

## **CRISIS: Communication, Research, Information, Simulation, Issues and Safety**

### **1. Project theme**

The idea is to start a European network of regional crisis managers focussing on crisis management in flood situations. Every region in Europe presently organises their own (evacuation) exercises to learn and practise what to do in flood situations. Wouldn't it be a good idea to join exercises from other regions? This way experts can learn from each other and get to understand how people from other regions with other organisational responsibilities and different cultures react on specific measures. Very important is that crisis managers get a better insight in which measures can be taken in which situation, which hardware and software is already available in Europe, what kind of emergency plans other regions work with, etc. This can contribute to safer regions for inhabitants. Moreover, this network allows crisis managers in Europe to contact each other for advice or even for help during a crisis situation.

### **2. Why important?**

Reaching a higher safety level is important for the economic development of the area. Because of the climate change with more extreme weather situations, coastal areas, river branches and riverbanks have a higher flooding risk. In the meantime these areas have become very important as living areas, for tourists, industries and other economic developments. In the vicinity of country borders there are even more specific problems because of different organisational responsibilities, emergency plans and cultural differences. Special attention is also necessary if there are combinations of risks (for instance flooding and chemical industry). Another relevance of this network project is raising (public) awareness of the existing risks. The results of all exercises will be presented in newsletters - also to the media - in the areas of all partners who will participate in the project. Some exercises can only be successfully executed with active support of inhabitants.

### **3. Interested partners**

During the FLAPP-conference in Debrecen (October 2006) The FLAPP-partners no. 8 (Belgian Province of East-Flanders), no. 9 (German Landkreis Oder-Spree) and no. 10 (Dutch Province of Zeeland) were interested in this project and made this brief project description together.

We are looking for more partners. Special interest we have in partners in crisis management which deal with flooding (from rivers and/or from sea). If you are interested please contact Pieter Jan Mersie from the Province of Zeeland by e-mail: [pj.mersie@zeeland.nl](mailto:pj.mersie@zeeland.nl)

### **4. Expected results**

The result will be that crisis managers and authorities will reach a higher level of knowledge about how to handle flood crisis situations. This will lead to better emergency-plans. In regions with country borders special attention will be given to transboundary aspects. One of the concrete results of this project can possibly be a European warning system for citizens / inhabitants, industries and local authorities (rivers).

## 5. Activities

### *A. Establish a network of crisis managers*

The first activity is to create a special network of crisis managers, which deal with flooding. Through this network they can share their knowledge and they can help each other during crisis. A special website will be created with a community about flooding.

### *B. Execute exercises*

Each partner will organise exercises. The idea is that the other partners will be invited to attend these exercises. Every exercise will content another theme (for instance communication, evacuation, warning, use of retention areas, aftercare, etcetera). Beforehand, all partners can give their points of special interest to the organising partner. During the exercise the other partners can join as observers. Evaluations will be made from each exercise in the project, with background information, feedback and recommendations concerning the exercise theme. These exercises can be real exercises or virtual exercises.

### *C. Develop software*

Another activity is to develop special software for simulation of flooding and evacuation. There already are some software models but all these models show some leaks, in the crisis-software the good parts of the existing models will be brought together. A European standard for this software will be developed and the new software has to meet to this new standard.

### *D. Create a framework for evacuation plans*

The last (?) activity is to create a framework for an evacuation plan. This framework will be a kind of a manual with advices and best practises. The manual can be consulted through the website.

## 6. When start/finish?

The CRISIS-project will start in 2008 and will end in 2011.

## 7. Lead partner

The lead partner will be the Province of Zeeland (FLAPP-partner 10) or the Province of East-Flanders (FLAPP-partner 8).

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These are the items we will work on together in the CRISIS-project!**