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# LIFE Platform meeting The Water Resilience Strategy

LIFE Strategic Integrated Projects implementing River Basin  
Management Plans practices

Day 2.

Workshop A

## Governance, Enforcement and Compliance

**Chair:** Federico De Filippi

**Moderator:** Yael Meroz

**Rapporteur:** Christina Rauls

**LiLa Living Lahn -  
Stephan von Keitz**

14-15 October 2025

Brussels

This meeting is  
organised by





# Project title: LiLa Living Lahn - one River many interests



RBMP targeted: **WFD/ Natura 2000**  
Beneficiary: **Hessian Env. Ministry**



Total Budget: **15,7 Mio €**

(Max) LIFE grant: **60 %**

Start and end dates: **30.11.2015 – 30.11.2026**

Presented by: **Dr. Stephan von Keitz, Project leader**

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# PP EU LIFE - IP „Living Lahn“

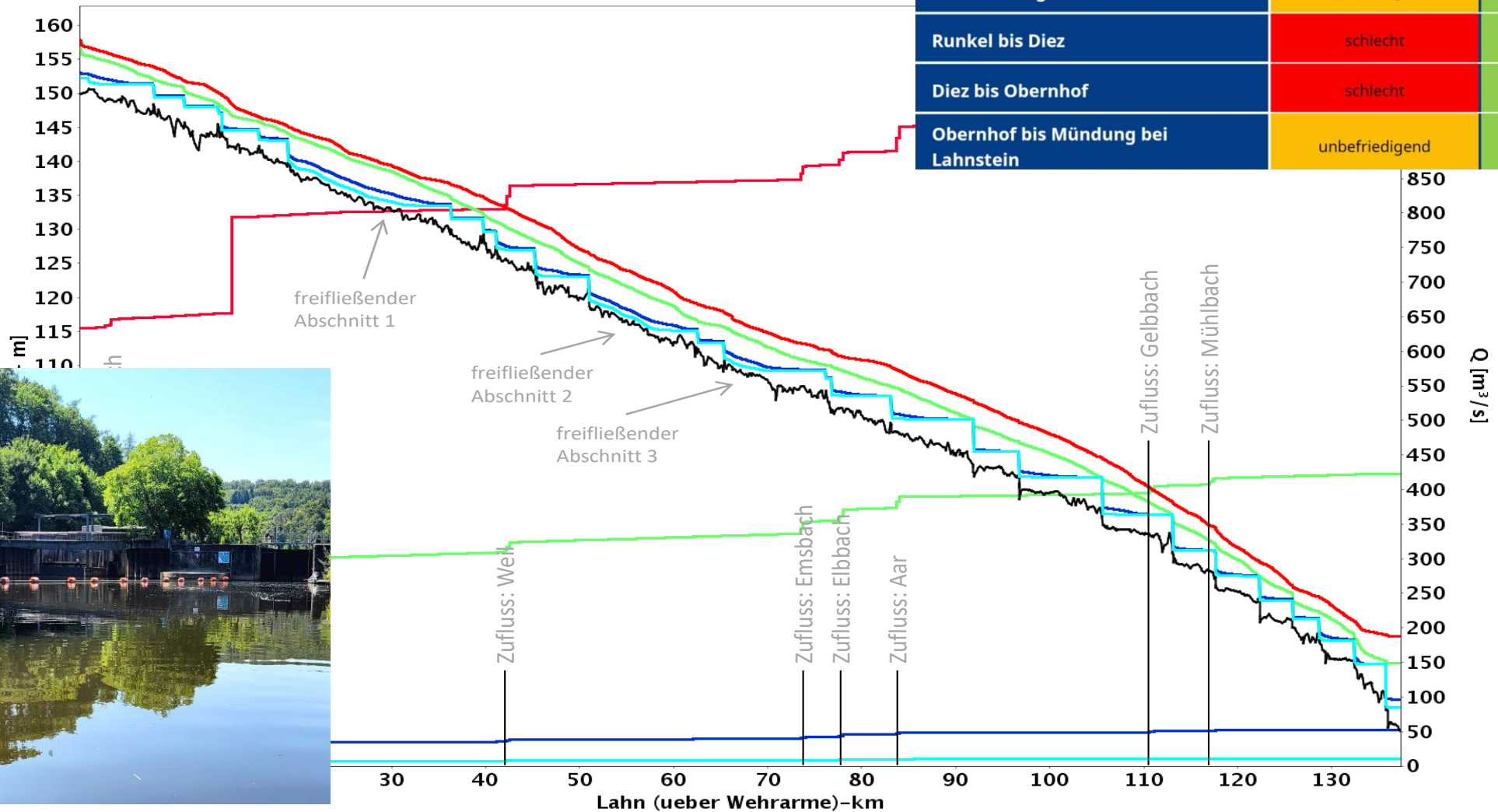


- Ministries of Environment of Hessian and Rhineland-Palatinate plus their approval authorities
- Waterways and Shipping Office Koblenz
- German Federal Institute of Hydrology
- Objectives: improval of WFD, 50 measures + integr. concept



# Ecological Quality

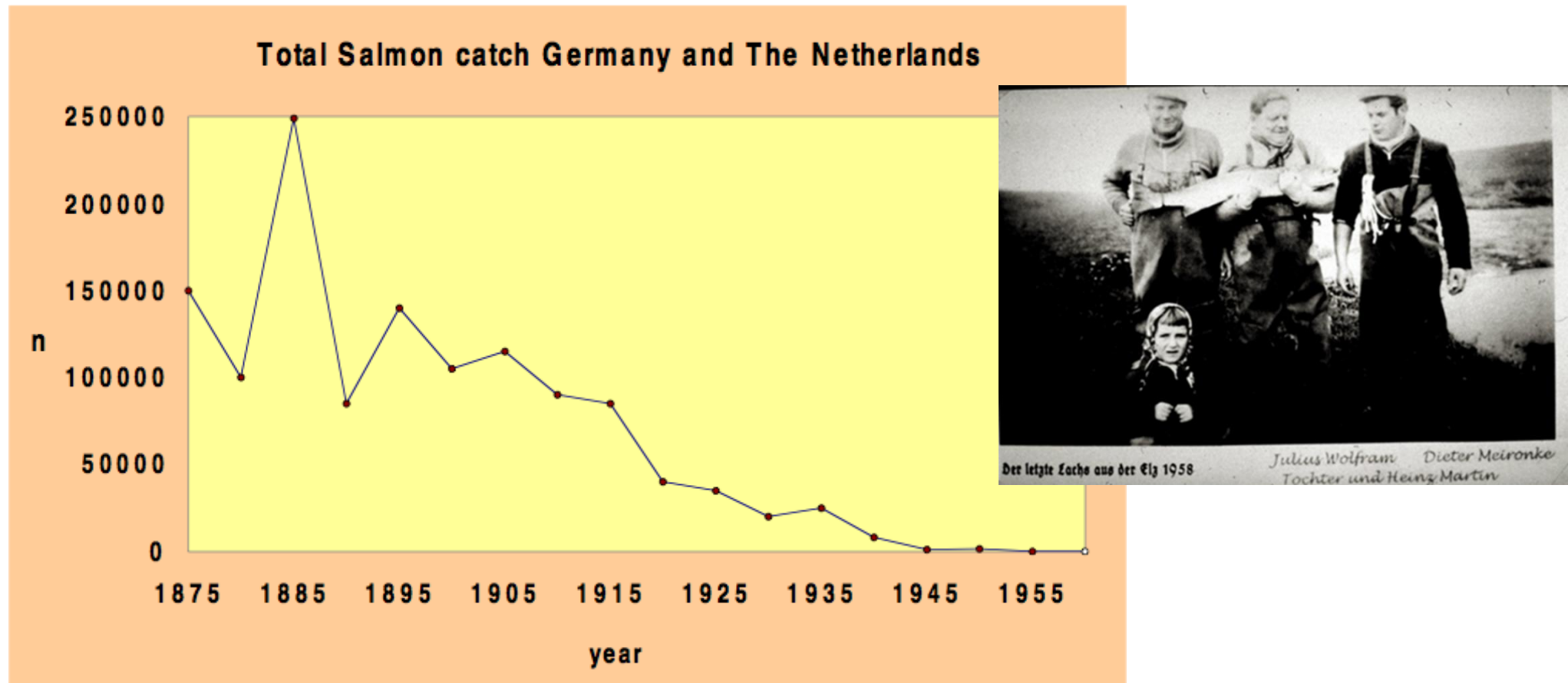
Flussabschnitt	Ist-Zustand: ökologisches Potenzial	Bewirtschaftungsziel: ökologisches Potenzial
Stadtgebiet Gießen bis Dillmündung	unbefriedigend	gut
Dillmündung bis Runkel	unbefriedigend	gut
Runkel bis Diez	schlecht	gut
Diez bis Obernhof	schlecht	gut
Obernhof bis Mündung bei Lahnstein	unbefriedigend	gut



