



- **Focus on benefits of living along rivers instead of threats via an innovative approach...**



The Freude am Fluss project was born during an international Flood Awareness workshop organized in Nijmegen, The Netherlands in 2003. The International Rhine Commission had asked the municipality of Nijmegen to organize an international flood awareness conference. The Radboud University of Nijmegen was asked to help the city of Nijmegen in organizing such a conference.

The goal of the conference was to deliver innovative ideas with respect to the realization of sustainable flood protection in Europe. Innovative ideas which are based on public participation and support and which would contribute to ecosystem health and flood protection. Administrators, experts, citizens and students competed with each other to come up with the most effective and innovative idea.

The winning concept was the “Freude am Fluss” idea.

	“Freude am Fluss” is based on three concepts
	■ Application of the “Live with Water” concept ■ Bottom-up approach (Joint Planning Approach) ■ Emphasis on the “Freude”-aspect of the Live with water concept (turn threat into a opportunity)

The core of the Freude am Fluss idea comprises 3 themes.

Firstly: application of the “Live with Water” concept. This means that more efforts should be made to adapt land use to the natural dynamics of river systems. In practice this means for example that it is preferred to construct houses that are less prone to flood damage instead of building higher and higher dikes, realizing far reaching river regulations and the construction of big dams.

Secondly; Public participation. Unfortunately, most of the flood protection schemes in Europe are still “top-down” plans in which the local community does not recognize itself. The “Freude am Fluss” project experiments with “bottom-up” approaches which make optimal use of the creativity and ideas of all stakeholders. In this process governmental agencies act as facilitators rather than directors. This approach is also referred to as the “Joint Planning Approach”.

And last but not least; the “Freude” aspect. In general, the way we deal with floods in Europe has made people anxious and afraid of the river. In the “Freude am Fluss” project we are focusing on the benefits and opportunities that living rivers can bring when we are willing to adapt our land use.

These three concepts have been jointly elaborated by the “Freude am Fluss” partners and tailor made applied to France, Germany and The Netherlands.



Freude am Fluss consortium





Partners

- **The Netherlands**
 - Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (lead applicant)
 - Ministry of Transport, Public Works & Water Management Division East
 - Ministry of Transport, Public Works & Water Management DWW
 - Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam
 - Habiforum
- **France**
 - Etablissement Public Loire
 - Water Agency Loire Bretagne
 - Agglomeration de Nevers
- **Germany**
 - Darmstadt University of Technology
 - Institut für Landschaftsökologie und Naturschutz Bühl (ILN)
 - Region Starkenburg

Sponsors

- Interreg IIIB
- Province of Gelderland
- Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
- BSIK program "Living with water"
- Innovation Network

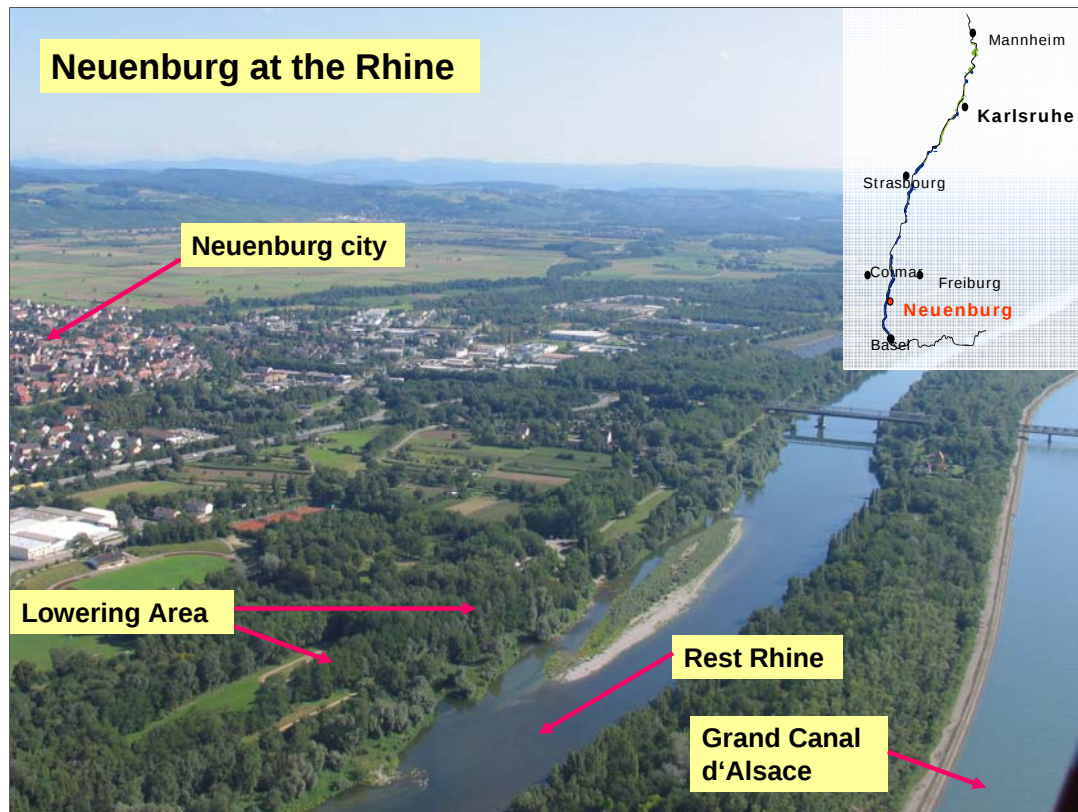
Who are the Freude am Fluss partners?

