

## Information and participation of the public



Information on the LiLa project you can find on our website:

[www.lila-livinglahn.de](http://www.lila-livinglahn.de)

There you can also subscribe to the newsletter. Furthermore you can become involved by joining workshops, public events and surveys or on-the-spot visits where measures are carried out or by coming to the “Lahn fairs”.

### The Lahn concept – an active dialogue

The development of the Lahn concept foresees an intensive participation of interest groups, public authorities and local people.



## A task beyond administrative boundaries

### The project partners of the EU-LIFE-Project LiLa – Living Lahn:

#### Coordinating beneficiary

- Hessian Ministry for the Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (HMUKLV)

#### Associated beneficiaries

- Governmental Authority of Gießen (RPGI)
- Ministry of the Environment, Energy, Nutrition and Forestry of Rhineland-Palatinate (MUEEF)
- Directorate for Infrastructure and Approval North (SGD Nord)
- German Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG)
- Waterways and Shipping Office Koblenz (WSA Koblenz)



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## EU-LIFE-Project LiLa – Living Lahn – one river, many interests Concepts and measures for a region worth living



## LIFE – the EU’s environmental funding programme



The project LiLa – Living Lahn is funded by the EU’s environmental funding programme LIFE. This programme is the funding instrument of the EU Commission to support environmental action and projects throughout the European Union, as well as in specific neighbouring and candidate countries.

The particularity about ‘Integrated Projects’ (IP) is that environmental and climate plans or strategies are implemented beyond administrative borders, at transnational level and on a large territorial scale while including the different stakeholders.



The project area stretches from Wallau (county Marburg-Biedenkopf) in the Upper Lahn valley down to Lahnstein, where the Lahn flows into the Rhein. In between the town of Wetzlar and the river mouth, the Lahn is declared as a federal waterway on a length of approximately 125 km. Already before the end of the freight shipping in 1981, water-tourism started to increase, which finally completely replaced the freight traffic use. In the new federal road map the Lahn is classified as a secondary waterway.

The ecological status of the federal waterway Lahn is unsatisfactory to bad according to the European Water Framework Directive (WFD). More than 20 locks, ship sluices and hydroelectric power stations make the patency for fish and other aquatic life forms difficult or impossible. In addition there are numerous valuable protected areas along the entire Lahn, which must be taken into account for developing future scenarios for using the Lahn river.

### The objectives: Ecological upgrading and the development of the Lahn concept

The first main goal of the project LiLa - Living Lahn is to ecologically enhance the Lahn and at the same time to make the river and life on the river more attractive. The second main subject is to develop an overall concept, the Lahn concept, while considering the present use as waterway, as well as nature conservation and water ecology aspects. This should include both the interests of users as well as the ecological restoration. In order to achieve all project goals, many smaller and larger project actions will be implemented alongside the development process of the Lahn concept until 2025.

### A development concept for the Lahn

With the Lahn concept a future perspective for the Lahn will be developed, which at best will be supported by a broad public consensus. Building on scientific research, at the end of the ten-year working process, a "Lahn Declaration" is foreseen as a political declaration of the Federal level and the German Länder, outlining the cornerstones of the Lahn's future development. Until then, no implementation of structural measures which are based on the findings of the Lahn concept is planned before the end of the LIFE project.



### Improvement of linear patency at barriers

One focus is the implementation of measures for improving the linear patency at different types of locks and weirs, thus leading to an improved ecological network of habitats for many different animal and plant species. These include, among other things, the restoration of the ecological patency on the lock island of Fürgfurt, a turbine management system for hydroelectric power plants to improve the eel protection, as well as studies to increase linear patency at the Lahn and some of its affluent rivers.



### Improvement of structural and qualitative diversity

With numerous measures a structural improvement of the water body can be achieved. Interesting examples are measures on the banks of the lower Lahn, in the bird protection area (SAC) of "Lahnau", at the „Gisselberger Spanne“ south of Marburg, or the creation of a concept for two selected weirs. In order to promote biodiversity, a concept for the prevention and control of invasive plant species is elaborated and implemented, as well as conservation measures for the habitats of grayling and gibel head are carried out.



### Restoration of natural retention areas

Part of the original alluvial plains and retention areas of the Lahn river was lost due to anthropogenic influence. By creating local retention areas at the Aar, a local improvement of the flood situation is achieved.



### Identification of pollutions and improvement of water quality

An important goal of the European Water Framework Directive is the improvement of water quality. At the Gelbach a study on the PCB and dioxine exposure is carried out in order to clarify its origin and to develop measures to reduce potential emissions. The status quo of the sediment quality along the overall Lahn River is recorded and a sediment quality cadastre is created. It will serve as a basis for the development of a sediment management concept. This also includes a monitoring of the sediment quality for all the project measures carried out within the LIFE project.



### Promoting sustainable tourism opportunities

The Lahn is one of the most popular rivers for recreational shipping in Germany and has a high touristic value. In order to improve the offer for rowers and canoeists, the transfer facilities in Limburg and Ahl will be re-constructed. In addition, the access to information along the Lahn will be improved by installing further information facilities at the Lahn window in Gießen ("Touchkiosk" and "Vaki Counter"). By establishing an information platform on the restored areas in Gießen Weststadt and the development of a „Lahn App“ the offers for tourists at the Lahn will be further expanded.

