LIFE FRANCA

FRANCA
Flood Risk ANticipation and Communication in the Alps

LIFE FRANCA 2016-2019

A European project promoting flood risk anticipation and awareness in the Alps

LAYMAN'S REPORT
Project summary document

LIFE 15 GIC/IT/000030
With the contribution of the LIFE Programme of the European Union

LIFE FRANCA

LIFE FRANCA

Anticipation and communication of flood risk in the Alps

The project is achieved thanks to the contribution of the LIFE programme, the EU funding instrument supporting nature conservation, environmental protection and climate change mitigation actions.

Website
www.lifefranca.eu

Portal
portal.lifefranca.eu

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@lifefranca

SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

Project title
Flood **R**isk **AN**ticipation and **C**ommunication in the **A**lps

Acronym
LIFE FRANCA

What it is about
European project that promotes communication and anticipation of flood risk in the Alps.

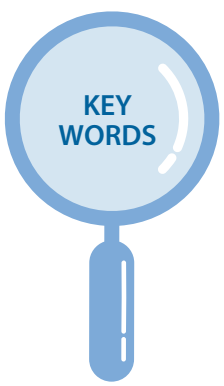
The main goal of the project is the growth of a culture of flood risk prevention in the Alps, by analysing and changing collective behaviour, decision-making methods and the understanding that citizens have of the risks in their own territory.

Beneficiaries
Citizens, students, teachers, administrators, politicians, specialists and journalists.

Geographic focus
Alps and Trentino in particular.

Duration
Start - 1 July 2016
End - 31 December 2019

Cost
Total budget for the project - 1,058,242 Euros
European financial contribution - 630,383 Euros



Flood risk
The risk of flooding from rivers, torrents, lakes, as well as debris and mud flows.
It is usually associated with intense or heavy rainfall.

Hydrogeological risk
The risk of landslides, debris flows and avalanches as weel as flooding from rivers, torrents and lakes.
It includes flood risk and is generally associated with intense or heavy rainfall.

Anticipation
An approach aiming at preparing citizens for different possible future.
The objective is to improve decision-making processes and to reduce the impact of certain types of risks.

THE PROJECT PARTNERS

The project is coordinated by **Prof. Roberto Poli**, UNESCO Chair on *Anticipatory Systems* and director of the master's degree in *Social Forecasting*.

University of Trento
Department of Sociology and Social Research
Department of Civil, Environmental and Mechanical Engineering
www.unitn.it

University of Padova
Department of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry
www.unipd.it

Autonomous Province of Trento
Service for Torrent Control
www.provincia.tn.it

Eastern Alps Hydrographic District
www.alpiorientali.it

MUSE - Science Museum, Trento
www.muse.it

Trilogis Srl
www.trilogis.it

The supporters

The following public and private institutions have supported the project since the beginning:

- **ARPAE Emilia-Romagna** - Regional Agency for Prevention, Environment and Energy
- **ARPA Friuli Venezia Giulia** - Regional Agency for Environmental Protection
- **ARPA Val d'Aosta** - Regional Agency for Environmental Protection
- **ARPA Veneto** - Regional Agency for Environmental Protection and Prevention
- **FLA** - Lombardy Foundation for the Environment
- **CMCC** - Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change
- **Eurac Research**

Many other European bodies and projects have shared the goals of the project and shown great interest in the innovative methodology developed in LIFE FRANCA.
FRANCA has also been considered by the European Community to be one of the five top best practices LIFE projects for good governance.

WHY "LIFE FRANCA"

Italy is particularly exposed to **hydrogeological risk**, both because of the geological, geomorphological, hydrographic and climatic characteristics of the territory, and because of the strong increase in urbanised areas, which frequently occurred without proper territorial planning in the past.

In terms of victims, landslides, debris flows and floods represent the most serious threat of natural origin after earthquakes. 91% of Italian municipalities are located in areas with a hydrogeological risk and in the 2014-2018 period alone, landslides and floods caused 109 victims and 32,428 people were evacuated, also due to the greater frequency of extreme weather events (2019 Report IRPI national research council).

Flood hazard is a concrete and current issue for the entire Alpine area, typically crossed by numerous small mountain torrents and large rivers on the valley floor.

