

Workshop

Transnational Cooperation in Practice:

European Cooperation in regard to flood risk prevention at the Elbe
At the Federal Ministry for Transport, Building and Urban Development
in Berlin

17th November 2011

Summary



Summary of the Workshop

„Transnational Cooperation in Practice: European Cooperation in regard to flood risk prevention at the Elbe“

At the Federal Ministry for Transport, Building and Urban Development in Berlin, 17th November 2011

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Compilation of the summary

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Stefanie Greis, INFRASTRUKTUR & UMWELT, Professor Böhm und Partner und Andreas Kühl, Saxon State Ministry for the Interior (Sächsisches Staatsministerium des Innern)

Translations

German
Czech

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1 WELCOME

Dr. Welf Selke (Moderator of the workshop), German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development and former head of department at the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development explained the European political framework of the project and mentions especially the Europe 2020 strategy, which is going to define the direction of the coming structural funds period 2014-2020. By supporting sustainable growth via preventions and strategies in view to integrated flood risk management, LABEL takes consideration of Europe 2020. Transnational cooperation is a basic precondition for sustainable strategies along the Elbe.

Dr. Katharina Erdmenger, Federal Ministry for Transport, Building and Urban Development explained that her department for European Spatial and Urban Development Policy is responsible to implement territorial cohesion in the frame of spatial development strategies. In this context the department supports transnational cooperation projects. The projects are good practice, showing how common challenges can be solved in functional approaches beyond administrative borders. LABEL is a good and an important example delivering arguments to strengthen transnational cooperation within cohesion policy and structural funds and helping to implement the Territorial Agenda of the EU.

Andreas Kühl, Lead Partner of LABEL, Saxon State Ministry of the Interior, stated that by bringing together spatial planning and water management institutions, LABEL is contributing to both, the implementation of the Territorial Agenda and of the Flood Risk Management Directive of the EU. The project closely cooperates with existing institutions at the Elbe and cooperates with other flood-projects.

2 ROUND TABLE I: COOPERATION AND COORDINATION: NEW PARTNERSHIP ALONG THE RIVER

Impulses:

Norbert Busch, German Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG), pointed out results of a German-Czech study about the impact of Czech flood retention measures on the Elbe-flood event of 2011. The study shows that reductions could be realized in a wide area reaching until the city of Neu Darchau which is about 540 kilometers below the Czech-German Boarder. Thus it reveals enormous interdependencies of measures and the need to work together beyond borders. The basis for the common study between BfG and the Czech Mararyk Institute builds an existing and growing, close cooperation on political and expert level; a. o. an effect of LABEL.

Stefanie Schernikau, Rural Districts of Ludwigslust and one of the initiators of the flood partnership Elbe, illustrated approaches and common work of the working group which involves 13 municipalities so far. Founded in the frame a federal funding activity the network got new impulses by the project LABEL. The international context and available funding helped to activate new members and to finance common activities. Today the partnership is a platform for information exchange, which allows to formulating, implementing and communicating common ideas.

Discussion:

The discussion revealed that the **transnational approach** is reasonable **to work on flood-related issues**. Only this approach allows the involvement of different administration levels in different states. As rivers like the Elbe traverse more than only the immediate boarder areas, wider territorial approaches are needed. And as concrete measures are necessary, a cooperation limited to knowledge exchange is not enough. But, so far, in Brussels, the relevance of the trans-

national approach in regard to flood risk management is recognised insufficiently. In that sense, communication and lobby work have to be enforced.

The **involvement of private actors** has been another focus of the discussion. Participants pointed out that, due to bureaucratic obstacles, many even thematically very interested private actors refrain from taking part in projects. But, involving private economy has, at least in some parts of the project, been highly necessary. Thus, cooperation external of the project has been established (example: tourism branch).

For a **LABEL-follow-up-project** the focus will be more on the involvement of public actors. In addition to the persisting partnership (which is central for a sustainable basic cooperation), especially the integration of partners from Brandenburg or Poland is aimed at.

To **strengthen and enlarge project-external networks** in the frame of a follow-up-project, a wider approach of the municipal flood-partnership was discussed. Especially in regard to certain issues the involvement of further experts or other actors could be reasonable.

3 ROUND TABLE II: A TRANSNATIONAL FLOOD PROTECTION STRATEGY AT THE ELBE: IMPLEMENTING IDEAS IN SITU. SELECTED PILOT PROJECTS AND RESULTS.

Impulses:

Matthias Grafe, Saxon State Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture explained three LABEL pilot projects implemented by his institution. The Elbe-Atlas harmonizes state-based flood-maps and integrates new data e. g. on property damages. The software INGE is an interactive risk map, helping local authorities to take decisions in regard to planning and implementation of flood defense. New, border-crossing flood risk management plans for the pilot region “Weiße Elster” served to coordinate maps and strategies between German states. Mr. Grafe points out, that all products are – even if partly fulfilling legal requirements – kind of “add on” products contributing to public welfare. Meaning that the interest to have them is existent, but it is nearly impossible to finance them without public funding. Not least he indicates that the more complex an output is the more relevant is a strong coordinating partner.

