



## Dissemination for Polish Case Study Site

(Krakow & Municipality of Wieprz)

Summary Report

2-3rd July 2014

## Summary Purpose

The purpose of this summary is to provide an overview of the CHANGES project dissemination activities in the Polish case study site (Wieprzówka Catchment in the Małopolska Voivodeship). The summary contains a brief description of the dissemination method, acknowledgements to those who made the dissemination possible, as well as a description of the activities. The description for each day contains the schedule, the list of attendees, and a brief summary of the discussion with participating stakeholders. A final conclusion is given, highlighting some of the overall impressions and important take-home points.

## Dissemination method

Within these research activities, dissemination is understood as a two-way communication of results and ideas. Results from the researchers are presented and given in hard copy to the stakeholders in the native language. Discussion is encouraged with and amongst the stakeholders and, from this discussion, additional points are made and considered within the final results. To enable these activities, translation of the results booklet into the native language was necessary as was the translation of the presented research. The target audience of the dissemination was comprised of the stakeholders whom had participated in semi-structured interviews conducted during the data collection phase of the research. These stakeholders included: mayors, municipal technicians, local community leaders (e.g. village heads and priests), water authorities, environmental protection agencies, geological surveys, spatial planners, police, fire departments, crisis management centers, aid agencies (e.g. Caritas and Red Cross), and regional administrative authorities. The goals of the dissemination were to provide information to the stakeholders whom had so kindly participated in early parts of the research process, to encourage discussion with and amongst stakeholders in order to incorporate their perspective, and to encourage more active involvement in the research and its potential use for the stakeholders themselves.

The dissemination activities were conducted in two days with one meeting at the regional level in Krakow which was kindly hosted by the Instytut Rozwoju Miast and the other at the local level, kindly hosted by the Municipality of Wieprz. Presentations were given, highlighting summaries of the research results from several CHANGES project Early Stage Researchers (ESRs), with discussion encouraged following. Notes were taken and summarized to enable further communication of important points made and questions asked by participating stakeholders. Further information on the activities schedule and discussion summary are provided in the content sections of this summary report. Following the activities, thank you emails including presentation PPTs and a revised results booklet were sent to all involved stakeholders (including those not able to attend) via email.

## Acknowledgements

Many individuals contributed to making this dissemination possible. We would like to thank Mr. Wiktor Głowacki and Mr. Janusz Komenda of the Instytut Rozwoju Miast for their very much appreciated assistance in the organization of the dissemination meetings, in sending the stakeholder invitations, and for the overall coordination of logistics. We would like to further extend a warm thank you to Mr. Głowacki for his help in translation for all activities and especially for his help in the coordination and translation of the booklet contents. We would also like to thank Mr. Komenda and Mrs. Magdalena Zalańska for providing transportation for the dissemination in the Municipality of Wieprz.

We would also like to warmly thank Mrs. Zalańska for the pictures she had taken and provided during and after these activities. Much appreciation and thanks are extended to Mr. Wojciech Jarczewski, the director of IRM, for enabling us to host the first meeting day at the IRM. A sincere and warm thank you is also given to Mayor Małgorzata Chrapek and the Municipality of Wieprz for their kind hospitality and continued cooperation throughout the dissemination process. We would also like to thank the students of the IRM for their assistance in translation of the dissemination media. We further thank the student assistant from TU Dortmund who provided the formatting of the final dissemination media. Last, and certainly not least, we would like to extend great thanks and appreciation to all the stakeholders who have taken the time to attend and participate in the dissemination activities and especially the discussions – without you these activities would be without purpose.