The Autonomous Province of Trento, in particular, presents a delicate dynamic balance between a hydrogeologically complex mountainous land and a densely populated valley floor, the inhabited areas of which stand largely on alluvial fans. For these reasons, it is a territory particularly subject to landslides, floods and debris flows.

Floods are in fact anything but rare: there were at least 60 events in the 2016-2019 period and over 300 events during the severe flood that on 29 October 2018 struck the province of Trento and other Italian regions.

Despite this, the population's awareness of flood risk is low.

Defence against flood risk must include raising awareness of the dangers present in the territory and incisive public communication on this issue, knowing that the effectiveness of prevention depends on the collaboration of all: decision-makers, specialists and citizens.

In order to effectively manage the risks, it is also essential to integrate different forms of knowledge, according to a multidisciplinary and collaborative logic: geologists, engineers, sociologists, politicians, administrators, journalists and science communicators must talk to each other.

This is the reason why LIFE FRANCA was created.

Realising that zero risk does not exist, the project promotes a culture of flood risk among all the parties involved, in order to anticipate disasters and improve the safety of the territory and its citizens.

GOALS

Promote the growth of a culture of flood risk prevention in Trentino and in the Alps, to improve the safety of the territory and of its citizens.

Introduce the anticipation approach in the management of natural risks.

Develop an effective, continuous and differentiated communication strategy, leading to an increase in knowledge and awareness of the dangers in the territory, and modifying, where appropriate, the habits and behaviour of citizens and specialists.

Prepare the population to deal with floods, through a participatory process between citizens, specialists and decision-makers.

Implement a pilot project to develop tools and methodologies that can be applied to other regions and natural risks.

In order to manage the hydrogeological dangers and to limit the related damages, the collaboration of all individuals living in the territory is necessary.

There is a need for a culture of risk regarding natural phenomena, in an integrated management perspective in which each member of civil society is called to perform their task and share points of view and knowledge.

The development of a participatory and two-way culture of flood risk is capable of providing the tools to manage and prevent hazards, without alarmism.

Who life franca is aimed at

CITIZENS | STUDENTS & TEACHERS | DECISION MAKERS | TECHNICIANS | JOURNALISTS

WHERE

The project took place in the Alpine area, particularly in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Trento.

Three pilot study areas have been identified in Trentino, differing in natural and social characteristics and selected on the basis of the type of flood hazard, vulnerability of the territory and prevalent economic activities (industry, agriculture, tourism): the city of Trento, the inhabited area of Borgo Valsugana and two small municipalities of the Val Rendena.

City of Trento

Located in a highly urbanized context with a considerable surface area and population density and an economy based mainly on productive activities and services.
Flood hazard is due to the presence of the Fersina torrent and the Adige river.
The Adige is characterized by *liquid floods*, with large volumes of water, a slow and predictable development and a limited amount of sediment.

Village of Borgo Valsugana

Located in a smaller urban context, with a densely populated centre and a suburban territory with numerous agricultural areas.
Flood hazard is due both to the overflow from the Brenta river, featuring large volumes of water and fairly rapid movement, and to the substantial quantity of sediment transported by smaller torrents.

Villages of Strembo and Bocenago

Located in a mountain and rural context of the Val Rendena.
The urban areas of Strembo and Bocenago have a low population density and the land is involved in agricultural and tourist activities.
Flood risk is due to the presence of numerous small watercourses located in the Sarca river basin, characterized by floods with rapid and impulsive movement, an intense transport of sediment and scarce predictability.

APPROACH AND NEW ELEMENTS

To develop a culture of flood risk prevention in the Alps, capable of improving the safety of citizens and the territory, the FRANCA project has promoted a specific continuous and differentiated **communication strategy**, aimed at the various subjects involved in hydrogeological risk management: decision-makers, specialists, citizens, students, teachers and journalists.

Learning to prevent and manage the effects of a flood is, in fact, a social responsibility that involves everyone.

A culture of natural risks involves collaboration between individual and collective behaviour, socio-cultural inclinations and a precise and shared perception of the risks in one's own territory, with the ultimate aim of knowing how to live with the possible dangers, without fear or alarmism and with a widespread sense of *co-responsibility*.

To achieve this goal LIFE FRANCA has acted on various fronts, combining innovative education, dissemination and training activities with the active involvement of citizens and administrators in responsible management of the territory.

