The new flood risk management plan of the international Rhine river basin district

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UN-ECE 2d WS "Transboundary Flood Risk Management", 19-20.3.2015, Geneva
Why manage flood on a transboundary level in the Rhine basin?

9 states
Italy, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, France, Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, the Netherlands

Inhabitants
58 Mio. (5,5 million people in area with flood depth > 2 m)

The Rhine river basin (extreme flood areas)

Lower and Middle Rhine (floods mainly in winter/spring)

Upper, High and Alpine Rhine (floods mainly end of the spring/summer)
Man made flood risk increase:
The lost of flood plains

1838

1872

1980

Upper Rhine
Impression of flood events
What has the ICPR done in the past?

Rhine Ministers’ Conference

4 ambitious objectives:

(1) Reduce flood damage risks by 25 % by 2020

(2) Reduction of flood levels by up to 70 cm by 2020 (√)

(3) Increasing flood awareness by drafting and spreading flood risk maps for 100 % of flood hazard areas √

(4) Improve the flood forecasting system - Prolong forecasting periods by 100 % by 2005 √
Since 2007:
ICPR = Frame for the exchange of information and the coordinated implementation of the EU FLOODS DIRECTIVE
The new draft of the Flood risk management plan for the Rhine river basin

Flood risk management plan for the international river basin district Rhine, level A


Since December 22nd 2014: available for public information and consultation on www.iksr.org

Finalized and available in English by December 22nd 2015.
Main principles

• Responsability, solidarity and proportionality
• Synergy with other EU environmental politics
• Sustainable and integral flood risk management
• Security level ecologically, economically and socially compliant
• Flood risk management = common task (clear task distribution)
• No 100% security, always residual risks
Common objectives

- Reduction of existing risk
- Reduction of negative consequences during an event
- Avoiding new risks
- Reduction of negative consequences after an event
Common concrete measures

1. International coordination of measures (measures with transboundary effects)

2. Improvement of information exchange and access

3. Improvement of flood forecast and flood warning system

4. Realization of water level reduction measures
Improvement of information exchange and access

- Risk knowledge and awareness
  - New Flood Risk Atlas (mid-April 2015)
    - Knowledge about the impacts of climate change
      → New climate change adaptation strategy
Improvement of flood forecast and flood warning system

Flood announcement and forecasting centres

On Internet
Realization of water level reduction measures

Retention
Polder/basin

Dike relocation

Retention basin Erstein
Realization of water level reduction measures

32 from 76 measures are accomplished
Reduction of flood water levels
*(downstream of the impounded river stretch, state as 2020; 100 years returning period)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Reduction (cm)</th>
<th>Max. Reduction (cm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper Rhine</td>
<td>10-23</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Rhine</td>
<td>16-29</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Rhine</td>
<td>4-14</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhine delta</td>
<td>10-45</td>
<td>57</td>
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44 measures are still to be realized.
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