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# Dissemination meeting in Kraków, 2nd July 2014

## Location:

Instytut Rozwoju Miast w Krakowie (IRM), Cieszyńska 2, 30-015 Kraków, Poland

## Attendees:

Laura Klimczak – *RM*, Mariusz Grabowski – *Regional Water Board (RZGW)*, Tomasz Dymura and Colleague of Tomasz Dymura – *Krakow Police Department*, Jadwiga Jeleśniańska – *RDOŚ (Regional Environmental Directorate)*, Józef Kulesza – *Regional authority*, Grażyna Korzeniak – *IRM*, Katarzyna Gorczyca – *IRM*, Piotr Ogórek – *IRM*, 4 students from IRM (3 female, 1 male student)

(From CHANGES: Wiktor Głowacki, Janusz Komenda, Magdalena Zalasińska, Kathrin Prenger-Berninghoff, Teresa Sprague, Zar Chi Aye, Irina Cristal, Roya Olyazadeh)

## Invited but unable to attend:

Elżbieta Gabryś and Agnieszka Gajewska – *Regional Department of Infrastructure*, Stanisław Siemek and Iwona Wolak-Goryczka – *Regional Department of Agriculture*, Soltana Wilkosz and Tomasz Klinczyk – *Red Cross*, Wojciech Rączkowski – *Polish Geological Institute*, Anna Ryłko – *RZGW*, Ks. Bogdan Kordula – *Caritas*



Image from presentation by Kathrin Prenger-Berninghoff at the IRM in Krakow.

## Schedule:

- 9<sup>30</sup> – 9<sup>45</sup> am. Welcome – Wojciech Jarczewski Director of IRM (coffee and snacks available)
- 9<sup>45</sup> – 10<sup>05</sup> Presentation by Teresa Sprague (topic: risk governance, introduce and handout brochure)
- 10<sup>05</sup> – 11<sup>25</sup> Presentation by Kathrin Prenger-Berninghoff (topic: spatial planning, feedback form)
- 11<sup>25</sup> – 12<sup>35</sup> Discussion on brochure contents (open questions)
- 12<sup>35</sup> – 12<sup>45</sup> Break for coffee and treats
- 12<sup>45</sup> – 13<sup>05</sup> Presentation by Zar Chi Aye (topic: web-based decision support, feedback form)
- 13<sup>05</sup> – 13<sup>25</sup> Presentation by Irina Cristal (topic: culture and visualization, feedback form)
- 13<sup>25</sup> (End) Lunch and informal discussion with stakeholders (collection of remaining feedback forms)

## Summary of discussion with stakeholders:

Though encouraged, no comments or discussion were given immediately following Ms. Sprague, Ms. Prenger-Berninghoff, or Ms. Cristal's presentations during the first day. However, some informal discussion took place during the breaks and luncheon.

A question was asked from a planning stakeholder whether or not the system presented by Ms. Aye is applicable to the local or regional level. The answer provided was that this system targets more the local level. Additional responses to this line of discussion followed. The same stakeholder stated that they liked the idea and that there are already many platforms, for example for construction of roads, but that people do not have adequate tools to present options.

The stakeholder elaborated stating that, for example for their work, for each plan there is a public review of a project plan. People (referring to planners) could use this tool (the system presented by Ms. Aye) to present the plan. Additional responses, including concerns, were provided by other planning

stakeholders. One such stakeholder agreed also that, in general, they like this tool as well. However, it was stated that there may be a point of concern in terms of the fact that there are different users. More specifically, the concern is that there are comments provided as part of an input into the system presented that are not given by specialists and that perhaps the platform could be used as a way to complain. A follow up question to this concern was asked as to whether there should be a moderator for this? Like an expert. The answer given by Ms. Aye was that there are low and high level users of the system. The lower level (expert) users (which include spatial planners and geologists) could indeed be used as the moderator.

Another question was asked whether or not there is any comment provided from the public within this system. More specifically, whether or not there is a way for voting? (For example, on different options for a plan). The answer provided by Ms. Aye was that yes this might be possible; however, this is not part of the components presented in Ms. Aye's presentation. It was indicated there is another student who is working on this component (referring to Ms. Olyzadeh who is also present).

## Brief concluding points from Day 1

### *From Web-Based Decision Support Presentation*

- The tools presented by Ms. Aye were seen favorably by some of the planning stakeholders.
- Benefits perceived include the ability to visualize and share planning related information.
- More specifically, this could be applied in selection of different planning proposals and could be useful for public review periods.
- There were concerns about the use of the system and whether non-experts should provide input for the weighting of criteria
- The concern expressed might be addressed through the use of a platform moderator with time constraints on the changes made in the system so that the moderator can analyze what the users did.



