

## Executive Summary

### D5.2 Stakeholder feedback on tools and products of FIThydro

#### Background and Aim

In 2018, FIThydro hosted regional stakeholder workshops in the four test case regions of the project that represent different geographical, climatic and hydropower-related characteristics across Europe: France and Belgium (representing the European Plain), the Iberian Peninsula (as a dry region), Scandinavia (as the largest producer of hydropower in Europe) and the Alpine region (with its high gradient rivers with large potential for hydropower plants of high head).

The aim of these workshops was to offer a platform for consultation and exchange between FIThydro scientists and stakeholders, who are external to the project, on the key open issues and “burning” questions relevant to the assessment and planning of fish-friendly hydropower plants (HPP). These events have been an opportunity to present the FIThydro work programme and the project results to stakeholders, discuss and receive feedback on the research agenda of the project. At the same time, external stakeholders (HPP operators, authorities, NGOs and scientists) could present their own regional activities related to hydropower, effects on fish and mitigation strategies.

The main target groups of these workshops were authorities involved in hydropower plant authorization processes, policy-makers in the water and energy sector, HPP operators, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), consultants/planners and the research community. Approximately 30 to 40 participants, who were invited by FIThydro, attended each workshop.

The regional stakeholder workshops were well received by the participants, giving the opportunity for fruitful discussions and good exchange between FIThydro scientists and stakeholders.

The workshops were particularly helpful in gaining the practitioners’ perspective on the scientific work carried out within the FIThydro project and in showing the variety of approaches and solutions used in different regions in Europe.

The key problems identified by the stakeholders and their main recommendations to FIThydro are being used in an ongoing way by the project to fine-tune the content of the upcoming technical deliverables of the project.

The main topics addressed in the regional stakeholder workshops to reflect the main scientific content of FIThydro and issues of particular interest in the four regions were the following: 1) Ecology of fish species, 2) Fish migration, 3) Sediments and habitats, 4) Compensational habitats, 5) (Environmental) flows and habitats, 6) Impacts of hydropeaking and mitigation measures and 7) Combination of mitigation strategies & socio-economic/policy challenges for decision-making.

This Deliverable (5.2) summarises the feedback received from the stakeholders during the four regional stakeholder workshops on:

- The key problems/burning questions, which stakeholders consider relevant to the assessment and planning of fish-friendly hydropower production.
- Typical approaches and solutions applied so far to address the key problems, as discussed and/or presented by the stakeholders.



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- The recommendations/requests of the stakeholders to the work-programme of FIThydro.

It is noted that the key problems/burning questions identified by the stakeholders in this report are not to be interpreted as scientific facts or statements/evaluations on behalf of the FIThydro team. The major issues (key problems, open questions) raised by stakeholders are presented as stated but are not commented on by the FIThydro team.

However, the present report does outline the responses of the FIThydro Steering Committee to the recommendations of the stakeholders made explicitly to the FIThydro work-programme. The report explicitly indicates whether FIThydro can address the specific recommendations/ requests within its technical deliverables.

### **To what extent are the stakeholder recommendations addressed by FIThydro?**

The highest number of recommendations were made by stakeholders on the topics of ecology of fish species, fish migration and combination of mitigation strategies. These coincide with the topics that were presented and discussed in all regional workshops. For the other topics (sediments, compensational habitats, flows/habitats and hydropeaking), which were discussed only in some of the workshops (depending on regional relevance and interest), fewer recommendations were comparatively made by stakeholders.

Across the different topics, **approximately 70% of the stakeholder recommendations and requests to the project (51 out of 72 recommendations) are addressed**, or partly addressed, in the research work-programme of FIThydro. This confirms that FIThydro is, to a large extent, on the right track with regard to the regional stakeholder expectations from the project.

Some recommendations and requests made by stakeholders are not addressed by FIThydro, mainly because the topics they reflect are out of the research scope of the project. In particular, the stakeholder requests related to the topic of sediments and habitats are not addressed to a large extent because only limited research is being carried within FIThydro on this subject.

### **Using stakeholder feedback in FIThydro work**

The key problems identified by the stakeholders and their main recommendations to FIThydro have been used in an ongoing way by the project to fine-tune the structure and content of the upcoming technical deliverables of the project (e.g. of Deliverable 2.2 on Solutions, Methods, Tools and Devices [SMTDs] and identification of their application range on a regional and overall level to attain self-sustained fish populations).

The feedback of the stakeholders is also being considered in the development of the tools that aim directly at supporting decision-making and practitioners' work, especially the FIThydro Decision Support System (Deliverable D5.4) and the web-based WIKI (Deliverable 4.5) which will provide structured information on mitigation measures and assessment methods. In addition, the regional stakeholder workshops were used as an opportunity to get expert advice from the participating stakeholders on the preparation of the public acceptance surveys of hydropower (validation of acceptance statements) in the four regions (Deliverable 5.3).

Full deliverable [download](#)



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