



INTEGRATED HEAVY RAIN RISK MANAGEMENT

Newsletter #8
January 2020 – April 2020



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Dear readers,

if you would not like to receive the newsletter any longer you can unsubscribe at any time: in that case, please send an e-mail to rainman@iu-info.de. If you are still happy to hear from us, we are looking forward to providing you with news of our project!

Your RAINMAN Team

NEWSFLASH

Adaptation in the RAINMAN project: How will we continue in the face of the Corona crisis?

The RAINMAN partnership has cancelled the final conference which was supposed to take place in Dresden, Germany, on 6th May 2020 in Dresden, Germany, due to the worldwide Corona pandemic.

Large parts of the RAINMAN final conference had already been prepared and an attractive programme had been put together to present the RAINMAN-Toolbox, its instruments and measures for reducing heavy rain risk and raising awareness among its target groups. The focus of the programme was on the presentation of experiences and insights from best-practice examples as well as interactive exchange between representatives of local authorities, science and politics. Numerous participants, mainly from municipalities and regional authorities in Saxony, but also interested citizens and members of non-governmental organisations had already registered.



It is not yet predictable when such conference formats could take place again and when a personal exchange of knowledge will be possible – especially since the RAINMAN project will end in June 2020 after a three-year project period. Although the personal exchange and the format of an interactive final conference are of course difficult to replace, the project partners have adapted the activities in the project final phase to the current situation and have developed a new concept for the dissemination of information.

This reorganisation of the final project phase continues to be jointly organised by all ten project partners in six partner countries, who will now continue the transnational cooperation online from their home offices. All of them continue to work together on the project results, the completion of the RAINMAN-Toolbox and also on new ideas for information transfer. For example, there are plans to produce additional information and promotional material, such as a brochure in various languages to present the toolbox and its contents to potential users. The toolbox will then be online in summer 2020.

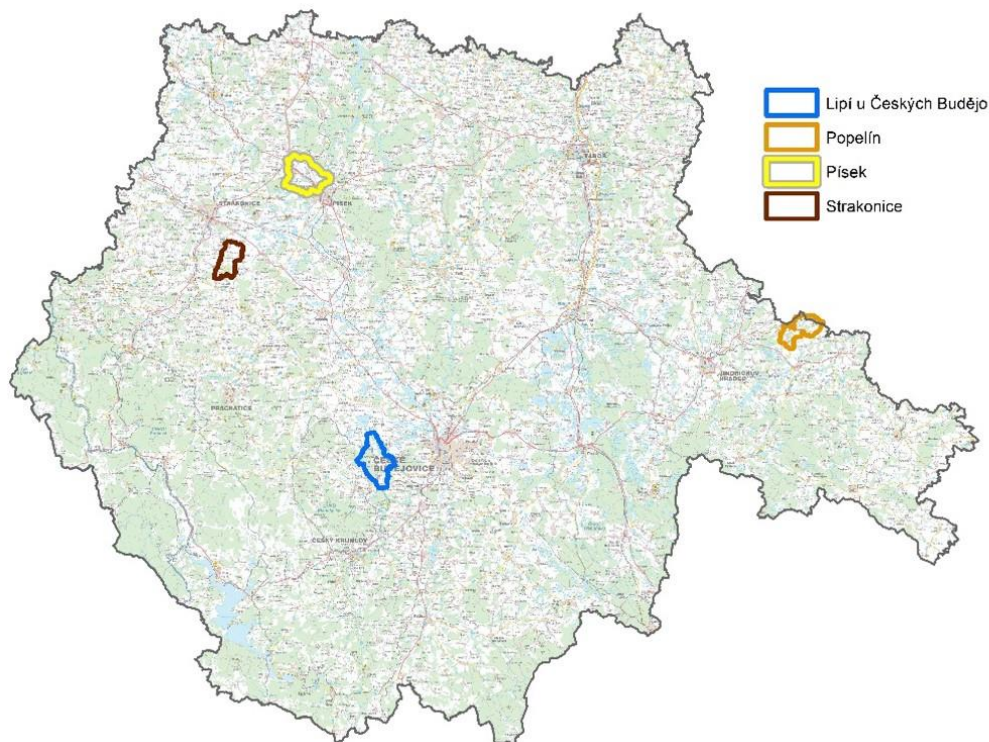


The South Bohemian Region presented its main outputs to municipalities and the public

Hand in hand with the approaching end of the project, the RAINMAN project partners finalise their outputs. The South Bohemian Region is of course no exception and is currently completing its main project outcome “Study of applicability of risk reduction measures in spatial plans”.