Image from presentation by Teresa Sprague at the IRM in Krakow

# Dissemination meeting in Wieprz Municipality, 3rd July 2014

## Location:

Municipality of Wieprz (Urząd Gminy Wieprz), 34-122 Wieprz 217, Poland

## Attendees:

Małgorzata Chrapek – *Mayor of Wieprz*, Artur Penkala and Szymon Bogunia and colleague – *municipality of Wieprz*, Adam Kania – *Department of Crisis Management Sucha Beskidzka*, Jerzy Śniegowski – *Department of Crisis Management Wadowice District*, Sławomir Łaciak – *Municipality of Stryszawa*, Krzysztof Wójcik – *Andrychów Town Office*

(From CHANGES: Wiktor Głowacki, Janusz Komenda, Magdalena Zalasińska, Kathrin Prenger-Berninghoff, Teresa Sprague, Zar Chi Aye, Irina Cristal, Roya Olyazadeh)

## Invited but unable to attend:

Paweł Siwec and Wojciech Fluder – *Police District of Sucha Beskidzka*, Wanda Iciek – *Housewife Organization in Lachowice*, Grzegorz Krawczyk - *Head of Lachowice village*, Ewa Rhode-Trojan – *Andrychów Town Office*, ks. Władysław Wąsik – *Parish of Lachowice*, Piotr Harańczyk and Łukasz Patera – *Professional Fire Brigade Sucha Beskidzka*, Waldemar Krężel – *Police District of Wadowice*

## Schedule:

- 10<sup>00</sup> – 10<sup>15</sup> am. Welcome – Małgorzata Chrapek, Mayor of Wieprz
- 10<sup>15</sup> – 11<sup>35</sup> Presentation by Teresa Sprague (topic: risk governance, introduce and handout brochure)
- 11<sup>35</sup> – 11<sup>55</sup> Presentation by Kathrin Prenger-Berninghoff (topic: spatial planning)
- 11<sup>30</sup> – 12<sup>00</sup> Discussion on brochure contents (open questions)
- 12<sup>00</sup> – 12<sup>10</sup> Break for coffee and treats
- 12<sup>10</sup> – 12<sup>30</sup> Presentation by Zar Chi Aye (web-based decision support, feedback form)
- 12<sup>30</sup> – 12<sup>50</sup> Presentation by Irina Cristal (culture and visualization, feedback form)
- 12<sup>50</sup> – 12<sup>55</sup> Closing remarks from Mayor of Wieprz
- 12<sup>55</sup> (End) Lunch and informal discussion with stakeholders (collection of remaining feedback forms)

## Summary of discussion with stakeholders:

In the case of the second day, discussion with and among the stakeholders followed nearly all presentations and continued informally during breaks.

Several questions were asked following Ms. Sprague's presentation. The first of which was from an emergency management representative who asked what are some examples where prevention works? More specifically, are there are some examples where building is prohibited? The answer given by Ms. Sprague highlighted the French case study of the CHANGES project and how there is evidence that this is likely the case study with the strongest example for enforcement of building regulations.

Some further explanation about this was provided with case study examples. A response and follow up input was also provided by a stakeholder from the Municipality of Wieprz that enforcement of building restrictions here (meaning within this Polish case study) will be stronger once they have maps. The stakeholder further stated that they are waiting for maps that are expected to be provided in 2015 in accordance with the requirements of the EU Flood Risk Management Directive. Once available, they (referring to the municipality) will have to comply with these maps within 18 months .

An additional response and follow up input was provided by another emergency management representative who stated that the Water Law will be enforced in 2015. Further stated was that the situation then will be better and that there are intentions to make tight restrictions in flooded areas. The stakeholder also stated that there will, furthermore, be better defined responsibilities of the water authorities and that these responsibilities will be clearer.

One example provided by this stakeholder was that there will be better regulation of the organizations that are working in water management (e.g. such as those at the local level called Spółka wodna which are also the organizations dealing with water resources in rural areas). These organizations will be under the supervision of the mayor. Another stakeholder responded to these statements with additional input, stating that there is also the issue of drainage and that this is important especially for flash floods. This, stated the stakeholder, will also be under

the responsibility of the mayor. Further stated was that, currently, there is an issue that sometimes the drainage is not maintained.



