



PANEL 1 - Involvement of users / experts networks in the CoU

The need to strengthen interfacing efforts

1. We all seem to suffer increasing work load, scope of work, lack of time
2. We all have a schedule that's difficult to jump out of; all our schedules are different;
3. We all seem to have to know a lot about everything, as well as being experts in our own areas
4. We are all bombarded with masses of mixed up information
5. Projects are funded which sometimes duplicate, sometimes miss the bigger picture, sometimes miss the ideal opportunities.
6. How many policies do you see and instantly say “theres a problem because...”
7. On top of this, economic pressures mean “do more for less” in just about every sector

Hence, we need to find ways to:

1. Keep track of developing ideas, solutions, services, tools
2. Filter through the masses of information simply and quickly – allowing us to focus on aspects of direct relevance
3. Steer policy and research to match needs as they develop and evolve – and for both to happen in a timely and consistent manner
4. Make links more quickly and effectively than before

A Community of Users – simple in concept (!), but perhaps not so easy in practice:

1. People are different; everyone is different; everyone changes their ‘views’ and ways of working periodically
2. Everyone has interests which cut across different sectors and angles
3. A COU has to provide something of value to everyone involved – no value = no motivation = failure
4. A COU needs a simple, effective but agreed framework and rules to operate.
 - Who participates – what do they bring / gain – what scales – what information flow etc
 - Schedule – forward programme (preparation)
 - Finance – it costs everyone – return for time / costs
 - Effective mechanisms for communication

How to attract networks and involve them in the overall mechanism of transfer of info at different levels (EU, national, regional)?

I would suggest...

1. Identify / Know (all of) the audiences
2. Offer multiple methods of information access / participation per audience
3. Do not duplicate the role of existing networks / COUs – promote/link etc
4. Make the information palatable
5. Suggestions / Solutions for approaches come from the COU members – not imposed by a few
6. Keep it dynamic. Too bureaucratic = death.
7. Make sure it offers value. Expect nothing for free

How to make them perennial in the context of a long term development of the initiative?

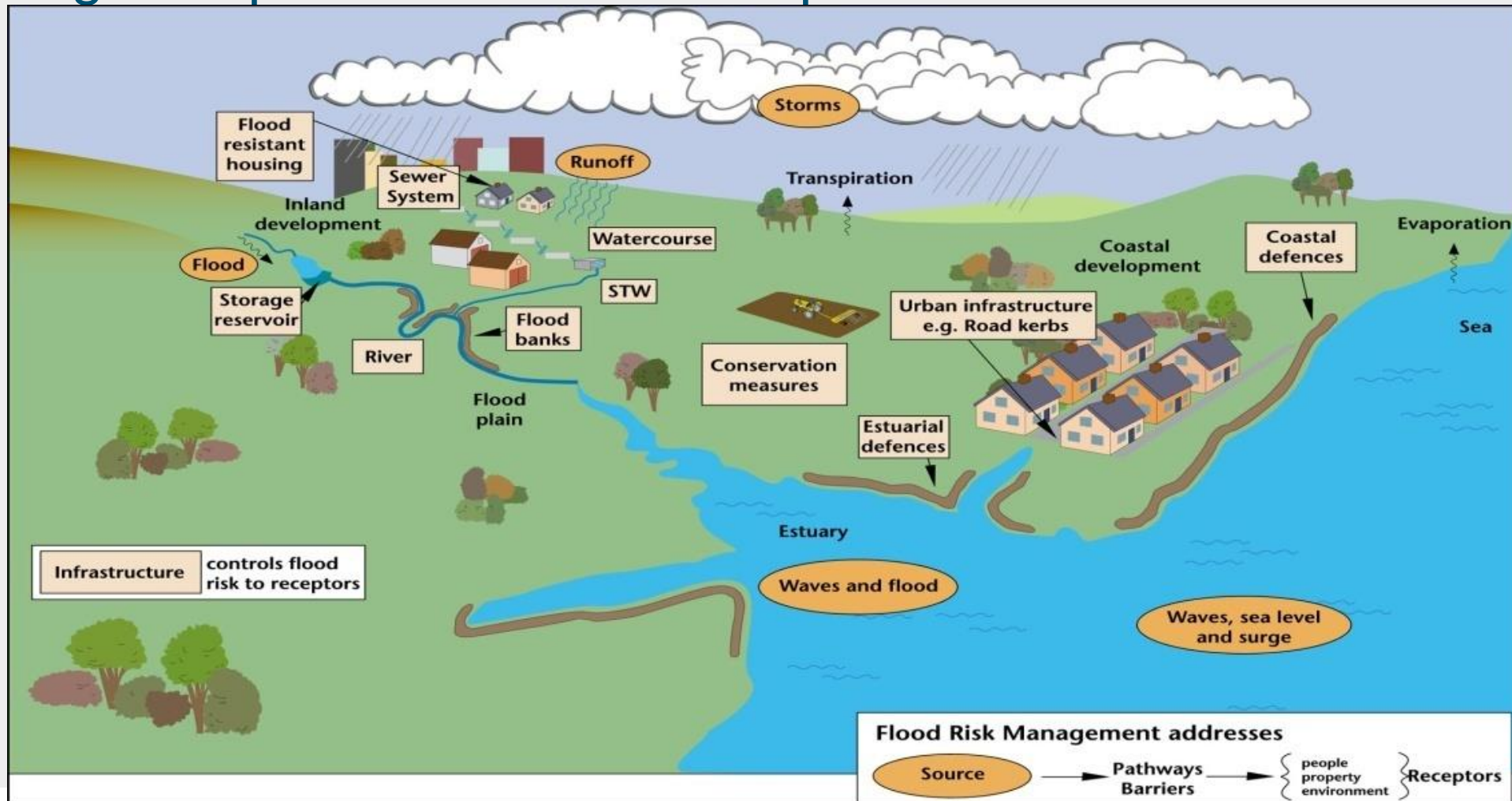
I would suggest...

