

**Summary**

STAR-FLOOD stands for STrengthening And Redesigning European FLOOD risk practices: Towards appropriate and resilient flood risk governance arrangements. This project was awarded a grant of 5.4 Million Euros by the European Union (FP7). The project is focused on analysing, explaining, evaluating and designing policies to better deal with flood risks from rivers in urban agglomerations across Europe. The results of this ambitious project are expected to be highly relevant for policies and law at the European, national and regional level and for the development of public-private partnerships. STAR-FLOOD runs from 1 October 2012 until 31 March 2016.



**Increasing flood risks in urban agglomerations in Europe**

Flood risks are increasing due to climate change, soil subsidence and increasing urbanisation of river areas. To deal with these risks, many European countries focus on building, reinforcing and maintaining flood defense works. STAR-FLOOD takes as its starting point that such a focus is necessary, but not sufficient in order to ensure sustained flood protection. From a resilience point of view, it is necessary to apply multiple strategies simultaneously and link them together.

**Five Flood Risk Management Strategies (FRMSs)**

Literature on Risk Management often refers to a chain of responses to flood risks. Inspired by those links in the risk chain, we identify five different FRMSs: risk prevention, flood defence, flood mitigation, flood preparation and flood recovery. Apart from the category of flood mitigation, our categorisation resembles that of EU flood risk policies. Each conceivable Flood Risk Management measure would fit under at least one of the five strategies listed below:



## Project structure

**Starting date:** 1 October 2012  
**Start of case studies:** 1 October 2013  
**Six country analyses:** 1 October 2014  
**Case studies finalized:** 1 October 2015  
**End date:** 31 March 2016

## Towards design principles for appropriate and resilient flood risk governance

STAR-FLOOD aims to support authorities and other stakeholders in vulnerable urban agglomerations in Europe by designing appropriate and resilient Flood Risk Governance Arrangements (FRGAs). The project's final goal will be **to develop policy design principles for FRGAs and to derive implications for policies and law at the level of the EU, its member states, regional authorities, and public-private partnerships.**

### Two starting assumptions

- **Resilience** – It is expected that urban agglomerations, urban regions and regions vulnerable to flooding will be more resilient if multiple Flood Risk Management Strategies are implemented simultaneously and are aligned.
- **Appropriateness** – Flood Risk Management Strategies and their coordination should be appropriate (efficient, legitimate and effective) given the characteristics of their physical and social context.



### Six countries with different background conditions for Flood Risk Governance

Design principles will be derived after analysing, explaining and evaluating current arrangements in six European countries. The countries vary in their attempts to broaden Flood Risk Management Strategies; the significance of flooding and their administrative structure and culture.



## Integrating public administration and legal expertise through the Policy Arrangements Approach

STAR-FLOOD combines and integrates public administration and legal expertise. The Policy Arrangements Approach (PAA), developed in the context of water management and nature conservation, is used as a theoretical backbone. The approach is broad and comprehensive and thus allows to include various elements of FRGAs in the analysis, divided over four analytical dimensions: actors, discourses, rules and resources. In the course of the project, the approach will be further specified to the analysis, explanation and evaluation of Flood Risk Governance Arrangements (FRGAs).

### Cases: three vulnerable urban agglomerations per country

**The Netherlands:**

- Rijnmond Drechtsteden
- Nijmegen
- Westergouwe/  
Zuidplaspolder

**United Kingdom:**

- London
- Hull
- Glasgow

**Belgium:**

- Antwerp
- Geraardsbergen
- Ghent

**Sweden:**

- Gothenburg
- Haparanda
- Karlstad

**Poland:**

- Slubice
- Poznan County
- Wroclaw

**France:**

- Nice
- Nevers
- Le Havre



**Expected outcomes: design principles on:**

- **Public-private partnerships:** How can we strengthen existing partnerships? Which new partnerships would be useful?
- **Policy programmes:** Are there policy discourses and programmes that make sense in different contexts?
- **Policy implementation:** How can we improve the implementation of current policy initiatives at regional, national and EU level (e.g. Floods Directive)?
- **Dealing with uncertainties:** How can public authorities make their policies adaptive? What are no-regret measures?
- **Legal instruments:** Which new legal instruments can be developed?
- **Financing:** What are different public and modes of financing Flood Risk Strategies?
- **Competences:** Which new competences are needed for more resilient Flood Risk Governance?
- **Distributional effects:** how can we minimize distributional effects of Flood Risk Governance Arrangements?
- **Procedures:** how can we coordinate different FRMSs and make an informed choice for (smart combinations of) FRMSs?
- **Shared commitment:** how can we motivate actors with different responsibilities and capacities to see flood risk governance as a joint responsibility?



**Coordinator**

**Organisation:**

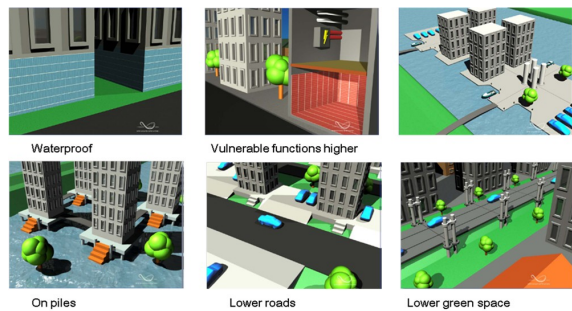
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**For project reports, background material and interesting links: [www.starflood.eu](http://www.starflood.eu)**

## Consortium partners

STAR-FLOOD is carried out by an international consortium including eight universities in the six consortium countries. Each country contributes public administration and legal expertise to the project. The project's ambition level regarding knowledge dissemination is very high. Therefore, Grontmij a consultancy firm with profound expertise in the area of water management has been included as well as CEPRI, the European Centre for Flood Risk Prevention. These national offices set up tailor-made networking and dissemination activities and also provide the consortium with local contacts.

Country	Organisation	Principal Investigators	Logo
NL	Environmental governance, Copernicus Institute, Utrecht University	Prof. Peter Driessen   Dr. Carel Dieperink   Dr. Dries Hegger   Dr. Marloes Bakker	 Universiteit Utrecht
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NL	Group Political Sciences of the Environment, Nijmegen University	Prof. Pieter Leroy   Dr. Mark Wiering   Dr. Duncan Liefverink   Maria Kaufmann	Radoud University Nijmegen 
UK	Flood Hazard Research Centre, Middlesex University	Prof. Colin Green   Sue Tapsell   Dr. Stephen Homewood   Dr. Sally Priest   Dr. Meghan Alexander	
BE	Research Group Society and the Environment, Antwerp University	Prof. Ilse Loots   Dr. Ann Crabbé   Hannelore Mees	 Universiteit Antwerpen
BE	Institute for Environmental and Energy Law, Faculty of Law, KU Leuven	Prof. Kurt Deketelaere   Dr. Bram Delvaux   Jean-Christophe Beyers   Cathy Suykens	 KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN
SV	Division of Social Sciences, Lulea University of Technology	Prof. Patrik Söderholm   Dr. Kristina Ek   Dr. Maria Pettersson   Susana Goytia Casermeiro   Elin Spegel	
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