

## International Conference on Risk Assessment in European River Basins State of the Art and Future Challenges

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Leading European scientists and important stakeholders will present and discuss the state of the art and future challenges in risk assessment in European river basins at an international conference ([www.ufz.de/europeanriversatrisk](http://www.ufz.de/europeanriversatrisk)) organised by the Integrated Project MODELKEY (511237 GOCE, [www.modelkey.org](http://www.modelkey.org)) and the Coordination Action RISKBASE (036938 GOCE, [www.riskbase.info](http://www.riskbase.info)). This event will take place from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ in Leipzig, Germany. Scientists, students, and stakeholders that are concerned with studying, protecting and managing European water resources and ecosystems are invited to attend this conference.

Undisturbed or sustainably managed freshwater ecosystems provide numerous goods and services for human society, economy and well-being. These include food and drinking water supply, flood and climate regulation, water purification and cultural services like recreation or aesthetic benefits. It is evident that many European freshwater ecosystems and their goods and services are at risk of hydromorphological changes, eutrophication and toxic pollution under global change. Thus, one of the major challenges for water managers, policy makers and scientists is to assess and to mitigate these risks. This is also the aim of the European Water Framework Directive that states that "water is an inherited good that has to be protected and used in a sustainable way".

This understanding resulted in funding several research projects with focus on different aspects of risk assessment in aquatic ecosystems. Examples are MODELKEY, NoMiracle (<http://nomiracle.jrc.it>), AQUATERRA (<http://www.attempto-projects.de/aquaterra>), REBECCA (<http://www.environment.fi/default.asp?contentid=237765&lan=EN>) and FLOODsite (<http://www.floodsite.net/>). The Coordination Action on Risk Based Management of River Basins (RISKBASE) aims to review and synthesise the outcome of these projects, and other initiatives, related to integrated risk assessment-based management of the water/sediment/soil system at the river basin scale.

The conference in Leipzig reflects this concept and will present, integrate and process recent European research in the frame of

- ecosystem goods and services in risk-based management,
- water regulation at risk under global change,
- groundwater ecosystems and drinking water supply at risk,
- hydromorphological changes and risks to biodiversity,
- eutrophication risks to biodiversity,
- risks of environmental toxicants to ecosystem and human health,
- integrated risk assessment on a basin scale.

In order to bridge the gap between science and management practice, the focus will be on practical implementation for river basin management.

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