Following its professional focus on spatial planning, the Region of South Bohemia has set up a study on how to implement flood protection (risk reduction measures) in spatial planning documents, taking into account all legal requirements and limiting regulations for the Czech Republic. The study was conducted in close cooperation with the external contractor Architectural studio Štěpán.

The “Study of applicability of risk reduction measures in spatial plans” is divided into two phases. The first phase is focusing at four pilot sites, which include in total 26 municipalities. These four pilot sites were identified on the basis of the critical point method. The method identifies areas which are expected to be at high risk of losses in built-up and undeveloped areas in the event of heavy rain. The locations are: Písek, Popelín, Strakonice and Lipí.



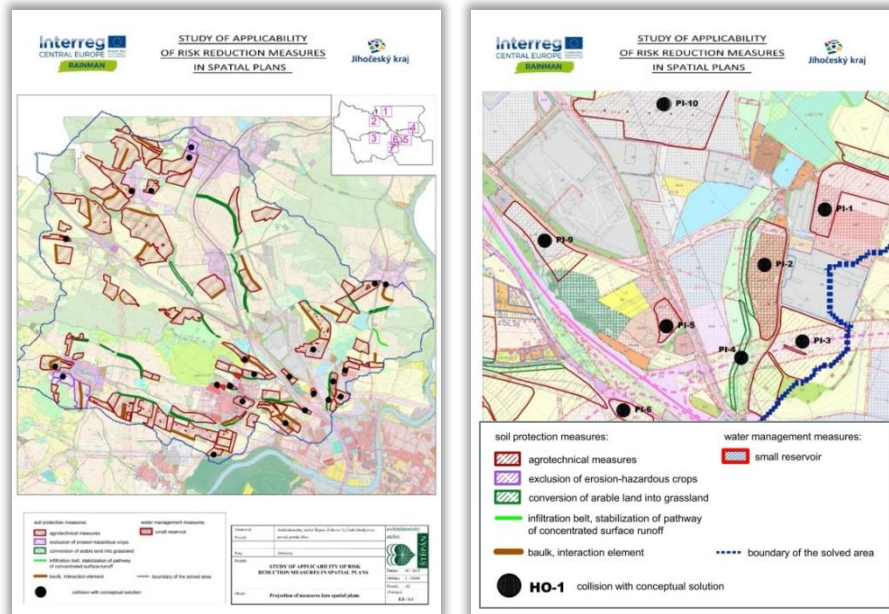
Pilot sites in South Bohemia

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For each of these pilot sites, RAINMAN project partner VUV carried out an evaluation of the outflow conditions at the location and proposed risk reduction measures. The measures were subsequently evaluated against the background of the existing spatial plans of all municipalities in the pilot sites. In places where the proposed risk reduction measures conflicted with the planning contained in the spatial plan, so-called collision points were marked.



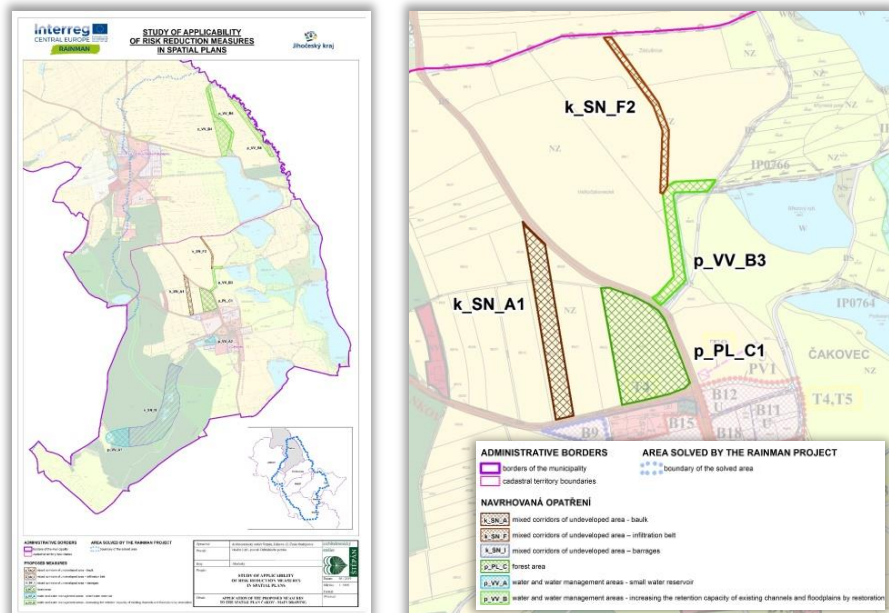
The results of the first phase of the study, including all identified collision points, were discussed at each of the pilot sites in May 2019.



