

55 DAYS TO THE BIG JUMP ! (First European River Swimming Day)

On the 17th of July 2005 at 14 h (GMT + 2) , thousands of European citizens will celebrate their rivers and at many places they jump simultaneously in the rivers to show their solidarity to the rivers and to ask for a better water quality. Citizens in a lot of European countries will announce the slogan: "More clean and living rivers" in sportive, festive and medial events. They demand the efficient implementation of the "European Water-Frame -Directive", which provides to achieve a good ecological status of rivers and lakes up to 2015.

The Big Jump is a 10-years campaign, which purposes the public monitoring of this big European project and wants to bring back the people to their rivers.

This reconciliation of the urban and near-natural fluvial topography is the basic requirement for the public participation and awakes the citizens to take responsibility for their rivers. What people know and love, will be protected!

It is necessary to care about our rivers - and it will be worthwhile for everybody - and it is possible to rescue our rivers. The evolution of the Elbe-River from the dirtiest River of Europe to a bathing river in only 12 years, shows that hope for new living rivers is not an illusion!

Where we are at the moment

The Big Jump 2005 is already bigger than we have expected. But there can still be organised much more smaller bathing events. Even there where bathing is not possible. There is no limit for fantasy.

The organisation of the Big Jump in the different countries makes progress (200 bathing events and locations are in the works). Some of the bigger events are in the detail-planning now: Berlin creates a "bathing ship" in the Spree River, Hamburg turns a part of the harbour (Elbe Estuary) into a Big Jump Beach-Party and Karlsruhe organises a 10 km swimming marathon in the Rhine. Zurich, Dresden, Munich, Vienna and Paris are calling for Swim- and Beach-Events in the Elbe, Limmat, Isar, blue Danube, Marne, Seine,... and probably there will be a "Big Jump for peace" in Mostar !

A lot of smaller and little events take place outside of the big cities in Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, France, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. Many others events are actually planned (but not confirmed yet) in other European regions. An overview about the fixed bathing-places in Europe can be found on the [Big Jump Website](#) in the coming days and weeks.

Medias

A first wave of the media campaign has begun. The magazines Geo, National Geographic and Terre Sauvage (big article) announce the Big Jump. A very successful first national Press conference has been organized in Brussels (see photos and articles on the Website). At the 31st May the German national Press conference takes place in Dresden, announcing 60 bathing places along the Elbe River (Elbebadetag). For the next weeks many national Press conferences will take place, too. At the 12th of July the first big European Press conference is organised in Hamburg. Details are always available on our website.

To take part

We are still asking for participation! Associations, agencies, communes and sports clubs come on and celebrate with us!

Make something! Big or small, with 500 or 5 people, culturally, historically, sportive, environmental.

Main thing you transport the ideas and the visions of the Big Jump and with it the first European river-swimming day!

Your local event is also a good chance to show your own problems and solutions to a wide public: to build and live at and with the river, renaturation of the river, water policy, educational projects, urban development. It just has to move forward with our rivers.

If you are interested to participate at this big citizens event for rivers and solidarity, please contact us and spread out our idea. Our multilingual team is available for you!

The more we are at the 17th of July the merrier it is!