Frank Thäger, Ministry for State Development and Transport Saxony-Anhalt, explained the approach of flood-adapted tourism with the example of the “Blue Ribbon” („Blaues Band“) and thereby showed that international impulses may help to position a regional brand. LABEL allowed an evaluation of the brand as well as the elaboration of a touristic catalogue involving the regional offer in an international context and helped to establish and deepen contacts with the tourism sector.

Stefanie Greis, INFRASTRUKTUR & UMWELT Professor Böhm und Partner, illustrated how LABEL aims to arouse attention and to improve awareness with a moving exhibition, a cycling guide and project days with pupils. She underlined that dissemination and communication have to accompany flood prevention measures continuously, as a flood event loses its brisance already after about seven years. LABEL helps to understand the problematic, spreads information and thus aims at an improved individual prevention.

Discussion:

The discussion showed that pilot projects are important when implementing a transnational project, but that **comprehensive strategies**, embedded into global EU-political contexts (like Europe 2020) are necessary as well, to become visible.

The question of **transferability and common/transnational usability of pilot project results** was raised. It got clear that the more complex an activity is, the more individual/national is its elaboration. Thus transferability and usability are – at least in some cases – limited. But efforts are made in this regard: e. g. the INGE software has an adaptable, international user surface.

Furthermore it was stated, that the **effective usage of results outside or after the lifetime of projects** has – at least in some cases - to be actively supported. In case of INGE, next to the pilot municipalities which are testing the software, further municipalities are directly addressed (e. g. via the flood partnership Elbe). To convince further actors, trainings could be helpful. To assure the long lasting usage of the Elbe-Atlas, the problem of missing funds has to be solved – one way could be the foundation of an association.

The idea that **regional planning institutions** could be better involved in flood risk management and also in the continuation of project results was discussed. But, due to institutional settings even the action fields of these actors is limited – especially in regard to financial support.

4 ROUND TABLE III: KEEP ON WORKING! SUSTAINABLE FLOOD PREVENTION REQUIRES PERSISTENCE.

Impulses:

Dr. Uwe Müller, Saxon State Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture, underlined that common work on flood risk management at the Elbe has to be continued as flood events will not stop and risk awareness is still limited. Knowledge in regard to the structure and scope of flood events has to be further enhanced and decision takers at all levels have to be reached. Communication is a basic precondition, as well as further harmonization of maps or better accessibility of information.

Andreas Kühn, Saxon State Ministry of the Interior, pointed out some ideas on how to continue the work started in ELLA and LABEL. He explained that the existing acknowledgement of the project(s) by several important water management institutions (like IKSE and FGG Elbe) should be used and extended and thus he recommended refocusing on flood risk management – legal aspects or climate change could be important aspects. A broader partnership involving economic and social partners could be reasonable as well as a territorial widening towards the Elbe underflow. An involvement of other river-areas e. g. the Odra River is discussed.

Discussion:

The idea to involve other river-areas is supported; **flood risk management at European rivers** could be the central approach of a new project. But, furthermore, also the involvement of areas in the Elbe underflow respectively of the whole Elbe River area is underlined – even if this will bring in new thematic issues and lead to the necessity of a flexible handling of programme regions. Not least also the integration of social/economic partners is considered to be interesting.

The idea of **cooperation beyond programme regions** is seized and considered to be important. Flood risk based broad territorial regions could even deliver impulses for the foundation of European groupings of territorial cooperation. The latter could be one aim to be followed in a new project.

The discussion revealed furthermore some **specific issues of interest** being heavy rainfall events or the valuation of potential damages and strategies on how to cope with the latter.

Not least **communication strategies** have been mentioned as important content related aspects. Key results and strategies have to be clearly communicated – not least in Brussels.

5 CONCLUSIONS

Finally, the moderator pointed out five concluding aspects:

- 1) To achieve sustainable effects of project results, lobby work in Brussels is necessary.
- 2) Project results and experiences should be used and communicated to influence future scope of territorial and transnational cooperation.
- 3) Single project results should be integrated into a coherent strategy.
- 4) A stabilisation of cooperation should be aimed at – e. g. as an association, an interest group or a broader flood partnership.
- 5) A follow-up project should lay its focus on innovative measures in view to flood risk management and take Europe 2020 into consideration; meaning that sustainable and intelligent growth should be important aims.