Another question was asked by a representative from the Municipality of Wieprz. The question posed was, in the opinion of Ms. Sprague, how should the civil protection and fire department services be organized? The answer provided was that there is not a universal solution and that this depends on the competences and organization of resources in each case.

An explanation was further provided of how this structure is formulated in the other case study sites. For example, it was stated that in the French case, the civil protection and the fire department have a good relationship, in which the fire department is an important actor and is assisted by the civil protection. In the Italian case, the civil protection is combined with the fire department in some instances at the local level but when looking at the provincial level one can see that this is separated especially because the competencies are different.

In the Romanian case, the two entities were previously separated but were combined because of the need for better coordination and due to issues of overlap. This combination also enabled a better combination of resources. The conclusion to the response to the question was that, in general, from observing the differences in the case study sites and the different contexts in which these structures occur, it appears that (to determine an optimal solution) one must first consider whether there is an overlap of competencies and or resources, at what level(s), and whether or not it is more beneficial to combine these competencies and resources.

A further follow up response was given by the same stakeholder who stated that, in his opinion, maybe at the local level here (within the Polish case study) it is a good idea for the civil protection and the fire services to be joined. However, the stakeholder further stated they should not be joined at the regional level. This response was followed by another response from a representative of another municipality.

The response from this stakeholder was that there are some efforts to revise the system in a way in which more responsibilities would be given to the fire department. However,

the stakeholder asserted that the main problem is that the civil protection needs more time to mobilize at the local level than the fire department. The stakeholder further elaborated that this is especially the case in the mountains where it seems that the civil protection is not able to act fast enough (e.g. in time). He stated that another issue is the level of training and abilities and that these as well as skills and equipment for the fire department are better than the civil protection.



Photo of banner of the Municipality of Wieprz.

He additionally stated that there are also some changes to the modification to plans for landslides and that this is primarily for the prevention of construction in areas of risk. The stakeholder highlighted that the problem is that people already live there and there is a lack of funds for mitigation measures. Further stated by the same stakeholder was that actions taken at the regional and national level do not help with respect to the decision to rebuild rather than have mitigation measures. He asserted that the head of the region made this decision for

economic reasons and that without the help of the state, the local level cannot make mitigation measures on its own.

Additional response and input was then provided by representatives from the Municipality of Wieprz with the example of the Upper Vistula River Programme. The stakeholder communicated that there is an issue with the economic calculations of building a wall vs. building a house. Further asserted was that some plans for water reservoirs in Małopolska were cancelled in exchange for trying relocation efforts and that this was decided because the reservoirs would only be used to prevent floods.

A follow up response from a representative of another municipality stated that mathematics are influencing decisions (referring to the importance of mathematical calculations above other factors). An example was then given by the stakeholder using the case of a very big flood in Wrocław in which an area was identified previously as a flood endangered area even before WWII. However, it was flooded in 1997.

The stakeholder said that now there is protection of these houses and the estate costs are very high. To this comment, a follow up input was provided from a representative from a county emergency management center. This stakeholder stated that though it is maybe a mistake to build in this area, perhaps it is better to have a flat that gets flooded than to wait so very long to get a flat in the first place.

This statement refers to the housing situation in during the communist era. A further clarification was sought with the translator, Wiktor Głowacki, as to an elaboration on what was meant with the last few statements pertaining to the ability to have a flat. The clarification provided highlighted the fact that these statements have a unique cultural significance. In previous years, under the communist era in the 1970s, it was very common to have to wait for many years if not decades to receive a flat. The importance of finally having a flat, your own dwelling and place to live, was and perhaps still remains to be higher than the importance of avoiding dwellings in risky areas.

A follow up comment to the statement was provided by a representative of the Municipality of Wieprz. The stakeholder asserted that it is likely that in western countries perhaps people are more mobile in contrast to here (in this case study) where people have an attachment to their home.

