



EurCOLD

ICOLD European Club Annual Newsletter



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Preface, p.1

Summary, p.2

Activities 2023, p.3 to 24

Activities 2024, p.25

Closure p.26

PREFACE

Sera Lazaridou, EurCOLD President

Alfredo Granados, EurCOLD Secretary General

Dear colleagues,

In 2023 we had the opportunity and pleasure to meet in both the 91st ICOLD Annual meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden and the 12th ICOLD European Club Symposium in Interlaken, Switzerland.

Launching an annual newsletter was discussed and approved in the latest Board Meeting in Interlaken, aiming to collect information on the activities that were carried out throughout 2023 and are scheduled ahead in 2024, by the Board, the European Working Groups - Task Forces - Ad Hoc Groups and the National Committees.

Providing short briefings on the completed activities and listing scheduled future actions we consider that it will serve as an archive giving us at the same time an overview on the realization of the Club's objectives.

We would like to express our gratitude to all the Committees and colleagues contributing to this first issue.

Activities Summary

Reported activities 2023

Pages 3-4: EurCOLLD Board Meetings

- 91st ICOLD Annual Meeting, Gothenburg, Sweden
- 12th EurCOLLD Symposium, Interlaken, Switzerland

Page 5: News dissemination and regular communication

Page 6: EurCOLLD's members participation to other organizations related actions

Pages 7-12: Active European Groups News

Page 13: 91st ICOLD Annual Meeting, Gothenburg

Page 14: EurCOLLD Social Event, June 2023 @ ICOLD2023

Pages 15-17: 12th ICOLD European Club Symposium, Interlaken

Pages 18-24: News from National Committees

Actions ahead - Upcoming activities 2024

Page 25: Activities 2024

Closure

Page 26: Acknowledgements & Closure



New Spitalamm Dam construction
Switzerland, Photo: S.Lazaridou



Activities 2023

EurCOLDF Board Meetings

23rd ICOLD Annual Meeting June 2023, Gothenburg, Sweden

June 11th, 2023: EURCOLDF Board Meeting Briefing

In this Board Meeting we welcomed new representatives from the EurCOLDF National Committees: Denis Aelbrecht as President of CFBR (France), Monique Sanders as President of the NethCOLDF (Netherlands) and Rachel Davies as President of the BDS (UK).

We highlighted the importance to raise public awareness on dams following the presentation of a video that has been prepared by the ITCOLD to communicate the contents of EurCOLDF's Manifesto (2016), based on the experience gained in the "Dam a Territories" workshops.

Several important proposals were welcomed and approved by the Board, as follows:

We discussed (Rosella Caruana, ITCOLD and Sera Lazaridou, EurCOLDF President), initiatives to facilitate and encourage YPs involvement on EurCOLDF activities (specific YP's event on EurCOLDF Symposiums & invite European representatives of the YPF Board to attend the EurCOLDF Board meetings).

Antonella Frigerio presented ITCOLD's initiative to organize a day dedicated to dams (European Dam Day) in the line to raise public awareness.

Public awareness on dams is considered as a key topic for EurCOLDF and an Ad-Hoc Group on Public Awareness Strategies was established, co-chaired by Sera Lazaridou (EurCOLDF President, GCOLD) and Guido Mazzà (ITCOLD). National Committees, interested to participate in the Group, have been invited to appoint their representatives.

A European Working Group on Dams in the context of EU policies, aiming to create a unified point of reference on the interaction of Integrated River Basin Management policies was established. The EWG includes levees in its scope and is co-chaired by Liza Bensasson (ICOLD Vice-President Europe, GCOLD) and J. Mora Alonso-Muñoyerro (SPANCOLDF).



EurCOLDF Board Meeting - 91st ICOLD Annual Meeting. Photos credit: G. Dornias

Activities 2023

EurCOLLD Board Meetings

12th EurCOLLD Symposium September 2023, Interlaken, Switzerland

September 5th, 2023: EurCOLLD Board Meeting Briefing

We have adopted the abbreviation "EurCOLLD" to refer to the European Club of National Committees of ICOLD.

We discussed plans to enhance the club website. The proposed updates include a calendar of activities, a gallery featuring photographs and data of European dams, and sections for sharing resources from the EWG and European Symposia. We extend our gratitude to PTCOLD for their support in hosting and updating the website.

We launched an open call for the 13th ICOLD European Club Symposium, scheduled for 2026. The discussion and approval process will take place in India on Monday, September 30th, 2024. Mr. Piotr Śliwiński of POLCOLLD has expressed interest in hosting the event.

We reviewed Antonella Frigerio's proposal for organizing a Dam Day, which includes a range of initiatives such as guided visits to dams, sports competitions around reservoirs, and conferences aimed at enhancing awareness of the role of dams among stakeholders and society. The European Dam Day has been approved, to be organised under the auspices of the Ad-hoc Group on Public Awareness Strategies, with the support of ITCOLD.

The organization of ETIP Hydropower is currently being defined, and the Governing Board will be elected in November 2023. Jean-Jacques Fry encouraged the Board to nominate candidates to ensure adequate representation of EurCOLLD.

