

DRAFT

Dear Sir,

For a few years we have been witnessing a favourable evolution towards basin's sustainable management through integrated water resources management, more and more respectful of the rules and innovative techniques that promote improved quality and more rational and balanced water use. The river, as such, is slowly starting to regain its central role in the basin.

Significant progress has been made, but there is still much to do. It will therefore be necessary to become more committed to increasing the perception of the river as a valuable element, as opposed to the generalized trend to consider it as a marginal area of the territory.

We believe that local, daily and shared commitment from all the people who live and work in the basin (farmers, fishermen, shepherds, contractors, public administrators and citizens) will be the real federating backbone, which will drive renewed and bottom-up management, aiming to restore the initial value of the river environment, but also the factors that have favoured life, that supported development, that guaranteed balance between man and nature: all this in a new and shared vision aiming to the sustainable management of the river.

Aquamadre started in Rome, on the banks of the Tiber, with this spirit and mission. It primarily aims to promote the creation of a true "**River Community**" for meeting and dialoguing regularly in order to facilitate the sharing of opinions, experiences, information and best practices on the daily management of the "river-territory" in each geographical context: from mountains to the plains, up to the sea, giving voice and paying attention to all people who live and work in the river environment.

Aquamadre aims to foster and facilitate political and technical cooperation, in order to know, respect and see the river as a resource in a responsible and locally sustainable way, from specific cases and in a large and diversified number of situations, practices and uses.

By encouraging the link between science, technology and local knowledge, Aquamadre aims to promote and develop innovative management models for developing cooperation activities.

In short, Aquamadre goal is to promote a new culture of the river following the path traced by INBO, with which it intends to continue the actions started by broadening dialogue and confrontation with all the people who play a role on and along the river.

The aim is to establish these "river communities ", which will be entrusted with the task of restoring the role of the river as a new social, economic and cultural driving force.

Aquamadre was presented to the public during the recent World Water Forum held in Marseilles. It explained the reasons for its birth, its mission objectives and content of agreements signed in 2010 with two prestigious international partners: INBO, the world's largest Network of Basin Organizations and EMWIS, the Euro-Mediterranean Information System on know-how in the Water sector.

Now Aquamadre is ready to take its course, and for that, needs a wider participation of all the stakeholders who play a role on the large and small rivers, on mountains and in plains, to begin establishing together the first River Communities.

I rely on your contribution and participation which is absolutely free and voluntary. In the page http://www.aquamadre.org/Membership_Application_Form_fr.html you will find the application form which you have to fill up and send by email to the address info@aquamadre.org. I finally invite you to visit the website www.aquamadre.org to learn more about Aquamadre objectives.

Hoping to see you again soon to face this unique and exciting challenge,

Best regards.

Walter Mazzitti