



Active vulnerability reduction by public participation - the RISK MAP project

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RISK MAP aims at reducing vulnerability by improving flood risk maps as a means to foster public participation and raising flood risk awareness. For achieving this aim RISK MAP

- (1) develops rules for appropriate stakeholder participation enabling the incorporation of local knowledge and preferences into risk maps;
- (2) improves the content of risk maps by considering social, economic and environmental risks. Therefore an existing multicriteria risk mapping tool is enhanced towards a participative dialogue tool;
- (3) improves the visualisation of risk maps in order to produce user-friendly and understandable risk maps and
- (4) provides quantitative information related to the content of risk maps by the application of eye-tracking methods and by experimental graphic semiology.

The research process is conducted in four case studies. In each case study two workshops will be organized and conducted allowing for the participation of selected stakeholders in the risk mapping processes. The major result of RISK MAP will be improved risk maps as well as recommendations on how to actually organize participation in risk mapping and on how to improve the visualisation and content of risk maps.

The project is organized along three working phases. During the first phase RISK MAP will investigate the status quo in risk mapping under special consideration of participation activities in the respective case studies. During the second phase, rules for the inclusion of stakeholders will be developed and at least two stakeholder workshops in each case study will be carried out. The participants of the first workshops will identify social, economic and environmental risks and will specify limitations of existing risk maps. Based on the workshops new risk maps will be compiled considering (1) new risk criteria and (2) an improved visualisation. These improved risk maps will be tested by selected stakeholders with regard to their comprehensibility by means of experimental graphic semiology. During the second workshops the results will be presented to and discussed with stakeholders; stakeholders' preferences with regard to the different risk criteria will be incorporated in a multicriteria risk mapping tool in order to produce final aggregated risk maps. During the final phase, the results from the case studies are compiled in a final report that presents common and specific recommendations for improved risk mapping.