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Events

19-20.09.2011
LABEL partner meeting in
Dresden, DE

October 2011
Elbe-Conference Prague,
CZ

17.-18. November 2011
Final conference of the
project SAWA in Ham-
burg, DE

9.-10.05.2012
Final conference of the
project LABEL in Dresden,
DE



ELBE-LABE - Adaptation to flood risk in the Elbe river basin

ELBE-LABE - Anpassung an das Hochwasserrisiko im Elbeeinzugsgebiet

LABE-ELBE - Adaptace na povodňové riziko v povodí Labe

Beyond funding programs: The Conference „Elbe without borders“ of the INTER- REG IV B projects LABEL and SAWA

The Conference held from 14th-15th June 2011 brought together numerous experts, cities and regions of the Elbe catchment, to exchange experiences related to flood risks

Sustainable flood risk management requires catchment wide cooperation beyond areas of expertise, state and federal borders as well as funding programs.



The conference „Elbe without borders – flood risk prevention in the INTERREG projects LABEL and SAWA“ took place on the basis of this insight. The conference was organized by the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and the Saxon State Ministry of the Interior together with 42 project partners from 8 states. It allowed a deeper exchange between the project activities of LABEL and SAWA, their project partners, professionals and regional interested stakeholders.



The importance of this exchange for the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg emphasized Stefan Herms, Head of Office in the Senate Chancellery Hamburg in his welcome words. It is crucial to expand networks and learn from other projects in international river basins. This offers great benefit for a small federal state like the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

Dr. Fritz Schnabel from the Saxon State Ministry of the Interior underlined these statements for Saxony and emphasized the huge bureaucratic difficulties for cooperation in European funding programs.



Promotion of transnational activities

The Elbe catchment is not completely integrated into one INTERREG IVB program area: the biggest part of the catchment belongs to the program area "CENTRAL EUROPE"; the lower Elbe including the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg belongs, however, to the program area "North Sea Region".

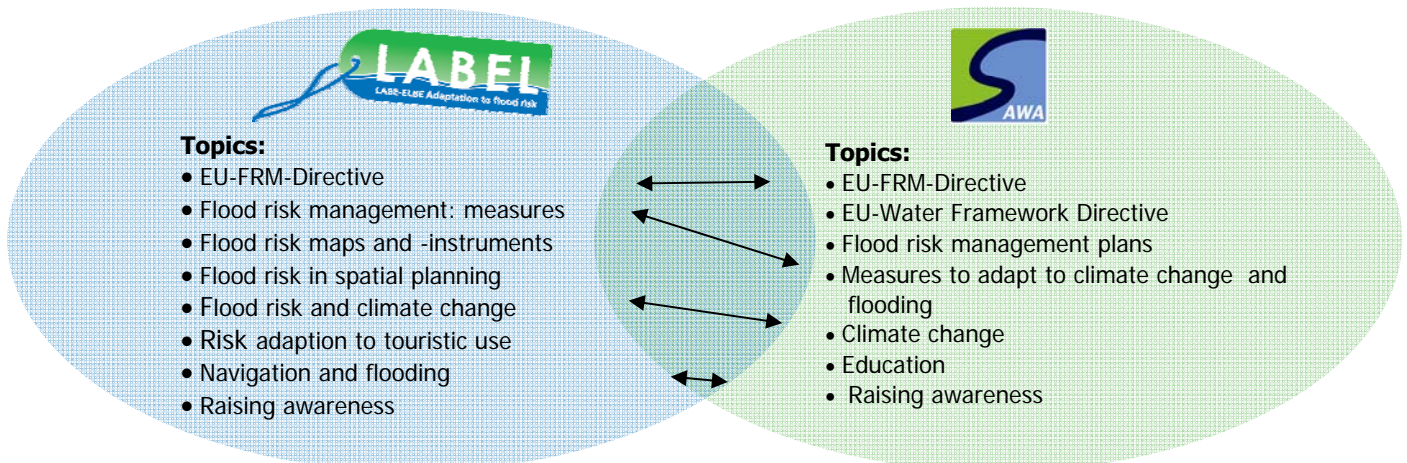
The representatives of the two program areas, Jesper Jönsson, „North Sea Region“ and Viera Slavikova, „CENTRAL EUROPE“, presented the programs, the goals as well as the funded projects. Furthermore, it was referred to the joint conference of the 12 program areas that will take place from 15th-16th September 2011 in Katowice, Poland.



