

ICOLD European Club - Working Group on Levees and Flood Defences
PROGRESS REPORT
October 2016
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During the 2015 ICOLD Annual Meeting and Congress in Stavanger, after its official creation by the EURCOLD board during its meeting there, the first formal (start-up) meeting of the EURCOLD Working Group on Levees and Flood Defences took place, with 33 representatives and observers from 11 countries being present.

Two weeks later, the Terms of Reference were sent to the EURCOLD Board.

According to the terms of Reference, the Working Group will produce a report (or a set of reports) presenting analyses and their results on at least one of the following general topics, that have been agreed upon collectively:

- An overview of facts on levee and flood protection structures / systems (statistics on the situation in each participating country: length of levees, population and area protected, management situation, regulation, recent failures and consequences, ...);
- Documenting similarities and differences in large dams, small dams and levees and their best practices and failure mechanisms, taking into account geographical and other (e.g. institutional, risk) context issues;
- System approach of dams and levees: How do upstream dams and downstream levees interact in terms of their presence, requirements, safety and operation;
- Identifying topic areas not yet covered by the International Levee Handbook (ILH):
 - topics where ILH extensions could have large added value for dam practitioners;
 - topics requiring further study under the umbrella of levees.

During the autumn, a general inventory was made on preferences of the members, after which the first activity was started: an inventory of facts and figures on levees, aided by a web-questionnaire.

In February 2016, the Working Group chairman visited Delft (NL) to discuss progress of the Working Group, and to explore synergy opportunities with the SafeLevee levee failure inventory project of Delft University. It was decided to accelerate the progress and to switch directly to the preparation of an Inventory Report on (characteristics, risks and governance of) Levees. A Report Template was distributed to the Working Group Members in the second half of March 2016. By mid-April about six near-complete chapters were received. In October, fairly or nearly complete chapters were received from the Czech Republic, England, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Spain; the USA will follow soon. Except for Finland, these countries (as well as Poland, Hungary) each count several thousand kilometers of levee with major protected value behind them, clearly showing that levees are a significant topic for many European Countries, all the more so because in several countries, levees and dams partly or fully fall under the same legislation and regulations. A key success and achievement is the fact that a Congress Question Proposal on levees for the ICOLD-2018-congress in Vienna made it to a shared Congress Question on Levees and Small Dams that was actually selected. Yet there is still much work ahead to make this congress session a success.

At 17 October the Working Group had a meeting in Lyon, just before the FLOODrisk2016 conference. As many as 29 people from 10 countries attended the meeting; the meeting would have been even more a success in terms of productivity, had more time been available.

Yet the meeting was an important starting point for further activities, as the link was established with the Small Dams community within ICOLD, and a template discussed on a Dam-Levee Intercomparison Report. The idea of such a report was approved. However, experience from the ILH made clear that the preparation and scope-definition of such a report may need time, and that it is why it is decided to strive for an extra meeting, for a small group and during a few days, in the beginning of 2017 to actively work on the scoping of this report.

It was also agreed to hold the next formal working group meeting in Prague, in conjunction with the next ICOLD meeting, and possibly to hold another WG meeting during the second half of 2017.

Membership and co-operation, other matters:

- Our chairman has recently been to the USA (USSD annual conference 2016, in Denver) and has discussed co-operation opportunities with the USS-Dams (the USA COLD) levee Committee (permanent committee, and not a WG) coordinated with the USA Levee Safety

Coalition. USSD will support the EURCOLD WG in its objective to promote levees as a relevant topic for the dam community, and ICOLD in particular. USSD will also participate in the preparation of the report on the levee situation by writing a chapter on the USA situation. More generally, a close cooperation and collaboration will be pursued between the two groups;

- Besides the present members (Czech Republic, England, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Spain), Romania has recently become a Working Group member as well; contacts with Ireland, Belgium and Switzerland are established, some might become member. We had a Russian attendee in Stavanger but have no information about the involvement of the Russian Committee.
- England has offered to become editor of a Working Group Newsletter, details will follow.
- A Working Group website <https://lfd-eurcold.irstea.fr> has been established, which will facilitate the sharing of information.
- Our Working Group was presented during a special session about Communities-of-Practice during the FLOODrisk2016 Conference (17-21 Oct 2016, Lyon).

Situation in terms of membership – current members:

COUNTRY	NAME
CZ	Jaromir RIHA
D	Reinhard POHL
ES	Ignacio ESCUDER
ES	Francisco Javier SANCHEZ MARTINEZ
FI	Juha LAASONEN
FI	Ms Eija ISOMÄKI
FR	Rémy TOURMENT (chairman)
FR	Jean MAURIN
FR	Thibaut MALLET
FR	Yann DENIAUD
FR	Bruno BEULLAC
HU	Ms Katalin SZABÓ
IT	Matteo SBARIGIA
IT	Fabio DE POLO
NL	Marcel BOTTEMA (secr)
NL	Cees Henk OOSTINGA
NL	Robert SLOMP
NL	Bas JONKMAN
NL	Meindert VAN
NL	Bob MAASKANT
NL	Hans JANSSEN
PL	Janus ZALESKI
PL	Krzysztof RADZICKI
PL	Edmund SIEINSKI
RO	Altan ABDULAMIT
RO	Sorin RANDASU
RU	Timofei IVANOV
SLO	Andrej KRYZANOWSKI
SLO	Ms Nina HUMAR
UK	Jackie BANKS
UK	Jonathan SIMM
UK	Justin WATTS
UK	Andrew PEPPER

NOTE – members who are not yet appointed by their national committees are kindly requested to let us know, and organize this within short notice.