The focus was on developing long-term awareness, through the innovative approach of **anticipation**, a modern frontier in the research and application of *Future Studies*, a multidisciplinary sector increasingly widespread in the strategic corporate and public sphere.

The project helped decision-makers and citizens to see the natural changes (e.g. more intense rainfall) and social changes (e.g. aging population) together, thus preparing themselves "in advance" to manage both changes.

Most natural hazards and social phenomena affect a large time span and the response to risk is mediated by factors of a psychological, social and institutional nature, in mutual interaction.

Imagining future risk situations along with the possible responses of a territory, with its continuously changing social and environmental components, contributes to defining robust strategies constructed "in peace time", so as not to be caught unprepared.

The methodology of anticipation prepares citizens for several possible futures, improves decision-making processes and reduces the impacts of the risks taken into consideration.

Anticipating, in this context, means precisely this: using the future to make better decisions today.

"The adoption of long-term perspectives is the most effective strategy for understanding the ways in which nature and society change, developing programmes to mitigate natural risks, manage processes under development and provide decision-makers, specialists and the population with the tools for addressing both the risks and the opportunities that may emerge".

(Prof. Roberto Poli, LIFE FRANCA coordinator)

ACTIONS

Throughout the project, the partners worked on several fronts and developed, through multiple actions, a culture of flood risk and better communication tools, involving public administrations, schools, citizens and professional categories operating in the field of flood risk.

Mountain Basin Service technician at work

Reorganization and data analysis

Review of the literature and existing practices on visual communication of flood risk; collection and analysis of available data on the flood hazard in Trentino.

The information that emerged was used for the creation of the flood risk portal and for the production of *strategic scenarios* in the project study areas.

Analysis of flood risk perception

Investigation, through web surveys, paper questionnaires and interviews, on flood risk knowledge and perception of citizens and stakeholders involved in flood risk management and communication (administrators, specialists, presidents of associations, school headteachers, TV, radio and newspaper editors).

Questionnaire on the perception of flood risk

Communication

Definition of the project communication and promotion plan: creation of the visual identity with development and production of logos, website, posters, brochures and merchandising; presentation of LIFE FRANCA to citizens and the media through press conferences, social networks, articles, interviews and radio-television services.

Press conference to present the LIFE FRANCA project

"Floods & co" with the SOS – Science on a Sphere of the MUSE Science Museum

Education and dissemination

Planning and organization of educational and informational activities, aimed at both the world of school and citizens, to promote the prevention of hydrogeological risks: experimental workshops and field trips in the territory, educational videos, travelling exhibitions, scientific demonstrations in the exhibition halls of the MUSE and science cafés.

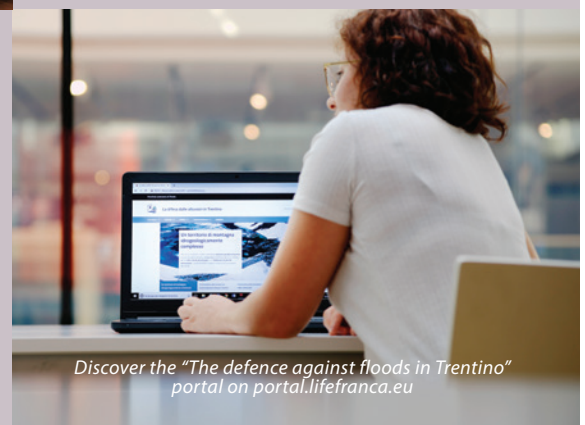
Focus group with representatives from the Municipality of Borgo Valsugana

Construction of strategic scenarios and focus groups

Elaboration with stakeholders and the municipalities of each study area of possible *strategic scenarios* in the future and the consequences on their territory. Organization of focus groups with citizens to involve them in social anticipation exercises and analyze future scenarios.

Building of a flood risk portal

Development of an online flood risk portal, a reference for anyone (specialists, citizens, decision-makers) looking for up-to-date information on the hydrogeological situation in Trentino. Through this tool, the different users can also contribute to monitoring the territory.



Discover the "The defence against floods in Trentino" portal on portal.lifefranca.eu

Professional training and refresher courses

Organization of courses and seminars aimed at teachers, professionals, administrators and journalists, to spread greater knowledge of the hydrogeological dangers of the Alpine territory and improve skills in dealing with, interpreting and communicating flood risk to the communities.

