



Risk management of extreme flood events -a national research program funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research-

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In January 2005 the national research program 'Risk management of extreme flood events', funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, has started. The program was initiated as consequence of the floods in August 2002 when intensive and lasting rainfall hit Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia in the catchments of the river Elbe and the river Danube. In Germany, 21 people were killed and substantial parts of the infrastructure were destroyed. The total loss in Germany is estimated to be 11.9 billion EUR. The damage due to the August 2002 flood by far exceeds the damage caused by other natural disasters in Germany during the last decades. These floods have dramatically called attention to limits and deficits of flood risk management in Germany. The aim of the research program is to develop and implement improved instruments of flood risk management by the integration of different disciplines and stakeholders. It focuses on flood events with a return period greater than 100 years and with high damage potential. The program consists of three major subjects: (1) integrated concepts of flood risk management, (2) technical flood defense and (3) cross-sectional tasks. The cross-sectional tasks should warrant the knowledge transfer in practice and education as well as the national and Europe-wide networking of research activities. The research program stresses on implementation, which means, that the funded projects have to collaborate with responsible organizations at different political levels. The poster presents the concept of the research program.