

Flood Awareness and Prevention Policy in border areas

INBO 7th General Assembly, 7 June 2007

FLAPP

FLOOD AWARENESS & PREVENTION POLICY IN BORDER AREAS

Bart Swanenvleugel



Agenda

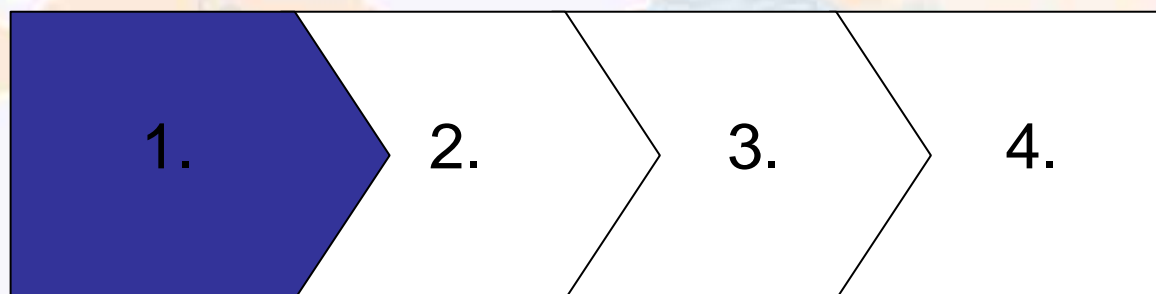
1. What is FLAPP?
2. FLAPP 'message'
3. Examples of FLAPP recommendations
4. Other results

Black
Water

Schelde
Maas
Rhine
Elbe
Mulle



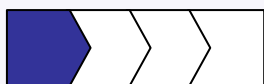
1. WHAT IS FLAPP?





