Improvements to the flood forecasting systems

ICPER has intensively supported supranational cooperation in the field of flood protection in the Elbe River Basin for more than 20 years, and it has published many publications that are available on its website (www.kae-mul.org).

A significant part of its activities is the common assessment of exceptional hydrological situations. In 2014, we published a hydrological assessment of the June 2013 flood in the Elbe River Basin that needed to be considered in the review of preliminary flood risk assessment.

Exceptional hydrological situations also include droughts. That is why a report summarizing the important meteorological and hydrological aspects of 2015 with a period of significantly low water levels was published under the auspices of ICPER in 2017. In contrast to the fact that drought has persisted in the Elbe River Basin since 2014 (the situation as of October 2018), this issue will be subject to further analyses.

ICPER held an international workshop in Magdeburg on 10 April 2018 concerning the review of preliminary flood risk assessment and flood hazard maps and flood risk maps in the International Elbe River Basin District. The programme consisted of three segments.

OUTLOOK

The interested public was informed about the current status of the water framework directive and Floods Directive for the Elbe River Basin District.

The states in the Elbe River Basin, i.e. the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria and Poland, have worked together to compile the International Flood Risk Management Plan for the Elbe River Basin District in accordance with the requirements of the Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (2007/60/EC, hereinafter referred to as the “Floods Directive”). The Plan consists of Part A, which summarises the information on an international level, and Part B, in which each Member State provides information about the situation in their country. The International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe (ICPER) was entrusted with the coordination. Part A of the International Flood Risk Management Plan was published on the ICPER website in 2017. In Austria and Poland, no areas with potential significant flood risk were identified in the International Plan for the first management cycle for the Elbe River Basin.

This plan is to be reviewed regularly and updated when needed until 22 December 2021 and then subsequently every sixth year. First to be reviewed in the preliminary work, and updated if needed, are the results of the preliminary risk assessment (by 22/12/2018) and the flood hazard maps and flood risk maps (by 22/12/2019).

ICPER intends to use this Information Sheet to inform readers about the state and results concerning the review of a preliminary and, importantly, about the current state concerning the implementation of flood protection measures.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FLOOD FORECASTING SYSTEMS

ACTIVITIES ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

INTERNATIONAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ELBE RIVER BASIN DISTRICT

On the basis of updated documents, considering the measures implemented, the anticipated impacts of climate change and the assessment of new findings, particularly after the assessment of the 2013 flood, the preliminary flood risk assessment and flood hazard maps and flood risk maps (by 22/12/2018).

The new flood hazard map and flood risk map (by 22/12/2018) along with the flood protection measures.

The interested public was informed about the current status of the water framework directive and Floods Directive for the Elbe River Basin District.

The Plan consists of Part A, which summarises the information on an international level, and Part B, in which each Member State provides information about the situation in their country. The International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe (ICPER) was entrusted with the coordination. Part A of the International Flood Risk Management Plan was published on the ICPER website in 2017. In Austria and Poland, no areas with potential significant flood risk were identified in the International Plan for the first management cycle for the Elbe River Basin.

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