We are launching a newsletter featuring information on recent and upcoming activities. Contributions on EWG and National Committee activities are welcomed. The expected publication date is early 2024, and **support from Young Professionals (YPs) will be highly appreciated.**

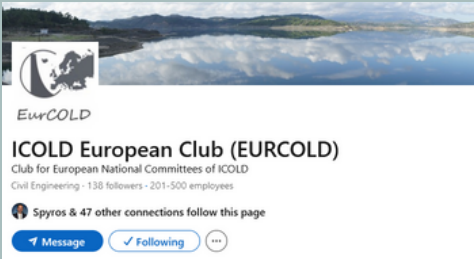
We identified certain gaps in the current Club constitution, including procedures for proposing and approving EWGs, defining procedures for reviewing and approving EWG's Terms of Reference, and procedures for requesting and approving EurCOLLD support for third-party events. An Ad-hoc group has been established to draft revised by-laws.

We encouraged National Committees and YPs to establish a support group for EurCOLLD activities, including the management of the LinkedIn page, newsletter editing, website updates, etc.



WHAT TO REMEMBER?

Activities 2023 News dissemination, regular communication and other initiatives



EurCOLD LinkedIn page

The first 2023 Semester, EurCOLD launched a LinkedIn page to disseminate news, connect and interact online with ICOLD National Committees members and the the dam engineering community. In late January 2024, the page had approximately 150 followers.

Board and National Committee members are encouraged to connect with the EurCOLD page and refer to (@) or mention EurCOLD (#) to disseminate thir news with its followers and connections.

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/icold-european-club-eurcold/>

Regular informative e-mails and “Letters from the President”

Regular e-mails with issues, news and requests of interest and periodical “Letters from the President” as they were established by f. President Fry, are circulated by the Secretary General Alfredo Granados, to the Board members and the EWG chairs.

During 2023 two (2) letters (March & May) and several notifications were sent to the Board members and EWG chairs. in February 2023, EURCOLD members responded positively to a call from the President and Secretary General to express our condolences to TRCOLD, following the devastating earthquakes in Turkey.

EurCOLD website

The website, since its launch, is successfully being hosted and managed by the Portuguese committee (PTCOLD) and it is regularly being updated with information related to the EurCOLD activities.

<https://cnpgb.apambiente.pt/IcoldClub/>

Activities 2023

EurCOLD's members participation to other organizations related actions



EurCOLD members support for expert review on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) good practice guidelines for development of the hydropower sector by the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)

Following a request from NethCOLD President Monique Sanders, to provide our support in an issue as important and emerging as the development of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) good practice guidelines for the hydropower sector, we encouraged the National Committees to propose experts in the relevant field, with an interest to participate as reviewers on the draft provided by the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA).

The review process was completed on the 31st of October and we would like to express our appreciation to the experts from Italy (ITCOLD) Mr Pier Luigi Mossa and Mr Mirko Corigliano (Enel GreenPower SpA), who contributed by reviewing the draft.



EurCOLD National Committee's members participation in ETIP Hydropower Governing Board

EurCOLD supported the candidature of EurCOLD National Committees members to become members of the ETIP Hydropower Governing Board, The online election process took place in October & November 2023.

More information can be found in:

<https://etip-hydropower.eu/about-hydropower-in-europe/etip-hydropower-governing-board-members/>

Dr Denis Aelbrecht, CFBR President and Antonella Frigerio from ITCOLD were appointed (elected) respectively, as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Board.



WHAT TO REMEMBER?

Activities 2023

Active European Working Groups - News

European Working Groups, Task Force, Ad Hoc Group

EWG on Overflowing and overtopping erosion.
Jean-Robert Courivaud

EWG on Internal erosion.
Stéphane Bonelli

EWG on Levees and flood defences.
Rémy Tourment

EWG on Dams and earthquakes.
Guillaume Veylon

EWG on Penstocks and Pressure shafts.
Antonella Frigerio

TF on Dams and territories.
Guido Mazzà

ETIP Hydropower.
Anton Schleiss - J-J Fry

EWG on Dam Legislation.
Giovanni Ruggeri

EWG on Dams & EU Policies.
Lisa Bensasson - J. Mora Alonso-Muñozerro

Ad Hoc Group Public Awareness Strategies.
Sera Lazaridou - Guido Mazzà

European Dam Day Initiative & Proposal by ITCOLD
Antonella Frigerio - Guido Mazzà

EWG on Overflowing and overtopping erosion & EWG on Internal erosion joint meeting

The 29th annual meeting of the European Working Group on Internal Erosion in Embankment Dams, Dikes and Levees, and their Foundations and the 4th meeting of the European Working Group on Overflowing and Overtopping Erosion, were held between 3-7 July 2023 at the Ecole Centrale de Lyon (France), More information: <https://www6.inrae.fr/eucold-ewgie-ewgooe/>

2023 EWGIE and EWGOOE meeting - Lyon

2023 EWGIE and EWGOOE meetings will be held 3-7 July 2023 at the Ecole Centrale de Lyon

This year, we will organize at the same place and the same week :

- Lyon, France: the 29th annual EWG-IE meeting from Monday, July 3 to Wednesday, July 5, 2023

(European Working Group on Internal Erosion in Embankment Dams, Dikes and Levees, and their Foundations) ;

- the 4th annual EWG-OOE meeting from Wednesday, July 5 to Friday, July 7, 2023

(European Working Group on Overflowing and Overtopping Erosion).

