



# LIFE IP IRIS

## INTEGRATED RIVER SOLUTIONS IN AUSTRIA

### LINKING WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE AND FLOODS DIRECTIVE

Free Flow Conference  
Groningen, 15.-17. April 2024

Helena Mühlmann  
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions  
and Water Management  
Directorate-General I - Water Management  
[helena.muehlmann@bml.gv.at](mailto:helena.muehlmann@bml.gv.at)

 Bundesministerium  
Land- und Forstwirtschaft,  
Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft



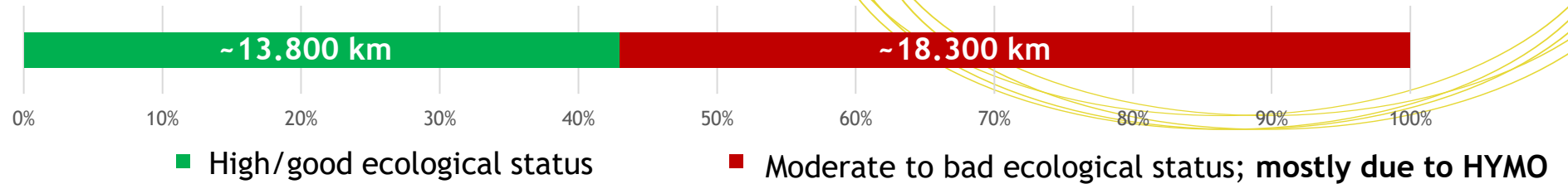
umweltbundesamt<sup>®</sup>

viadonau

# WHY DO WE NEED A COORDINATION OF WFD AND FD?

## Challenges Ecology

Austrian National River Basin Management Plan 2021



### Longitudinal Barriers: 28.500 (~1/km)

11 % Hydropower  
85 % river regulation/flood protection  
4 % other



### Morphological alterations:

~30% of total river net  
mostly river regulation/flood protection



Hydropreaking: 2,5%



Impoundment: 4,2 %

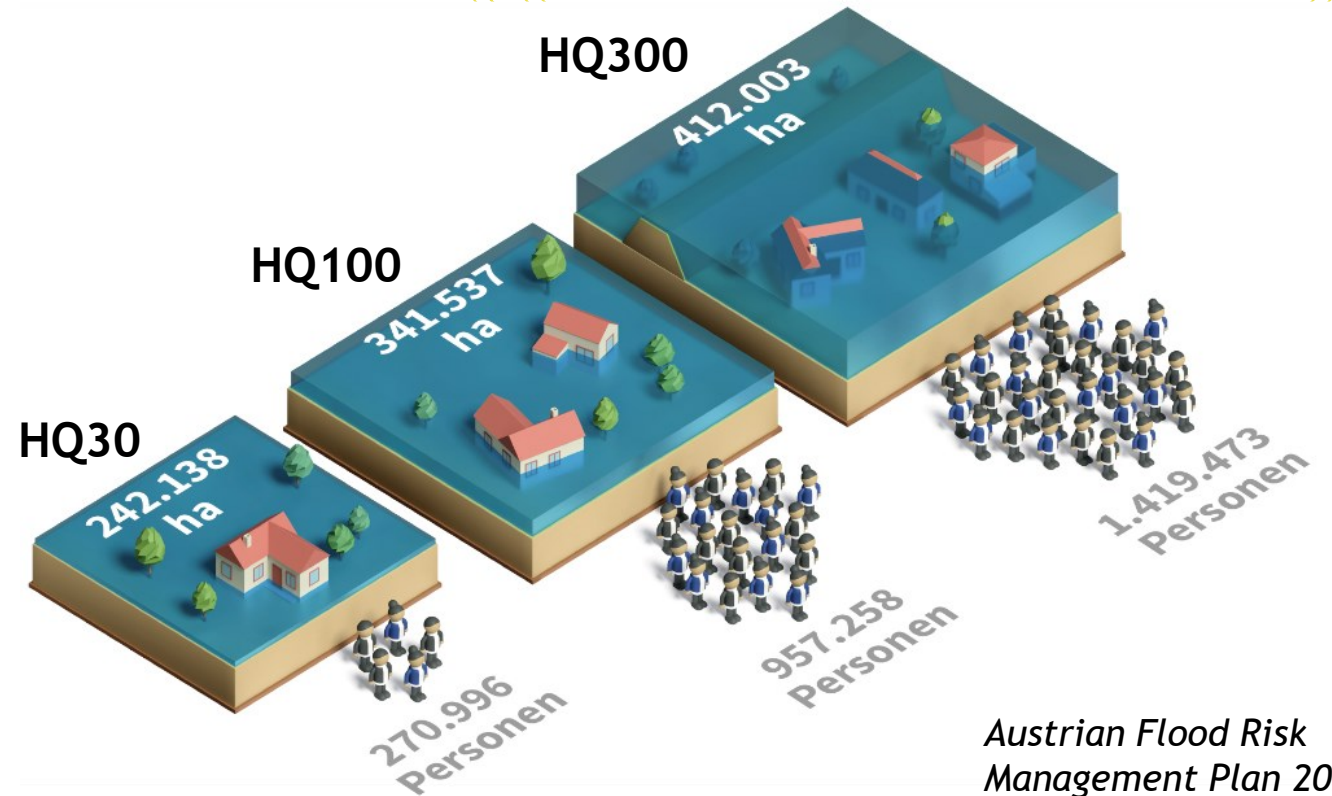
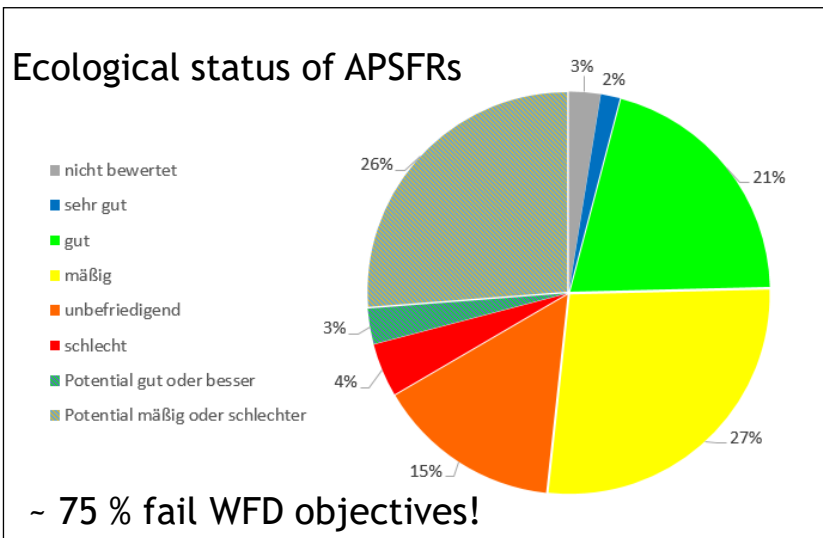


Abstraction: 6,6%