Field trip during the teachers' refresher course

Site inspection of the LIFE RII and RINASCE projects in Emilia Romagna

Networking

Organization of conferences, meetings and working groups, in order to spread the results of the LIFE FRANCA project, but above all to exchange information and establish collaborations with the other stakeholders, who, in various capacities, deal with natural risk management and communication (Regions, Institutions, associations, other projects..).

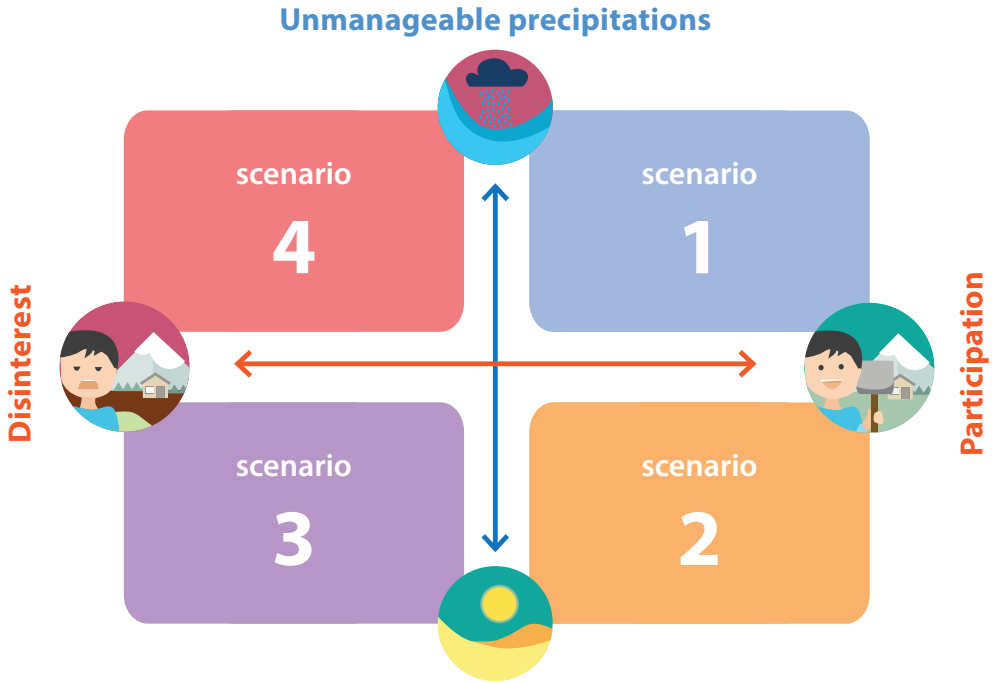
RESULTS

The various project actions achieved the following main results:

Strategic scenarios

Strategic scenarios are the most important method in *Future Studies*.
They are used to make possible futures visible, identify changes on the way, and strategies to be implemented in the medium-long term. The main goal of the scenarios is to broaden the decision-makers' mental models, making them consider different, unusual or unexpected possibilities.

For each study area, **4 scenarios** were built **for 2040**, involving land management specialists and local authorities.



The four 2040 Scenarios for Trento

In an initial phase, the work groups identified the most relevant factors of change for their territory, in the natural, social, economic and institutional context. Among these, the most significant and uncertain changes were later identified, with respect to the community's ability to deal with the flood emergency, the so-called *uncertain variables*.

The construction of the scenarios is, in fact, based on the identification of the main axes of uncertainty.

The combination of the possible extremes of each variable has thus formed the quadrant of the *4 strategic scenarios*. They were used to identify future opportunities and critical issues and a few strategic indications to be implemented immediately for the management of natural hazards.

STUDY AREA	MOST UNCERTAIN AND HIGH-IMPACT VARIABLES	EXTREME CASES POSSIBLE IN 2040
Trento	**Climate changes**	heavy and intense rainfall
		water shortages with extreme events
	Civic inclination	disinterest and delegation (everyone ready to protest)
		participation and co-responsible citizens
Borgo	**Governance and responsibilities**	"integrated management": synergies between owners, administrations and public institutions
		"conflict management": total delegation to Provincial Authority and possible local conflicts
	Economic resources for management of the territory	adequate resources
		occasional resources
Strembo & Bocenago	**Knowledge of the territory** (by the administration and local community)	detailed knowledge of the territory
		non-detailed knowledge of the territory
	Provincial Authority's Priorities in risk management	adequate resources and focus on new works
		reduced resources and focus on the maintenance of existing works

KEY WORDS

Strategic scenarios

Description of the possible futures of a certain territory, with respect to a given time frame.