This event will be organized by Eric Vincens and Francesco Froilo (ECL, LTDS Lyon), Jean-Robert Courivaud (EDF CIH Chambéry), Christophe Picault (CNRS CACOH Lyon) and Stéphane Bonelli (INRAE Aix-en-Provence).

Book these dates now!

<https://ewgie-ooe-2023.sciencesconf.org/>

EWG on Levees and flood defences



The EWG on Levees and flood defences issued its 11th Newsletter on December 2023. the EWG's work is available in: <https://lfd-eurcold.inrae.fr/>
All Newsletter issues are uploaded in: <https://lfd-eurcold.inrae.fr/index.php/wg-newsletter/>

Activities 2023

Active European Working Groups - News

European Working Groups, Task Force, Ad Hoc Group

EWG on Overflowing and overtopping erosion.
Jean-Robert Courivaud

EWG on Internal erosion.
Stéphane Bonelli

EWG on Levees and flood defences.
Rémy Tourment

[EWG on Dams and earthquakes.](#)
Guillaume Veylon

[EWG on Penstocks and Pressure shafts.](#)
Antonella Frigerio

TF on Dams and territories.
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EWG on on Dams and earthquakes

Report by G. Veylon

In 2023, the activity of the EWG Dams and Earthquakes focused on four main actions:

- An annual workshop on the occasion of the 12th ICOLD European Club Symposium 2023 in Interlaken: 18 participants, 2 lectures;
- Creation of a working group to draft a state-of-art synthesis “Selection and modification of input ground motion – The European practice”. The group, composed of 7 members, met twice in 2023;
- Launch of the organization (in cooperation with GCOLD) of the International Symposium on Dams and Earthquakes in 2024 in Athens;
- Elaboration and submission of the HADES project (High Arch Dams under Extreme Seismic loads) as part of the European Engineering Research Infrastructures for European Synergies (ERIES) program. The project consists of performing and monitoring seismic shaking table tests on a scale model of an arch dam. The project is supported by 13 contributors from 9 institutions and 5 European countries.

EWG on Penstocks and Pressure shafts

Report by A. Frigerio

In 2023 the European Working Group “Penstocks & Pressure Shafts” reached 34 members, coming from several European Countries and covering all business areas of hydropower. This large participation reflects that technicians devote great attention to these components.

All members are currently engaged in the editing of a technical bulletin whose main purpose is to provide a general shared overview on common practices in design, surveillance and control, safety assessment methodologies and rehabilitation solutions.

In its last meeting of 2023, the EWG decided to organize a workshop devoted to penstocks, pressure shaft and pressure tunnels to be held in Graz (Austria) at the end of 2024; further details will be provided in the next newsletter.

Activities 2023

Active European Working Groups - News

European Working Groups, Task Force, Ad Hoc Group

EWG on Overflowing and overtopping erosion.
Jean-Robert Courivaud

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TF on Dams and territories Report by G. Mazzà - A. Frigerio



Workshop “Dams and Territory - The context of central-southern Italy”

On 12th October 2023 the Workshop "Dams and Territory - The realities of the Central-South" took place in Caserta, as part of the initiatives organized in various Italian territorial areas by the ITCOLD with the aim of promoting knowledge of the actions carried out by dam owners in favour of the areas where these infrastructures are located and collecting the views from the various territorial stakeholders.

This edition constitutes the ninth event of the initiative which covered a large part of the Italian territory, from Bolzano (2014) to Saint Vincent (2022).

At the event, the results of the survey carried out by ITCOLD to assess the proactivity of dam owners was presented. Moreover, the interventions implemented by the main dam owners of the central-southern area were illustrated.

The point of view of the stakeholders operating in the central-southern area was highlighted by the various interventions that took place during the afternoon session. The event concluded on 13th October with technical visits to the Presenzano pumping plant and the Piano della Rocca Dam. The Workshop had an excellent audience (140 people) and also saw the participation of Sera Lazaridou, President of the ICOLD European Club, and Emmanuel Grénier, ICOLD communication officer.

The presentations (in Italian) of the event can be downloaded from the ITCOLD website. [Clicca qui](#)



The workshop room during the meeting

Activities 2023

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ETIP Hydropower project

Information from <https://etip-hydropower.eu/latest-news/>

The European Technology and Innovation Platform on Hydropower (ETIP Hydropower) completed, within 2023 the following actions:

- On April 25th, 2023, it successfully organized the first edition of the "Brussels Hydropower Day" with the participation of many EurCOLD Board and National Committee members.
- On July 27th, the 1st General Assembly meeting took place (online).
- Election of the Governing Board, which held its first official meeting on the 23th of November 2023. The Board is composed of 25 stakeholders representing all relevant hydropower sub-sectors, e.g. industry, operators, R&D&I, environment & civil society. They will collectively provide strategic advice to the SET Plan, addressing topics such as market analysis, research funding, biodiversity protection, and ecological continuity with the support of ETIP Hydropower project coordinators in the secretariat role. The Governing Board is led by a chairperson and two co-chairs, who have been elected in December 2023 for a 3-year term. In Q1 2024, the Governing Board is planning to discuss launching of the first thematic Working Groups. The secretariat will also proceed with the establishment of the Scientific Advisory Board.



