

FLOODsite Public News No 1

June 2005

Welcome to the first FLOODsite public newsletter

This newsletter marks the start of e-News from the FLOODsite Project. We will issue newsletters periodically, but only when there is news to report and something tangible to access on the website.

Developments in flood risk management policy

Flood risk is of increasing public concern in many countries and this is leading to changes in national and international policy. An example is the communication from the European Commission on flood risk management, which can be found on the EC website at http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/flood_risk/index.htm. This proposes an EU Action programme on Flood Risk Management and FLOODsite is one of the actions identified in this plan as Catherine Day (the Director General of DG Environment) reported in her keynote speech to the ISFD3 symposium. Also there is a new UK policy called “Making space for water” whose title demonstrates the change in approach from flood defence to flood risk management (see: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/policy/strategy.htm>).

News and publications

Until now a visitor to our website (www.floodsite.net) will have found the news and publications area “greyed out” and inactive. This newsletter marks the launch of this public part of the project website. We will be posting our outputs here for others to read and use. We intend to place publications on the website as soon as we can rather than waiting for the end of the project.

You will currently find three documents on the “News and Publications” page – this newsletter, our report on “Language of Risk” and a copy of a synthesis presentation made at the Third International Symposium on Flood Defence (ISFD3) in May 2005 (www.isfd3.nl)

Our research team is now fully active on the tasks in our work programme. In April we reported to our research client in Brussels on our progress in the first year and plans for the next 12 months. Our most recent progress review identified several journal papers which have been submitted, so more of the project science will soon be in the public domain.

Our vision for a successful project

The team is committed to working with authorities and agencies internationally to assist with the implementation of our research advances to the general public good. Thus the Management Team has set out our ambition for the project results as:

- The partners will work together to support implementation of the research results in practice
- The team will produce peer-reviewed scientific publications from their research
- The results of our research will make a difference to the way flood risks are managed within member states of the EU and more broadly.
- Implementation of the research results will ultimately benefit the citizens of Europe, through a reduction in flood risk and an improvement in resilience in the face of flooding.

Paul Samuels
Project Coordinator