—HQ100 —MHQ —MQ —MNQ —Talweg —W (HQ100) —W (MHQ) —W (MQ) —W (MNQ)



# Development of Salmon Population in the Rhine 1875-1960







# 50 Measures



## Gisselberger Spannweite Marburg



## Info platform Gießen



## Removal of invasive plants

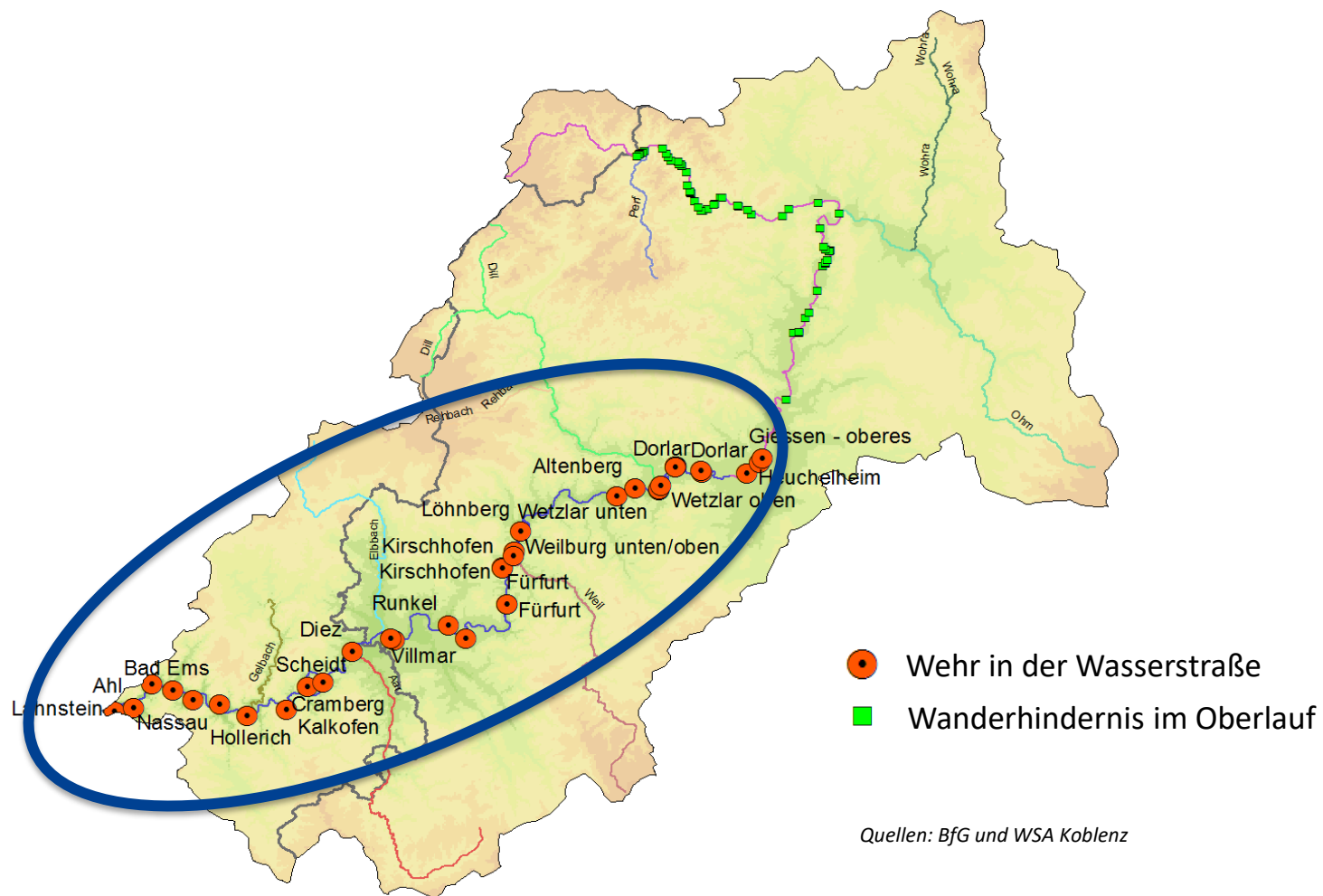


## Fish migration Fischschleusungsmanagement Lahnstein





# Lahn Concept



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# Governing a River Basin Management Plan:

