

The image shows the ENMaR logo in the top left corner, with the text 'European Network of Municipalities and Rivers' below it. The background is an aerial photograph of a river winding through a landscape. The text 'issue 01' is in the bottom left, and 'CURRENT NW' is in large white letters at the bottom right.

**ENMaR**

European Network of Municipalities and Rivers

issue 01

**CURRENT NW**

## The ENMaR update for land and water planning

**Welcome** to the ENMaR e-newsletter for England's Northwest. Twice a year this bulletin will cover regional, national and European news relevant to the ENMaR project and water issues in the region.

Current NW will also keep you posted with news of future events. We're already planning the next ENMaR seminar in Manchester in May 2007 and the programme of events continues throughout the year. Each seminar that delegates attend can be counted towards the CPD requirements of the RTP1.

### What is ENMaR?

ENMaR is the **European Network of Municipalities and Rivers**, an Interreg IIIC project. Launched in March 2005, ENMaR is an international programme that informs local authorities in five European countries - Latvia, Sweden, England, Spain and Germany - about the far reaching impacts of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The network enables these regions to share knowledge and good practice and helps local planners understand the impact of the WFD on their work.

### Regional News and events

Our programme of events in England's Northwest continues with a seminar approximately every three months.

**A date for your diary:** The next ENMaR seminar will be held on 25th May 2007 at the University of Manchester and will look at the issue of climate change. The half-day seminar will include group working as well as regional and national speakers. In particular, we will examine the issue of planning for climate change adaptation and the challenges climate change poses for water in our region.

The seminar is free and lunch is included. If you would like to attend please contact Caroline Riley on 0161 242 8206 or [c.riley@merseybasin.org.uk](mailto:c.riley@merseybasin.org.uk)

Don't worry, if you can't make this event the presentations will be available to download from [www.enmar.org.uk](http://www.enmar.org.uk) after the seminar.

The Northwest seminars are linked to the wider European ENMaR water network and are being run in parallel with similar workshops in Sweden, Germany, Latvia and Spain.

### Latest Event: International ENMaR Conference in Manchester.

Planning for Water - Showcasing projects and case studies from across Europe

On 23rd February, an international ENMaR conference was held in City Centre Manchester. 80 people attended, including 24 international visitors. The conference showcased example projects and case studies from ENMaR regions representing five European countries. It gave an insight into how the Water Framework is being implemented in the five regions. The projects featured are focusing on water, tourism, agriculture, forestry and spatial planning. Speakers from Germany, Latvia, Spain, Sweden and England talked to the 80 delegates about the example project in their region, then took part in a Theme Fair. Dr David Shaw from the University of Liverpool gave a keynote speech showing how the spatial planning system in England is capable of delivering the Water Framework Directive. In addition, the Environment Agency explained the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Northwest

England.

At the Theme Fair, the presenters answered questions about their initiatives against a backdrop of information posters on the ENMaR themes relating to their specific local examples. The conference was held at the Manchester Conference Centre, in the University of Manchester's Weston Building.

An afternoon visit to the Quays in Salford included a boat trip around the Quays and along the River Irwell. Before the visit, Dr Adrian Williams from consultants APEM explained how the Quays and the Manchester Ship Canal are having new life breathed into them, and how oxygenation of the Manchester Ship Canal has improved water quality so much that both now sustain fish life where previously they could not. On the boat, Cllr Derek Antrobus and Chris Findley of Salford City Council told the story of regeneration around the Quays following the improvements in water quality there.