Jens Kurnol, Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) in the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) formulated the expectations for the conference from the perspective of the German Federal funding program "Transnational cooperation". The program supports 20-25 projects with 500.000 € per year in their initial phase and beyond. Moreover, the program supports exchange beyond program areas and therefore the conference promote and pass on the European spirit. The federal government also lobbies for an increase in EU INTERREG funding the next period.

Overcoming borders: LABEL and SAWA as driving forces for transnational cooperation

Under the heading "overcoming borders" Andreas Kühl from the Saxon State Ministry of the Interior and Jeff Marengwa from the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, as Lead Partners of the INTERREG projects LABEL and SAWA presented their approaches and achievements. In a following discussion, similarities and differences were identified.



Both projects strongly support the integration of cities and regions affected by flooding in the mentioned activities. Nevertheless, differences were also visible, for example in the spatial approach: in LABEL the connecting element is river Elbe, in SAWA however, different partner regions with very different geographic conditions exchange about flood risk management.

Also, the structure of the project partners involved is clearly different: in SAWA a lot of research institutes are involved as partners, in LABEL particularly public administrations work together.

Elbe downstream: What does flood risk mean for cities and regions along the Elbe?

...and „How does cooperation between upstream and downstream riparians take place?“ These questions were asked to cities and regions in the Elbe catchment area. After illustrative contributions from Liberec Region and the City of Prague, the examples followed the Elbe downstream, from the state capital Dresden over the municipality Elbtalaue to the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

Dr. Gabriele Gönner

Another factor affects the flood risk in Hamburg: Storm surges. Mainly in combination with heavy precipitation a high risk arises. The technical protection in form of diking, property protection and dwelling mounds is unavoidable.

Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg:

Waldemar Hinderstein

The perception of the Elbe in Hamburg is ambivalent: Beside dikes and innovative concepts of flood protection in the HafenCity – with its elevated footpaths and entrances – the Elbe is also an important local recreation area in Hamburg. New concepts try to combine these two perspectives.

Municipality of Elbtalaue:

Mayor Jürgen Meyer

After the flood events of 2002, 2003 and 2006 with excessive damage, the flood protection was finished 2008 and proved to be sufficient at the flood of 2010. Persisting problems are scrub encroachment, on-going sedimentation and the siltation of the meander cut offs. The different dike highs in German states can also cause problems.

Liberec Region:

Jaroslav Svoboda

Just last summer the region was hit by a devastating flood. Shortly before the web-based “flood portal” of the region was expanded and used with great success during the flood.

City of Dresden:

Dr. Christian Korndörfer

What belongs to the city and what belongs to the river? – a permanent question in Dresden. The city is threatened by floods of the Elbe, the Weißeritz and by ascending groundwater. Extensive precautions already exist and are extended permanently. For example by protecting the retention areas in the floodplains of the Elbe or by consequent removal of flow impediments. Last year a new plan for flood provision was agreed upon in the city council.

City of Prague:

Rostislav Guth

Floods, caused by the Vltava, have always been a danger for the habitants. The City of Prague made large investments in flood protection in the last years, mainly in mobile elements. The experiences were exchanged with the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and the City of Dresden; conclusions were drawn.



The following discussion shows, that an exchange between states and regions was already practiced with success. Not only positive experiences were passed on, but also lessons-learned from mistakes of other regions.

Also the good experiences in the cooperation within the International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe River (IKSE-MKOL) were underlined.





