

2nd ERA-Net CRUE Research Funding Initiative

**Understanding Uncertainty and Risk in communicating about floods -
UR-Flood**

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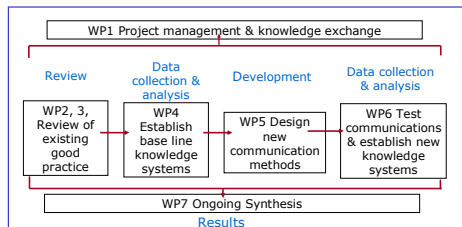
Abstract

UR-Flood will investigate how flood risk communications are incorporated into the knowledge systems of different actors, putting the communication of uncertainty and residual risk in the broader context of social, institutional, cultural and individual behaviour. The elicitation of knowledge systems, modifications to communications and subsequent testing will take place using case studies. The project will result in guidance looking at how to implement good practice flood communications and how to respond to differences in how information is interpreted and utilised.

Project Purpose

Produce guidance for use throughout the EU looking at how to implement good practice flood communications and how to respond to differences in how information is interpreted and utilised, improving resilience to the social, economic and environmental consequences of flood risk.

Project Approach



Knowledge systems

The project will consider knowledge systems, identifying what different audiences for flood communications already know; how they understand and use these flood communications and whether there are erroneous assumptions being made that negatively effect the choices being made by those responding to a flood event or living with flood risk(1)

Key questions UR-Flood seeks to answer:

- 1) Which elements of the knowledge systems are used to make sense of flood risk information? How do these alter with stakeholder characteristics?
- 2) What evidence is there that information on probability & uncertainty alter response?
- 3) How can flood risk communication be developed considering stakeholders & knowledge systems?
- 4) Where are the mismatches between different knowledge systems and what implications do these have?

Case Studies

Flood communication and community resilience Case studies will be conducted in Finland, Ireland, Italy and Scotland. Locations to be finalised.

Scotland: A series of workshops will be held with stakeholders. Potential locations are:



Glasgow
urban area with pluvial & fluvial flooding, last major flood 2002.



Aboyne
Rural area with pluvial & fluvial flooding last flooded 2009.

Ireland:



Surveys and focus groups of stakeholders and responsible authorities in areas recently flooded. Potential locations include North Dublin, Clonmal, Mallow and Fermoy.

Finland:



Regional scale approach using a series of surveys in L-2 flood prone area (potentially Rovaniemi, last flooded 1993 and Helsinki, last flooded by sea 2005 and defences subsequently built)

Italy:



Series of interviews and focus groups in flood risk areas (Locations to be confirmed)



Literature Cited

(1) Roling N.G. and Engels P., 1990. Information technology from a knowledge system perspective: Concepts and issues. In Knowledge, Technology and Policy 3

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