Feedback and discussion was also provided following the presentation of Ms. Prenger-Berninghoff. The first of which was a comment from a municipal representative. The comment highlighted that there is a dilemma the municipalities face, specifically that they must face certain environmental conditions as well as other conditions like the needs and wishes of the inhabitants. The stakeholder stated that, for example, when people want to build on land that is allocated to farm land.

Another question was asked from a representative of the municipality of Wieprz as to whether the planning process also takes a long time in other countries. The answer given by Ms. Prenger-Berninghoff was that yes, this typically does take a long time and in some cases, such as in Romania, this means that the information available may contain significantly outdated maps. In response to this answer a follow up question was asked from a representative from another municipality inquiring how or what is the status of the current situation compared to the map in Romania.



# Dissemination meeting in Wieprz Municipality 3rd July 2014

The response given was that, in short, there can be a substantial difference. This statement was further elaborated in Polish by the translator, Wiktor Głowacki, with his personal observations from Romania.

Some discussion and feedback also occurred following Ms. Aye's presentation. A comment was first made by a municipal representative who stated that what was presented (creating the tool) seems like a difficult task and that it seems almost impossible to make something universally applicable for everywhere. The stakeholder asserted that it is not possible to do this because some things may be in common by practice but the natural events are difficult to predict. The response given by Ms. Aye was that this is one of the challenges in the platform. However, she further stated that the decision-maker is the one who indeed defines alternatives (implying that this is a tool to assist and provide a mechanism in which decision-makers and other stakeholders can provide their specific information for their area and make decisions on different alternatives).

A follow up comment from the same stakeholder stated that additionally not everyone is aware of the consequences or is an expert who contributes to the system. The statement provided highlighted, and repeated, a previously addressed issue that non-experts would also be contributing inputs into the system.

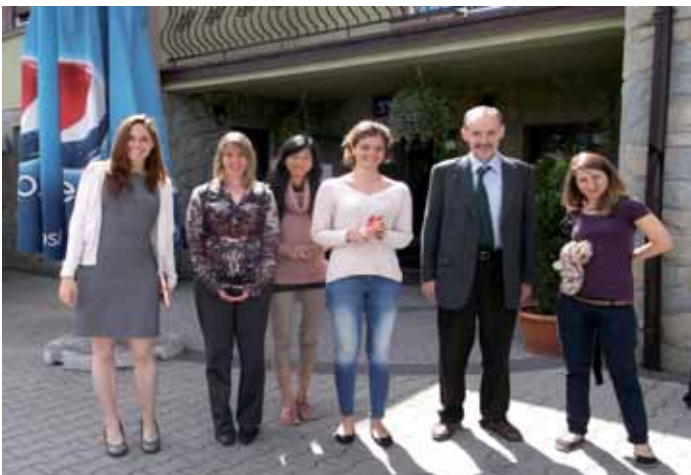
Final words were provided by a representative of the Municipality of Wieprz. She stated that they are glad that they have good practice examples. In terms of communication, she added that they are using an SMS system to alert every citizen and that every citizen will be informed. However, she also stated that they still need to make some changes such as in developing land-use plans, and that there need to be some changes in regulations in general. Aside from the need to continue making changes, she asserted that the good practice examples presented are worthy of more consideration and further development and implementation. She concluded with a reiteration of the Municipality of Wieprz's willingness and interest for continued involvement in future activities and projects.



Image from Municipality of Wieprz with group of participating stakeholders from three different municipalities and two counties



Image of meeting room and participating stakeholders at the Municipality of Wieprz



Picture taken of researchers and translator and CHANGES partner Wiktor Głowacki, after luncheon in Municipality of Wieprz

