



Growing
ideas
through
networks

COST Action CONVERGES:

4 years of networking, and now ?

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On the behalf of the COST Action CONVERGES contributions



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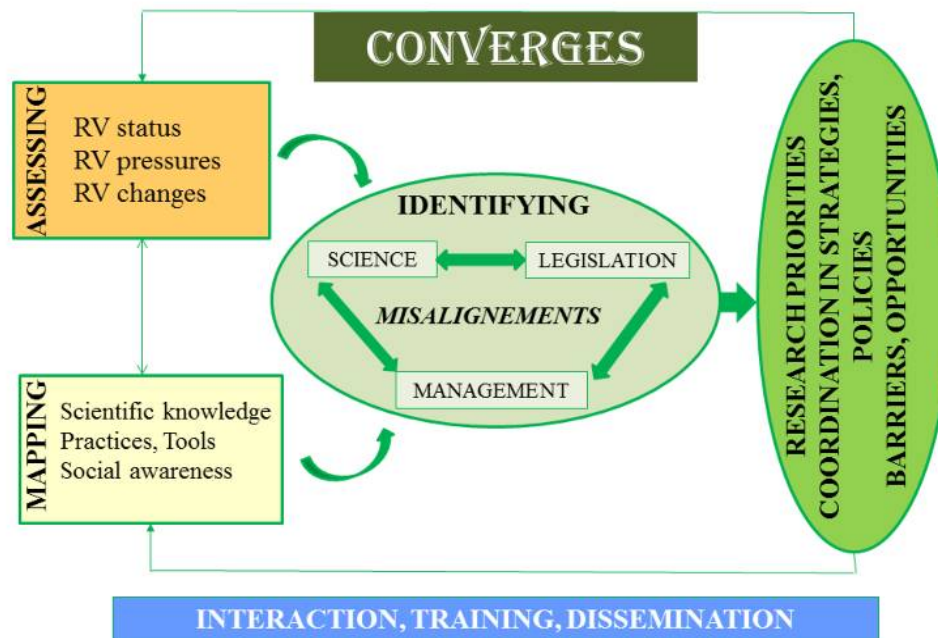
2010/2016

- Many studies / reports about riparian vegetation
- In various countries, disciplines, etc.
- Despite the body of scientific work and policy motivation, progress in improving the state of riparian ecosystems across Europe has been very limited
- How to bring together the diverse body of knowledge that exists (across Europe) on all aspects of riparian vegetation ?
- => COST action

Why a network / COST Action?

- **Aim:** to create a European network for the conversion of knowledge on riparian vegetation, its services and management practices among scientists, stakeholders and policy makers

Working groups 1 and 2 : what we have?
scientific knowledge, methodological tools, etc.
=> synthesis



Working groups 3: what do we need?
knowledge, links between actors, etc.

Nov. 2017 : start
Kickoff meeting, Rennes, Feb. 2018



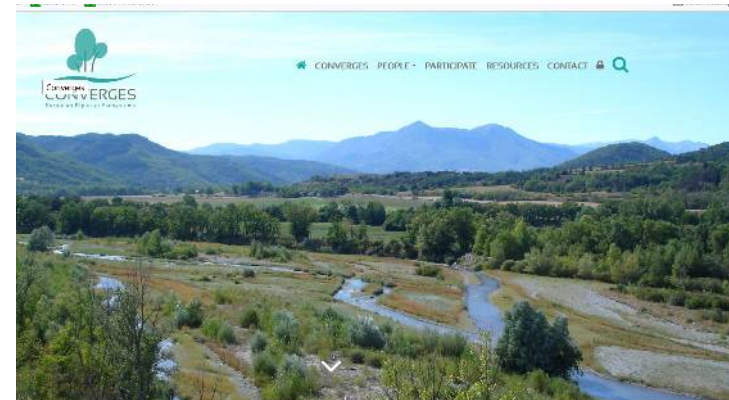
CONVERGES NETWORK

COMPOSITION

- Website <https://converges.eu/>
- Mailing list: cost_converges@listes.univ-rennes2.fr
 - ✓ 200 participants
- Cost Action MC (Management Committee)
 - ✓ 60 members, 39 countries, ~70 institutions

