



Citizen engagement in flood risk management: experiences from 5 EU member states

Disaster Risk Reduction Conference

Warsaw, 14-15 October 2015

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Flood risk management in a changing environment

- Increase of (future) flood risks due to climate change and urbanisation
 - Acknowledgement of water managers 'they cannot deal with it alone'
- Include **new actors in FRM**:
from other government departments but also citizens!



How can citizens become involved in FRM?

- **Co-decision-making:** participation in decision-making of FRM projects and policies





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- **Co-decision-making:** participation in decision-making of FRM projects and policies
- **Co-delivery:** participation in the implementation of FRM actions





STAR
FLOOD



How can citizens become involved in FRM?

Co-production of FRM:

- **Co-decision-making:** participation in decision-making of FRM projects and policies
- **Co-delivery:** participation in the implementation of FRM projects
- **Co-management:** participate in the entire cycle of FRM (decision-making and implementation)






Co-governance in discourse and practice

- Comparison of 5 EU countries:
 - England
 - Flanders (Belgium)
 - France
 - Netherlands
 - Poland
- Part of STAR-FLOOD project (www.starflood.eu)
- Focus on co-delivery and co-management



Co-delivery in FRM policy

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- **England:** Making Space for Water strategy 2004:
‘empower public to take suitable actions’
 - **France:** Act on Civil Security 2004:
‘citizens are responsible for their own safety’
 - **Flanders:** emerging discourse to share responsibility but not yet institutionalised
 - **Netherlands:** ‘encourage individual action on top of intensive collective protection’
 - **Poland:** exclusive reliance on collective protection



Co-delivery in practice

Flood mitigation

mitigate the likelihood and/or magnitude of flooding through property-level measures





Flood preparation


Prepare for a flood event in an organisational way; ensure supply of food, electricity, ..., evacuation plans



Flood mitigation: property-level protection

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- **England:** widely applied, National Pilot Funding Scheme
 - **France:** subsidized in some cases by Barnier Fund + local programmes
 - **Netherlands:** limited to some specific show cases
 - **Flanders:** government developing knowledge on the subject
 - **Poland:** very limited
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Flood preparation: emergency management

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- **England:** Community Flood Action Groups, flood wardens
 - **France:** Flood Leader programme, volunteering in fire brigade
 - **Netherlands:** dike patrol but marginal phenomenon, volunteering in fire brigade
 - **Poland:** flood leaders in Wroclaw, volunteering in fire brigade
 - **Flanders:** some local examples of flood leaders, volunteering in fire brigade

Findings

- England forerunner both in mitigation and preparation
- In most cases top-down initiated by authorities
- In flood preparation some examples of co-management (fire brigades, flood action groups)



Governmental rationales for co-delivery (1)

Substantive rationale

- increase resilience of FRM
- main rationale in Netherlands: not instead of governmental actions but in addition

Economic rationale

- increase efficiency of FRM
- consequence of discourse of 'economic sustainability', economic crisis 2008



Governmental rationales for co-delivery (2)

Normative rationale

- increase legitimacy of FRM
- *'it is not the taxpayer who should pay for the safety of people who choose to live in flood prone area'*



Need for further research

- What are implications of co-governance in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, social equity, etc.?
- How can co-governance be stimulated in a flood risk management environment, which has no tradition in it?





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