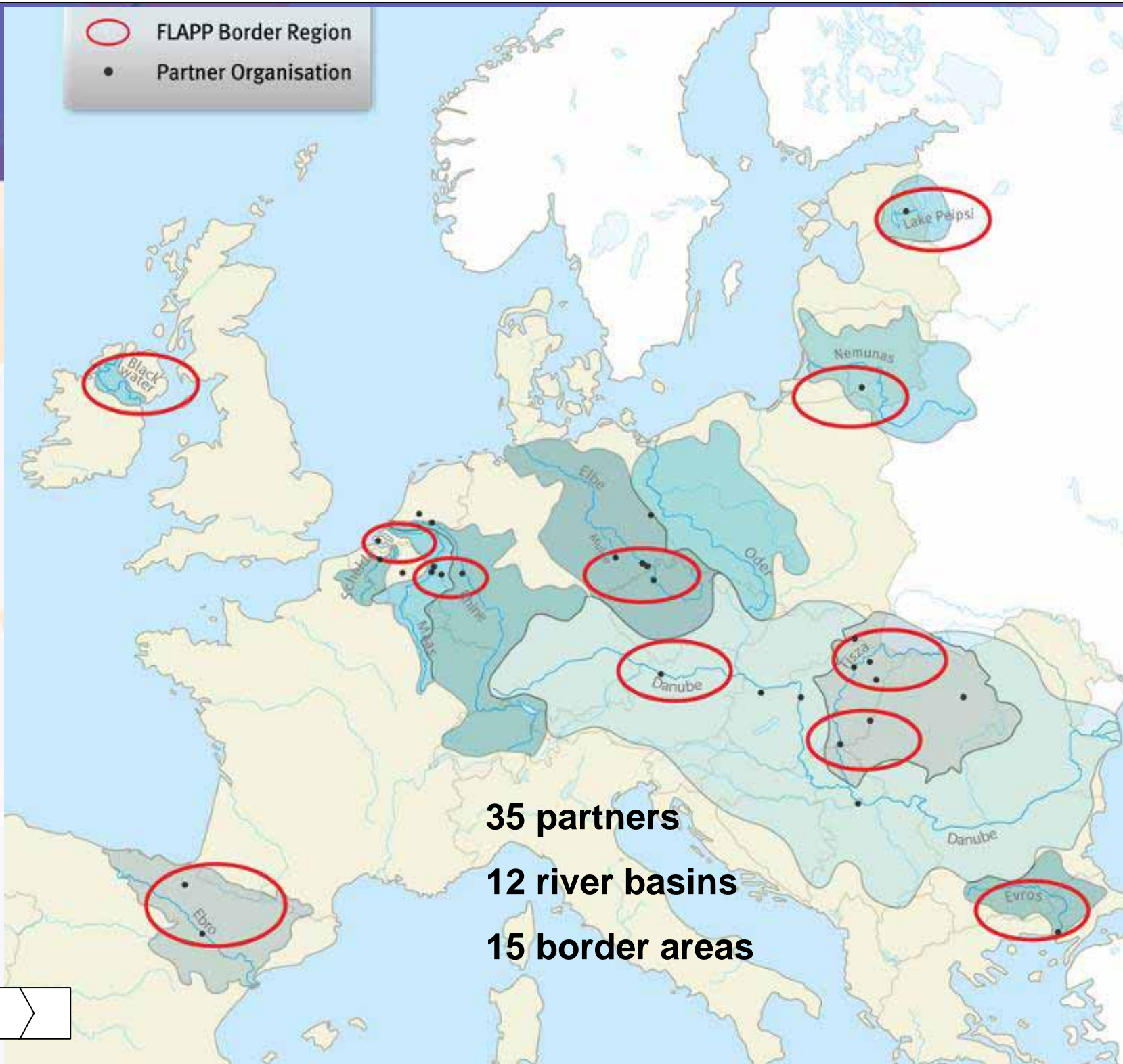
Background

- Many transboundary river basins exist in Europe
- Various EU projects deal with floods
- Great potential to exchange local / regional experiences
- Start of exchange network by Euregio Meuse-Rhine





- FLAPP Border Region
- Partner Organisation



35 partners
12 river basins
15 border areas





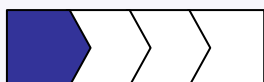
Aim of the network

Products

1. Recommendations
2. Joint approach to cross border cooperation
3. Good practice book
4. Thematic sub-products

Preferred outcome

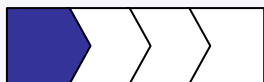
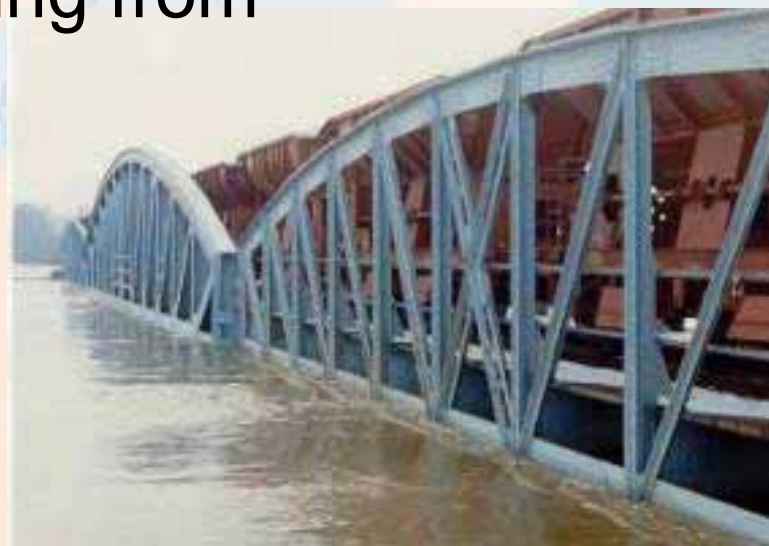
1. More effective European regional flood policies
2. Increased cross border cooperation in European regions
3. Strengthened exchange of practices between European regions