## 1. Monitoring, assessment, reporting and review



### What went well?

- Comprehensive monitoring possible, e.g. including sediment monitoring (additional monitoring topic)
- LIFE IP catalysed institution's willingness to implement RBMP (after long common preparation and agreement), substantiated with staff capacity
- LIFE project provides regular and 'mandatory' platform to discuss differences in sectoral targets, thus strongly supporting efforts to find solutions
- Improved assessment of migratory fish species and cooperation with IKSR on salmon, eel, etc.

### What could have gotten better?

- Integration of LIFE IP results into Länder- and federal level policy goals takes a long time





# Governing a River Basin Management Plan:

## 2. Enforcement and compliance



### What went well?

- Vertical integration of all relevant authorities (from local to federal level)
- Commonly elaborated integrated pilot strategies on how to better achieve 'good ecological status/potential' on inland waterways
- Better comparison of costs of water use, including environmental and resource-related costs, with the impairment or damage to the aquatic environment in accordance with the polluter pays principle

### What could have gotten better?

- Contradictory sectoral policy targets hamper implementation, requiring long discussion processes to overcome these obstacles
- Structural reforms of authorities cause delays in implementation / contradict goals
- Ecological status still insufficient



# Governing a River Basin Management Plan:

## 3. Stakeholders' engagement



### What went well?

- LIFE IP constitutes common declaration of willingness to implement RBMP
- LIFE project provides regular possibility to discuss differences in sectoral targets on regional and local level which helps to identify common targets

### What could have gotten better?

- Stakeholders are not automatically representing the public.
- Need to make larger changes to improve the ecological status not seen





# Governing a River Basin Management Plan:

## 4. Capacity building



### What went well?

- Cooperation between water authorities of different vertical level enhances common understanding
- Knowledge of EU policy goals in regional authorities and among regional stakeholders is strengthened
- Information for other rivers with the same situation communicated

### What could have gotten better?

- Knowledge of stakeholders on goals of RBMP is lacking / insufficient.
- Added value of international cooperation and exchange for staff members not always recognized
- Bureaucratic obligations (reporting etc.) more relevant than the objectives itself

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# Governing a River Basin Management Plan:

## 5. Cross-sector collaboration among authorities



### What went well?

- Very intense dialogue with all related sectors during the preparation of the Lahn-Concept in order to achieve a consensus of major management objectives
- Strongly increased intersectoral understanding and communication relations (direct contacts)
- Pilot project for other Concepts within the Federal „Blue Belt“ Programme

### What could have gotten better?

- Sectoral restrictions hamper common implementation of actions (contradictory goals, regional political interests, lack of funds in other sectors to support project processes etc.)
- other political sectors often contradict environmental WFD objectives (e.g. hydropower, agriculture), partly even subsidised by EU funds



Bundesprogramm  
Blaues Band Deutschland  
Eine Zukunftsperspektive für die Wasserstraßen  
– beschlossen vom Bundeskabinett am 1. Februar 2017

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## Lessons learned and Way forward



Current activity case related to the issue of Governance to achieve by the end of 2028.

- Signing of the Lahn Declaration for a more environmental-friendly development of the river in the next 2-3 decades

### Impact on local/regional/EU policies

- Implementation of an online tourist guidance tool for canoeists
- Impact on regulations for fish migration at barrages ('Fischschleusungsmanagement')
- „Barrier Removal Strategy“, linked to the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, says: "Living Lahn is a pilot project for the alternative use of inland waterways, which previously gave priority to shipping. (...) The restoration of near-natural conditions will improve the ecological condition and biological diversity of the Lahn and create opportunities for sustainable tourism. (...) The experiences and concepts developed within the framework of the project will be transferrable to other regions and catchment areas in Europe.

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