More information and the presentations given on the day are available to download at [www.enmar.org.uk](http://www.enmar.org.uk)

## **Previous seminars in England's Northwest:**

### **Water and SEA Directive**

ENMaR seminar 7 held on 27th October 2006

### **Flooding**

ENMaR seminar 6 held on 16th June 2006

### **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) for the Sustainable use of Water**

ENMaR seminar 5 held on 22nd March 2006

More information and the presentations given on the day for all these and previous ENMaR events are available to download at [www.enmar.org.uk](http://www.enmar.org.uk)

## **National News**

### **Flooding Policy**

Planning Policy Statement 25 was published in December 2006. This PPS reinforces the link between planning and flooding and proposes a risk-based approach to addressing flood risk at all stages of the planning process. A companion guide to support the implementation of PPS 25, which includes guidance and good practice examples, was published (as a consultation draft) in February 2007.

PPS 25 can be downloaded at: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

The guide can be downloaded at: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

### **Consultation - working together**

The Environment Agency is seeking your views on working together to improve your river basin. The consultation is open until 22nd June 2007.

For more information, see [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

### **Initial advice on the WFD and planning**

The Environment Agency has published an early guidance document called "The Water Framework Directive and Planning: Initial Advice to Planning Authorities in England and Wales", which can be downloaded from [www.enmar.org.uk](http://www.enmar.org.uk)

This is initial advice, rather than the definitive guide, and it will probably be updated as the WFD evolves. Any updates will appear on the Environment Agency's website [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

In December 2005, an ENMaR seminar was held in partnership with the ODPM to facilitate a scoping study to discuss water issues with local planners. The ODPM held a follow-up seminar in London in early 2006. Both these seminars gave planners a valuable opportunity to inform possible future planning policy on water.

At the ODPM events, the importance of partnership working was highlighted. This is a particularly significant issue, especially when you consider that rivers often cross several local authority boundaries. Jan Brooke, consultant to the ODPM, stressed the need for water to be seen as a core planning issue and to be given greater priority in the planning process. Colin Eastman, National Planning and Local Government Policy Manager for the Environment Agency spoke of the links between river basin management and spatial planning and the need for Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) and Local Developments Frameworks (LDF) to include a commitment to help deliver the WFD.

The presentations from both seminars can be downloaded from the website at [www.enmar.org.uk](http://www.enmar.org.uk)

For more information on the Water Framework Directive see [www.euwfd.com](http://www.euwfd.com)

## European News

### Draft Flooding Directive

The European Commission published a draft Directive on the assessment and management of floods on the 20th January 2006. For more information see the European Union website [ec.europa.eu](http://ec.europa.eu)

## Previous European ENMaR Events

The international ENMaR conference 'The Costs of the Water Framework Directive - Chances and Risks for the Municipalities' was held in Oldenburg, Germany in March 2006.

The conference gave everyone the chance to better understand the work going on in each region to help deliver the WFD's goals. A key point raised during the event was that the WFD will only be successfully implemented through a combination of both 'top down' activities from the European Union and 'bottom up' initiatives stemming from regional experience. Coupled with this, communication between all the stakeholders is imperative at every stage in the process - the seminars organised through the ENMaR project go a long way to achieving this.

Dr. Nigel Watson of Lancaster University, a member of England's Northwest ENMaR network, presented a research paper on Integrated Spatial Planning and the WFD in England. His paper and presentation, along with all the presentations from the conference are available to download on the ENMaR website [www.enmar.org](http://www.enmar.org)

## ENMaR Midterm Meeting

Since ENMaR's conception in 2005, the five partner regions have been active in engaging stakeholders to aid the implementation of the WFD through workshops and seminars.

The ENMaR project intends to report on the findings of these events to the relevant European decision makers to make them aware of the impacts that European water policy has at the local level.

As part of this process, ENMaR held an informal meeting in Brussels, Belgium on 8th June 2006. Visit the ENMaR website to download the interim report after the event. [www.enmar.org](http://www.enmar.org)

We hope that with information and support from ENMaR, local authorities in the participating regions will be better able to implement water policy in a sustainable way.

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ENMaR stands for the European Network of Municipalities and Rivers. It is an international project running from February 2005 until the end of 2007, made up of seven organisations in five European countries - England, Germany, Sweden, Latvia and Spain.