



## EFIB News October 2024



This is our EFIB news after the summer in which we tell you briefly how the SERE congress and the Rhone trip went. In addition, we bring you the announcements of two important events for our discipline, one for next year 2024 and the other for 2025.

We celebrate the effective date the 18 August 2024 of the EU Nature Restoration Law. As you know, it sets binding targets for restoring degraded European ecosystems. Our discipline has direct application in the Restoration of degraded areas, as has been demonstrated for more than fifty years as a Nature-Based Solution.

Finally, we would like to remember someone in this month who will always be in our memory, on the first anniversary, our dear friend and professor João Paulo Almeida Fernandes

*As in the past EFIB news, we will renew the desire to contribute, in these uncertain times, with improving the understanding of man with nature and man with HIS nature. For peace, always, and for the Earth too.*

## WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CONFERENCES from EFIB MEMBERS

**Rhône, Rone, Rodano**  
Excursion EFIB 16-21 SEPTEMBER 2024  
visiting the Rhône basin

SAVE THE DATES  
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### EFIB Excursion : 16 - 21 september 2024 Visit the Rhone Basin

Last September, EFIB organized an excursion to visit the Rhone basin and check the different actions that are being carried out in the basin

We visited a total of eleven works, some of them more than thirty years old, others more recent, carried out five or six years ago, and others in the process of being executed. In almost all of them, we have seen the application of Soil and Water

Bioengineering techniques as a tool for restoration. Together with the works, we visited the UFPL's hydraulic construction laboratory in Lausanne, where the interventions are modeled on a reduced scale.



*EPFL and Géní Alp*

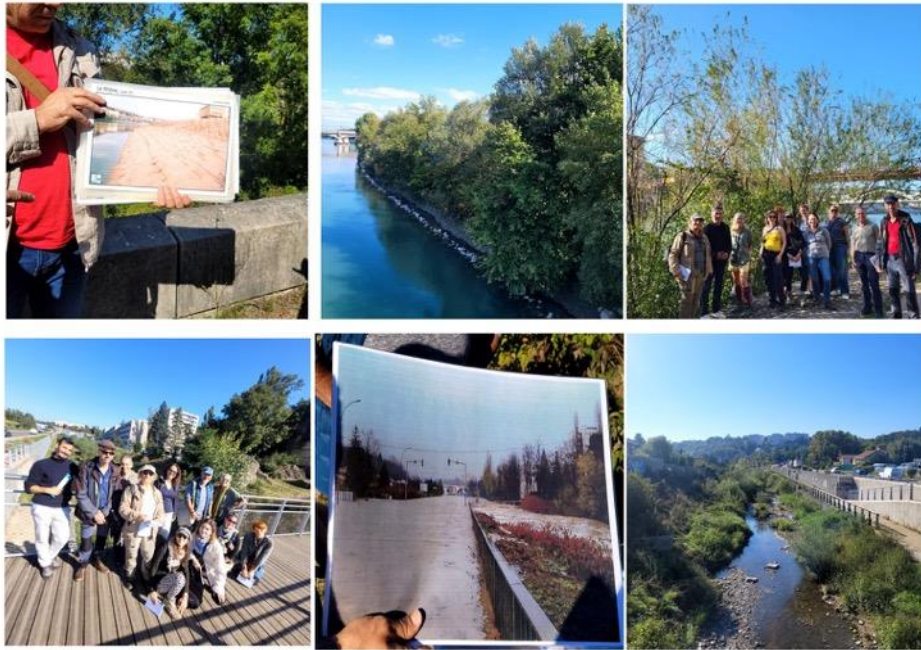


*3rd correction of the Rhône, Laysse, Banks of the Rhône*

Concerning the works, there has been an important evolution in their conception over the years: In the oldest works, the objective was to restore the banks and the riverside vegetation. In general, these were one-off and very local actions. The evolution towards understanding the river as a dynamic and complex ecosystem can already be seen in the work carried out a decade ago when the idea of allowing the river to recover its space and improve its fluvial dynamics emerged. In many cases, this space is achieved by eliminating infrastructures or by moving protection dikes



The current projects incorporate the necessary flood prevention, the restoration of habitats and the river ecosystem as well as the approach of citizenship to the interventions, especially when we are in urban areas.



*Revitalization of the Yzeron and Willow Nursery*



*Rhône restoration works*

A total of 13 people participated in this trip, five of whom belong to EFIB, two professors from Boku University (**Rosemarie Stangl** and **Ulrike Pitka**), one researcher from INRAE (**André Evette**), two renowned professionals (**Albert Sorolla** and **Paola Sangalli**) as well as three PhD students from INRAE (**Solange Leblois**, **Natacha Fructus** and **Juliette Roussette**) and five master students from BOKU University (**Barbara Riedl**, **Sirna Mara David-Lalic**, **Kathrin Dorfner**, **Petra Müller** and **Helena Viktoria Peischl**).