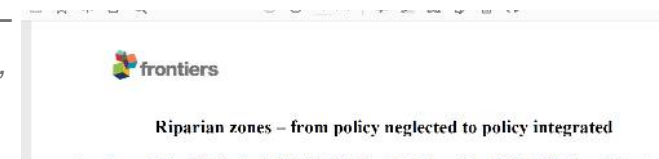
ACTIVITIES: 256 participants in

- 16 meetings
- 2 Training Schools
- 26 Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)
- 11 Inclusiveness Target Countries Conference grants
- 4 Dissemination presentations in conferences
- several projects (approved, submitted)



Synthesis (scientific knowledge, remote sensing, ecosystem services, pressures, restoration, genetic conservation, etc.)

- **Reports** e.g. on **Riparian Definition**: translated to 12 languages –
 ✓ *Albanian, Czech, English, Finnish, French, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, Serbian, Slovakian, Turkish, spanish* see <https://converges.eu>
- **Videos**
- **(Review) papers, book**

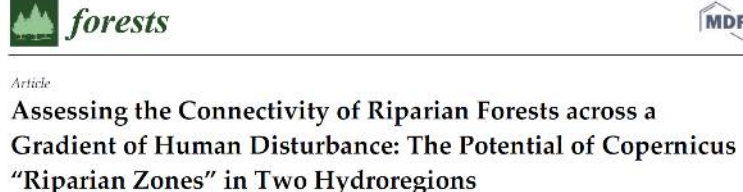


Review
 Tracing the scientific trajectory of riparian vegetation studies: Main topics, approaches and needs in a globally changing world

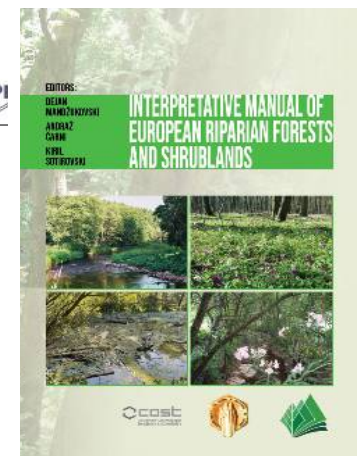


Review
 Using remote sensing to characterize riparian vegetation: A review of available tools and perspectives for managers

Leo Huylenbroeck^{a,*}, Marianne Laslier^{b,1}, Simon Dufour^c, Blandine Georges^a, Philippe Lejeune^a, Adrien Michez^a



Global Overview of Ecosystem Services Provided by Riparian Vegetation





CONCLUSIONS RIPA-1

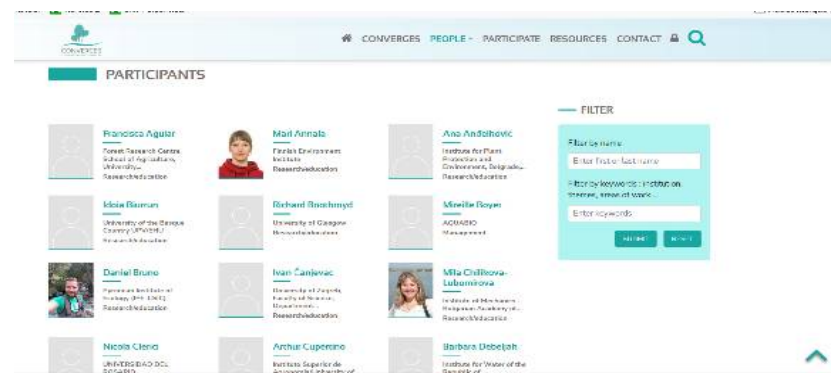
- Interest of a more integrated riparian science (understudied areas/topics, new patterns, understanding of complex systems, adequate answers to applied issues, etc.)
- Interest of developing tools, indicators, methods...
- Conservation/restoration, services/disservices...
- Call for science involvement but is complex (two ways relationship, is the involvement valued ?)
- Social dimensions ?

PROSPECTS

- Final report COST Action
- Publications

We built a network, please make it alive !

- Special issues ?
- Website ?
- Skill database ?
- Series of online regular seminars ?
- RIPA 2 ?
- Mailing list ?
- Others ...



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But my role is finished ...
... goodwill is more than welcome

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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All the participants !

Special thanks to the founding and the core groups



**A COST
action is a
human
experience !**