# WHY DO WE NEED A COORDINATION OF WFD AND FD?

## Challenges Flood Risk Management

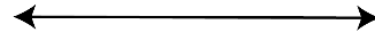
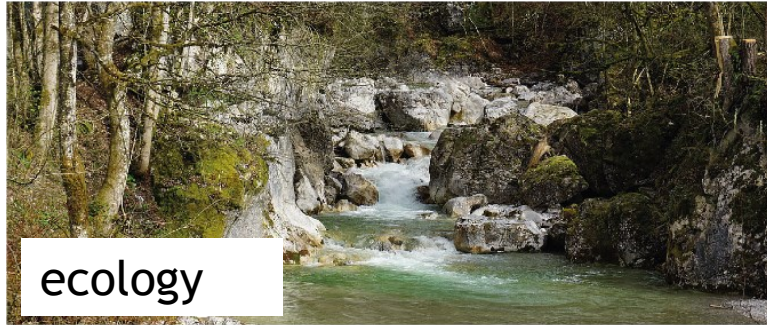


*Austrian Flood Risk Management Plan 2021*

**Need for joint action!**

# FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT AND ECOLOGY

formerly

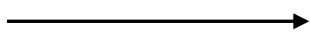


today

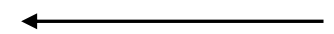


ecology

flood protection



Integrative River Basin Management



# LIFE INTEGRATED PROJECT IRIS



## LIFE IP IRIS AUSTRIA

Integrated River Solutions in Austria



### Water Framework Directive

National River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)

### Floods Directive

National Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP)

### Natura 2000

Management Plans (where applicable)

### Other plans, strategies and uses

(where applicable)

## Strategic coordination of a harmonized implementation of RBMP and FRMP

with a new integrative planning approach

(GE-RM - Gewässerentwicklungs- und Risikmanagementkonzept  
*River Development and Risk Management Concept*)