This slide gives an overview of the partners and sponsors in France, Germany and The Netherlands which supported the "Freude am Fluss" project idea and jointly made a project proposal which was submitted and granted by the European InteregIIb program in 2003. As you can see a variety of governmental, and non governmental organizations are involved in the Freude am Fluss project.

 Deliverables...		
   	Deliverables	Conducted by
	Proof of deliverables 2008	
	2 regional plans	-Province of Gelderland (NI) -Plan Loire (Fr)
	3 municipality plans (interview)	-Neuenburg (G) -W-Maas & Waal -Tiel (NI)
	Floodplain management (300 ha CFR)	-Beuningen (NI)
	Joint Planning Approach /interview	-webbased handbook (NI, Fr, G)
	Communication	-joint efforts NI, Fr, G
		Letter of regional authorities confirming FaF support
		3 Letters of local authorities confirming FaF support;
		Permit of river manager for realisation of "flood proof nature" in the Netherlands confirming FaF support
		Handbook Joint Planning Approach. Interview flood defense and spatial planning.
		Websites, brochures, conferences etc.

The international cooperation will result in a number of deliverables. The main deliverables are shown on this slide. These deliverables are proof that the "Freude am Fluss" approach successfully leads to modification of land use along the Rhine (Germany), Rhine tributaries (The Netherlands) and the Loire (France). Moreover, a series of mutual learning documents (interview reports) of experts in river management and land use will be published. To reach the wider public a large number of communication activities has been taken place in the three participating countries.

The two following slides give an overview of the German and Netherlands local zonation plans which are/will be modified following the Freude am Fluss concept (i.e. constructing innovative buildings and houses that will reduce future flood damage and making more room for the river; stimulate activities which enable the local people to enjoy a living river and all of this using the joint planning approach).



(I will explain what can be seen in this slide)



(small film clip of 30 sec will be inserted in this slide showing the flood migrating houses)

Examples of flood tolerant land use can be found in the FaF modified local zonation plan of West Maas en Waal .



Other examples of flood tolerant land use and innovative public participation processes have been applied to the city of Tiel (Waal river the Netherlands).



Retention area Weil-Breisach between Basel and Breisach (regional plan Restrhine)

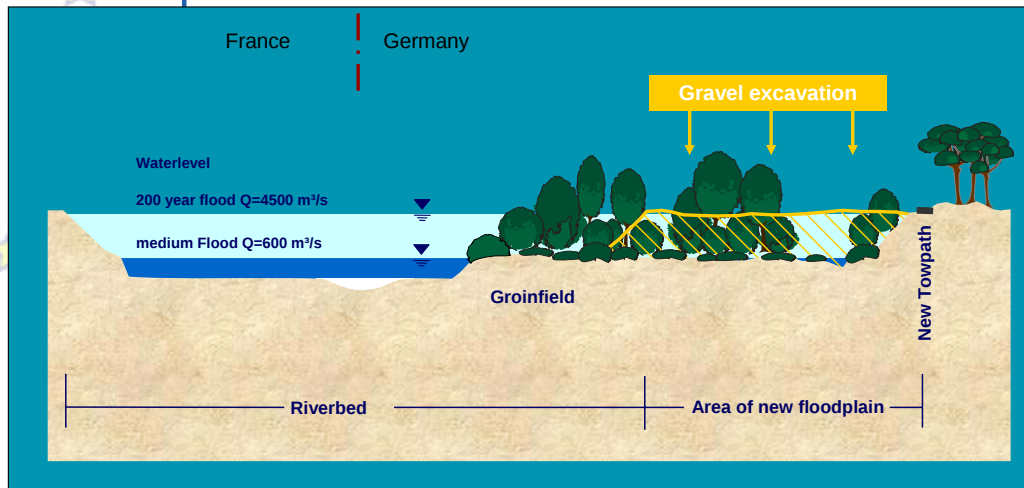


Birds-eye view of the area. In front the RestRhine. At the rear the Canal 'd'Alsace.

