

Results of FLOOD-WISE:
Cooperation in six European border rivers

Towards cross-border flood risk management



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Topics of FRMD

- International river basin management plan
- Solidarity principle
- Subsidiary principle

Thus implicating:

- Need for cross-border cooperation
- Need for upstream-downstream adjustment
- Involvement of lowest governmental level

Aim and focus FLOOD-WISE

- Cross-border and interregional cooperation on sustainable flood management strategies, targets and measures
- Exchange of good practices on institutional, instrumental and technical issues of the FRMD
- Recommendations to EU, national, regional and local organizations involved in the implementation of the FRMD



Partners and river basins

6 river basins and 15 partners:

- Maas/Meuse basin: Netherlands, Belgium
- Roer/Ruhr basin: Germany, Netherlands
- Elbe basin: Germany, Czech republic
- Bug basin: Ukraine, Belarus, Poland
- Somes basin: Hungary, Rumania
- Sotla basin: Slovenia, Croatia



Activities

- Regional cross-border working groups on sustainable flood management, spatial planning, flood mapping: drawing up inventory reports, good practices, action plans
- Partner Meetings (transnational):
 - Comparison of methods on PFRA, flood mapping and flood management planning
 - Political expert forums (sound board)
 - Workshops on legal requirements, existing policies and instruments in each river basin
 - Workshops on sustainable climate proof land use and flood risk management in floodplains
 - Good practices and recommendations



Cross-border cooperation in Meuse River Basin

Challenges:

- Lack of coordination and harmonization of plans
- Cultural and language differences
- Methodological differences (coordinate systems, level of detail, approach)
- Institutional differences
- Member States responsible for implementation of FRMD

Cross-border cooperation in Meuse River Basin

Solutions found:

- Get to know your operational and responsible partners
- In border areas there is often a common language, otherwise simultaneous translation, invest in language skills
- Apart from river basin commissions invest in bilateral and trilateral commissions on a more operational level
- Get to know each other, exchange data and information, participate in (e.g. Interreg-) projects
- Develop a common vision with a stepwise implementation
- Offer cross-border investments if you want your partner to take measures which mostly benefit your area



Cross-border flood maps in Bug River Basin

Challenges:

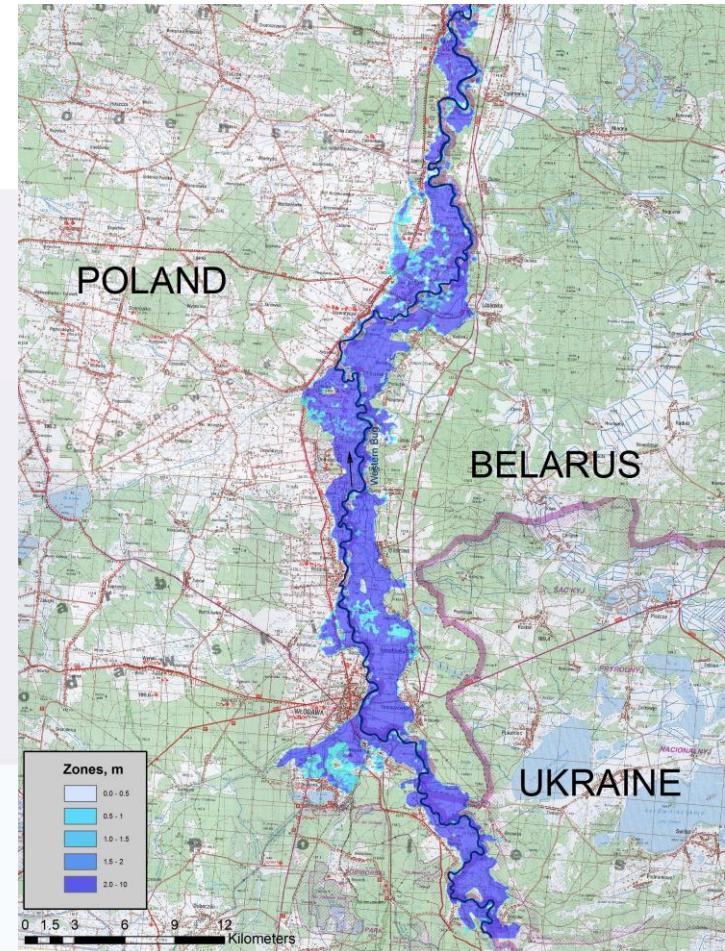
- EU-Border area, EU-members and non-EU-members
- Cross-border cooperation on national ministerial level only
- Lack of data and information at the operational level



