



Photo: Artiom Vallat

FLOODLABEL

A SMART TOOL FOR GOVERNANCE TOWARDS FLOOD-RESILIENT CITIES

Issues around rising sea levels and flooding is particularly stark for inhabitants of low-lying regions. There are stories from across Europe where communities argue that their local government do not take sufficient measures to the issue, whereby residents set up their own flood action groups. The FLOODLABEL project helps households protect themselves from the risks and consequences of flooding.

AN APP FOR HOUSEHOLDS, EXPERTS AND GOVERNMENTS TO FOCUS THEIR RESOURCES

Even governments who do take measure can struggle in the future as flooding can become more extreme, and governments may not be technically nor financially in a position to care for their people to the fullest extent. FLOODLABEL has created an easy to understand flood assessment tool for people to assess their flood risk exposure and understand appropriate measures. Using just a property's postcode and a short questionnaire, the app can produce a general flood risk label within minutes. Users can find sub-labels that offer a grade for each type of flooding (river flooding, heavy rainfall flooding, ground water flooding, sewage flooding) and which kind of flooding poses the most risk for their property. The app is being tested and labels need further refinement. The app's general labelling could lead experts to focus their resources on the properties that need their input the most. The project's success factors include successful stakeholder involvement: local administrations, households and regional water boards responsible water systems management.

“Both the FLOODLABEL method and system are generic enough to be scaled up and used in many places that suffer from flood risks...”

A WIDELY APPLICABLE PROTOTYPE FOR THE FUTURE: FROM AVALANCHES TO MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL STRATEGIES

Data on for example avalanches could make the FLOODLABEL model applicable to more European contexts and climates and hence capable of producing holistic labels. If the app is rolled out and reaches mass usage, in theory, it could provide a GIS map for municipalities to evaluate which areas are most at risk from flooding and take action accordingly. The project's partners from the industry side now targets three areas where the app can develop: more high-resolution maps and data, more user input options and more sophisticated calculations. Both the FLOODLABEL method and system are generic enough to be scaled up and used in many places that suffer from flood risks, as it presents much available back-end data. The project displays a learning process between academia, local administrations and the industry side.

PROJECT FACTS

Duration: 2017-2020

Involved Cities: Graz, Beersel, Cologne, Rotterdam and the Hague

Partners: Utrecht University, BOKU – University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Ghent University, Nelen & Schuurmans, German Flood Competence Centre, Flanders Environmental Agency

Budget: 882.000 EUR

Web: www.uu.nl/floodlabel

Result interview 1: jpi-urbaneurope.eu/floodlabelresults

Result interview 2: jpi-urbaneurope.eu/floodlabelpartnerresults

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