When it comes to modifying regional plan. Progress has been made in elaborating an innovative concept to increase the water retention capacity of the Rest-Rhine in Germany.

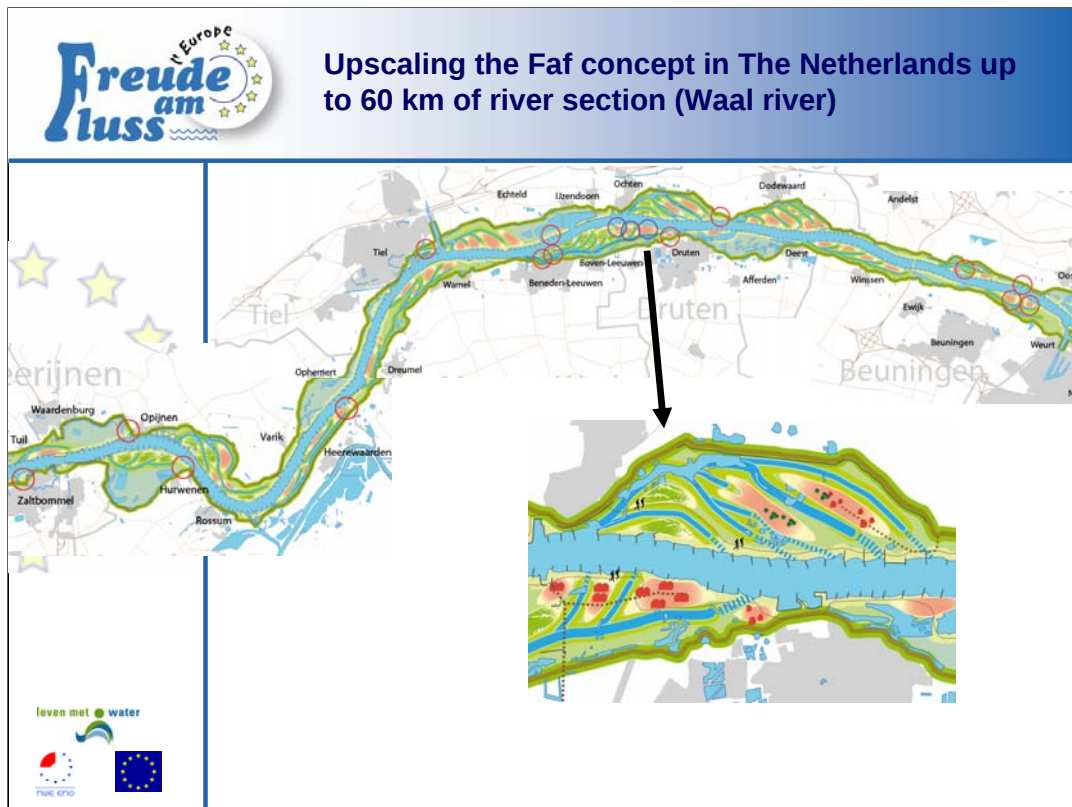
The idea is to lower a part of the river bank which has been covered by thick layers of sediment in the past in a nature friendly way by gravel excavation. This next slide gives an overview of the planned measure.

Tomorrow



Only those river banks will be excavated where there are no settlements and no important nature conservation areas. The flow velocities will be decreased by the alluvial forest that will grow in the excavated areas, holding back water for a certain time. This way the equivalent of 25 Mio. m³ retention volume can be created on a river section of ca. 40 km between Weil and Breisach.

Although this innovative approach provides new opportunities for nature, safety and economy there are many questions left that need to be answered. Most of these questions are related to sedimentation and erosion processes of dynamic river systems and this concern is shared with Netherlands and French partners for their river systems (Waal and Loire river respectively).



This slide gives an overview of the Netherlands Waal river section where also plans have been elaborated to realize a better balance between nature, safety, economy. Also here large scale excavations in floodplains will be carried out in the future inducing more morphodynamic processes which are not completely understood. It is our wish to find the answers and put these in practice in sustainable floodplain management in a joint effort with our German and French FaF partners!

(from here Frensch slides of this presentation).