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Active European Working Groups - News

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EWG on Dam Legislation

Reminder notice by G. Ruggeri - C. Russo

“Dear friends of the ICOLD European Club,
We remind you all that updating the European Dam Legislation Report is a key task assigned to the National Committees of the Club. The last version of the document is dated 2020 (see EurCOLD website). Therefore, we ask you to check data relevant to your country and, should they be obsolete, update them. As usual, the Italian National Committee ([e-mail: itcold@iol.it](mailto:itcold@iol.it)) will collect your contributions and provide an updated version of the Legislation Report for the EurCOLD website. The last updating introduced for the various countries is the following:

- Ø 2020, Portugal
- Ø 2019, Germany
- Ø 2018, Norway
- Ø 2017, Netherlands
- Ø 2016, United Kingdom
- Ø 2015, France
- Ø 2015, Sweden
- Ø 2014, Italy
- Ø 2020, Albania
- Ø 2014, Finland
- Ø 2014, Switzerland
- Ø 2014, Slovenia
- Ø 2013, Spain
- Ø 2001, Austria
- Ø 2001, Romania

We also remind that the information given in the Report covers the following topics, and we emphasise that in the last paragraph (MAIN DOCUMENTS) national reference websites for norms may be indicated.

- o Basic Legal Framework
- o Dams subjected to Regulation
- o Entities concerned
- o Dam Projects (General Directions, Technical Rules)
- o Construction - First Filling
- o Operation
- o Repair - Rehabilitation
- o Protection of the population (Emergency action plan, Emergency management, etc.)
- o Decommissioning
- o Main Documents - List and synopsis - Files of the legislation documents.”

Activities 2023

Active European Working Groups - News

European Working Groups, Task Force, Ad Hoc Group

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EWG on Dams & EU Policies

Proposal by L. Bensasson - J. M. Alonso-Muñoz

The EWG on Dams in the context of EU policies, aims to create a unified point of reference on the interaction of Integrated River Basin Management policies -with focus on EU Water Framework Directive - and dams and reservoirs and it was established in the EurCOLLD Board meeting in Gothenburg (ICOLD 2023 Annual Meeting).

Ad Hoc Group Public Awareness Strategies

Proposal by S. Lazaridou - G. Mazzà

A call to the National Committees to appoint their representatives has been circulated and is still active. It is intended to circulate, a questionnaire to collect contributions from National Committees, interested to participate in this initiative.

European Dam Day Initiative

Proposal by ITCOLD

ITCOLD has already launched a Task Force to implement the European Dam Day initiative and proposal. The upcoming period, Board Members interested to participate, will be invited to meet, to be informed by ITCOLD on the proposal and exchange views to an initial attempt to synchronize the action.

Workshop “Dams and Territory - The context of central-southern Italy”



Activities 2023

91st ICOLD Annual Meeting, June 2023

Gothenburg, Sweden

91st ICOLD Annual Meeting, June 2023

Report by the Swedish Committee (SwedCOLLD)



SwedCOLLD has successfully concluded the challenging task of organizing the ICOLD annual meeting in Sweden, hosted in the city of Gothenburg. The feedback received from participants, as well as subsequent correspondents, has been overwhelmingly positive. We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all the attendees who traveled to Gothenburg and contributed to the success of the event. We hope you enjoy our [short film](#) from the event.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to the sponsors who supported us in making this gathering possible. SwedCOLLD extends its appreciation to ICOLD for entrusting us with the responsibility of hosting such a significant event, thereby fostering increased interest in dam-related matters within Sweden.

For those seeking further information, including proceedings, pictures, and additional documentation from the conference, these resources have been relocated to our SwedCOLLD website (www.swedcold.org) for continued access and long-term archival purposes. The high turnout for the annual meeting, symposium, and study tours – all together more than 1200 participants – allowed SwedCOLLD to accumulate a modest surplus. Ongoing discussions are focused on determining the most effective use of these funds, which includes actions to promote various professions crucial for maintaining, rehabilitating, and ensuring the safe operation of dams. Given the multitude of dams in our country and the scarcity of expertise, encouraging university students to pursue careers aligned with the needs of dam owners is of utmost importance. SwedCOLLD remains committed to promoting competence in this field and will explore avenues to support and guide the next generation of professionals.



WHAT TO REMEMBER?

Activities 2023

EurCOLD Social Event, ICOLD2023

ICOLD Annual Meeting 2023

EurCOLD Social Event @ Melody Club, June 12th



The ICOLD European social event took place on Monday the 12th of June, at Melody Club in Gothenburg, a Karaoke club close to the Annual Meeting venue. More than 110 ICOLD European Club member country delegates and accompanying persons joined the event to strengthen their friendship. After the dinner and drinks, we were challenged to practice our singing and multilingual skills in Karaoke!

The event was organized with the collaboration of SwedCOLD and the support of Svenska Kraftnät.

We are looking forward to our next social event in ICOLD2024 in New Delhi, on Monday the 30th of September 2024. Further details to be provided ahead.