- ANNEX

A1 Presentations

All presentations can be downloaded under the following link:
<http://www.label-eu.eu/events/past-events/politiks.html>

A2 Participation List



Teilnehmerliste zum Werkstattgespräch:


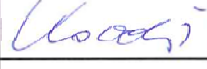



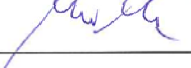
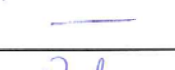
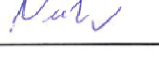






Transnationale Zusammenarbeit in der Praxis. Wie funktioniert die europäische Zusammenarbeit
beim Hochwasserrisikomanagement an der Elbe? Ergebnisse aus dem Projekt LABEL
am 17.11.2011, 10-14.15 Uhr im BMVBS (Invalidenstraße 44), Raum K2

Veranstalter: Deutscher Verband für Wohnungswesen, Städtebau und Raumordnung e. V.

Titel	Vorname	Nachname	Institution	Stadt	Unterschrift
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	Jörg Uwe	Bolz	Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde	Koblenz	<i>my</i>
Dr.	Georg	Böhme-Korn	Sächsisches Ministerium für Umwelt und Landwirtschaft	Dresden	<i>John</i>
	Jana	Brauckmüller	atene KOM GmbH	Berlin	
Prof. Dr.	János	Brenner	Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Bau und Stadtentwicklung (SW23)	Berlin	
	Norbert	Busch	Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde	Koblenz	<i>N. Busch</i>
	Babette <i>Michael</i>	Conrad <i>Braune</i>	Gemeinsame Landesplanungsabteilung Berlin-Brandenburg	Potsdam	<i>i.v. g.</i>
	Anka	Ebel	Investitionsbank des Landes Brandenburg	Potsdam	<i>A. Ebel</i>
<i>x</i> Dr.	Katharina	Erdmenger	Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Bau und Stadtentwicklung	Berlin	<i>✓</i>
	Elisabeth	Giesecke	Plan und Recht GmbH	Berlin	
	Steffen	Göritz	Landesamt für Umwelt, Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz Brandenburg	Potsdam	
	Matthias	Grafe	Sächsisches Landesamt für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie	Dresden	<i>Matthias</i>
	Stefanie	Greis	Infrastruktur und Umwelt	Darmstadt	<i>P. Greis</i>
	Gudrun	Hallmann	Landkreis Stendal, Umweltamt	Stendal	<i>Hallmann</i>
	Marcus	Hatz	Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde	Koblenz	<i>M. Hatz</i>

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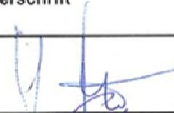
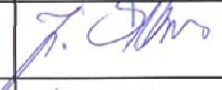
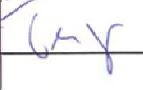

Titel	Vorname	Nachname	Institution	Stadt	Unterschrift
	Markus	Heilig	AGT Germany	Berlin	
	Babett	Kowolik	Biosphärenreservat Mittelbe; Verwaltung am Standort Arneburg	Arneburg	
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	Andreas	Kühl	^{And's} Sächsisches Ministerium des Innern	Dresden	
	Jürgen	Meyer	Samtgemeinde Elbtalaue	Danneberg (Elbe)	
Prof. Dr.	Hans	Moser	Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde	Koblenz	
Dr.	Uwe	Müller	Sächsisches Landesamt für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie	Dresden	
Dr.	Jürgen	Neumüller	Infrastruktur und Umwelt	Potsdam	
	Reinhard	Nieberg	Hochwasserpartnerschaft Elbe; Stadt Lauenburg	Lauenburg (Elbe)	
	Lothar	Nordmeyer	Ministerium für Landwirtschaft, Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	Schwerin	
Dr.	Alexander	Reiß	Plan und Recht GmbH	Berlin	
	Klaus	Rund	Verein zum Schutz der Kulturlandschaft und des Eigentums im Elbtal e. V.	Hittbergen	
	Ingo	Runge	Landesbetrieb für Hochwasserschutz und Wasserwirtschaft Sachsen-Anhalt	Halle (Saale)	
	Stefanie	Schernikau	Landkreis Ludwigslust	Ludwigslust	
Dr.	Welf	Selke	Deutscher Verband für Wohnungswesen, Städtebau und Raumordnung	Berlin	

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Titel	Vorname	Nachname	Institution	Stadt	Unterschrift
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	Hans-Georg	Spanknebel	Thüringer Ministerium für Landwirtschaft, Forsten, Umwelt und Naturschutz	Erfurt	
	Frank	Thäger	Ministerium für Landesentwicklung und Verkehr des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt	Magedburg	
	Friederike	Thorsten	Deutscher Landkreistag e. V.	Brüssel	
	Thomas	Ziesenitz	Bundesverband Öffentlicher Banken	Berlin	

Thomas Jakob Stadt Dresden, Umweltamt Dresden Jak

Thomas Pawellek BMVBS Berlin Pawellek