The scenarios include information on the natural, institutional and social changes that may affect that territory.

As a rule, different scenarios are constructed, which, as a whole, indicate the main ways in which that territory can change.

Future exercises

To involve the communities in *anticipatory social exercises* 42 single focus groups were organised with over 460 people including students, teachers, administrators, volunteers and professionals from various sectors.

The future exercises are inspired by the so-called paradigm of the *Three Horizons*, which allows us to visualise possible futures and their relative consequences, anticipating possible answers or strategies to prepare ourselves in the best possible way.

The guiding principle is that there are different futures that coexist in today, brought by three "voices": the *manager* concerned with keeping the system present, the *visionary* who aspires to different systems, the *entrepreneur* who invests in innovations to keep the system present or to prepare for the future. The paradigm thus helps a constructive dialogue between these usually conflicting "voices", to define which future to cultivate.

The participants in the focus groups shared *concerns* (1st horizon) about what is not working in terms of communication and anticipation of risks, defined *aspirations* (3rd horizon) regarding 2040 and identified *innovations* and possible *allies* (2nd horizon), to develop today in order to fulfil these aspirations.

Almost 2000 ideas were collected, then grouped into various categories for each horizon.

Concerns (O1) included:

- social capital (reciprocity and trust in local communities)
- effectiveness of current communications channels
- effectiveness of the current institutions

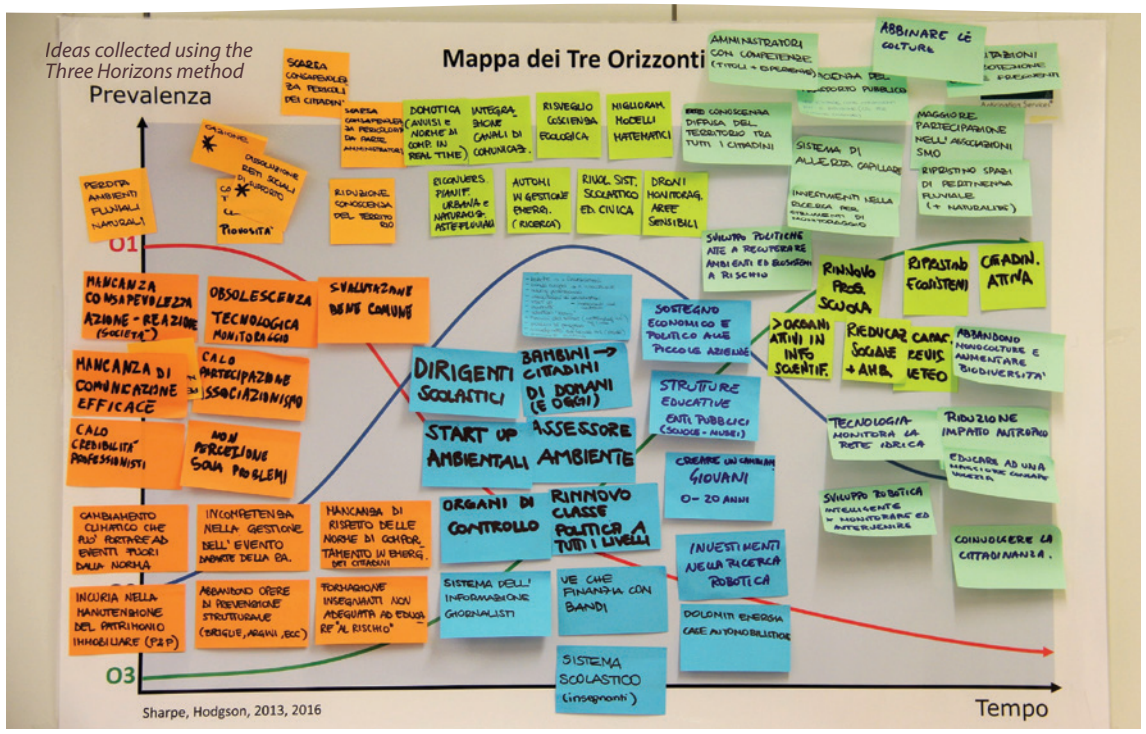
The **desirable futures** (**O3**) will be based on:

