

Abstract

New paradigms for river management – improved integrated planning strategies and techniques

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The arrival of the new millennium was connected with many political and economic changes. With respect to water management the definition of the respective millennium goals of the UN must be emphasised on the international level. In Europe the release of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60) initiated manifold activities all over Europe reaching from the local to the European level. It became clear that only integrated interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches are suitable to reach the ambitious goals defined in this directive. Soon it became evident, however, that the issue of flood damage was hardly considered in the directive. Several severe floods demonstrated the importance of new Europe wide strategies for flood damage prevention and management. The discussions led to a European consensus that ecological and economical objectives of river bodies must be integrated under one umbrella. Recently the European Flood directive (2007/60) was adopted, which was developed in close co-ordination with the Water Framework Directive.

Logically, former sectoral planning approaches are insufficient for integrated river basin management including flood risk management and mitigation. New planning strategies, methods and techniques have to be developed to arrive at optimum multi-objective solutions for river corridor improvement. The ultimate strategy must be to avoid conflict laden solutions and to foster synergetic solutions: Low flood risk and high ecological value at adequate cost. The presentation will explain the background of recent developments and the related requirement of improved integrated planning techniques.