# RIVER DEVELOPEMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS (GE-RM)

## OBJECTIVE 1

Joint implementation of WFD an FD

## OBJECTIVE 2

Catchment-based of planning instead of local measures

## OBJECTIVE 3

Intersectoral planning and public participation

## OBJECTIVE 4

Room for our Rivers through legally binding plans



# INTERSECTORAL PLANNING IN GE-RM



- Cooperation of **all relevant administrative bodies** (federal government, federal states, municipalities) => Overcoming competence boundaries
- Mandatory **participation of stakeholders and the public** in the planning process
- Result is a **program of measures** for the planning area
- Basis for medium-term implementation to **achieve the objectives of the RBMP and FRMP**

# GE-RM RESULT - PROGRAM OF MEASURES



- Coordinated measures for achieving **WFD** and **FD** objectives for whole river
- **Upstream and downstream effects** of measures considered
- Strategic search for **synergies** and the **best ecological option** under the given conditions
- GE-RM or equivalent plan is **funding requirement** (under Austrian Flood Protection Funding Regulation)



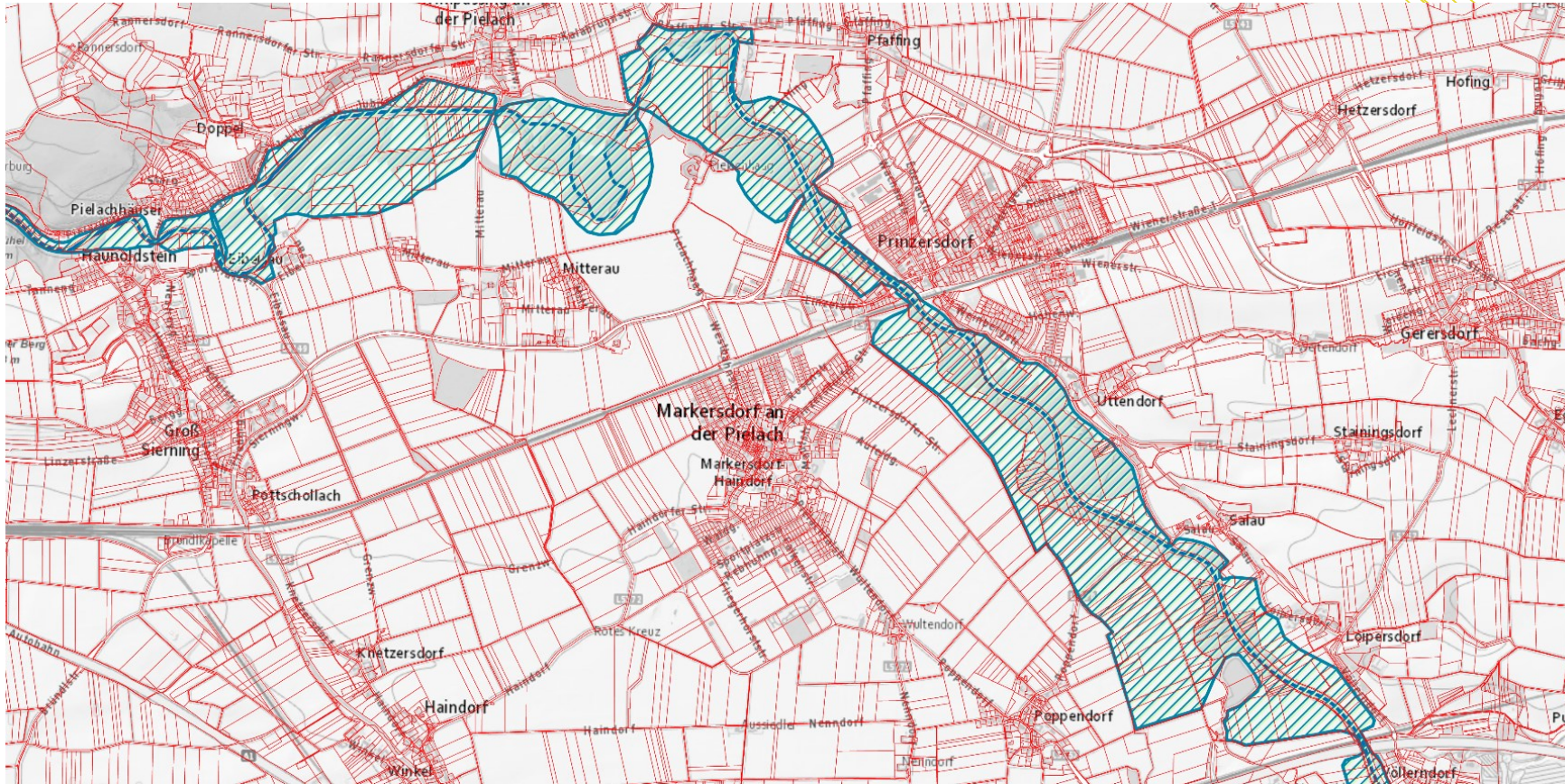
# GE-RM RESULT - RIVER DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR



- Identification of river development corridors as a **mandatory** component in each GE-RM
- **Type-specific space requirements** for near-natural development and natural water retention
- Existing higher-value infrastructure or spatial obstacles (settlement areas, railway, road, flood protection, etc.) taken into account
- A **standardized method** is currently developed in AT



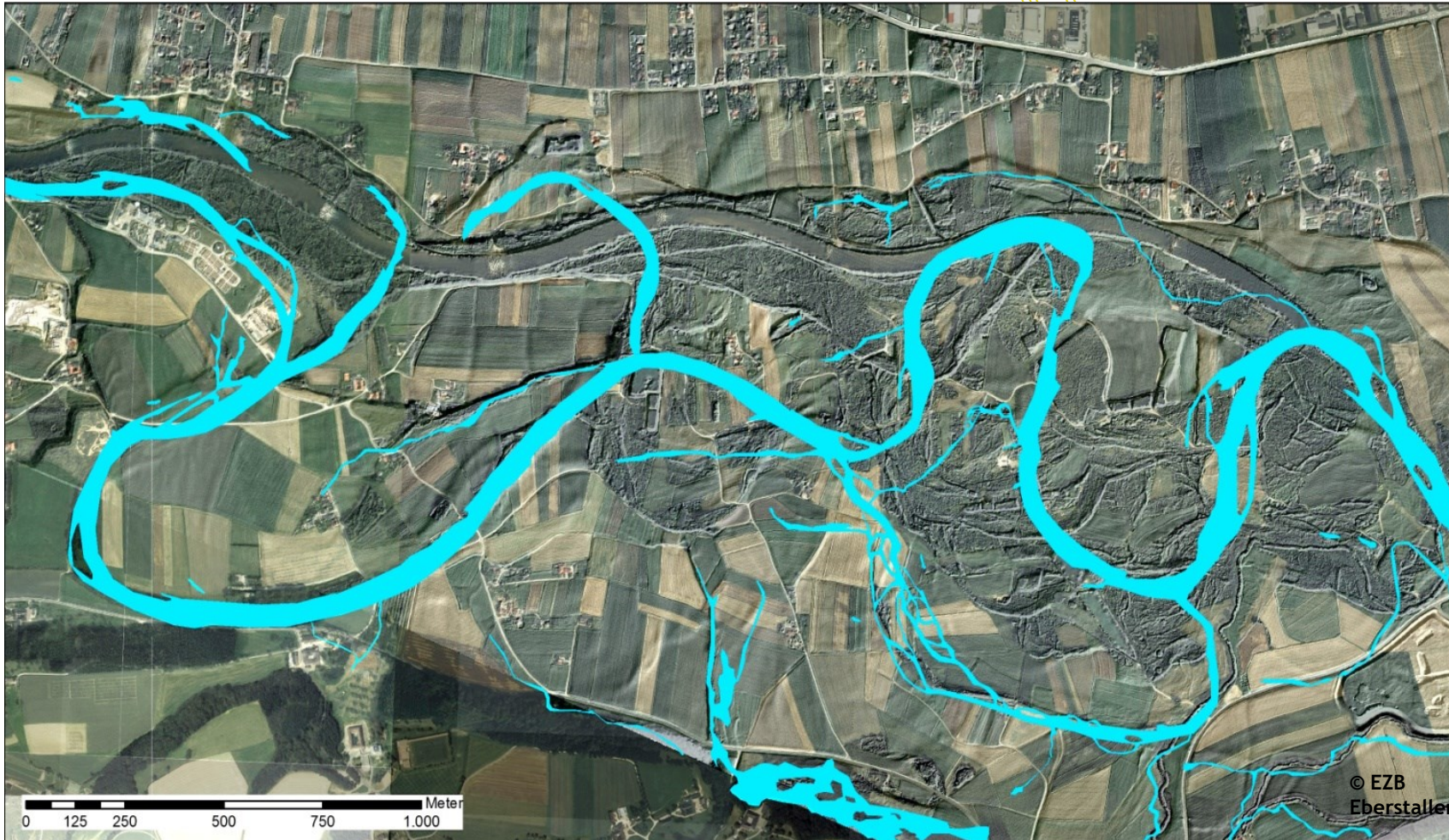
# CORRIDOR AS TOOL FOR FUTURE LAND SECURING