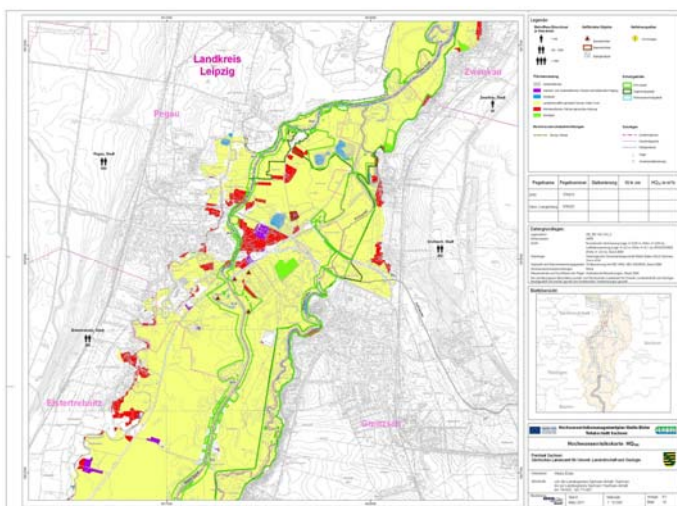
Impacts of climate change in the Elbe catchment area

What future changes caused by climate change do we have to expect concerning water management? Moritz Maneke, North German Climate Office explained this issue for the Elbe catchment area. Because of increasing precipitation in winter, the flood risk will also increase until end of the century. In contrast, the summers will become drier, what causes more frequent low water events.

The second conference day addressed the scientific aspects of the projects with thematic blocs concerning flood risk management and adaptation to flood risk. Moreover, the participants got an insight in many project activities for raising awareness in the affected population.

Flood risk management

Measures of flood risk management and the implementation of the EU flood risk management directive (FRM-Dir) in the international river basin Elbe are central topics in LABEL. The principles of this transnational coordination were presented by Dr. Uwe Müller, Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology. In LABEL not only the exchange of measures and approaches and the cooperation with the respective institutions in the Elbe catchment area, like the International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe (IKSE), but also the preparation of flood risk management plans in pilot actions are promoted:



An example of this is the transnational flood risk management plan for the *Weiße Elster*.

The map on the left side shows the flood risk map HQ_{100} for a segment of the Weiße Elster in Saxony, which was jointly prepared in LABEL

© Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology

Another FRM-plan is currently prepared in LABEL for the Czech river Jizera, as by Josef Reidinger, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic presented. The proceeding in the preparation of both plans was developed and coordinated in LABEL Working Group meetings. Furthermore, J. Reidinger described the methodology of the implementation of the EU-FRM-Directive in the Czech Republic.



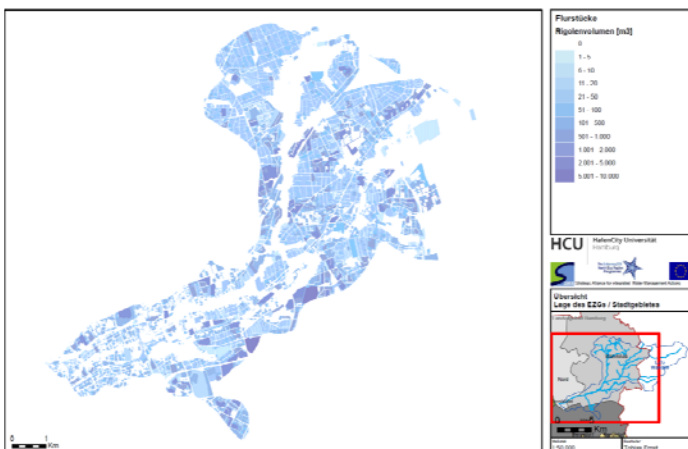
Flood risk management (continued)

From the national implementation of the EU-FRM-Directive in Czech Republic, the topic of the next speech went to a smaller scale, to Hamburg. Natasa Manojlovic, Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH) presented the preparation of the flood risk management plan for the Wandse catchment in the north east of Hamburg, a pilot project in SAWA. In the process, the involvement of the public and stakeholders was very important. Risk awareness and a comprehension of the hydrological system were communicated in numerous workshops. Measures were prepared jointly, with a special focus on the synergies and conflicts with the measures of the water framework directive (WFD).



Wolfgang Dickhaut, HafenCity University Hamburg (pilot project Wandse), picked this up. Using the urban watercourse as an example, he showed synergetic measures, which not only improve the ecological condition, but also lower the flood risk. For example, a reduction of impoundment leads to an increase of the flood retention and an improvement of the conditions of aquatic life forms. The local rainwater management shows potentials in the project area as well. It became clear, that the coordination of the measures between the WFD and the

FRM-Directive, should be optimized further in future.