1. Demonstrate value from the outset
2. Then (ALL) Users pay something
 - Don't underestimate / cut budget for support. Think cost-benefit...

Flood risk management Community of Practice – FRM-CoP

- This has widespread support
- proposed structure (cyclic programme to link science, policy and practitioners)
- also links to the 4 year FLOODrisk conference series (FLOODrisk2016 in Lyon, Oct 2016)
- requires an initial investment to set up; foreseen as self supporting after a few years

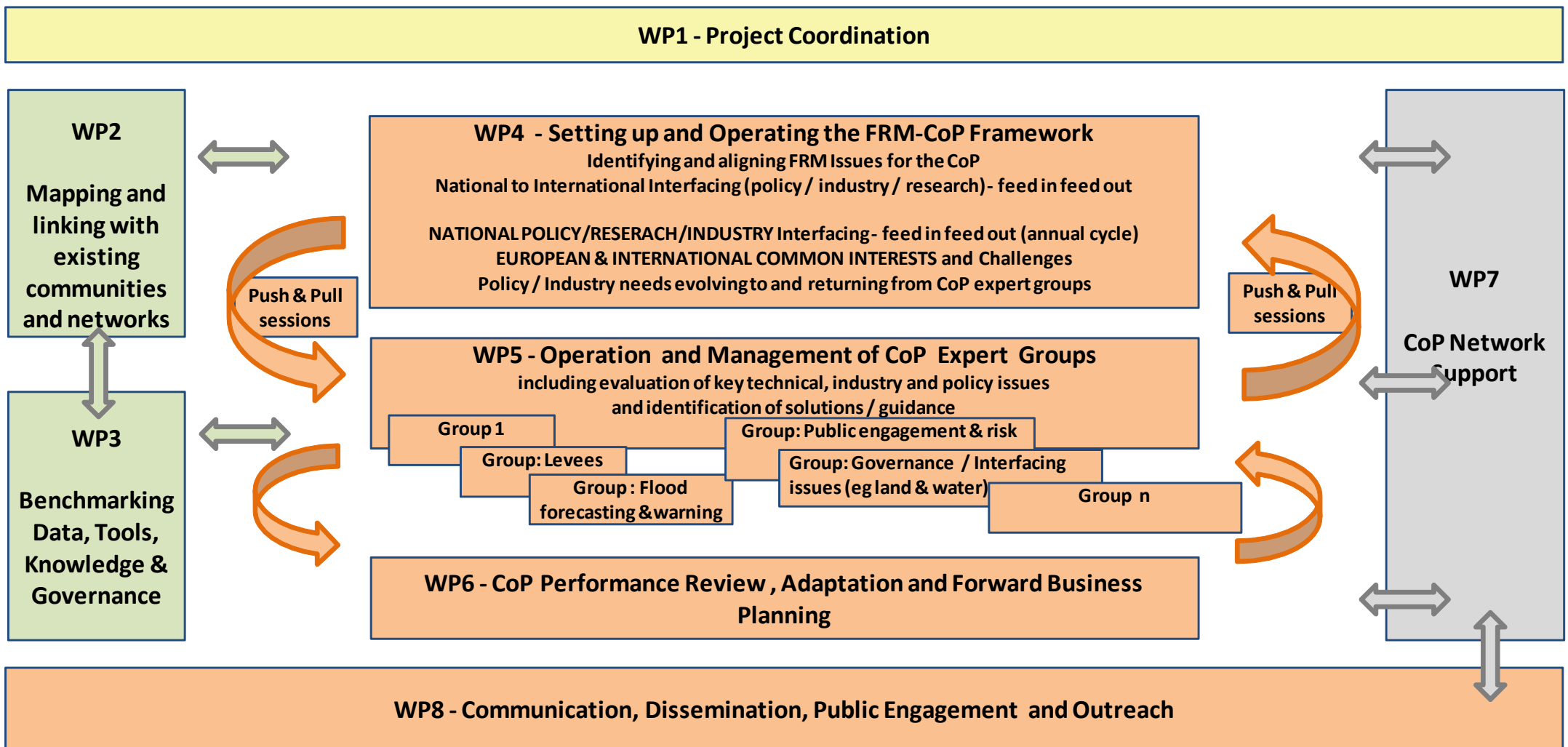
Scope covers all areas of FRM focussing on problem solving and sharing best practice as needs require.