## Brief concluding points from Day 2

### From Risk Governance Presentation

- There is interest to know where prevention efforts have been successful in other cases.
- Enforcement of regulations is anticipated by local level stakeholders to improve with the provision of maps expected to be available in 2015, in accordance to the EU Flood Risk Management Directive.
- Local level water management is anticipated to improve with the implementation of the Water Law in 2015 including improvement in the clarity of responsibilities.
- An issue voiced was the lack of drainage maintenance, stressed as an important issue especially for flash floods.
- It was discussed that there is not a universally optimal organization of fire department and civil protection services and that, in order to determine this according to the researcher, it is necessary to first consider if an overlap in competencies and or resources occurs, at what levels, and if a combination of these competencies and resources would be beneficial.
- Municipal stakeholders indicated a preference for a joining of civil protection and fire protection services at the local level but not at the regional level.
- Further elaboration was given with regard to civil protection; that more time is needed for them to mobilize especially in mountainous areas and training and skill set is not the same as for the fire department.
- Issues were highlighted in that people already live in risky places and that there is little funding for mitigation.
- Examples were also given drawing focus to historical aspects of risk culture; namely, a preference for first having a flat and living in a risky area vs. having to wait for a flat as was the case in the Soviet era. Risk can be perceived by some stakeholders as secondary to the need for having a home as a result of historical implications.
- It was also communicated that there is a strong attachment to land and home by the people in this area.

### From Web-Based Decision Support Presentation

- Concern was expressed for whether or not a tool, like the one presented, could be used universally.
- This concern could be addressed through the ability of users to provide their own, context-specific, information and the ability of the users themselves to make decisions based on the information they have provided.
- A further concern, similar to the first day, was given for the non-expert inputs into the system presented and whether this would prove to be a problem.

### From Spatial Planning Presentation

- It was stressed that municipalities must face both the particular environmental conditions as well as the needs or ambitions of the population.
- There was interest also to know about the planning process in other cases, including the length of the process and differences between what is in the plans vs. what is occurring in reality.

### From Concluding Remarks of the Municipality of Wieprz

- They were glad to see so many good practice examples from their area in the presentations.
- Some changes still need to be made to the development of their land-use plans and to regulations in general.
- The good practice examples presented are worthy of continued development and implementation.
- The Municipality of Wieprz is interested in continued and future cooperation in activities and projects.

Following the end of the second day dissemination activities, the researchers and CHANGES project partners briefly visited one of the field sites where previous major flooding had occurred. This site contains the area in which the Wieprzówka River and its tributary, the Frydrychówka River, flow very close to one another.



Group photo of researchers and CHANGES partners during short field visit



Group photo of researchers and CHANGES partners in flood plain during short field visit



Group photo of researchers and CHANGES partners returning from short field visit to flood plain

## Concluding Remarks

Overall, the dissemination activities appeared to fulfil their purpose: to provide results and information back to those stakeholders who had kindly given their time earlier in the research process, and to foster and encourage discussion and input from the stakeholders in response to this information. The responses and feedbacks from the stakeholders are further communicated within this report in the hope that this continued, iterative dissemination process will prove useful for both future practical and research based purposes.

The attendance and organization of the meetings enabled addressing both local level and regional level stakeholders. However, there was a significant difference in attendance and participation between the two days. This reflects, in the opinions of the involved CHANGES partners and researchers, that interest and ability to participate in the activities was higher at the local level.

Important points and considerations were revealed throughout the dissemination activities. Some such points included issues pertaining to the organization of different authorities and their responsibilities as well as to particular aspects of risk culture. Further points touched on more structural related issues such as issues of maintenance and the importance of this for the given case study with respect to flash floods. Several points pertaining to planning emerged including considerations for the needs of both the natural and human environment as well as points related to the general differences in planning systems. Other points included concerns and benefits perceived by the stakeholders for the web-based decision support tool; how this could be used and what important considerations should be made toward its development.

We appreciate and are very grateful for the cooperation and participation of all stakeholders involved and to the additional aforementioned persons who have made these activities possible. We are especially thankful for the Instytut Rozwoju Miast and the Municipality of Wieprz and look forward to their continued willingness and interest in possible future cooperation.



Image of researchers and CHANGES partner Wiktor Głowacki in front of Wieprz banner



Image of researchers and CHANGES colleagues, Wiktor Głowacki and Janusz Komenda, with souvenirs from the Municipality of Wieprz

**For further contact and inquiries related to the CHANGES dissemination activities in the Polish case study site, please feel free to contact us using the following contact details:**

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