The map shows the possible local storage volume [m³] per plot in the catchment area of the Wandse in Hamburg, if changed to local rain water management.

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Adaptation of uses to flood risk

In the following part, project partners from LABEL and SAWA report from the perspective of the different uses in the area how an adaptation to flood risk could take place.

From the perspective of spatial planning, an in LABEL integrated regional concept prepared for the lower middle Elbe was presented by Stefanie Schernikau, Ludwigslust County. The possibilities for adaptation lay mainly in the cooperation of all stakeholders. This is unavoidable for the preparation and implementation of sustainable and integrated strategies for flood protection, water resource management and land use.



For the agriculture, Monika von Haaren, Chamber of agriculture Lower Saxony and SAWA partner, showed the special risks of agricultural usage in flood plains. The risks are not only caused by the flood itself, but also from pollutants after the flood. Possible adaptation is the alternative use of these contaminated areas, like with the operation of a biogas plant. Furthermore, specified information for the farms, as well as evacuation plans for animals, are prepared and provided.

The problems of **settlement development in flood risk areas** were presented illustratively by Peter Seifert, Regional Planning Association Upper Elbe Valley / East Ore mountains and involved in LABEL: Often buildings are put up nearly unhindered in the inner area of cities, despite of high flood depth. Technical measures cannot ensure protection. The proposal of the Regional Planning Association for adaptation is a change of the basis for planning: Priority areas should be identified according to the hazard instead of usage and the extreme flood should be the basis for planning.



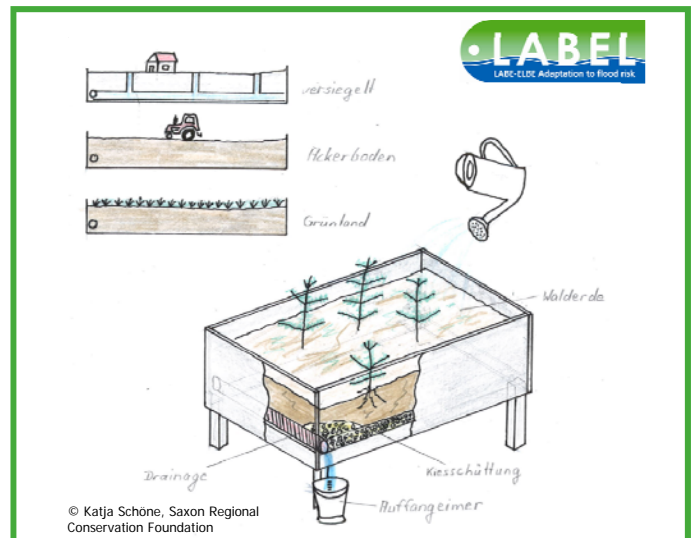
From the perspective of the tourism development Vaclav Tremil, Pilsen Region, explained the necessity of development of touristic infrastructure in the Region. This does not have to be at odds with flood protection. Adaptation can take place from two sides: not only when planning touristic infrastructure, flood risk has to be considered, also flood protection sites can be integrated into touristic use.

Raising awareness / Public relations

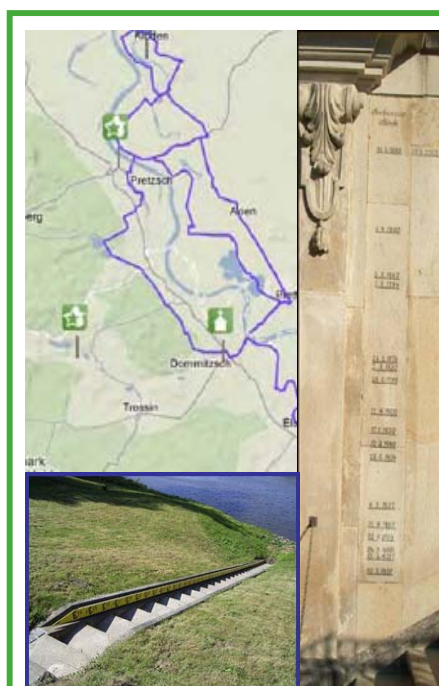
With the presentations of Stefanie Greis, INFRASTRUKTUR & UMWELT, Prof. Böhm und Partner, Matthias Grafe, Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology, Katja Schöne, Saxon Regional Conservation Foundation as well as the summary of Prof. Dr. Mariele Evers, Leuphana University Lüneburg, it became apparent that an important part of flood management or adaption to risk is always the raising of awareness that the risk exists: The presented activities are all aiming at conveying the topic flood and related processes or measures to different target groups, so that they can act appropriately.