- better knowledge and advance warning technologies
- communicative abilities of the institutions
- individual initiatives by informed and co-responsible citizens

The **innovations** and **alliances** to develop (**O2**) are:

- innovations with local administrators (e.g. communication and definition of municipal emergency plans)
- innovations with the education system (e.g. civic education that includes knowledge of risks, elements of civil protection and co-responsibility with respect to the territory and the community)
- socio-technological innovations with researchers and developers (e.g. geo-personalised communication and activation of rescue communities)

The basic philosophy of the *Three Horizons* is to overcome the contrasts between short and long-term interests, typical of both public and private organizations, and instead seek synergies between all concerned, in order to make the efforts converge towards the desirable futures.



Ideas collected using the Three Horizons method

Focus group with students from the Ingegneria Senza Frontiere (Engineering Without Frontiers) association

Geo-Portal "Defence against floods in Trentino"

In order to help create an informed, aware and responsible society and promote a culture of flood risk anticipation, an online portal was created and it provides a reference for anyone who wants to find out about the hydrogeological situation in the Trentino region.

The Geo-Portal is a space where visitors can find information and tools to find out more about flooding, and how to get better at adapting to the associated risks.

It targets different users: specialists, administrators and journalists can find legal references and validated data; schools and citizens can examine the topic of floods in greater depth, using special tools and dynamic maps, while also becoming more aware of the fragility of the territory. The *WebGIS* has, in fact, been developed with non-experts in mind: it provides qualitative and technical data and makes it easy to locate danger areas.

Through the Geo-portal, everyone can also help monitor the territory: citizens can indicate any flood events, damages to the defence works or other critical issues found in the environment in the "Make a report" section.

In this way, the portal becomes a place of exchange, for the purpose of promoting a culture of prevention and the **conscious participation** of the communities.

It is essential that citizens are involved in taking care of the territory.

Trento flood hazard map
It identifies the low/medium/high flood hazard areas

Guidelines for flood risk communication

They have been developed to make it easier for public institutions and citizens to share knowledge and information on flooding and to strengthen the communication activities the Service for Torrent Control of the Autonomous Province of Trento.

The guidelines explain how to plan communication activities and encourage the population to get involved in the decision-making processes.

They not only help communicate the risk, but they also lay the ground for constant dialogue between all those involved. Specifically, the following areas and situations in which communication should be developed were analysed:

- construction of new works
- maintenance of watercourses
- uncertainty in managing the danger of floods
- town and territorial planning with hazard maps
- indications on self-protecting behaviour

For each area, the users to be addressed were identified, as well as the objectives, the key messages to communicate, the methods and the distribution channels to prefer.

Communication plays a crucial role in mitigating the flood hazard by developing a widespread culture of flood risk, so that the population is aware of the dangers, of the numerous interventions in the territory, of the strategies adopted to protect against the floods and, at the same time, of the impossibility of guaranteeing absolute safety.

Educational programme

To promote the knowledge and prevention of hydrogeological dangers, some ad hoc activities have been designed for secondary schools.

The educational workshop "Know your territory: is there any danger?" is based on the IBSE - *Inquiry Based Science Education* approach: students are actively involved in a process of scientific analysis, starting from a question that can be investigated, and covering topics such as hydrogeological hazard maps and prevention of territorial risks.
The "ArduRiver" workshop and field activity, on the other hand, based on technology and science, uses Arduino hardware to measure hydrological and meteorological parameters linked to flood forecasting.
Lastly, "Floods: how to defend yourself?" involves a guided discussion based on the *PlayDecide* model: a debate-game in which the participants discuss controversial scientific topics.

Experimentation with schools, which began in the "International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction", collected specific evaluation questionnaires from all participants.
The satisfaction was such that some of the workshops developed were included in the MUSE's educational offering, but all of them can be repeated or adapted to other contexts and territories.

"ArduRiver" educational activity: hydrological measurements

Students from the "M. Buonarroti" Technical and Technological Institute in Trento involved in an educational field trip

Dissemination programme

A rich programme of activities aimed at citizens was developed, starting with the project presentation conference: "Hydrogeological instability. Manage the inevitable, avoid the unmanageable".

