



## **From conflict to agreement: Socio-economical aspects of flood prevention management plan in the low Seine Valley (France)**

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In the middle of the last decade, France has developed a specific policy to implement a flood management plan called PPR (i.e. *Plan de Prévention des Risques*: Risk Prevention Plan). This legal management tool is based upon technical knowledge, mainly from flood warning services (i.e. flood mapping, hydrological modelling, urban planning), and a decision making process that includes many territorial actors (i.e. state services, stakeholders, local authorities, NGO's) with a participative step essentially based on population consultancy. The PPR aims to reach an optimal agreement between flood prevention objectives and the need of urban and economical growth at local scale.

This communication presents the Eure-Seine PPR case study (downstream of Paris). Indeed this PPR implementation has revealed a strong conflict of interests between flood prevention services and local councillors representing population and stakeholders. In this area, urban projects (i.e. industrial activities, housing) were planned into floodplains with a very high risk of submersion (i.e. both water depth and stream velocity). To cope this unsustainable planning, state services have decided to prove an existing high flood risk exposure for this urban projects. Based on historical archives (i.e. personal photos, local knowledge), local councillors have rejected the hydrological models and the agreement process. It has brought a crisis situation that stop the PPR process.

This communication aims to explain how scientific and technical documents (i.e. hy-

hydrological modelling, flood maps and urban plans) can have different readings and lead to a conflict situation. It will also explain how the state services had to react in order to manage the conflict (i.e. help from an independent advisor) and to negotiate a solution to minimize urban project vulnerability in the floodplain using a cost-benefit analysis. Finally this presentation will open a debate about “participation risk” in the implementation of a flood prevention management plan and the real need of a third party to sustain the decision-making processes.