- Simplified funding procedure for the purchase of properties within the corridor
- Transfer of land to public ownership
- Strategic securing of land for future restoration projects



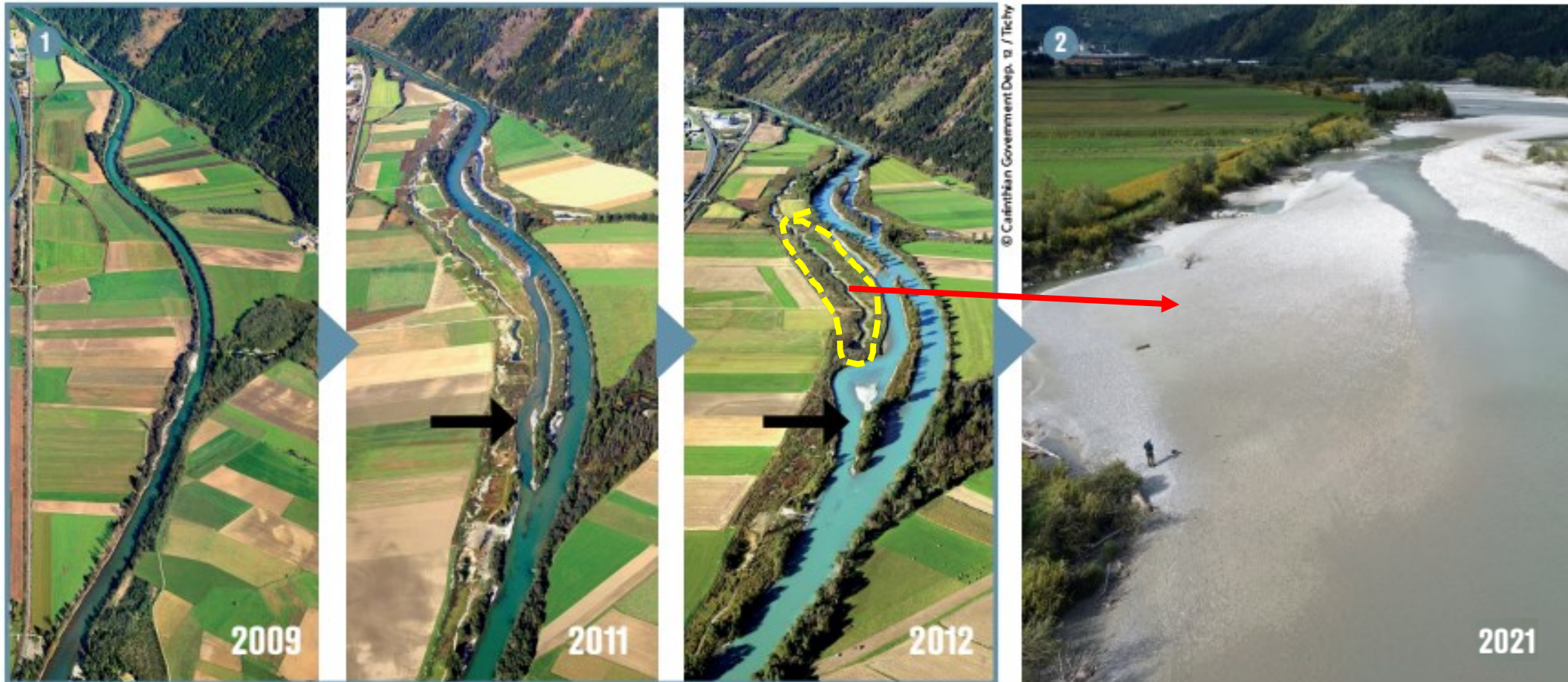
# CAN WE BRING BACK THE HISTORICAL STATE?



*Reconstruction of river Ybbs  
on basis of historical maps*



# MOSTLY NOT, BUT WE CAN GET CLOSER ... IF WE HAVE THE SPACE



*River Drau, Obergottesfeld, Carinthia*



# MOSTLY NOT, BUT WE CAN GET CLOSER ... IF WE HAVE THE SPACE



River Enns Mandling, Salzburg

# LIFE IP IRIS

Integrated River Solutions in Austria



Budget

> € 16,5 Mio.

