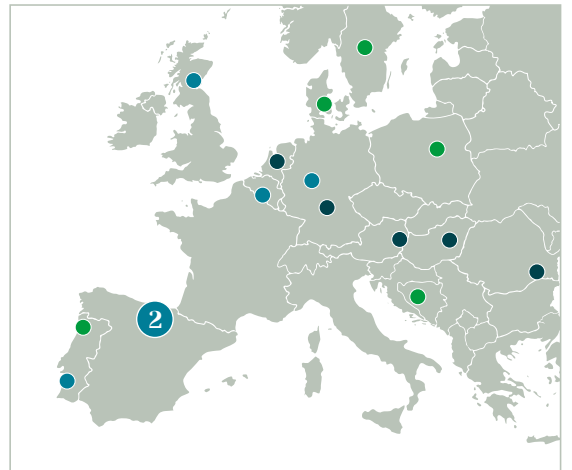




CS number: 2 – Basque streams
Case study cluster: small streams and basins
Country: Spain
Scientific partner: University of the Basque Country
Implementation partner: Gipuzkoa Province Council
Twinning case study:
 Catalonia, elimination of dams by Catalan Water Agency (ACA)
Website: www.ehu.es/streamecology/currentprojects.html



Demonstration

- **Type of restoration:** hydro-geomorphological restoration of the Deba River after more than 20 years in sanitation investment
- **Size:** total area of the basin: 534 km²; main channel length: 62 km; population: 135,000
- **Location(s):** Deba River (the entire river?)
- **Value of the case:** river restoration: fish permeability and sediment flow, biodiversity enhancement, recreation potential, decreased risk of flooding
- **Stakeholders involved:** municipal councils, Basque Country Water Agency (URA), Society for the Economic Development of Deba Basin (DEBEGESA), Deba Basin Rural Development Association (DEBEMEN), Commonwealth of the Upper Deba and Eibarko Baso Biziak
- **Sectors involved:** sectorial governance and regulation, agricultural, environmental and hydroelectric sectors
- **Innovations being applied:** Within the framework of the MERLIN project, stakeholder interaction is being promoted, connecting local communities, institutions and governments. The main objective is to promote environmental education and the conceptualisation of nature-based solutions oriented restoration policies.

Implementation plans

- **Type of restoration:** dam demolition, restoration of river morphology, river connectivity, faunal permeabilisation, river restoration
- **Size:** > 30 km of river reach
- **Scope:** local
- **Vicinity:** urban, peri-urban and agricultural
- **Stakeholders to involve:** tourism, education, as well as local entities and communities
- **Innovations to be applied:** Generally, river restoration based on the removal of barriers focuses on a single obstacle. In the framework of the MERLIN project, our restoration action acts simultaneously on 10 obstacles located in the main river channel. It is therefore a basin-wide restoration action.