Developing a pan-European approach to community-based flood alerting and forecasting

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Early warning systems are effective when they reach the communities that need them. However, the challenge remains as to how warning systems can reach vulnerable and smaller communities with alerting information especially when they are not served by warning services provided by national authorities.

RiverTrack is an innovative river monitoring and flood alarm device that gives user configurable information on river levels to individuals and communities. Utilising ultra-sonic water level sensors with low power radio and LoRa protocol to communicate to individual display units, the approach is being deployed in Scotland to support community-based alerting for a number of such communities.

Under the Horizon 2020 ANYWHERE programme (www.anywhere-h2020.eu) the approach is now being linked with pan-European hydrometeorological and flash flood forecasts to provide community-based flood alerting and forecasting. In one application, the approach is being used to provide an early warning system for vulnerable campsites within La Tordera river basin in Catalonia.