€ 9,9 Mio. EU-Mittel



Laufzeit

**9 Jahre**

(2019-2027)



Partner

**9 Partner**

BML, Länder, viadonau, UBA

PILOTFLÜSSE  
**7 FLÜSSE**



STRECKE  
**595 KM**

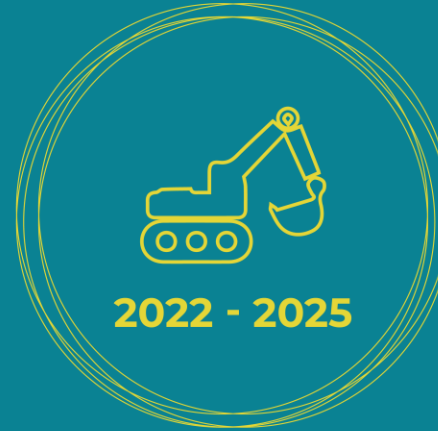
PHASE 1



**2019 - 2021**

Implementation of River  
Development and Risk  
Management Concepts (GE-RMs)

PHASE 2 UND 3



**2022 - 2025**

Implementation of IRIS  
Pilot Measures and  
Monitoring

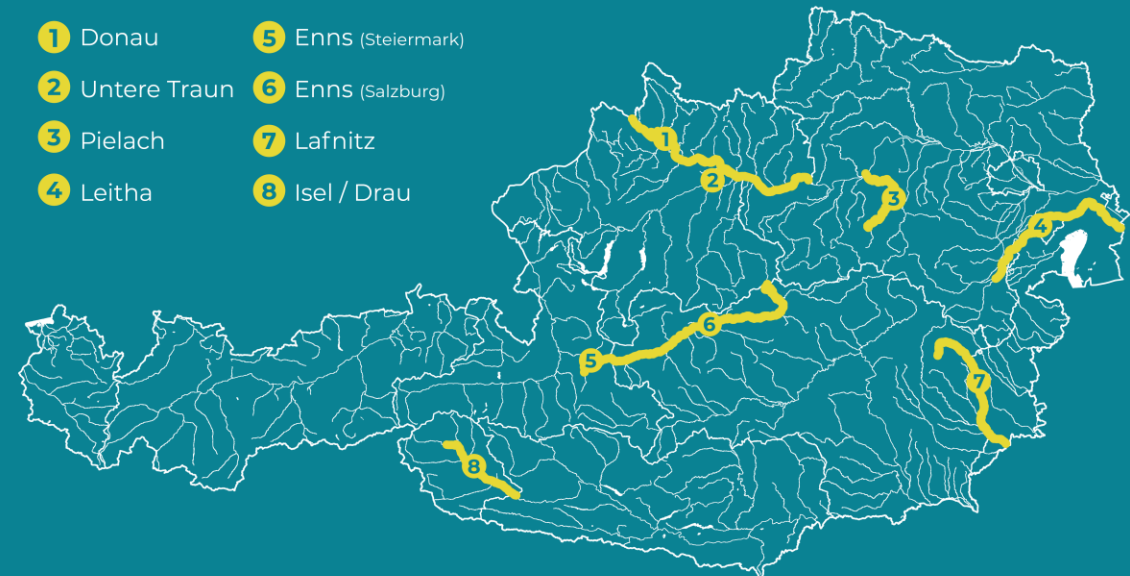
PHASE 4



**2026 - 2027**

Evaluation of project results,  
revision of GE-RM Guidelines

- 1 Donau
- 2 Untere Traun
- 3 Pielach
- 4 Leitha
- 5 Enns (Steiermark)
- 6 Enns (Salzburg)
- 7 Lafnitz
- 8 Isel / Drau





# IRIS RESULTS AND EXPECTATIONS

- **Integrative river basin management** instead of often contradictory individual solutions; better coordination of different objectives/directives
- **Better administrative coordination** and simpler processes
- Fostering **ecological values in flood risk management** (nature based solutions)
- **Greater public and political acceptance** of ecological river restoration measures through participation processes and awareness raising
- **Securing and maintaining river landscapes** for ecological improvement and flood retention - first step to establish free flowing rivers



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

<https://life-iris.at>



FLÜSSE BEWEGEN  
· RIVERS MOVE ·

## Contact

Helena Mühlmann  
helena.muehlmann@bml.gv.at

Martin Wenk  
martin.wenk@bml.gv.at

Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism  
Directorate-General I - Water Management



 Bundesministerium  
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