

Supplementary Material

1 Consultation methodology

Key areas of intervention to enhance riparian zone management were drawn from knowledge and information collected from riparian zone managers and scientists with a long record of engagement in river related projects throughout Europe. Specifically, four main stages were required to complete this policy brief. First, managers from European countries were asked using Google Forms platform about the main issues related to riparian zone management in their own country. Questionnaires were available for five months and 232 managers from 18 European countries provided answers. Based on provided answers the recognised issues were assigned to one of three misalignment categories: science-management, management-legislation or science-legislation. Second, through panel discussion with 26 managers and scientists from Europe, potential solutions to enhance riparian zone management were devised for each of the recognised issues. Third, through a second questionnaire using Google Forms platform 46 managers and scientists from 26 European states and the United States of America ranked according to their expertise potential solutions that would contribute most to enhanced management. Ranking was performed in a period of four months separately in each of the misalignment categories. In addition, a review of relevant EU policy documents related to riparian zones and cross-policy services was conducted. Finally, the findings were aggregated and formulated in five key policy messages, which are based on five highly ranked potential solutions. Further, key messages were underpinned by theory and literature to develop the current policy brief.