



Storm surges in tideless seas - Southern Baltic Sea

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The Polish National ISDR (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) Committee was created in 1991 by the decision of the Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry and is situated in the Instytut Meteorologii i Gospodarki Wodnej IMGW -(Institute of Meteorology and Water Management in Warsaw).

The Polish National ISDR Committee, as a non-governmental organization, actively participates in common initiatives concerning:

- creation of research programs connected with protection systems;
- sharing experience in the field of flood protection;
- training on contemporary problems of extreme environmental threats;
- early warning systems;
- education and information systems on unusual threats.

The Polish National Committee was officially nominated as a National Platform in 2009 and in the same year joined the European network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points of the ISDR.

The Storm Surge Forecasting and Warning System in Poland is a part of the national Hydrological, Meteorological and Oceanographic Service. Responsible for the activities of these Services is the IMGW. The Maritime Branch of this Institute in Gdynia is executing its statutory duties by running the hydro-meteorological observation network, further the Maritime Meteorological Forecasting Office, the centre of Oceanography and Monitoring of the Sea and the Sea Level Forecasting Office (Biuro Prognoz Hydrologicznych - Hydrological Forecasting Office).

The hydrological network includes 18 tide-posts along the open sea – shore and in the coastal lagoons with telemetric data transmission to the Sea Level Forecasting Office. Depending on the station order the readings of sea-level are made each 1 or 8 hours, and hourly when a storm surge is expected.