

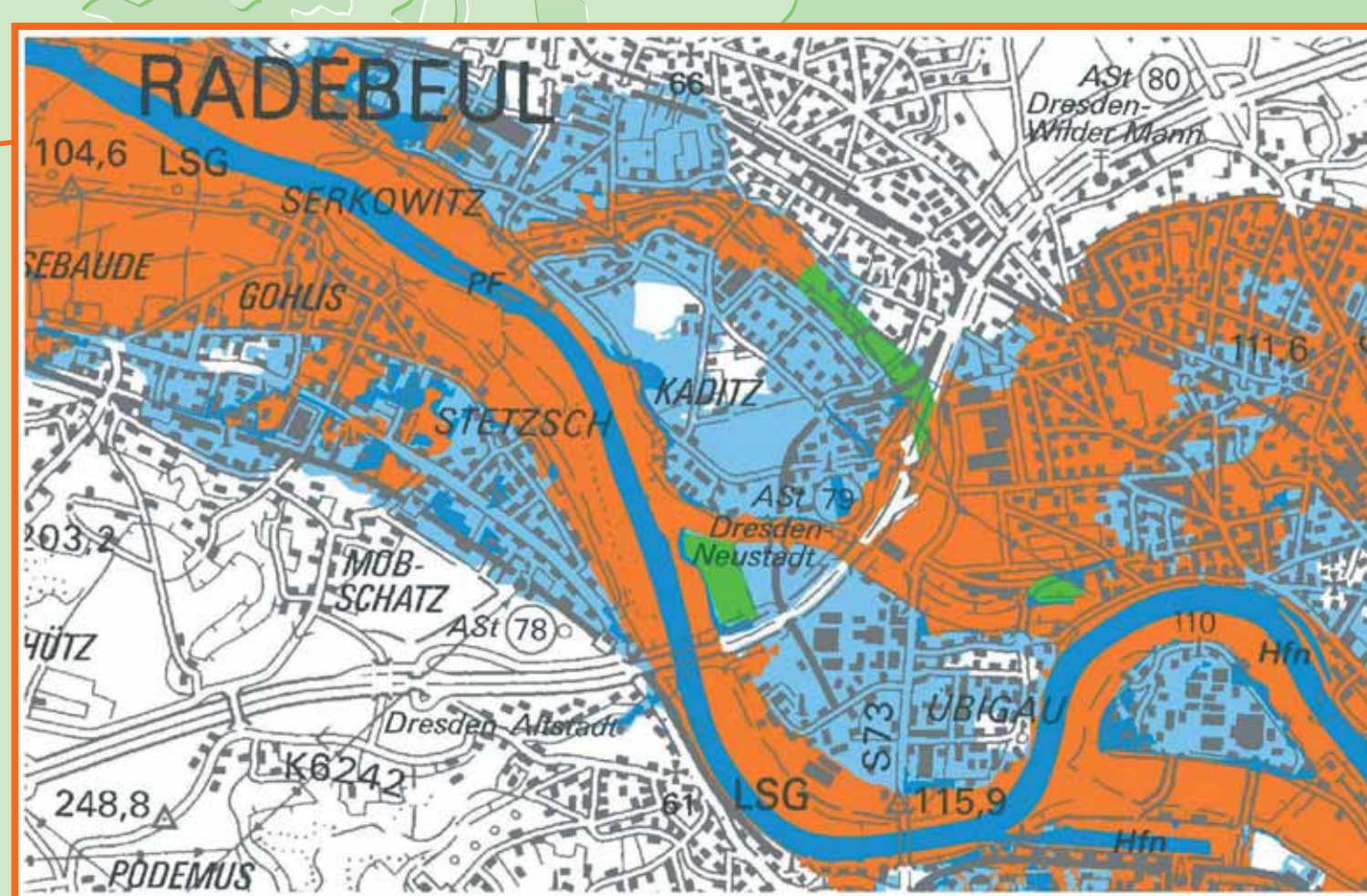
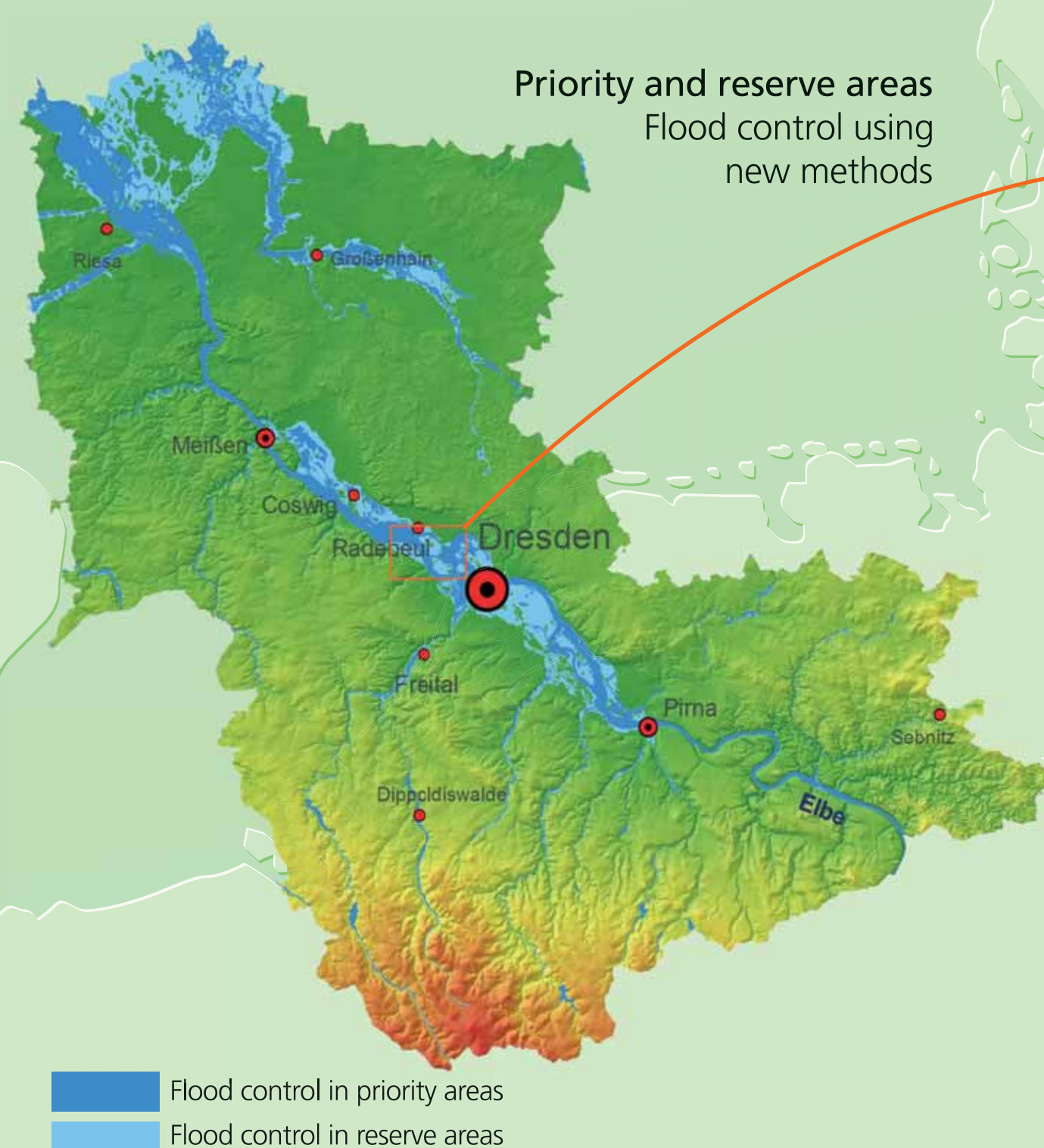
New strategies for the cooperation between regional planning and municipalities in Saxony – a LABEL pilot project