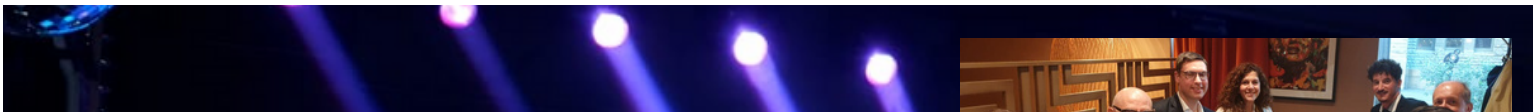


Photo credit: G. Dounias

European club network event

Time: Drop in from 19:00 - 22:30
Place: Melody Club
Cost: SEK 460 excl. vat (SEK 575 incl vat)
Pre-registration is mandatory

Dear colleagues and friends,
Continuing our traditional social events at ICOLD Annual Meetings, we are inviting all ICOLD European Club member country delegates and accompanying persons to get together with a buffet dinner and drinks on Monday the 12th of June at Melody Club.
This event is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our friendship and bonds.
Looking forward to seeing you in Gothenburg!
Best Regards,
Sera Lazaridou, ICOLD European Club President
Alfredo Granados, ICOLD European Club General Secretary
Maria Bartsch, SwedCOLD President



Photo credit: A. Rabias



Photo credit: G. Dounias



Activities 2023

12th ICOLD European Club Symposium, September 2023, Interlaken, Switzerland

12th ICOLD European Club Symposium Report by the Swiss Committee (SwissCOD)



The year 2023 was exceptionally exciting as well as challenging for Swiss Dams, dominated by the organisation and the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the Swiss Committee on Dams and the European Club Symposium.

The 12th ICOLD European Club Symposium organised by the Swiss Committee on Dams took place in Interlaken from the 5th to the 8th of September 2023. On 5th September 2023, almost 100 participants attended various workshops in the run-up to the event.

These workshops offered the opportunity to explore in depth various important topics:

- "Earthquakes and dams": behaviour of dams under seismic loading illustrated by past incidents, numerical aspects of seismic resistance assessment (Lecturers: Dr. Martin Wieland, Francesco Amberg)

- "Hydraulics of dams": focus on the challenges of river diversion during dam construction, and the design of low level and bottom outlets (Lecturers: Prof. Anton Schleiss, Prof. Robert Boes, Benjamin Hohermuth)

- "Pendulum systems in dams": State of the art of vertical precision drilling for pendulums, drilling technologies for inverted pendulums (Lecturers: Andrea Ballerin, Martin Glück, Roberto Gardenghi, Philippe Bourgey)

- "RCC dams and CFRDs": Evolution and trends, concrete for RCC dams, challenges and solutions for CFRDs (Lecturers: Marco Conrad, Francisco Ortega, Andrea Abati)

The Symposium was attended by more than 330 participants on 6th and 7th September 2023, with the afternoon of 7th September dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Swiss Dams (Swiss Day).

Under the overarching theme "Role of dams and reservoirs for a successful energy transition" the following four subjects were proposed:

- "Dams and reservoirs for hydropower"
- "Dams and reservoirs for climate change adaptation"
- "Sustainable dams and reservoirs"
- "How to deal with ageing dams"



Activities 2023

12th ICOLD European Club Symposium, September 2023, Interlaken, Switzerland

12th ICOLD European Club Symposium Report by the Swiss Committee (SwissCOD)

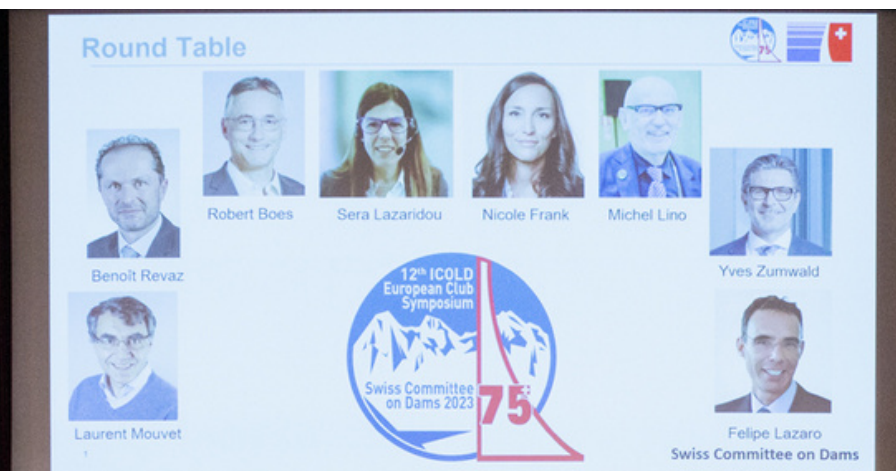


More than 120 contributions on these topics were submitted for review by the International Scientific Committee. In addition to around 30 posters, around 60 articles were presented, which dealt with the ageing of dams, their rehabilitation or decommissioning, but also with the management of reservoir sedimentation, the mitigation of dams' impacts and the growing challenges but also opportunities related to climate change. The numerous scientific contributions received culminated in the publication of a Book of Proceedings in digital and printed form.

The 75th anniversary of the Swiss Dam Committee provided an opportunity to look back on the development of dams in Switzerland. Illustrated by the screening of a short movie especially produced for the occasion, "Swiss dams, past, present and future", to point out the export of Swiss expertise in the domain, to re-define hydropower in the context of the European energy transition and to emphasise the need for the development of multi-purpose reservoirs and highlight their role in the future.

In addition to the various interesting speeches given by the invited representatives from ICOLD, municipality, the economy and the federal government, the Swiss Day opening speech given by Federal Councillor Albert Rösti was particularly appreciated.

