

FACTSHEET RISK REDUCTION MEASURES

Management of pluvial floods in Upper Austria - “Hangwasserkatalog”

Where was it implemented?

Upper Austria, Austria

Fields of action

- Settlement area, building, farmland

Related to measure from the catalogue of measures

- Various

Area characterisation

- **Area type:** rural / urban
- **Landscape type:** flat / hilly / mountainous

Problem

The past years have illustrated that heavy rain floods are a countrywide problem. The majority of heavy rain events in Upper Austria lead to damages in settlement areas, when lower parts of private houses or infrastructures like streets are flooded and inaccessible because of surface water.

As a consequence, the number of fire brigade interventions in heavy rain events have increased significantly, and reparation costs have risen considerably, however, without providing a better prevention or protection against the next heavy rain event.



Quelle: Land Oberösterreich

Description and aim

The catalogue of measures contains all in Upper Austria known measures which are principally able to reduce the heavy rain risk in and around settlement areas. The catalogue illustrates the collected measures in a systematic way. First, an illustration or a photo is provided together with a basic description of the measure. Next, the basic effect of the measure is given, including the temporal and spatial effect of the measure. This is finally concluded by the specific costs of the measure and by additional recommendations for an effective implementation of the measure.

The measures are grouped very clearly in three distinctive classes:

- Object-related measures (at a building)
- Property-related measures (on the parcel / property)
- Catchment-related measures (in the catchment area)

In this respect, it is essential to differentiate if measures are to be implemented for already existing objects or for future objects.

The aim of the catalogue is to give affected stakeholders like property owners or farmers an easy-understandable selection list or “menu” for good and effective surface water management measures, in order to improve prevention and protection against heavy rain events.

| Effect of measure | |
|---|---|
| The catalogue shall lead to better informed decision making of stakeholders affected by heavy rain events, and shall encourage them to take more and better personal responsibility for implementing suitable mitigation measures. | |
| Description of implementation | |
| Effect horizon: Short-/medium-/long-term | Involved stakeholders: Administration units of the federal government, municipalities, chambers, citizens |
| Implementation: 2015 | Initiator / responsible Regional Office of the Federal Government of Upper Austria, Water Management and Flood Protection |
| Lessons-learned | |
| Main success factor: If you know where floods occur, the catalogue helps you to find the best fitting measure. | Main challenge: Coming to an agreement regarding the description and the evaluation of the measure. |
| Synergies / beneficial aspects: Some measures are suitable to many situations. | Conflicts / Constraints: Many measures are not sufficiently effective on their own. Measures may have effects on third parties. |
| Key message to others starting with a similar task | |
| Keep it simple and keep it clear. | |
| Further information | Contact |
| Press release from 18 August 2015: <i>Neues Landeskonzzept soll helfen, zerstörerische Hangwässer zu entschärfen</i> ; https://www.anschober.at/presse/artikel/neues-landeskonzzept-soll-helfen-zerstoererische-hangwaesser-zu-entschaerfen/ | Amt der Oberösterreichischen Landesregierung Abt. Wasserwirtschaft, Gruppe Schutzwasserwirtschaft Mag. Felix Weingraber |