

Flood Risk 2016

Special Session on “Flood Emergency Response” – Thursday 20 October 2016

Contents and objectives:

Floods and flood management are high on the agenda in relation to adaptation to climate change and dealing with natural hazards in society. Apart from protection and spatial planning measures, the use of emergency response measures can be highly effective and an essential ingredient in the required mix of solutions. Most European countries have a history of floods that demonstrate this; for example to prevent breaches of flood defences or to stop actual breaches occurring. In addition, where such measures have failed, important lessons learnt can be found. However, whilst the working environment in each country is invariably different, we can learn from each other!

This special session will provide examples of how science and policy might be linked to deliver practical tools and knowledge in support of a Community of Users on Secure, Safe and Resilient Societies, initiated within the framework of Horizon2020 and further supported through the H2020 project Anywhere. Practice in the Netherlands will be taken to illustrate one way of knowledge management that has been successfully implemented, providing tangible gains for those stakeholders involved. The international perspectives on approaches taken and needs identified will be addressed in a panel discussion aimed at identifying priorities and investigating the possibility of setting up specific action groups as part of the European Communities of Users.

This session will also be followed by a longer special event during the morning of Friday 21 October 2016. Outputs from this special session will feed into the Friday event, and participants are encouraged to participate in both events, although participating in either event is also possible. Outcomes from the Friday event will be used to shape the future development of the Emergency Response Community of Users.

Programme:

10 min	Opening & Setting the scene Philippe Quevauviller (EC, DG Migration and Home Affairs, Brussels)
10 min	Emergency Flood Response management – Linking science and policy Daniel Sempere (CRAHI UPC, Spain)
10 min	Knowledge Management in Emergency Response Measures in The Netherlands Eric Huijskes (Deltares / LievenseCSO, The Netherlands)
20 min	Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ludolph Wentholt (STOWA, The Netherlands, TBC) – Manager?- Mark Adamson (OPW, Ireland, TBC) – Policy-maker- Panel member 3 (TBC from long list) - Scientist- Panel member 4 (TBC from long list) – First responder
40 min	Q&A and debate with audience

Community of User's Event on "Flood Emergency Response" – Friday 21 October 2016 (morning)
Flood Emergency Response Community of Users – from theory to practice?

Contents and objectives:

This side event to the FLOODrisk2016 conference aims to identify practical, efficient and intuitive ways to support working practice of the Emergency Response Community of Users – in this instance, in relation to flood risk management and emergency response.

The morning sessions will facilitate group discussion as to how interactions amongst science, policy, industry, practitioners (first responders) and citizens via local actors could be orchestrated at different levels (international/EU, national, regional/local) via networking developed within the EU "Community of Users on Secure, Safe and Resilient Societies" as well as the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre, and with inputs from various H2020 projects, such as the Anywhere project with a focus on floods and flood management .

There are complex interactions between different types of stakeholder and different types of flood (coastal, fluvial and flash floods). Stakeholders are involved in civil and environmental protection as well as spatial measures and governance, all of which require a structured dialogue and actions to ensure that emergency response measures are effective and remain an essential ingredient in the required mix of solutions. The way in which research-related and technological solutions are initiated and transferred to "end users" varies from country to country, and between different networks and industry sectors. Examples of success stories and failures offer a valuable learning opportunity for identifying solid and sustainable mechanisms that might be developed to support the Community of Users, building from both international and local actors and looking at both the push and pull of information and technologies.

Hence, during this event we will focus on what works well and what does not when it comes to the translation of science to policy and subsequently to the implementation of tools (including their access to the market) for emergency response management in the field of floods. This will be undertaken through a combination of plenary examples of practice that has worked and not worked in different situations, followed by group sessions to collate and consider wider feedback on suggested priorities and process. The need for enhanced cross and trans-disciplinarity, and for mechanisms of information flow from the international to the local levels and visa versa will be of particular interest.

This session will also integrate findings from the Special Session on Emergency Response Management held on Thursday 20 October 2016.

A key goal of this event is to provide suggestions for tangible steps to achieve effective knowledge networks – for example, the next steps needed to support working practice implementation of the Emergency Response Community of Users.

Programme:

15 min	Opening & Setting the scene Philippe Quevauviller (EC, DG Migration and Home Affairs, Brussels)
2 X 45 min (excluding 15 min break)	Round Table discussions Round-tables with 10-12 participants each facilitated by moderators on predefined themes that would allow different actors (policy-makers, scientists, industry/SMEs, practitioners, civil society) to express themselves as well as representatives of different "levels" e.g. UN-ISDR (for Sendai), EU (DG ENV),

	<p>national (ministry/agency), regional authority and local (city), with discussions on how to create links among research users, disciplines and various governance levels. The themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication and decision making via well-designed networking - Warnings - Emergency response measures to enhance protection - Crisis management - Education, Training and Exercises <p>In each of the themes the discussion will focus on knowledge (gaps), experiences and tools.</p>
30 min	<p>Plenary discussion Presentation of the “top 5” findings per table by their respective facilitators and plenary discussion, where possible identifying common denominators and setting priorities.</p>
15 min	<p>Summary and follow-up Philippe Quevauviller (EC, DG Migration and Home Affairs, Brussels)</p>