Flood Awareness and Prevention Policy in border areas

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Agenda

1. What is FLAPP?
2. Thematic observations
3. Results and impact
4. Next steps
1. **WHAT IS FLAPP?**
Background

- Many transboundary river basins exist in Europe
- Various EU projects deal with floods
- Great potential to exchange local / regional experiences
- Start of exchange network by Euregio Meuse-Rhine
Partners

- 35 partners
- 12 river basins
- 15 border areas
Aim of the network

**Products**
1. Good practice book with examples
2. Joint approach with best practice elements
3. Recommendations

**Preferred outcome**
1. More effective European regional flood policies
2. Increased cross border cooperation in European regions
3. Strengthened exchange of practices between European regions
Focus on borders

- River basin approach = starting point
- Water naturally crosses borders
- Barriers: political, technical, legal, economical, organizational, social, cultural etc.
Working groups:
- Flood awareness
- Flood prevention
- Ecologically sustainable flood management
- Flood forecasting and calamity management
2. THEMATIC OBSERVATIONS
Water information management

• How to raise public awareness across borders?

• Good practice example in N-Ireland:
  • Primary school children
  • Field research with palm tops
  • Discussions across borders
Flood prevention

• How to create cross border flood maps?

• Expert workshop on flood mapping in Berlin:
  – Involve local and regional stakeholders
  – Give extra attention to terminology
  – Provide free access to data across the border
  – Harmonize relevant input data and parameters
Ecological sustainable flood management

- How can nature development and flood risk management go hand in hand?

- Research report:
  - Role of wetlands for sustainable flood management in cross-border areas
  - Values of and threats to cross border rivers and wetlands in Europe
Flood forecasting and calamity management

- How to exchange data between experts across borders?
- Inventory of existing flood information systems:
  - undisrupted data flow between countries in trans-boundary catchment areas is vital
  - systems currently in use in Europe show a wide diversity
  - full integration of systems of bordering countries does not seem feasible
  - compatibility of systems is a realistic option
3. RESULTS AND IMPACT
Integrated river basin management is generally accepted as leading policy principle in Europe.

However, implementation in practice can be improved, especially across borders.

FLAPP shows the potential opportunities of better cross border cooperation and regional ‘dealing’ in river basins based on practical examples.

FLAPP also made recommendations for different levels of government on how to improve integrated river basin management.
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Final products

Recommendations for improved integrated river basin management

Joint approach to cross border cooperation

Sub-products FLAPP component working groups

Good practice examples of FLAPP partners
Letters to EU parliament

• Amendment on flood directive in letter to ‘rapporteur’ EU parliament:
  – More attention needed for cross border cooperation in transboundary catchments
  – Stimulate measures which create positive ‘upstream-downstream’ effects
Inspiring each other…

Mobile dams in Szeged and Budapest, inspired by Roer and Overmaas / Köln
Inspiring each other…

Initiative for Tisza River Basin Flood Information Centre analogous to Saxony Flood Centre
Irish guidelines for citizens will be translated into Greek and used in Evros delta
Nemunas delta Lithuania and Kaliningrad: at first no formal contact concerning floods and pollution. FLAPP was trigger to start cross border meetings on local level.
4. NEXT STEPS

1. 2. 3. 4.
Final conference 14-15 June ‘07

- Presentation FLAPP results
- Reactions by politicians and decision makers
- European project market
- Developing future projects to continue exchange