



## Virtual Fisheries Forum 02/12/20 – The Building Bridges Project

### Q&A Session with Janusz Kansik

Q. Can your signage be downloaded?

A. Janusz Kansik: Yes. By visiting the [Building Bridges Project](#) area of the Angling Trust website, you can download .pdf files of all our signage and leaflets.

Q. Do you find there are any literacy issues with respect to signage, e.g. where a person may not be able to read and understand the content, especially technical or legal terminology, in any languages, even their national one?

A. Janusz Kansik: Literacy issues are very important too. When we first started our work on signage 6-7 years ago, our main goal was to organise the signs in a very easy to understand and clear way. Anglers don't want to spend lots of time reading anything wordy or complicated on arrival at a lake – they want to start fishing. By designing our signage in a simple way however, it delivers basic, important information which anglers from all countries can understand with pictures/ graphics included. One issue we often come across with translation is clubs who have extensive/ complex rules, with repetition throughout a single document – we would therefore always ask clubs or fisheries to keep it as simple as possible to avoid any confusion.

Q. Where does the funding come from?

A. Janusz Kansik: We are part of the Fisheries Enforcement Support Service (FESS), which is funded by Fishing License income from the Environment Agency. We invest this money into the signage, visits to schools and fisheries, advice to clubs, while resolving issues such as poaching where migrant communities are concerned. This is one of the many things that Fishing License income pays for.

Q. We've enjoyed positive and productive relationships with anglers from Eastern Europe, and for this thanks to all the work you've done. Do you find similar issues and challenges with anglers (or potential illegal fishers/poachers) who are from Asia (Central and Eastern), where the community networks and support may not be so well established and supported?

A. Great question. Starting from the very beginning, it's not simple to build relationships with many of the Asian communities as they are often closed up. Recently for the first time in our history however, we have been able to reach out to a person within the Chinese angling community who can help us with translation. Building these kind of relationships takes time. It took us a while with the Polish community, and the same will happen with the Chinese community. As a first step, we are now able to translate club/ fishery rules into Chinese languages – it's much easier to have someone who speaks these languages as a native of that place. Having someone like this on board will be a great progression for the Project.

Q. Can you give any assistance to clubs looking to find native speakers to become part of the bailiff team?

A. Janusz Kansik: Yes – this is a very important aspect of our work. We always try and advise clubs and fisheries to engage and work alongside migrant anglers – having a Polish, Slovakian, Romanian etc bailiff represents a huge asset to your team. But as usual its not that simple to find the right candidate. First you should look for the local anglers using your waters and approach them, set up a meeting and see if you can identify someone would be right to help your club or fishery. If you or your club struggle however, we have good connections around the country and can point you in the right direction. Migrant anglers particularly love lure fishing, so it's worth investigating these groups do or perhaps even organising a competition.

Q. Great presentation. Will it be available to download?

A. John Cheyne: Yes. It is available [here](#) and a written Q&A will also be available for download.

Q. Appreciating staff are limited within the Building Bridges project, which areas of the country are generally covered and how are they prioritised? For example from EA reporting of issues or requests from clubs and schools

A. Janusz Kansik: Building Bridges works across the country – we are a national project and will work wherever we are needed. In terms of prioritisation, it depends on which jobs we need to do. If it's connected to enforcement for example, we never deal with any issues on our own. Working constantly with the Police, Environment Agency, Voluntary Bailiff Service etc, we get intel from migrant anglers, clubs and fisheries which we will share - so we actually respond to every bit of intel we receive. We don't have massive resources, but we do always find a way to respond. With schools, again it depends because we work with many around the country. The Nene Valley in particular has a very high number of migrant schools. My own staff and volunteers are spread right around the country.

Q. What is the feedback for your work and what has changed over the last few years?

A. Janusz Kansik: Probably one of the best examples has been our partnership with Nenescape, Educating thousands of migrant youngsters has been a great way of building bridges with these communities - not only the schools, but with clubs and fisheries too. Our work with Bury Hill Fisheries in Dorking is also a great example. They had an issue with migrant anglers 3-4 years ago and we put quite a lot of resources into this working with the fishery by providing signage, translating rules, working with the police etc - now a very high percentage of their customers are migrant anglers. My best advice however would be to check out our [Facebook page](#) and you will be able to see our work day by day.

Q. Can you create custom signage?

A. Janusz Kansik: Yes – we are able to help design the signs. The first step from us will be to translate the information you provide. Then we can have a conversation about how to design the sign – if you seek a more complicated design, we can send you towards the graphic design company we use