



# WILD RIVERS INTERNATIONAL

## SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM TIRANA, ALBANIA OCTOBER 18th, 2019

**Date:** *Friday, October, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

*09:00 – 17:00h*

**Venue:** *Antigonea hall, Rogner Hotel, Bulevardi Dëshmorët e Kombit,  
1001, Tirana, ALBANIA*

*Hosted by the University of Tirana in cooperation with the University of Vienna*

## Context

Wild rivers are amongst the most endangered ecosystems in the world and the remaining ones are under severe threat. In this context we will host Tirana's first International Symposium on Wild Rivers.

The symposium will put a spotlight on the global situation of these rivers, with a special focus on the Balkans. We aim to discuss the status quo, threats and solutions for water management and protection. These issues will be addressed and discussed by leading international experts in river ecology from all around the world.

This symposium will also focus on the Vjosa as one of the last remaining wild rivers in Europe of such size.

The goals of the symposium are

1. Promoting interdisciplinary studies of rivers in their natural state as general reference for river conservation and management.
2. Promoting transdisciplinary decision making for the management of riverine landscapes, based on scientific evidence.
3. Discussing the specific ecological and biogeographical setting of Balkan rivers – with a particular focus on the Vjosa river as a potential first candidate for a **“Wild River National Park”**

## Program Schedule

- 08:30-09:00** Registration, Antigonea Hall, Rogner Hotel
- 09:00-09:30** Welcome by Prof. Spiro Drushku, Dean of Tirana University
- 09:30-11:00** **Session I: Wild rivers: Values, threats and challenges**
- “Rivers want to break free” by Prof. Gilles Pinay, National Research Institute of Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture, Antony, France*
- “Rivers in Japan, lessons learned for Europe” by Prof. Futoshi Nakamura, Graduate School of Agriculture, Hokkaido University, Japan*
- “Remaining giants: Why wild rivers survived” by Prof. Bernhard Wehrli, Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology - EAWAG, Switzerland*
- 11:00-11:30** **Coffee break**
- 11:30-13:00** **Session II: Balkan rivers: The regional perspective**
- “Morphological changes in wild and less wild rivers of South-East Europe” by Prof. Guido Zolezzi, Department of Civil, Environmental and Mechanical Engineering, Centre Agriculture Food Environment - C3A, University of Trento, Italy*
- “Balkan rivers - Pressing environmental challenges” by Dr. Nikolaos Skoulikidis, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research –HCMR, Institute of Marine Biological Resources and Inland Waters, Greece*
- “Balkan Rivers – Endangered fish species” by Assoc. Prof. Steven Weiss, Institute for Zoology, Karl-Franzens University Graz, Austria*
- 13:00-14:00** **Lunch break**
- 14:00-15:30** **Session III: The Vjosa river: naturalness at stake**
- “Hydromorphology and sediment transport of Vjosa river” by Dr. Klodian Skrame, Department of Applied Geology, Environment and Geoinformatics, Polytechnic University of Tirana AND Prof. Christoph Hauer, Institute of Water Management, Hydrology and Hydraulic Engineering, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna - BOKU, Austria*
- “Biodiversity of the Vjosa river corridor” by Prof. Spase Shumka, Department of Food Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology and Food, Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania, Prof. Sajmir Beqiraj, Department of Biology, Faculty of Natural Sciences University of Tirana, Albania , Dr. Paul Meulenbroek, Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences - BOKU, Vienna, Austria*

**“Ecological services of the Vjosa river system”** by Prof. Romeo Hanxhari,  
Department of Geography, Faculty of History and Philology, University of  
Tirana, Albania

**“From biodiversity to ecological processes”** by Prof. Gabriel Singer,  
Department of Ecohydrology, Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and  
Inland Fisheries - IGB, Berlin, Germany

**“EU support; Integrated Management of water resources in Albania”** by  
Dr. Martin Wolff, Austrian Development Agency Albania

**15:45 -16:15**

**Coffee Break**

**16:15 -17:00**

**General discussion; Presentation and Signing of Joint Statement** led by Prof.  
Fritz Schiemer, Department of Limnology and Oceanography, University of  
Vienna, Austria

**19:30-21:30**

**Wild Rivers Night** in Kinema Millenium (see separate program)

## Symposium Organizers

- Prof. Aleko Miho, Department of Biology, Faculty of Natural Sciences University of Tirana;  
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- Prof. Fritz Schiemer, Department of Limnology and Oceanography, University of Vienna, Austria;  
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## Scientific Committee

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