Study of applicability of risk reduction measures - first phase, pilot site "Písek": full study (left) and detail including legend (right) (© Architectural studio Štěpán & the Section of Territorial Planning, The Regional Authority - The Region of South Bohemia)

The meetings in the pilot sites were reported in detail in Newsletter No 6 in the article "Experiences from meetings in the Region of South Bohemia with a focus on the importance and possibilities of spatial planning".

The second phase of the "Study of applicability of risk reduction measures in spatial plans" focuses only on the pilot site Lipí. It was completed at the end of 2019. This part of the study already contains direct proposals for changes in the respective spatial plan of the municipality in order to improve the concrete flood protection of the pilot site.



Study of applicability of risk reduction measures - second phase, pilot site "Lipí" full study (left) and detail including legend (right) (© Architectural studio Štěpán & the Section of Territorial Planning, The Regional Authority - The Region of South Bohemia)



On 26 February 2020, the presentation of the conclusions of the completed second study phase was presented. The public hearing was held at the South Bohemia Regional Authority and was organised primarily for municipalities of the pilot sites Písek, Popelín and Strakonice (without municipalities of the pilot site Lipí).

All municipalities of the pilot sites Písek, Popelín and Strakonice were invited on 20 February 2020 to the meeting at the South Bohemia Regional Authority. All municipalities received five more invitations from the Region of South Bohemia in addition to their own invitation, which they could issue in public places to invite the local public. Information about the public hearing (26 February 2020) was also published on the South Bohemian Region website. Thanks to this sufficient publicity, it was possible to ensure that representatives from all three pilot sites as well as representatives of the professional public and colleagues from the workplace attended the meeting.



*The public hearing (20 February 2020)
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The Region of South Bohemia)*

The discussion itself was carried out on the basis of the conclusions of the first stage of the study, which show what can be done in the spatial plans of the municipalities to ensure flood protection of the whole site. Not all measures against floods can be integrated into the spatial plans, and it is always necessary to take into account the future planned development of the municipality.

At the hearing, there was much room for discussion and the discussion was very interesting and factual. In particular, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. There are entities which manage agricultural land on their territory responsibly based on historical knowledge of the area. These entities are gradually implementing at least some of the flood protection measures.
2. The inclusion of flood protection measures in spatial plans is considered as beneficial. Public consultation - also to convince owners and farming entities - always seems essential.
3. The possibility of expropriation should be the last and extreme solution.
4. Findings of the RAINMAN project have been confirmed that risk communication and raising awareness are a very effective tool for enforcing flood protection.

A separate discussion is being prepared for the pilot site of Lipí, which is the only one investigated in detail in the second phase of the study. This discussion should take place precisely in accordance with the Building Act in force in the Czech Republic in order to make the simulation of changes in spatial plans as plausible as possible.

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Online Survey: Awareness on heavy rain risks and prevention measures

RAINMAN partners develop innovative methods and tools for the integrated management of heavy rain risks by local, regional & national public authorities which will be compiled in the RAINMAN-Toolbox. This toolbox is built on an extensive theoretical knowledge base from the project partners and on experiences that were collected in seven pilot actions where the tools, methods and measures were tested and implemented.

In the beginning of 2020, the RAINMAN partnership conducted an online survey to evaluate the activities in the pilot actions, the involvement of the stakeholders from municipalities and regional authorities as well as the contents of the RAINMAN-Toolbox. The survey was mainly distributed to people that have been involved in the pilot actions of the project but also to other relevant stakeholders.

Besides personal information the online survey was structured into three topics:

- Evaluation of involvement in the project,
- Evaluation of toolbox contents and
- Use of the RAINMAN-Toolbox.

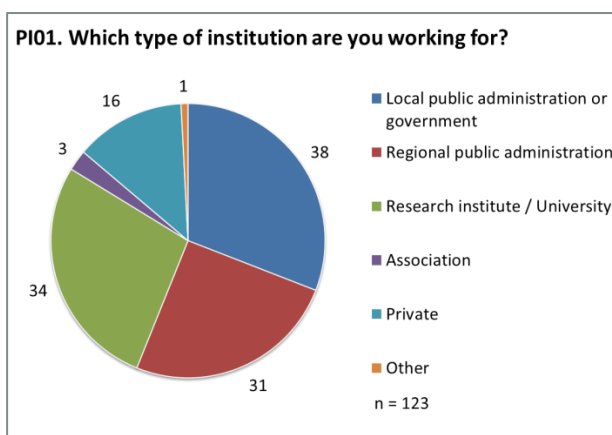
Results of the online survey

The analysis of the survey results will be available on the RAINMAN website in the upcoming weeks. First results are summarized here.

