



Planning, co-ordinating and implementing together

Adaption to flood risk in the Elbe River basin

Project partners

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Ministry of State Development and Transport, Saxony-Anhalt (DE)
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Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Nature Preservation of the Free State of Thuringia (DE)
- 

Saxon State Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture (DE)
- 

Saxon State Office for the Environment, Agriculture and Geology (DE)
- 

Ludwigslust County (DE)
- 

German Federal Institute of Hydrology (DE)
- 

German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development (DE)
- 

Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic (Ministerstvo životního prostředí, CZ)

- 

Ústi Region (Ústecký kraj, CZ)
- 

Region of South Bohemia (Jihočeský kraj, CZ)
- 

Pilsen Region (Plzeňský kraj, CZ)
- 

Hradec Králové Region (Královéhradecký kraj, CZ)
- 

Central Bohemia Region (Středočeský kraj, CZ)
- 

Liberec Region (Liberecký kraj, CZ)
- 

Pardubice Region (Pardubický kraj, CZ)
- 

Elbe River Basin Authority (Povodí Labe, CZ)
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Vltava River Basin Authority (Povodí Vltavy, CZ)
- 

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (AT)
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Middle-Tisza district Environment and Water Directorate (Közép-Tisza vidéki Környezetvédelmi és Vízügyi Igazgatóság, HU)

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www.central2013.eu
www.interreg.de
www.deutscher-verband.org



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Twenty-five million people live in the catchment area of the Elbe River, the fourth-largest river in Central Europe. In 2002, an extreme flood event shook the region: people died, dykes ruptured, cultural assets were lost forever. The total economic damage came to 11.3 billion euros. Many measures for risk precaution have been taken since then. But the changing boundary conditions — also due to influences of climate change—require increased activity across borders: An internationally co-ordinated river basin management is the future foundation for sustainable preventive flood control.

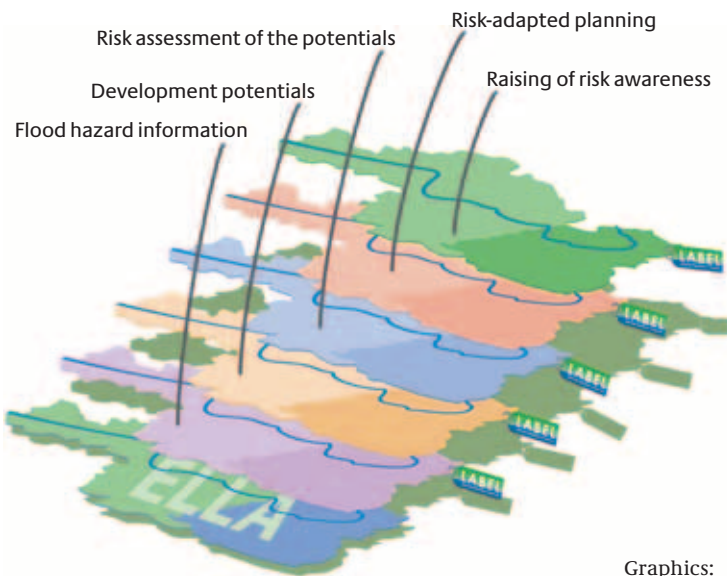


Identifying risks, adapting uses, seizing chances

All in the same boat—across borders

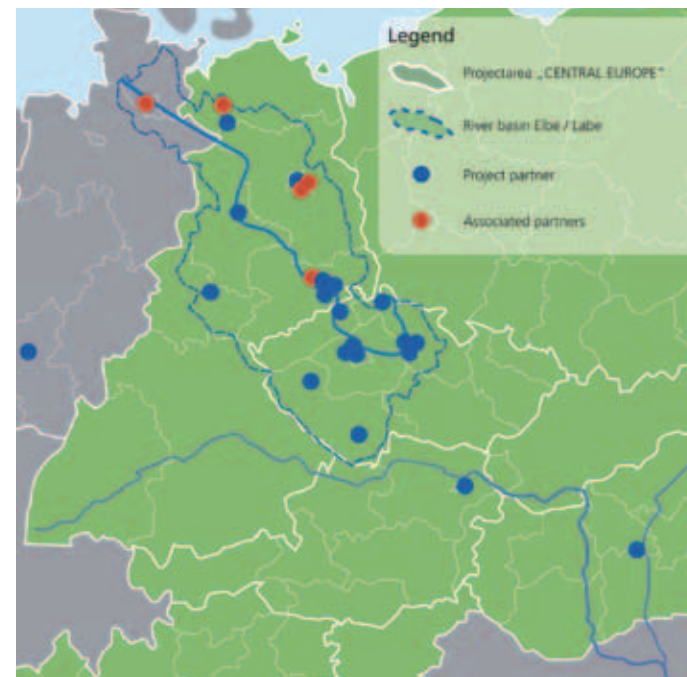
The Elbe River flows across borders. Local individual measures such as the construction of dykes do not only have local effects, but also affect many other locations and users. Strategies for flood prevention must therefore include the entire river basin. Only joint transnational action can prevent undesirable developments, ensure long-term risk prevention and optimise flood risk management.

Levels of work of the project LABEL



Graphics:
INFRASTRUKTUR & UMWELT

The LABEL project partnership



European relevance

The Territorial Agenda of the European Union as a policy document for cohesion and structural policy promotes and encourages transnational risk management. Co-ordinated cross-border development plans for river basins are viewed as essential tools for sustainable development. It is here that LABEL wants to make a contribution.

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Developing adaptation strategies

The project LABEL unites the relevant countries, states, counties and municipalities as well as individual actors at the European level to develop jointly prevention measures and strategies to adapt to the rising flood risk. LABEL expands and specifies the results of the previous project ELLA (www.ella-interreg.org), as part of which a transnational regional-development strategy for preventive flood control was drafted and agreed upon. The approach is cross-sectoral: In LABEL the focus is on risk-adjusted regional land-use planning, tourism and shipping. The starting point in this context is co-operation in the field of water management.

Using risk assessments and regional planning instruments, the foundation for sustainable development in the Elbe River basin is to be laid. Thereupon land-use planning and flood risks are adjusted and harmonised.

Recognising and solving land use conflicts

Conflicts exist between risk prevention, tourism, recreation and transportation: The Elbe and its tributaries are important recreational areas. Above all, the cycling and water tourism is claiming ever more land near the river. In addition, the Elbe is a transnational transport route and part of an inter-modal transportation system. The ports along the river are major hubs and, together with inland waterway transport, engines of economic development.

The settlement trends pose a further potential conflict: Life along the river is more and more in demand. Settlements in flood-prone areas thus grow and may conflict with risk prevention. To ensure reliable flood protection, flood plains must be kept vacant.

The uses and demands must be co-ordinated with foresight. One way of achieving this is prevention through spatial planning specifications. But concepts for direct, technical protection measures are part of a comprehensive strategy.