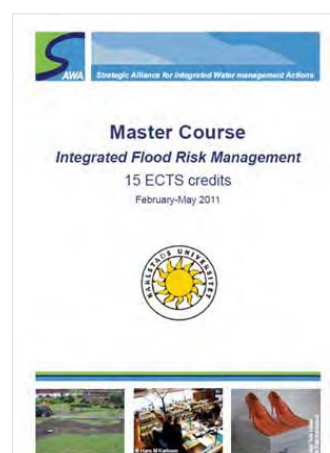
The **LABEL moving exhibition** is addressed to the affected public in the Elbe catchment area.



Project days concerning flood risk will be carried out in German and Czech **schools**.



The **Label Cycling Guide "Water Culture Landscape"** guides tourists to interesting locations relating to water management along the Elbe bike path.

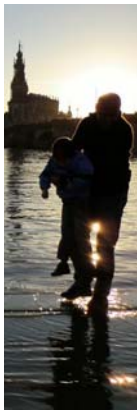


The SAWA **master-course** „Integrated Flood risk management“ at the University of Karlstad (Sweden) is directed to students and experts.



Event announcements

The final conference of LABEL will take place in the Dreikönigskirche in Dresden in May 2012!

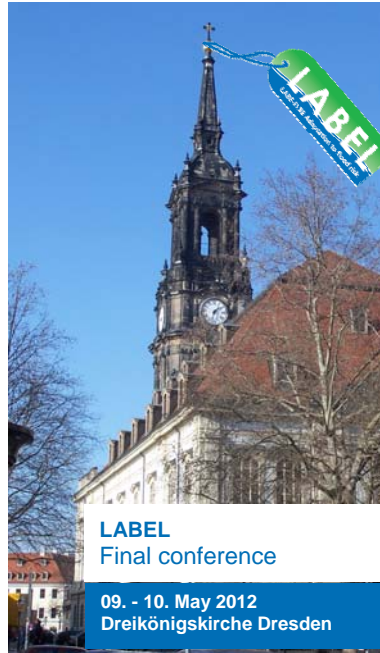


During the final conference the results and experiences of the INTERREG project LABEL regarding adaption to flood risk in the Elbe River Basin will be presented to a broad group of participants and discussed with them.

The conference is aimed at political representatives, decision makers from Administration and agencies as well as to all project participants.

The exchange with other European projects on flood risk management is also focused.

For more information see
www.label-eu.eu/events/final-conference-dresden.html



LABEL at a glance

Lead Partner:

Saxon State Ministry of the Interior

Duration:

09/2008 – 02/2012 (08/2012)

Total budget:

4.275.680 €

thereof:

EFRE (EU-funding):
 3.364.526 €

National co-financing:
 911.154 €

www.label-eu.eu

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The LABEL Partnership

Germany

Lead Partner: Saxon State Ministry of the Interior
 PP 2: Ministry of State Development and Transport, Saxony-Anhalt

PP 3: Thuringian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Nature Preservation

PP 4: Saxon State Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture

PP 5: Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology

PP 6: Ludwigslust County

PP 7: German Federal Institute for Hydrology

PP 8: Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development e.V.

Czech Republic

PP 9: Ministry of the Environment

PP 10: Ústí Region

PP 11: Region of South Bohemia

PP 12: Pilsen Region

PP 13: Hradec Králové Region

PP 14: Central Bohemia Region

PP 15: Liberec Region

PP 16: Pardubice Region

PP 17: Elbe River Basin Authority

PP 18: Vltava River Basin Authority

Austria

PP 19: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

Hungary

PP 20: Middle-Tisza district Environment and Water Directorate