- The online survey was answered by 123 participants (see figure below on the left), mainly from the main target group local public administration (38), regional public administration (31) but also from research institutes (34) and private institutions (16).

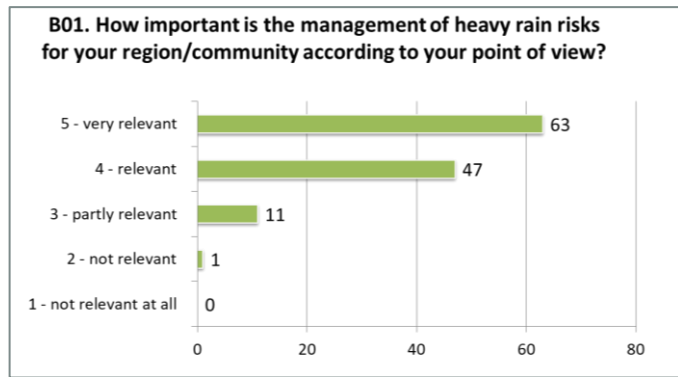
Part “Evaluation of involvement in the project”:

- Not all participants of the online survey have been involved in a pilot action connected to the RAINMAN project. But 90 % of the involved respondents answered that the information they received during their involvement in the project improved their skills for an integrated heavy rain risk management (see the green coloured portion in the figure below on the right).



Part “Evaluation of toolbox contents”

- The evaluation of the RAINMAN contents confirmed the RAINMAN approach that highlights the importance of heavy rain risk management. Also most participants (see figure on the right) assess the importance of the management of heavy rain risks for their region/community as very relevant (63), relevant (47) or partly relevant (11). Only one out of 122 respondents stated that the topic is not relevant in his region/community.



- In addition, 56 % of the participants see a need to improve the management of heavy rain risks in their regions and 44 % state that they “are on a good way but improvements are still necessary”.
- Participants were also asked about the importance of different tools of the RAINMAN-Toolbox for heavy rain risk management. The tools were all assessed as being important or very important by the majority of the respondents. This result holds also true for the question regarding the importance of providing good practice examples which will be available in the RAINMAN-Toolbox.

Part “Use of the RAINMAN-Toolbox”

- In the last part of the survey the RAINMAN partnership asked if the survey respondents can imagine using the RAINMAN-Toolbox. 97 % of the participants answered with “yes”. They see especially local and regional public administration as potential users which are the main target group of the toolbox.

In total the results are a positive feedback for the RAINMAN partnership regarding stakeholder involvement and the contents of the toolbox. The complete results and analysis of the online study will be available on the RAINMAN website in the coming weeks.

Further information:	<p>Saxon State Ministry for Regional Development Division for European spatial planning, regional development</p> <p>Dirk Dreßler, Dr. Ludwig Scharmann, Peter Just</p> <p>RAINMAN-PP2@smr.sachsen.de</p>
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RAINMAN partner meeting in Görlitz, Germany

The RAINMAN partnership met for the 9th partner meeting in Görlitz, Germany, in March 2020. The meeting focused on the further development of the RAINMAN-Toolbox, which will contain methods, guidance and practical experience on the management of heavy rain risks.

Mr. Hartmut Wilke, head of the building & planning unit of the City of Görlitz, welcomed the RAINMAN partnership in the City hall Görlitz. He introduced the relevance of the topic “heavy rain” for the City of Görlitz and its surrounding villages. Especially these semi-urban areas were hit by major heavy rainfall events in the past. Guidance as developed in RAINMAN could help further improving risk management concepts in this region.



The two key issues of the meeting were:

- Finalisation of the RAINMAN Toolbox and
- Preparation of the RAINMAN final conference.

During the meeting, the RAINMAN partnership looked at the progress of the toolbox since the last partner meeting in Graz in December 2019 and its current state. The partners reported on the progress of the different work packages and collected suggestions for development needs in the toolbox. Finally, the project partners agreed on the next steps and deadlines for finalising the toolbox inputs.



The partner meeting was complemented by an on-site session in the beautiful City of Görlitz which was organised by the Saxon State Ministry for Regional Development.

More information:

Saxon State Ministry for Regional Development
Division for European spatial planning, regional development
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RAINMAN Key Facts

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RAINMAN-Website &
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