factors of the success



# Main outcomes

## ■ Leadership and initiative

- ✓ Institutionnal or local initiative
- ✓ technical and political dimensions of the project holder

## ■ Strategical dimension of these projects

- ✓ Not a planification measure but a real project of change which has « natural » reluctances and opponents
- ✓ First looking for the possible partners or interested actors to be stronger

## ■ Fundamental importance of giving a territorial relevance of the RR

- ✓ Linking the project to the local history (and more)
- ✓ Presenting the project in all its dimensions in connection with human activities

## ■ Negotiate with the actual uses only in a second time

- ✓ When the project has already its political dimension
- ✓ Demonstrate the synergies with economic activities

## ■ The importance of animation means for these strategic considerations



# How to convince elected people ?

- **Sharing the environmental problem and its consequences for the territory (by promoting exchange more than pedagogy)**
- **Arguing to gain support (interested population)**
  - ✓ Drawing a vision of the future restored river and its characteristics of interest
  - ✓ Making a cultural and political project that fit with the local history and identity
- **Demonstrating the opportunity of a natural infrastructure**
  - ✓ River autonomy can be less expenditures (maintenance of dikes, bridges, ..., floodings costs)
  - ✓ A new living environment for fishing, leisure time and tourism, public image, ... which can enhance the attraction of the territory



# How to communicate on what RR are and can achieve ?

- **Using different languages (economical, social, cultural, ecological, ...)**
- **Underlying a vision for the territory with the RR (speaking about the future)**



# How to work with local communities and with what tools ?

- **First working with the persons interested to co-elaborate the base-project**
- **Then ensure and develop the local political dimension for an ambitious project**
- **Working with the actors networks (territorial, technical and sectorial)**



# How to mobilize financing ?

- **The general importance of the economic language**
- **Importance of the technical and ecological ambition to grab environmental financing**
- **Working the opportunity offered by the RR to suggest a wider project**
  - ✓ Real estate operation in England
  - ✓ Labellized agriculture in Germ. and Lux.

