



XIIIth World Water Congress

"Predict's experience of assistance

of local communities and companies for flood management»

Description and location of the problem and activity

For several years, as floods were increasing in South of France, BRL, was sought by local governments for assistance in flood management (BRL is a regional development company, a public private partnership controlled by the local governments of the Languedoc-Roussillon Region).

These local communities felt deprived to assume their mission of protection and information of citizens.

The fact is that physical protection is necessary but inevitably limited. Tools and structures of assistance to anticipation are slightly developed. To manage repeated crisis, local authorities need to be able to base their flood policy on prevention, warnings, post-crisis analysis and feedback from former experience.

In this objective, after 3 years of test and improvement, the company Predict-Services was created in December 2006 by BRL, EADS Astrium, in association with Meteo France : it aims at helping companies and communities to face repeated flood crisis.

The objective is to prepare emergency plans to organize crisis management and reduce risks, to help and assist communities and companies during crisis to activate and adapt their emergency plans with enough of anticipation, to analyse floods effects and improve emergency plans afterwards.

In the crossing of the géo-information stemming from the space technology, communication, meteorology, hydraulics and hydrology, Predict-services brings help to companies to limit and delete operating losses and helps local communities in their mission of protection and information to the citizens, for flood problems.

This initiative is actually developed on cities of south of France, notably on Montpellier, and also on the scale of catchment area.

Impact of implemented activity (social, economical, environmental, etc.)

Predict-services has prepared emergency plans to organize crisis management and reduce risks, organized public informations on flood prevention, helped and assisted communities and companies during crisis, notably during the important crisis of September 2005, to activate and adapt their emergency plans with enough of anticipation.

It has been successfully functioning with southern cities and notably Montpellier and Sommières, famous for it's flood problems... where no human loss was to regret and where the economic impacts were minimized.

Afterwards, the engineers of Predict-services have analysed floods effects and have improved the emergency plans to keep them operational. Actually developed in cities of South of France, this initiative is to be developed nationally and internationally. Thanks to the efficiency of it's method, Predict Services has signed a partnership with Groupama, the first French insurance company for communities. This company proposes the Predict's solution to communities to help them to better manage flood crisis and also in order to reduce damages.

The solution aims at reducing the vulnerability of the stakes of communities and companies, helping to protect the citizens, limiting or deleting the operating losses of companies due to floods.

Types of stakeholders involved

The initiative has to be coordinated with state services to secure continuity and coherence of information.

This initiative is developed in dialogue with State services as Météo France, the Ministry for the interior, the Ministry for ecology and the durable development, the Regional Direction of the Environment (DIREN), the Central service of Hydrometeorology and Support to the Forecast of the Floods (SCHAPI) and service of forecast of rising (SPC).

Means of stakeholder involvement and role they play

Companies, Local communities, local government authorities and basin stakeholders are the decision makers. Companies and local communities have to involve themselves in the elaboration of safety plans and also in their financing. They are also completely involved in their activation that is their own responsibility. This applies to other local government authorities, like districts one's and sometimes basin stakeholders, which participate in the financing community safety plans and Prefectures which confirm the efficiency of plans and are responsible of the transmission of meteorological alert.

Long-term commitment and targets

In order to reduce risks, and to keep the benefits of this initiative, local communities and companies have to maintain the awareness of risk of the citizens. They also have to maintain their community safety plans to keep them constantly operational. This is a part of the system proposed by the initiative Predict.

Originality and Innovative Ideas

The Predict initiative proposes an integrated solution to help in the management and anticipation of floods based on a better upstream knowledge and the follow-up in real time of crisis and the post analysis crisis of the phenomenon.

In the crossing of the géo-information stemming from the space technology, communication, meteorology, hydraulics and hydrology, Predict brings help to companies but also local communities in their mission of protection and information to the citizens, facing flood problems.

Based on a computer platform, allied to the most modern technologies, notably satellite and radar, this initiative allows, according to the forecasts of rainfall and other hydro-meteorological forecasts, to gain precious time in the application of safety plans. As a complement to the services supplied by the State, it also offers communities and companies localized and operational information which allows them to better anticipate and improve management of crisis situations. By means of one Web conference, communities and companies can follow in real time, the evolution of the hydrometric, rainy and stormy situation simultaneously analyzed by the team PREDICT with which they communicate.

The Predict's method is organized around four axes :

- Elaboration of plan of protection stemming from the knowledge of flooded area crossed with knowledge of the stakes and vulnerability, for a better protection,
- floods anticipation and assistance to the crisis management,
- analysis of floods effects
- capitalization of knowledge for the preservation of a risk consciousness...

The communication will present methods and the link made between rain and activation of safety plans.

Lessons learned

As mentioned above, physical protection is necessary but inevitably limited. Tools and structures of assistance to anticipation are usually slightly developed. To manage repeated crisis, local authorities and companies need to be able to base their flood policy on prevention, warnings, post-crisis analysis and feedback from former experience. Integrated solutions for flood management have to be developed with involvement of local authorities and sensibilization of the public.

The method of the initiative can be reproduced in other contexts as it is basic principles:

The management and anticipation of floods has to be based on a better upstream knowledge and as it is possible, the follow-up in real time of crisis and the post analysis crisis of the phenomenon.



Predict's assistance center : functioning 7days a week and 24hours a day, to bring help in flood management to communities and companies.

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