For centuries, people have been building dams and walls to prevent floodwater from spreading into the hinterlands. However, again and again there are extreme floods that breach the flood protections. In addition, the flood risk will become more severe due to climate change. The only way to effectively avoid flood damage is to adapt usage to the natural hazards.



Spatial use management is part of the task of spatial planning. The regional planning association for the Upper Elbe Valley / Eastern Erzgebirge is using Saxony's state development plan as a basis for testing new approaches

in determining priority and reserve areas for flood prevention. This could allow for more active management of spatial use in the future, as well as precise considerations of various flood risks.



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|-----|---|---|
| VRG |  | Area with a high risk of flooding ¹
(flooding depths > 2m and / or specific discharge rate > 2m/s) ² |
| |  | Reactivation of retention and run-off areas ³ |
| |  | Preservation of natural retention areas ⁴ |
| VRG |  | Flood area during extreme flooding ² |

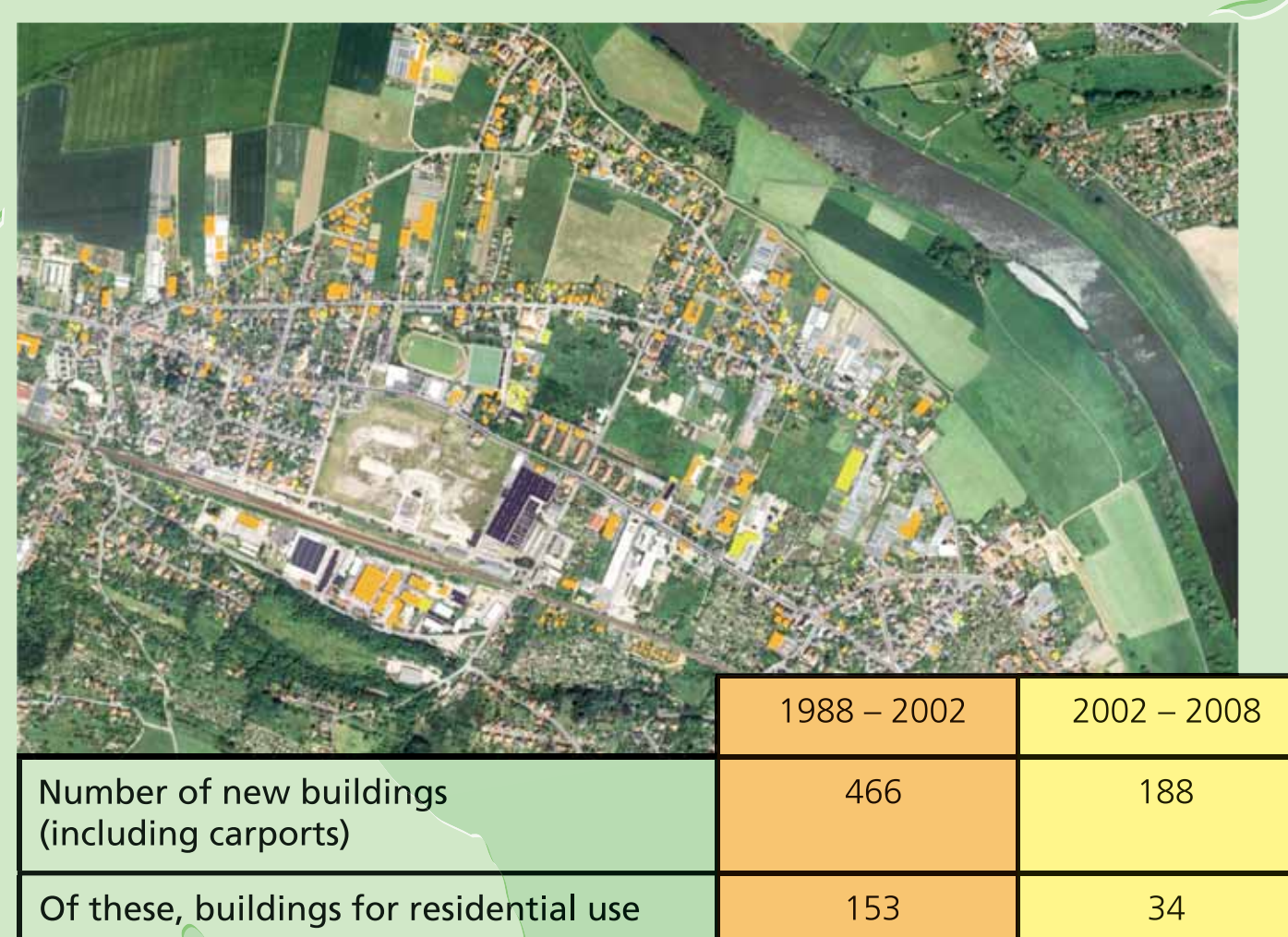
Implementation in municipalities is decisive for the success of spatial measures. The pilot project thus places particular emphasis on an exchange of experiences with the municipalities. As a result, the following deficits have been identified:

- Building permits are almost never refused in flood areas, even with possible flood depths of more than four meters or at high flow rates.
- Important risk prevention aspects, such as limiting damage potentials and the number of residents to be evacuated do not play a role in the building permitting process.
- The effects of extreme flooding are not taken into consideration. They are categorized as "residual risk".
- The construction volume realized as per § 34 BauGB [Federal Building Code] (construction without a development plan

in the interior zone) by far exceeds the construction realized using development plans. The effectiveness of regional planning tools is thus severely limited.

These results show that the dialogue with the municipalities, which started in the pilot project, must be continued and that the planning approach needs to be changed.

New construction projects in a flood area of the Elbe northwest of Dresden



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