Cross-border flood maps in Bug River Basin

Solutions found:

- Exchange of morphological and hydrological information, exchange of good practices and implemented experiences from other partners
- Creation of digital terrain model
- Creation of common cross-border flood hazard maps for different probabilities and flood risk maps using 1-D hydrodynamical models



Cross-border flood maps in Bug River Basin

Results:

- Cross-border flood hazard maps and flood risk maps were created and a flood risk management plan was developed
- Stakeholders in the Bug countries have planned to use both the maps and the FRMP in their practical work within the framework of flood risk management
- There are plans for an international river bug commission
- There are plans for future cooperation on online data exchange and early warning systems, implementation of measures with reducing negative impact on river and environment, funding possibilities for recovery after floods



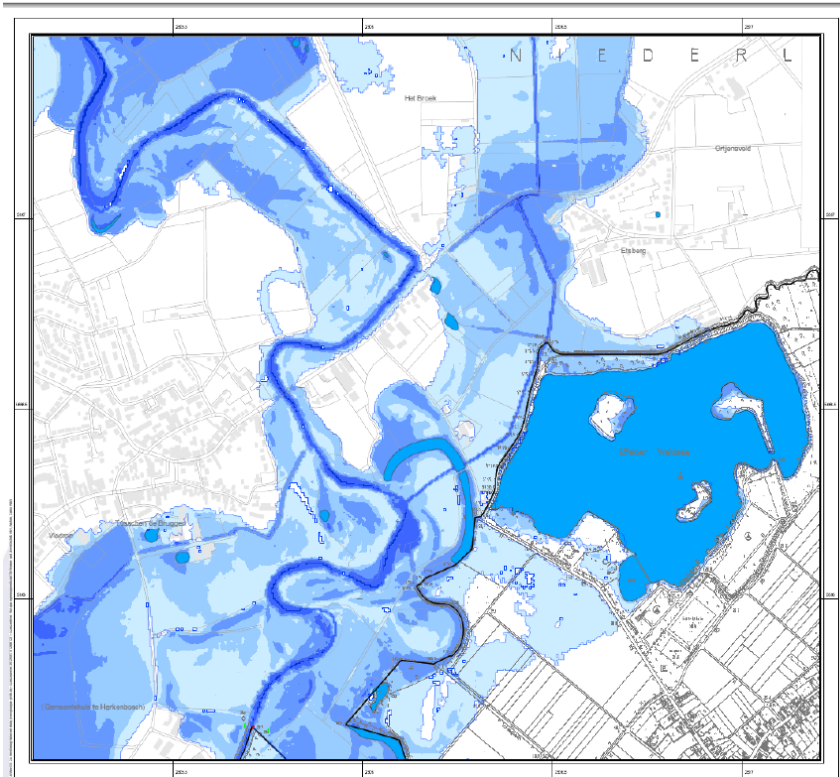
Cross-border cooperation in Rur River Basin



Challenges:

- differences in models and data
- differences in the implementation process of the flood directive due to different national rules

Cross-border cooperation in Rur River Basin



Solutions found:

- No need for same way of doing it, exchange results and harmonize if possible (upstream –downstream rule)
- Use the upstream-downstream rule in the PFRA (LAWA-method)
- Working cross border has financial profits (cross border contracting)

Some practical and policy recommendations

- Improve online sharing of discharge and water level data
- Examine cross-border effects of measures
- Give priority to enforcement of spatial planning restrictions in flood prone areas
- Invest in knowing each others language and culture
- Aim for harmonized cross-border maps and management plans in border regions
- Make flood information available cross-border
- Build knowledge of the institutional setting across borders
- Integrate flood and water quality issues with a cross-border perspective
- Avoid single-sided measures
- River basin authorities will strengthen integrated river basin management
- Investments across borders improve flood safety
- Leave room in national regulation to increase uniformity across borders





Thank you for your attention!

More information:

- Project website www.floodwise.eu
- Wise RTD www.wise-rtd.info





For info or further questions on this presentation, or on the activities of the JASPERS Networking Platform please contact:

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