

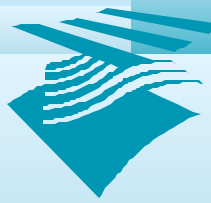
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# **“Crossing borders lessons learned”**

**A case study on public participation  
in a transboundary context**

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# The “Space for rivers”-project

## Watermanagement & flood protection in the Netherlands:



**“Reaching the borders.....and.....crossing them! (1995)”**



# Riverfloodings: causes & solutions

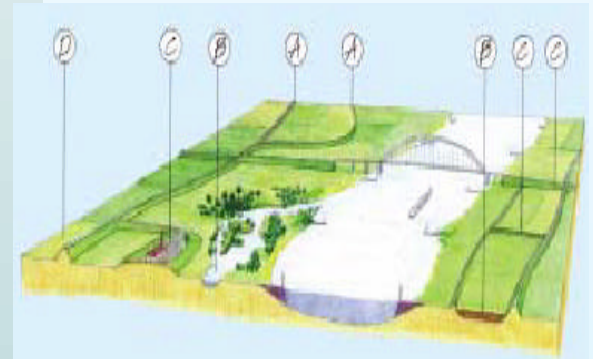
## Causes (“climatic changes”)

- Sealevel-rising (60 centimeters)
- Increasing riverdischarges (+ 40%)
- Subsiding land (60 centimeters)
- More rain (10%)



## Solutions (“space for rivers”)

- Relocation of dykes (A)
- Lowering floodplains (B)
- Removing obstacles in floodplains (C)
- Retention areas (D)





# Transboundary public participation

## **Juridical context**

- Espoo convention (1991)
- EU-Directive 97/11
- Dutch Env. Management Act (1999)
- Bilateral agreements (Germany / Belgium)



## **Principles (“Rules of thumbs”)**

- Non discrimination
- Dutch EIA procedure, foreign habits



# Lessons learned: “Crossing the language border”

## **Lesson 1) Be sure to speak the same language!**

- translations take time
- mistakes in translation can cause misunderstandings and will trouble the public participation process





# Lessons learned:

## “Crossing organizational borders”

### **Lesson 2) A clear division of tasks and roles is essential**

- externally: use the bilateral agreements (“contact points”)
- internally: avoid too poor (or too complex!) organization





# Lessons learned: “Crossing cultural borders”

## **Lesson 3) Be sensitive to the context of your Neighbour(s)!**

Pay attention to:

- differences in EIA “traditions”
- intercultural differences
- not everybody is familiar with Dutch water policy





# Lessons learned:

## “Crossing the EIA procedure borders”

### **Lesson 4) Good explanation of the EIA procedure (and policy context) can help you out**

Explain:

- Dutch EIA procedure
- Role of public participation in the Netherlands
- The Dutch water policy





# Crossing borders

**Conclusion: communication is the key to success**

- Speak the same language
- Agree upon tasks and roles (externally and internally)
- Be sensitive to intercultural differences
- Explain the Dutch EIA procedure