The many interesting presentations were rounded off by a panel discussion, which was expertly moderated by journalist Nicole Frank.



Activities 2023

12th ICOLD European Club Symposium, September 2023, Interlaken, Switzerland

12th ICOLD European Club Symposium Report by the Swiss Committee (SwissCOD)



In addition, the Swiss heritage of dams was recorded by creating a timeline presented in Interlaken. This exclusively electronic timeline will be continuously updated in the future. 20 companies/associations from Switzerland and abroad were represented with stands at the technical exhibition in Interlaken.

The Gala Dinner on the evening of the Swiss Day rounded off the festivities crowned by a performance by the popular swiss folk band “Oesch die Dritten”. To conclude the Symposium, a site visit to the new Spitalamm dam on the Grimsel Pass and to other KWO construction projects showcased the future of dam development in Switzerland.

The symposium was attended by an international group of participants and was a great success, judging by the numerous positive feedbacks received. It was a milestone for both Swiss Dams and the European Club of the ICOLD.

The presentations, the Movie, the Swiss Dams Timeline and the Book of Proceedings are published on the website www.swissdams.ch. The special edition of the WEL magazine from September 2023 contains interesting articles. Alison Bartle from Hydropower & Dams Magazine, who was present at the event, reported on the Swiss dam engineering sector and on the event.

The Swiss Dams Board would like to take this opportunity to thank the Organising Committee which consisted of representatives of Swiss Dams, the Swiss Federal Office of Energy, for the excellent organisation and smooth running of the Symposium. A big thank you goes to the Sponsors AFRY, AET, Andritz Hydro, Eléctricité d'Emosson, Gruner, Implenia, KWO, Ofima-Ofible, Lombardi, SIG, ewz, Electrosuisse, Axpo, Alpiq, Trigonet, EKZ, Hydro Exploitation, Dr. Baumer SA, BG Ingenieure, IM Maggia-IUB, Hydrokarst, Grisoni, Groupe E, JPF, Forces Motrices du G.St. Bernard, Norbert, Walo, SWV, BFE, VAW-ETH Zurich and PL LCH-EPFL for their financial and/or logistical support, without which this event would not have been possible.



Activities 2023

News from National Committees: Albanian Committee (ALBCOLD)

Albanian Committee (ALBCOLD) activities



Symposium on Design Codes of Dams and Their Seismic Safety, Tirana, Albania

On December 15th, 2023, the joint international symposium between the National Committee of Large Dams (ALBCOLD), the Academy of Sciences (ASH) and the Faculty of Construction Engineering (FIN) was organized in Tirana.

Dam experts from Albania, Italy and Greece were invited to this symposium, as well as representatives of EurCOLD, ITCOLD, the Polytechnic University of Turin, Italy and Hellenic Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, Greece.

On December 15th, 2023, two sessions of the symposium took place, during which several main issues were discussed as follows:

- The importance of technical standards for their design and control.
- Requirements and experience of state control for monitoring and safety of large dams,
- Dam Safety against seismic risk and Requirements for technical standards for the design of dams against seismic risk.
- Requirements for a modern monitoring of large dams.
- The importance of technical requirements to construction materials for dams with local material.
- Actual situation and technical requirement for decommissioning of dams.



Also, at the end of the above sessions, a meeting was organized with the participants regarding the requirements for technical standards on the monitoring and dam safety in the future, the inclusion of young engineers and the appropriate institutions in terms of improving the monitoring process of dams as well as discussions about the problems encountered today for the use, monitoring and safety of large dams in Albania.

Activities 2023

News from National Committees: Albanian Committee (ALBCOLD)

Albanian Committee (ALBCOLD) activities



Symposium on Design Codes of Dams and Their Seismic Safety, Tirana, Albania

During the Symposium, an exhibition with photos from the time of the construction of the HPP Fierza dam was opened, as well as a set of photos of the HPP Fierza dam today.

On December 16th, 2023, a site visit to the HPP Banje dam was organized with the foreign experts present at the symposium.



Activities 2023

News from National Committees: British Dam Society (BDS)

British Dam Society (BDS) activities



The BDS held six evening technical meetings during 2023, which were attended in person, streamed live and recorded. These covered subjects such as techniques to replace valves without reservoir drawdown; lessons learnt from decommissioning reservoirs; and – of interest to the whole dam engineering community – the potential for five new large reservoirs to be built in the UK in future. The BDS also arranged site visits, one being to a flood storage reservoir in Yorkshire, where 26 members saw construction in progress.

The ICOLD meeting in Gothenburg was attended by 42 UK delegates, including six Young Professionals taking advantage of the BDS Bursary scheme, which provides financial assistance for their attendance. Many of the UK representatives met in their ICOLD Technical Committees, to help progress the production of ICOLD Technical Bulletins

In September the BDS held a one-day in-person forum for Reservoir Supervising Engineers, those legally responsible for reporting on the safety of reservoirs, where a range of presentations and discussions helped the 250 delegates to share knowledge and gain updates on recent and proposed legislation. It was also an excellent opportunity for networking with peers and with senior members of the industry.

To help Young Professionals become Supervising Engineers (SEs) the BDS has a mentoring scheme, whereby aspiring SEs can accompany experienced engineers on their inspections, thus gaining knowledge of wide range of dam types, and how to assess their safety.