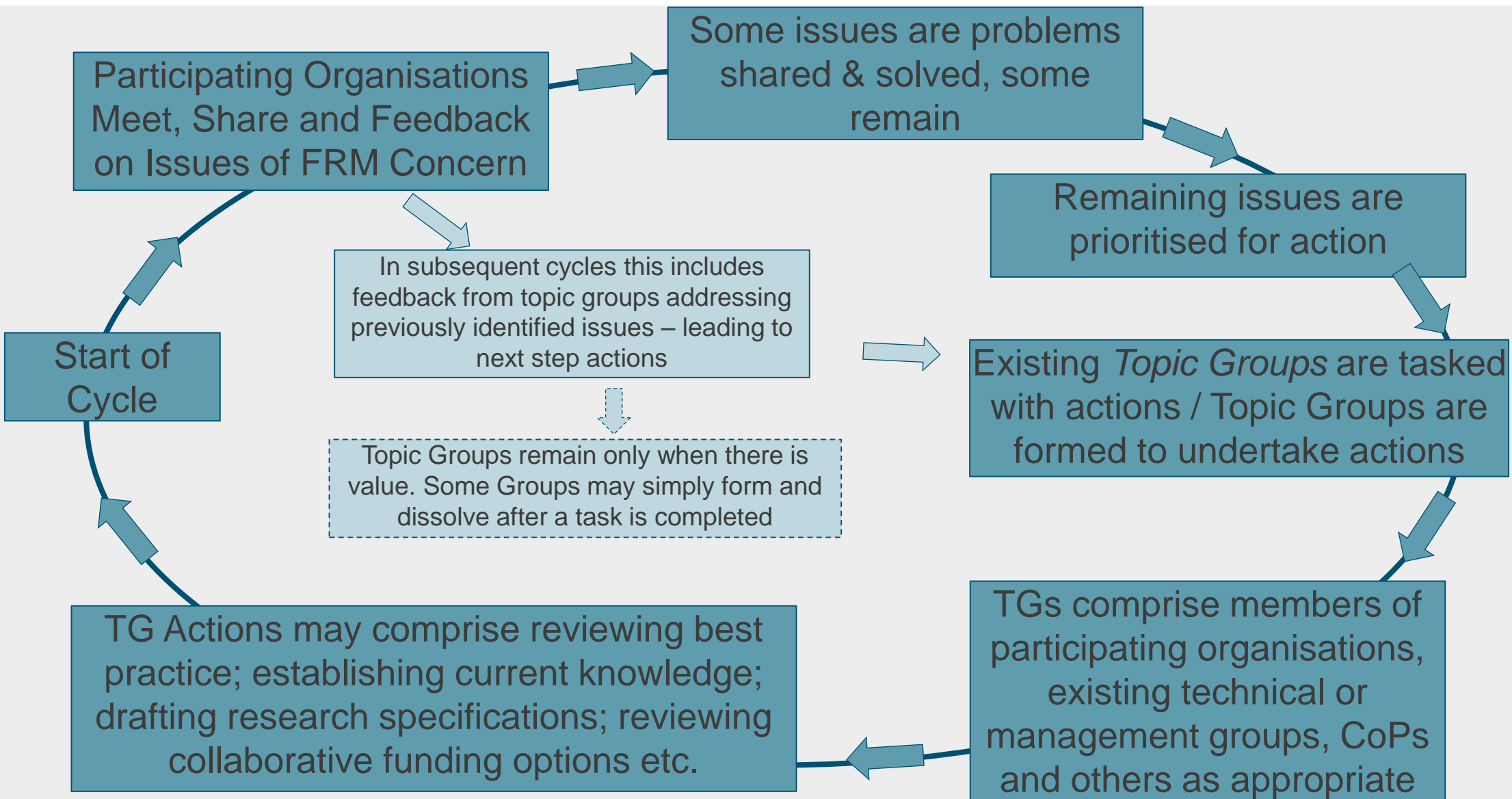
The FRM-CoP concept integrates:

- Different types of participants: science, policy making, management, engineering
- Different levels of governance : local, regional, national, international
- Many scientific disciplines : hydrology, hydraulics, geomechanics, geotechnics, civil engineering, morphodynamics, social and human sciences, ...
- Professional, disciplinary or topic oriented groups (CoPs) already exist, in a formal or informal way (ie dams, hydrology/hydraulics, levees, ...). FRM-CoP does not aim to replace or rule them, but facilitates their interaction within the FRM objective. FRM-CoP can be seen as a CoP linking CoPs.

Integration of science, policy, practice...



The FRM-CoP core cycle...



International Scientific Committee & Advisory Board

The International Scientific Committee (ISC) will oversee the relevance and content of the conference. It is led by:

Prof Paul Samuels (Chair), HR Wallingford, UK
 Dr. Michel Lang (Co-chair), IRSTEA, France
 Dr. Frans Klijn (Co-chair), Deltares, NL

The International Advisory Board (IAB) will provide a link between research and practitioners. See the website for full ISC and IAB membership details.



Register your interest

To receive information and reminders on key FLOODrisk 2016 dates, please visit the conference website at www.floodrisk2016.net and register your email details.

Venue

The FLOODrisk 2016 conference will be held in the Palais des Congrès in Lyon.

Half-way between sea and mountain, Lyon is at the foot of two hills and crossed by the mighty Rhône and the river Saône. Its long history of flooding and flood protection makes it an excellent meeting place to discuss all issues related to flood risk management.



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3rd European Conference on Flood Risk Management

Innovation
 Implementation
 Integration



National government, water management authorities, industry, and research communities across Europe support the FRM-CoP concept, but it requires financial support to initiate the process (suggested 2 cycles) before it becomes self sustaining.