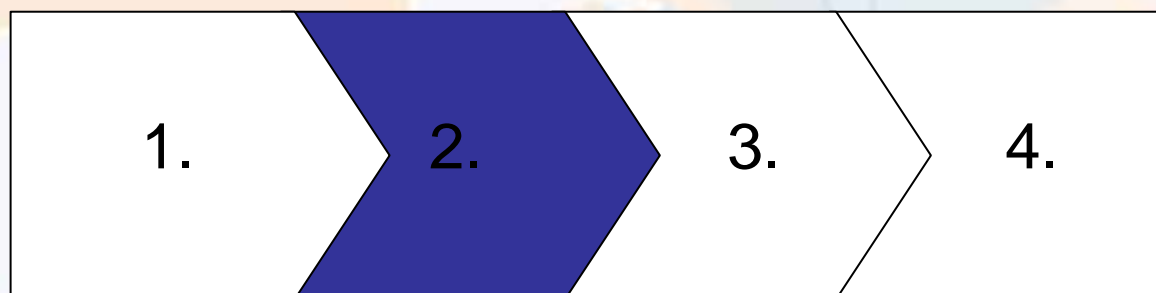
Focus on borders

- Starting point: River basin approach
- Water naturally crosses borders
- Barriers: political, technical, legal, economical, organizational, social, cultural etc.
- Bottom-up approach: learning from experiences





2. FLAPP 'MESSAGE'





FLAPP 'message'

Integrated river basin management is generally accepted as leading practice in Europe

THEORETICAL AGREEMENT

However, implementation can be improved, especially in border areas

CHALLENGES IN DAILY PRACTICE

FLAPP shows potential opportunities of better (regional) cross border cooperation in border areas based on practical

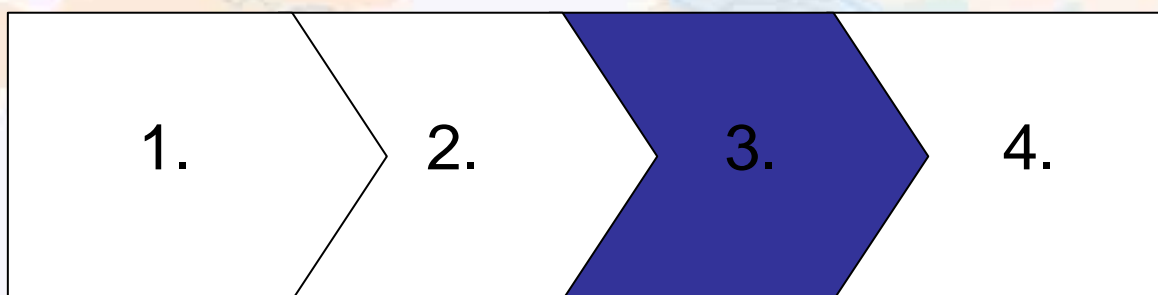
POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

FLAPP also made recommendations for different levels of government on how to improve integrated river basin management

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS



3. EXAMPLES OF FLAPP RECOMMENDATIONS

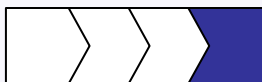




Improving Flood Management Across Borders: National and regional responsibility

Recommendations for national level

- Empower the regional and local level by clear mandates
- Involve regional and local stakeholders in bilateral processes

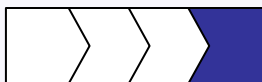




Cooperation across borders: financial arrangements

Recommendations for regional and local level

- Invest across the border if measures are more cost-effective
- Aim at cost recovery for flood management services





Increase public participation and awareness across borders

- Good practice example in N-Ireland:
 - Primary school children
 - Field research with palm tops
 - Discussions across borders





Take into account the ecological functioning of floods

- How can nature development and flood risk management go hand in hand?
- Research report:
 - Role of wetlands for sustainable flood management in cross-border areas
 - Values of and threats to cross border rivers and wetlands in Europe