The BDS continues to look to the future, with work already underway planning for a series of evening technical lectures, and the biennial conference on 11 – 14 September 2024 at Keele University, where papers and delegates from the UK and abroad will be welcomed.

A more detailed summary of our 2023 activities is provided in our annual Yearbook which will be available shortly in the ‘About’ section of our website – <https://britishdams.org/> Details of 2024 key events are listed below and can also be found in:

<https://britishdams.org/meetings-and-events/events-calendar/>

Event	Date	Place	Organiser and event details
Young Professionals Forum	22-Apr-24	London, UK	The British Dam Society bds@ice.org.uk
22 nd Biennial Conference	11-14 September 2024	Keele University, Staffordshire, UK	The British Dam Society bds@ice.org.uk
Technical evening presentations	Various – six planned for 2024	London and online	The British Dam Society – events page for details: https://britishdams.org/meetings-and-events/events-calendar/

Activities 2023

News from National Committees: Netherlands Committee (NethCOLD)

EURCOLLD



ICOLD Member countries can join one of the Regional Clubs of ICOLD. NethCOLD participates in the European Club of ICOLD, which is also known as EURCOLLD ([index \(apambiente.pt\)](#)). The chairperson of a member country represents a member country in the annual meetings of EURCOLLD, which take place during the Annual Meeting of ICOLD.

Every three years, one of the EURCOLLD Member Countries organizes a 3- or 4-day EURCOLLD Symposium.

Within EURCOLLD there are informal working groups which focus on technical topics of interest in Europe.

NethCOLD is actively participating in the EURCOLLD working groups related to internal and external erosion and international comparison studies of dams and levees. The working groups are relatively open and informal. For example, open and free webinars are organized related to international levees.

The working groups in which members of NethCOLD are involved and/or participate actively, are:

- Hydropower-Europe (<https://hydropower-europe.eu/>)
- Levees and Flood Defence (Levees and Flood Defences – a Working Group of the European Club of ICOLD ([inrae.fr](#)))
- Internal erosion (Internal Erosion | European Working Group on Internal Erosion (EWGIE) ([inrae.fr](#)))
- External erosion (new group, no website)
- Seismic analysis (no website)
- Penstocks and Pressure Shafts (no website)



Netherlands Committee's (NethCOLD) new website

The Dutch National Committee Nethcold has a new website, see www.nethcold.org.

Compared to the past, Nethcold is also making increased efforts to involve young professionals in activities related to Nethcold and ICOLD.



NethCOLD is involved in several Int. Technical Committees

www.nethcold.org

What ICOLD stands for

The International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) groups National Committees which are organized in member countries. The Netherlands is a member country with its National Committee NethCOLD. NethCOLD is an active partner of ICOLD.

Activities 2023

News from National Committees: Polish Committee (POLCOLD)

Polish Committee (POLCOLD) activities



In 2023 Technical Committees of ICOLD were fed of Polish representatives, especially Tailings Dams & Waste Lagoons, Levees Technical Committee, Dam Safety and Historical Water Structure.

We have also made a selection of topics for the ICOLD Congress, which is planned for Chengdu, China, in 2025.

Representatives of Polish Large Dams Committee POLCOLD attended the annual meeting of the International Committee on Large Dams, held June 10–16th in Gothenburg, which included a plenary meeting of national committee delegates.

We also took part in a meeting of EurCOLD, where current issues of cooperation between national committees were discussed, and a delegate from Poland gave a short presentation on large dams in our country and invited to the 20th International Conference on Technical Control of Dams, September 12–15th in Chorzow, included in ICOLD's "Events". This Conference was organized by the Warsaw University of Technology, and POLCOLD was its co-organizer. During this Conference, there was a special session dedicated to the Upper Silesian Water Supply Company on the occasion of its 140 years of existence.

In February of this year, a Young Engineers Club (Technical Committee ZX2, YOUNG ENGINEERS) was established at POLCOLD, whose activities are coordinated by Dagmara Zelaya-Wziątek, who is responsible for the work and contacts with the international club. As part of this activity, a series of webinars was initiated under the title: "The future of tailings pond engineering: An Introduction to a diverse career with enormous opportunities".

The first official meeting of the YEF took place on May 11. Eight people attended the meeting during which the possibilities of supporting POLCOLD through the activities of the Young Engineers Club were discussed as well as the scope of interests of individual members. The next unofficial YEF meeting took place on September 12–15th during the 20th International Technical Conference on Dam Control, attended by five club members. Further more, YEF was involved in editing and updating the POLCOLD website. It is hoped that the initiative will arise interest in the club and attract a multitude of young engineers.

POLCOLD members were also members of a working group from the Ministry of Infrastructure, where the update project of the regulation of technical conditions for hydroengineering structures was prepared.

In September the representatives of POLCOLD took part in European Club meeting in Interlaken 04.09.2023 - 09.09.2023. Then a declaration of organizing the 13th meeting (in 2026) was done by the Polish delegate.

Polish Committee on Large Dams had 3 meetings in 2023.

Plans for 2024:

- Preparation for 13th European Club meeting in 2026.
- Preparation for new regulation for technical conditions for water structures maintenance.
- Translations and distribution of ICOLD bulletins and newsletters.

