



EU Flood Action programme



Danube Day 2005
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Impact of floods

World wide:

- More than 100 million people per year affected
- Annual flood damage grows faster (2.9%) than population growth (1.26%) and growth of tangible wealth per capita (1.85%)

Europe:

- Between 1998 and 2002: over 100 major damaging floods
- Since 1998:
 - about 700 deaths
 - displacement of about 0.5 million people
 - At least €25 billion in insured economic losses





Initiatives at European level

- **Funding (research budget, regional policy budget, agricultural budget)**
- **2000: Water Framework Directive: inter alia obligation for prevention against pollution in case of flood events**
- **2002: EU Solidarity Fund, EU Flood Alert System (EFAS)**
- **2003:**
 - **New EU Common Agricultural Policy**
 - **Best Practice Document** on flood prevention, protection and mitigation
- **2004:**
 - **Communication on flood risk management** including proposal for concerted EU action programme
 - **Environment Council conclusions on floods**
 - Proposals for **Rural Development** and **New Cohesion Policy** (environment and risk prevention is key theme)



Communication on flood risk management

- **What is the problem?**
- **What is already being done?**
 - At European level
 - Activities by Member States
 - International co-operation in transboundary rivers
- **What could we do about it at European level?**
 - Proposal for EU action programme on flood risk management





EU Flood action programme

Package of three components:

- **Information and research:** facilitating exchange of information, knowledge and experiences
- **EU funding possibilities:** targeted approach to funding
- **Proposal for a legal instrument:** a Directive



Research & information component

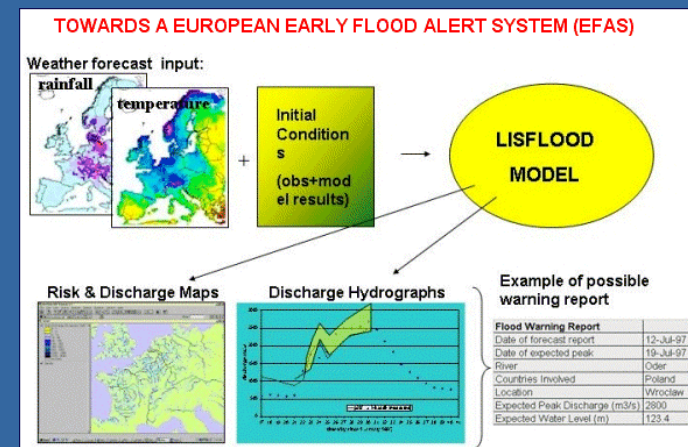
Objectives:

- improving information exchange, sharing of experiences and the coordinated development and promotion of best practices
- developing stronger linkages between the research community and the authorities responsible for water management and flood protection
- increasing awareness of flood risks through wider stakeholder participation and more effective communication

Example:

European Flood Alert System, pilot for the Danube

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EU funding possibilities component

- **European Solidarity Fund:** for emergency operations
- **New Cohesion Policy 2007-2013:**
 - “Environment and risk”
 - New cross-border funding
- **Rural Development Regulation:** flood prevention and protection measures to be included in national Rural Development programmes
- **EU Neighbourhood Policy**



Proposal for legal instrument component

- **Based on annex of Floods Communication**
- **Member States will be required to develop:**
 - Flood mapping (= knowing areas at risk of flooding)
 - Flood Risk Management Plans (= plans to reduce flood risks)
- **Principles of flexibility and subsidiarity:**
 - Precise objectives, deadlines and measures to be left to Member States
- **Risk based approach:**
 - Maps and plans to be developed for each river basin and coastal area where floods have a negative impact



Principles for flood mapping and Flood Risk Management Plans

- To be developed at river basin level and for coastal areas; transboundary co-operation necessary in case of transboundary river basins
- Solidarity principle
- Long term strategic approach
- Holistic approach
- Shift from flood defence to living with floods
- Public participation
- Preferably using existing structures



Stakeholder consultation process EU Flood action programme

- **Stakeholder meetings with Member States, Accession Countries, NGOs like WWF and other interested organisations**
- **International Commission for Protection of the Danube (ICPDR) participates actively in the development of EU Flood action programme**



Next steps

- **Improving information exchange, sharing experiences:** ongoing process, based on needs Member States
- **Targeted approach to funding:** negotiations in Council not yet finalised, however principles for eligibility not questioned; Member States to include flood measures in their national programmes, depending on their priorities
- **Legislative proposal:** proposal by the Commission expected later this year