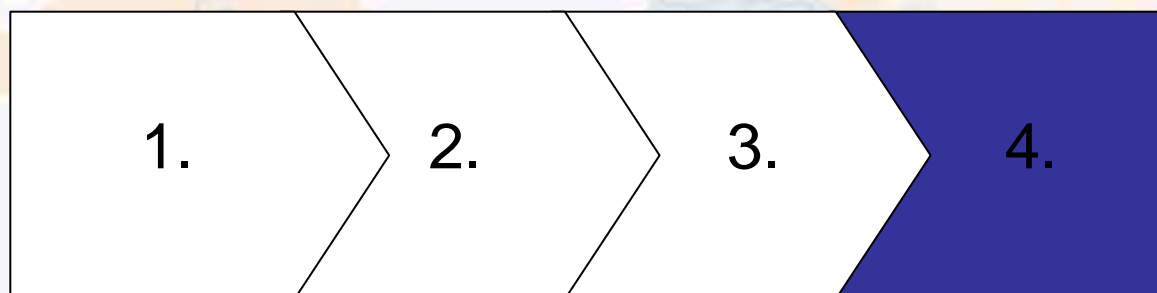


Stimulate cross border information exchange

- How to exchange data between experts across borders?
- Inventory of existing flood information systems:
 - uninterrupted data flow between countries in trans-boundary catchment areas is vital
 - systems currently in use in Europe show a wide diversity
 - full integration of systems of bordering countries does not seem feasible
 - compatibility of systems is a realistic option



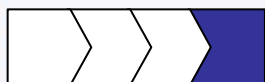
4. OTHER RESULTS



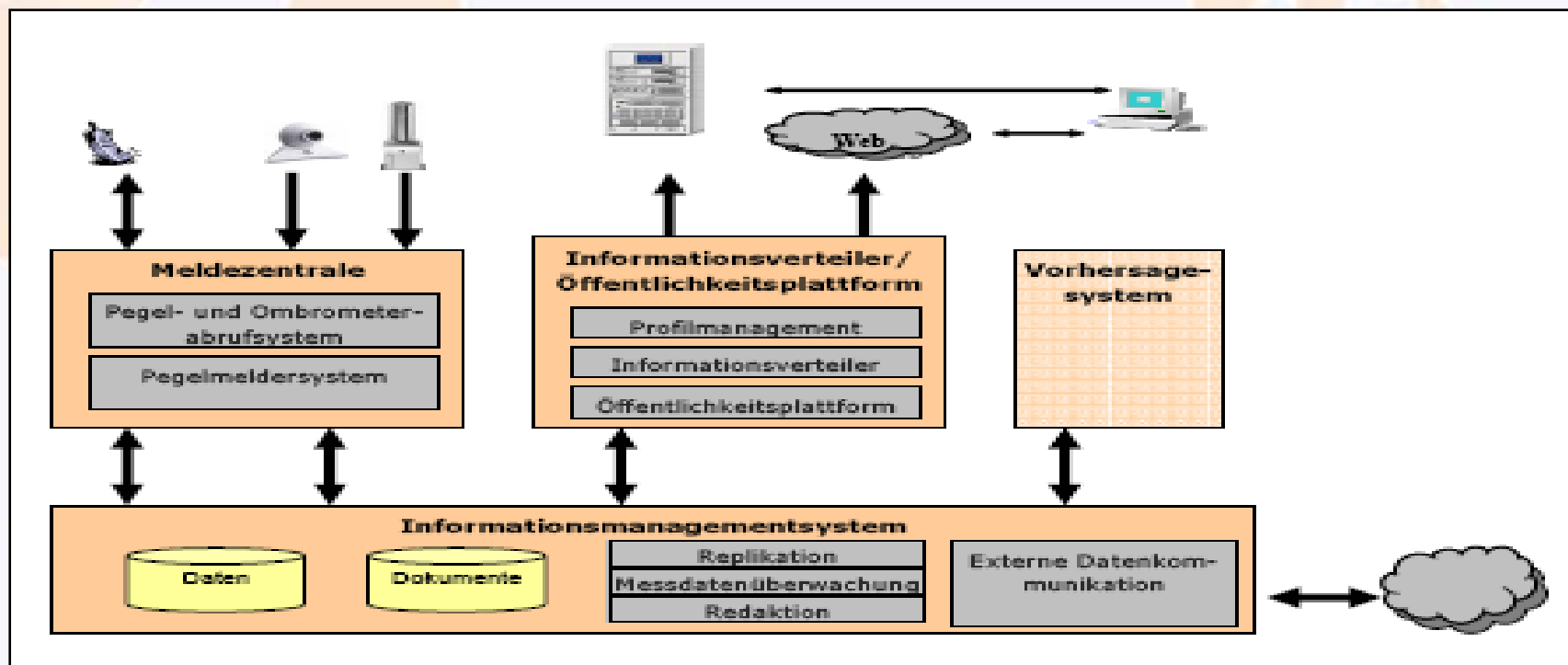
Inspiring each other...



