The seminar theme

The present initiative comes one year after the seminar “Flood damage survey and assessment: which priorities for research and practice?” held at Politecnico di Milano on 24-25 January 2013. On that occasion, researchers and practitioners from Italy and Europe met to identify critical issues and priorities for future research and practice on flood damage and post disaster needs assessments. A white paper was produced at the end of the event collecting seminar’s results; the document was also sent to the European Commission. Nonetheless, a network of researchers and public officers of administrations at different scales in Europe working on the topic of flood risk and damage assessment was created to share experiences, initiatives, data, lessons learnt.

In the white paper, participants identified poor and insufficient flood loss data as well as the lack of innovative approaches for their analysis (e.g. multivariate approaches, data mining) as two of the main shortcomings of present risk assessment tools. In detail, the above aspects can be considered as the main causes of (i) the uncertainty of current flood risk predictions and (ii) the present limited capacity of estimating damages apart from the direct ones to residential sector (i.e. indirect/intangible damages).

The first objective of the seminar is to analyse which is the state of art one year after the first meeting; to understand whether or not things are improved; if priorities and needs have changed, also taking into consideration requirements and challenges placed by the next deadline of the European Floods Directive (i.e. Flood Risk Management plans are required by 2015) and by the recent flood events which hit the Italian territory in the last year. Indeed, recent events stressed again the unsuitability of actions so far adopted to mitigate hydrogeological risk and the need for a more efficient and effective risk management, based on good quality, high standard and reliable data.

The second objective of the seminar is to extend the network of people created in the first meeting, increasing the sharing of experience and knowledge among both practitioners and scientists in Italy and worldwide. For this reason, several contributions are planned on the first day of the seminar (11 April, afternoon) by representatives of universities, research centres, civil protection agencies, local authorities and insurance companies. On the second day (12 April, morning) instead a round table is planned to develop the backbone of an updated version of the white paper which may represent a starting point for future research and applications.

The seminar is organised by the Monitoring and Warning Centre of the Umbria Region (i.e. Centro Funzionale Decentrato, CFD) and by Politecnico di Milano. The seminar will be held during and thanks to the sponsorship of “EXPO Emergenze”, the Italian exhibition for emergency and security (www.expoemergenze.it).

Organisation:  
Daniela Molinari, DICA - Politecnico Di Milano,  
+39 02 2399 6206, daniela.molinari@polimi.it  
Nicola Bemi, CFD- Regione Umbria  
+39 0742 63071, nbemi@regione.umbria.it
1st Day: 11 April 2014

Opening and welcome
(Nicola Bemi, Sandro Costantini, Umbria Region)

Session I: European Experiences
(Chairman: Daniela Molinari, Politecnico di Milano)

14.40 – 15.00
Flood damage assessment at European and global scale: methods and challenges
(Francesco Dottori, JRC)

15.00-15.20
Standardizing loss data at European and global level. Satellite based physical damage assessment.
(Daniele Ehrlich, JRC)

15.20-15.40
Multi-scale damage assessment towards the holistic risk management planning - experiences from the FP7 projects CORFU and PEARL
(Natasa Manojlovic, TU-Hamburg)

15.40-16.00
Flood mitigation for business buildings - the need for reliable data
(Paola Sassi, Oxford Brookes University)

16.00-16.20
Challenges in implementing loss databases: two compelling examples
(Laura Rossello, CIMA foundation)

16.20-16.35
Coffee break

1st Day: 11 April 2014

Session II: Italian Experience
(Chairman: Nicola Bemi, CFD Umbria Region)

16.35-16.55
Assessing the economic impacts of floods: methodological and practical issues
(Jaroslav Mysiac, Fondazione ENI Enrico Mattei)

16.55-17.15
A real life application of post flood damage assessment procedure. A case study in the Umbria Region
(Scira Menoni, Politecnico di Milano)

17.15-17.35
Flood damage modelling: a tool for supporting decision making in flood risk management
(Anna Rita Scorzini, Università degli studi dell’Aquila)

17.35-17.55
A classification of flood damages on buildings: preliminary data about the recent events in Italy
(Mario Martina, Università di Bologna)

17.55-18.10
Acknowledgements and final remarks
(Daniela Molinari, Politecnico di Milano)

2nd Day: 12 April 2014

Session III: Round Table

9.30 – 9.50
Introduction to round table objectives
(Daniela Molinari, Politecnico di Milano)

10.20-11.45
Open Discussion
Moderator: Daniela Molinari, Politecnico di Milano
Participants:
P. Sassi, Oxford Brookes University
N. Manojlovic, TU-Hamburg
N. Bemi, CFD Umbria Region
D. Molinari & S. Menoni, Politecnico di Milano
P. Pagliara, P. Bertuccioli & P. Giordano, Italian Civil Protection
A.R. Scorzini, Università degli studi dell’Aquila
F. Dottori & D. Ehrlich, JRC
M. Martina, Università di Bologna
S. Naso, Università di Messina
L. Rossello, CIMA-Foundation
J. Mysiac, Fondazione ENI Enrico Mattei

11.30-11.45
Coffee break

11.45-12.15
Main conclusions and proposals for a “background paper”
(Daniela Molinari & Scira Menoni, Politecnico di Milano)