For MUSE visitors, interactive science talks have been designed and subsequently included in the museum's permanent dissemination programme: "Alluvioni & co" and "Geoshow: water earth fire" are multimedia programmes based on the planet's natural hazards, while "Earthquake emergency & flood warning: everyone get ready!" are simulations making it possible to discover the procedures and behaviour to be adopted in the event of a disaster.

The series of three travelling exhibitions "Nature in motion" and three science café events on the topics of knowledge, prevention and anticipation of hydrogeological phenomena were produced.

8 videos were produced on hydrogeological danger and perception of flood risk in Trentino and on the method of anticipation.
Lastly, FRANCA's closing event, with the conference of geologist Mario Tozzi, researcher CNR (National Research Council) and well-known science communicator.

Exhibition: " Landslides, avalanches, floods. Prevention through awareness".

Backstage video "Flood risks in Trento? the experts reply"

Professional training and refresher courses

In order to raise awareness of the hydrogeological risks of the Alpine territory and to improve skills in dealing with, interpreting and communicating the risk of flooding correctly to citizens and stakeholders, special attention was given to training and refresher courses for teachers, professionals, administrators and journalists.

These took the form of theory, simulations and guided tours of sites of environmental interest on the territory, in order to better understand and contextualize the information provided.

The training course on "Hydrogeological risk: from the culture of emergency to the culture of anticipation" was dedicated to Primary and Secondary school teachers.

Aimed mainly at specialists, journalists and administrators, 4 refresher courses were scheduled on analysing the hydrogeological risk from every point of view (phenomenological, management, communicative and social), and offered in different areas of Trentino, so as to get local institutions involved too.

Lastly, the training day on "Communicating hydrogeological risk: defence against floods in an Alpine region" was organised for journalists and bloggers who deal with environmental issues.

Fire Department Volunteers demonstration in Borgo Valsugana during journalists training.

LIFE FRANCA national and international conference

Two conferences were organised in Trento to bring together the scientific community, institutions and professional categories, in order to pick up and share the best practices of communication of natural risks and present the results of the methods used to prepare for flood risk in advance developed by LIFE FRANCA.

The 2018 national conference " Anticipazione e comunicazione dei rischi naturali" was attended by administrators, politicians and technicians from local and national institutions, insurance companies and representatives of other European projects dealing with hydrogeological risk communication. In addition to the plenary sessions, tutorials were organized to learn and test the specific tools and approaches used in the various projects dealing with communication and risk management of extreme natural events.

The international conference "Anticipation and communication of naturals risks" involved bodies, universities and institutions that in different parts of the world deal with the management of natural risks. In particular, invited speakers included European researchers dealing with socio-economic systems, climate change, resilience and sustainability, and integrated water resource management (e.g. James. Derbyshire – Middlesex University, Jaroslav Mysiak -EuroMediterranean Center on Climate Change...).

Department of Sociology and Social Research in Trento, site of the LIFE FRANCA international conference

IN NUMBERS

79.831 **Citizens at public events**
exhibitions, science cafés, conferences, seminars, science shows

8.771 **Students at educational activities**
experimental workshops, field trips, guided tours

2.011 **Interviews with the population**
on the perception of flood risk

16.526 **Online interaction**
visits to the website, portal and videos, reports, facebook followers

505 **Trained professionals**
journalists, teachers and specialists in conferences, seminars and courses

54 **Future exercises**
with 500 focus group participants in the 3 study areas

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT

LIFE FRANCA's main goal was the communication and anticipation of several risks that the "Global Risk Report" of the "World Economic Forum" identifies on a global level as having the highest impact and being the most probable in the next 10 years. Among the top 5 risks in 2019, the following were reported: extreme weather events (floods, hurricanes ...), natural disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions ...) and the failure of mitigation policies and the ability to adapt to climate change.

The project has increased awareness of flood risk in the Alpine regions, highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, experimenting in the study areas with a specific communication and participation strategy, suited to the needs and responsibilities of the different stakeholders.

In particular, it developed an **"anticipatory" flood risk management model** in line with the meaning of governance promoted by European Union policies, which refers to the need to develop processes with which individuals and institutions can cooperate to satisfy common interests and reconcile conflicting ones.