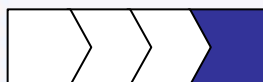
**Mobile dams in Szeged and Budapest,
inspired by Dutch and German practice?**



Inspiring each other...



Initiative for Tisza River Basin Flood Information Centre analogous to Saxony Flood Centre

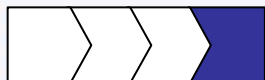




Inspiring each other...



Irish guidelines for citizens will be translated into Greek and used in Evros delta

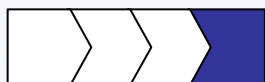




Inspiring each other...



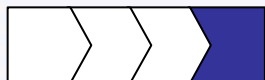
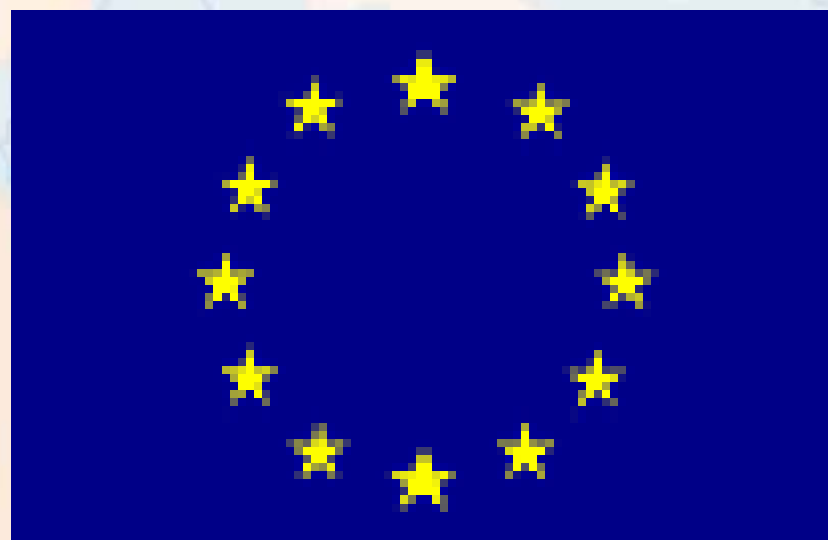
Nemunas delta Lithuania and Kaliningrad: at first no formal contact concerning floods and pollution. FLAPP was trigger to start cross border meetings on local level.





Letters to EU parliament

- Amendment on flood directive in letter to 'rapporteur'
EU parliament:
 - More attention needed for cross border cooperation in transboundary catchments
 - Stimulate measures which create positive 'upstream-downstream' effects





FLAPP Output on:

www.flapp.org



FINAL FLAPP CONFERENCE 13-14 JUNE 2007 ZARAGOZA, SPAIN