*La Pallissade*

The trip was organized by **Paola Sangalli**, **Nekane G. Espadas**, and **André Evette**.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to this trip:

**Giovanni De Cesare** - Verein für Ingenieurbiologie - EFIB (EPFL)

**Stefania Soldati** - Verein für Ingenieurbiologie - EFIB

**Pierre-André Frossard** - HEPIA GENÈVE

**Marianne Gfeller** - VD. CH RHONE 3

**Bednarz Piotr** - VD. CH RHONE 3

**Christophe Guay** - CISALB

**Vincent Pasquier** - SAGYCR

**Matthieu Hervé** - SAGYCR

**Nicolas Debais** - BIOTEC

**Ghislain Huyghe** - BIOTEC

**William Brasier** - CNR

**Romain Brusson** - CNR

**Joly Celeste** - CNR

**Nedjma Salhi** - CNR



## 14th European Conference on Ecological Restoration

**Bridging Science, Practice, and Policy of Nature Restoration**

26-30 August 2024 / Estonia - Tartu

[European Capital of Culture 2024](https://www.eurocapital.com/en/capital-of-culture/2024)





With 670 participants from 47 countries, the 14th European Conference of Ecological Restoration SERE 2024 was held in Tartu, European Capital of Culture 2024. Taking into account that this law also includes the urban ecosystem, The European Federation of Soil and Water Bioengineering, has organized a session dedicated to Nature Based Solutions, Examples in SEB in Urban restoration. The session included EFIB interventions such as those by Daniel Arizpe (AEIP), "Online platform for Bioengineering projects"; Gianluigi Pirrera (AIPIN), "Civil protection through ecological restoration of the archaeological site of SELILUNTE and the Sacred Forest of ERICE"; or Paola Sangalli (president of EFIB), "(Examples of river rehabilitation using SWB in urban areas).

Along with these interventions, it is worth highlighting the presentations of: the Lithuanian University, by Pablo Pereira, on urban ecosystem services. The University of Brest, with Sebastien Gallet, with an interesting project on the effects of light pollution on ecosystems; and the presentation of an Indian student on elective phytoremediation of heavy metals.

The Nature Restoration Law has incorporated the necessary restoration of our urban ecosystems. In this area, Nature-Based Solutions, such as Landscape Bioengineering, or other associated measures, such as the reduction of light pollution, can contribute to substantially improving our shared habitat.



**SHORT COURSE: *Soil and Water Bioengineering as Nature-Based Solution. An introduction***



As in the previous edition, Landscape Bioengineering by the hand of EFIB, AEIP and AIPIN, is present at the European Congress on Ecological Restoration SERE 2024 held in Tartu (Estonia), European Capital of Culture.

Within the framework of the congress, the course Soil & Water Bioengineering (SWB) as Nature Based Solution took place. The Lithuanian, Dutch, Spanish and Italian participants have shown great interest in these techniques, both in the theoretical phase carried out in the classroom (at the Oekological Istitute) and in the practical part carried out outdoors with 1:20 scale models that showed traditional techniques and techniques related to the circular economy.

## OTHER WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CONFERENCES

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Universidad Veracruzana

### SBEE2025

#### 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Soil-Bio And Eco-Engineering

#### The Use of Vegetation to Improve Slope Stability

Xalapa, Mexico, 30 June – 4th July 2025

This conference is the sixth in the series 'The Use of Vegetation to Improve Slope Stability.' The first congress was held at Thessaloniki, Greece, 2004 and since then, conferences have been held in China, Canada, Australia and Switzerland. Attendees will unite to discuss science and practice when managing vegetated slopes. Topics range from ecology and soil science to civil engineering and cover a multitude of scales from micro- to ecosystem level.

The conference will take place at the University of Veracruz in Xalapa, Mexico. A field excursion will be organized to appreciate the unique geology and vegetation of this volcanic region.

#### IMPORTANT DATES

**Abstract submission for talks and posters** – 15 January 2025

**Notification of acceptance** – 15 February 2025

**Early bird deadline for payment of registration fees** – 31 March 2025

**Deadline for payment of registration fees** – 29 June 2025

#### [PROGRAM](#)





First Announcement – save the date!

## XVI International Symposium on Ecohydraulics in Lausanne

ISE 2026 will take place at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), hosted by the Swisstech Convention Center on the EPFL campus. The conference will feature pre-conference masterclasses and workshops on fieldwork, lab experiments, numerical simulations, societal challenges, and hydropower mitigation. ISE 2026 will include five thematic sessions, along with the Swiss Ecohydraulics Day, which bridges science and practice with various field visits. A special session, "Ecohydraulics Meets Landscape Architecture," will explore how ecohydraulics influences urban stream ecology and the design of sustainable riverine and future city landscapes.

More information : <https://ise2026.epfl.ch>



or this link



## OTHER PUBLICATIONS



As you all know, the Nature Restoration Law requires Member States to develop and adopt **National Restoration Plans (NRPs)** detailing how they will achieve the law's targets and obligations. Drafting coherent and ambitious NRPs is key to successfully implementing the law.

The 'Guidance and Recommendations for Ambitious Nature Restoration Plans' report provides insights and advice to help navigate the legal requirements of the law, focusing on the preparation, drafting and finalization of NRPs.

The report was written by the Institute for European Environmental Policy, with contributions from the WWF European Policy Office, Birdlife Europe and Central Asia, ClientEarth, and the European Environmental Bureau.

PDF of the report: [file](#) and [online on the restorenature.eu website](https://restorenature.eu)



[www.efib.org](http://www.efib.org)