



Session 4: Management and integration

Implementation of flood, water and nature protection legislation into management and restoration - practical realities in Europe – green versus grey infrastructure and “greening the grey”



Foto: Mathias Scholz, März 2012, Roßlauer Oberluch, Deichöffnung Russenbrücke





Reconciling flood risks and environment

- Reconfiguring a river and its adjacent floodplain can generate numerous benefits for both nature and society, ranging from richer biodiversity, more appealing landscapes and additional recreational opportunities to improved flood prevention and protection.
- Natural Water Retention Measures: www.nwrm.eu
- Green Infrastructure:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm
- Nature Based Solutions:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index_en.cfm?pg=nature-based-solutions





Reconciling flood risks and environment

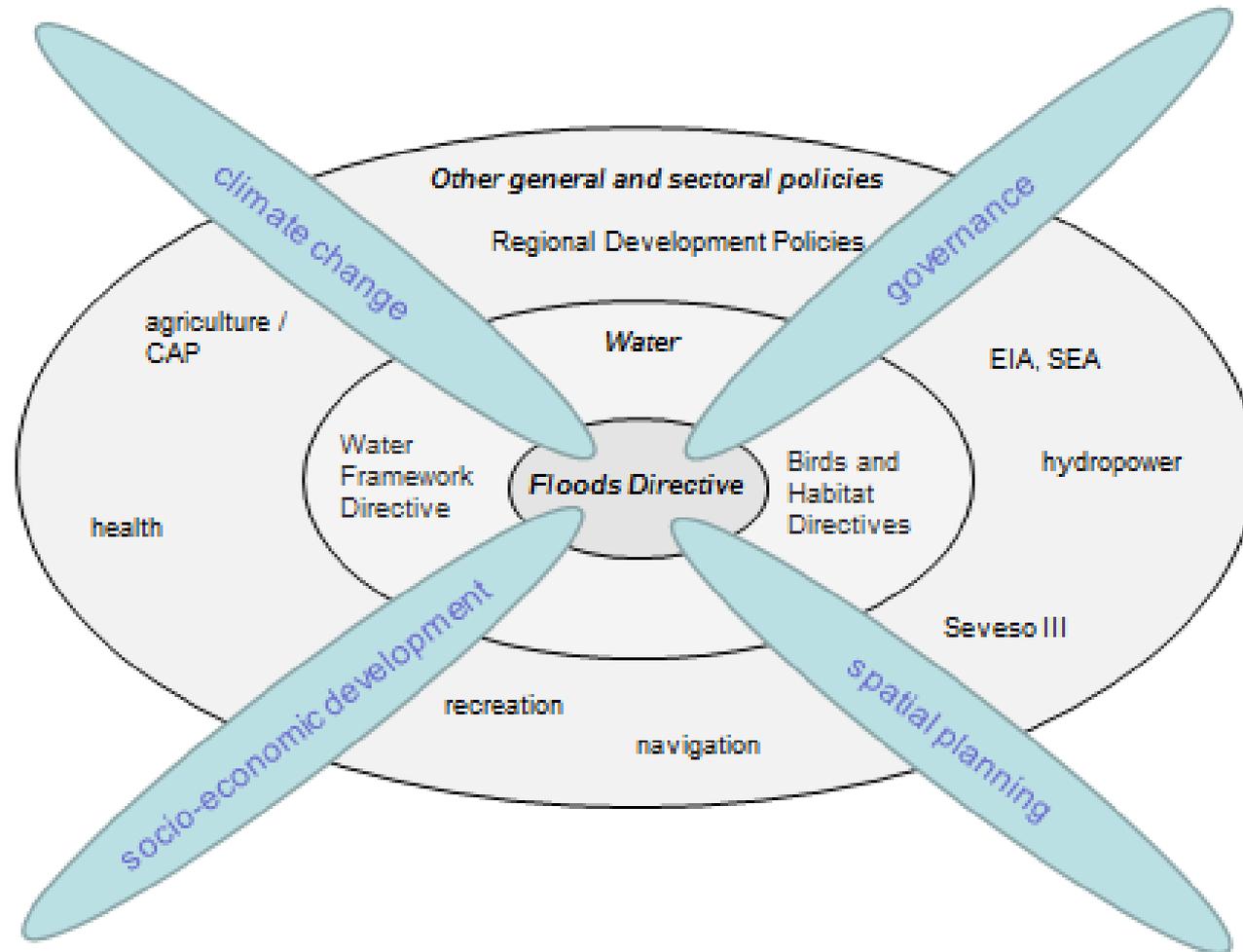


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What's in the draft report





What's in the draft report

- In our analysis we focus on the EU dimension.
- We put the FD in the centre, WFD and BHD in the first ring around it, and user functions (agriculture/CAP; hydropower; and others) in the second ring
- Cross-cutting issues are climate change, socio-economic development, spatial planning and governance
- Our hypothesis is that flood risk management can benefit more from synergies with adjacent policy fields and cross-cutting issues





Observations

- Flood risk management is primarily active in the river bed and in the floodplain. The more one moves upstream, the more the catchment becomes relevant as well
- Both in floodplain and catchment many interests must be balanced
- Both in floodplain and catchment different scales of action and jurisdiction must be linked
- Important measures are river restoration, NWRM, green infrastructure. These measures serve flood risk management while reconciling it with the other users and user functions





Indicative findings, ‘statements’

- Extreme flood events tend to spur on decision makers to demonstrate decisiveness. Use that window of opportunity.
- Different directives are still operating in too much isolation from one another. Policy arrangements based on separate lines of financing and reporting; barriers between departments and between levels of governance; lack of knowledge on economic effects of integrated solutions
- True integration of interests, functions, land use, is more likely to be found at local than at larger scales
- Uptake of innovations (such as green infra) by local scale managers is hampered by the uncertainties inherent to innovations and by current budgeting/reporting practice





Questions (1):

- Is “greening the grey” the future to balance the different interests or rather a lack of ambition to opt for green measures?
- About improved policy integration and use of synergies:
 - Do you agree that policy coordination could result in better use of synergies; or do we proceed faster separately?
 - Will EU Directives related to water (and mainly FD and WFD) be implemented better when they are better coordinated?
 - And what could CAP, Regional Development Policies and other thematic policies contribute
 - What could be the added value at the scale of the EU there?
- What could be the role of spatial planning? At which scale?





Questions (2):

- About the implementation of flood management measures:
 - What is needed to use ‘working with nature’-solutions more than at present?
 - How can we support managers who act in or at the border of the floodplain in better coordinating their efforts?
 - Which role do you see for private enterprise? (e.g. hydropower; sand and gravel mining; biomass production)
 - What could be the role of the EU?
- To what extent is flood risk management a governance issue?
 - Do the current arrangements allow all stakeholders (inc. NGO’s, private enterprise) to play their role (in implementation, management, evaluation)
 - Are current arrangements flexible enough to implement and anchor synergetic measures such as NWRM
 - Does current practice sufficiently accommodate and link the interests of different government scales (from local to international to EU)