Activities 2023

News from National Committees: Swedish Committee (SwedCOLD)

Swedish Committee (SwedCOLD) additional activities Autumn Seminar & Newsletters



Seminar: Because of the strain put on our small organization, we canceled our usual spring symposium. However, in October, we resumed regular operations and organized a one-day symposium in Stockholm on the theme of "Pervasive Modifications to Dams," which drew over 120 attendees. The event proved to be an engaging and diverse occasion, featuring discussions on various pertinent topics, including:

- Transitioning from a hydropower-oriented approach to engineering tailings dams and water management
- Strategies for reducing (!) spillway capacity to enhance dam safety
- Restoring bottom outlets for dams
- Enhancing spillway reliability through the implementation of overflow spillways
- Addressing rehabilitation challenges in remote locations with no road access and during harsh weather conditions
- Concrete degradation and the determination of necessary measures
- Comprehensive rehabilitation efforts for concrete and masonry dams
- Construction of large-scale multi story fishways at existing dams

In addition to curating a series of informative presentations, SwedCOLD conducted an interactive session to capture ideas and opinions from symposium attendees. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive, with many valuable suggestions for future topics. Moreover, there was a unanimous sentiment regarding the significance of face-to-face interactions, networking opportunities, and the irreplaceable value of in-person events, emphasizing the preference for such gatherings over digital meetings.

SwedCOLD remains committed to facilitating knowledge exchange and fostering a sense of community within the industry, and we look forward to incorporating the gathered insights into our future endeavors.

Newsletter: Apart from this we also issued two newsletters with articles on dams, available (in Swedish) on our website.

Plans for 2024: Two issues of SwedCOLD Newsletter.



Fishways at Spjutmo. Photo: Fortum



ICOLD Study tour visits Höljes damm. Photo: Fortum

Activities 2023

News from National Committees: Swiss Committee on Dams (SwissCOD)

Swiss Committee on Dams (SwissCOD) *additional activities*



Secretariat

The organisation and preparation of ECS2023 and the 75th anniversary of the Swiss Committee on Dams presented the Swiss Dams Secretariat with major challenges in 2023 and demanded a great deal of commitment.

In addition to invoicing, bookkeeping, meetings and taking minutes, other tasks included preparing for the Annual General Meeting and the "Dams and Extreme Floods" Symposium in Bern in March, as well as updating the list of members and the content of the websites (swissdams.ch and ecsymposium2023.ch).

The President and the Secretary-Treasurer represented the Swiss Committee on Dams at the 91st Annual Meeting of the ICOLD in Gothenburg.

The preparation and distribution of the 2024 Swiss Dams calendar took place in the second half of the year. The calendar was only sent to 12 National Dam Committees and to ICOLD (after feedback was received from various committees reporting difficult delivery conditions).



ICOLD European Club Symposium - SwissCOD's YP, Photo: S.Lazaridou



WHAT'S NEXT?!

Activities 2024 Actions Ahead



Upcoming activities

January 2024

- 25/01: CFBR Annual Symposium

February 2024

- 22/02: GCOLD general assembly

March 2024

- SwissCOD general assembly

April 2024

- 16/04: ETIP Hydropower, 2nd Brussels Hydropower Day
- 16/04: SwedCOLD, Spring one day symposium: “Dams in cold climate”, Stockholm
- 22/04: BDS, Young Professionals Forum

May 2024

- 15-16/05: ALBCOLD & CFBR, Symposium in Tirana

June 2024

- 17/06-20/06: SPANCOLD, XIII Spanish Dam Conference, Barcelona
- SwissCOD Annual symposium

September – October 2024

- 10/09-11/09: GCOLD, 4th National Conference, Athens
- 11-14/09: BDS, 22nd Biennial Conference
- 12/09-13/09: GCOLD & EWG on Dams and Earthquakes, International Symposium on Dams and Earthquakes, 7th Meeting of the EWG, Athens
- 29/09 - 02/10: ICOLD 2024 Annual Meeting, New Delhi, India
- 30/9: EURCOLD Board Meeting @ ICOLD 2024
- 30/9: EURCOLD Social Event @ ICOLD 2024

November 2024

- 12/11: SwedCOLD, Autumn one day symposium, Stockholm (Theme to be determined)

Additional Information:

- BDS: Refer to section “News from National Committees”, p.20 for Technical Evening Presentations Information
- EWG Soil Erosion and Overtopping Erosion: 2024 Joint Meeting
- POLCOLD: Conference for managers of polish large dams (one day exchange of experience, discussion on changing hydrology demands for water managing update).
- SwedCOLD: Study tour (in spring) to the site of a failed dam – date and location to be determined

AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Closing Remarks

"We appreciate your invaluable contribution and feedback"

Dear colleagues and friends,
During the preparation of the Annual Newsletter we have received the invaluable contributions from many National Committees and European Working Groups Chairs. We would like to express our gratitude to all for sharing their information and updates to this initial issue and we would be grateful to receive your comments and suggestions for further improvement. This effort was made in order to gather information we would like to remember, looking back in 2023 and be informed about events and actions within 2024. We hope you will find it useful.
We are looking forward to our upcoming activities and meeting you all in the forthcoming Board Meetings and events of ICOLD.

Thank You



Sera Lazaridou
EurCOLD President



Alfredo Granados
EurCOLD Secretary General



Nijar dam



Chanza dam