For this reason, LIFE FRANCA has initiated a complex action to prepare the population to live with natural dangers, in particular flood events, based on a participatory process between citizens, specialists and decision-makers, in order to develop a widespread sense of public and private *co-responsibility*.

Communication regarding hydrogeological danger and the involvement of all parties interested in risk management is considered an activity that contributes to improving safety in the territory.

The **active participation** of the stakeholders in managing hazards is also perceived as a measure of adaptation to climate change: participatory processes are, in fact, an effective way of strengthening trust in institutions and the resilience of the communities.

The new anticipation approach proposed in LIFE FRANCA proved to be particularly useful for putting the communities in the conditions envisaged by the climate models, which could lead to a variation in the rainfall trend and an increase in the frequency and/or intensity of flood events.

Such natural changes create uncertainty in society, which in turn is constantly changing. In order to develop effective policies, it is therefore necessary to take **social changes** into consideration together with **natural hazards**.

FRANCA supports the implementation of the provisions contained in both the 2007 "EU Flood Directive" and the 2015 Italian "National Strategy for Adapting to Climate Change" and it also pursues two of the 17 "*Sustainable Development Goals*", which the UN proposed to all nations in order to achieve a sustainable future in 2030 (no. 11*Sustainable cities* and no. 13 *Communities and Climate action*).

Beyond the explicit and concrete results, there were also some indirect project outputs. For the first time, professionals from different disciplines have succeeded in having a dialogue for a common purpose and this was neither expected nor easy.

Lastly, LIFE FRANCA has contributed to raising the awareness that everyone has the right and responsibility to be informed about issues that involve the entire community.

THE FUTURE

LIFE FRANCA is a pilot project that has identified tools and methodologies to develop a flood risk culture and promote anticipation as an approach to its management.

The results obtained can be applied to other territories, at alpine, national or European level, and to other natural risks, starting from those linked to climate change.

During the three years of work, many European institutions and projects shared the goals and showed interest in the innovative methodology proposed in FRANCA:
Regional Authorities of Abruzzo, Emilia Romagna, Marche, Sardinia, Veneto and Umbria, National Civil Protection, UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Culture in Europe, Italian National Istitute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics, Higher School of Education in Orvieto and European DERRIS, PRIMES, MASTER-ADAPT and IRIS Life projects and Interreg PROTERINE-3Évolution.
Representatives of these institutions met on several occasions and the foundations were laid for a future joint project.

However LIFE FRANCA will continue beyond 2019, with its "After plan": a range of activities planned for the 5 years after the project, related to the communication of hydrogeological risk and the involvement of all the stakeholders in the management and care of the territory.

The continuous updating of the FRANCA portal and website is planned, to increase the community participation processes, the training of professionals and university students, events, conferences and informative meetings with the population and local administrations, for the purpose of increasing awareness of flood risk and illustrate the new hazard maps of the Autonomous Province of Trento.

The series of 3 travelling exhibitions entitled "Nature in motion" will also be available to any organization in Italy that requests it, while the programme and format of the training courses and educational workshops created can be repeated or adapted to other contexts and territories.

It is not possible to eliminate risk but it is possible to be aware, anticipate and manage it and each of us is called upon to play an important role . . .

prevention is a social responsibility.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks for the precious collaboration, scientific contributions and support go to: the Municipalities of Trento, Borgo Valsugana, Bocenago and Strembo and the Civil Protection Department of the Independent Province of Trento.

Thanks also to all the other institutions and organizations that actively participated in the project:
Italian Ministry of the Environment (Safe Italy and Alpine Convention), Gardolo Volunteer Fire Brigade Group, Psychologists for the Populations - Trentino, Italian Red Cross (Trento Committee and Giudicarie Territorial Unit), Hotel Associations and Tourism and Artisan Businesses and Small Businesses of the Province of Trento, Trentino Association of Natural Sciences, Engineering Without Frontiers Italy and the Orders of Geologists and of Journalists Trentino - Alto Adige, of Agronomists and Foresters, Engineers and Architects, Planners, Landscapers and Conservatories of the Province of Trento.

Lastly, special thanks go to all the speakers who contributed to the conferences and training courses and to the citizens who took part in the project initiatives, participating in the focus groups or responding to interviews and questionnaires on flood risk perception.

Layman's Report

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