



CATCH

an Interreg North Sea Region project

Good practice:

Smart traffic control
and good communication helps
to control flooding events
Oldenburg, Germany 

In leaps and bounds to a water sensitive city

ABOUT THE PILOT

As part of CATCH, measuring probes were installed in the sewer system in Oldenburg to detect overflow on the road. The probes are coupled with variable message signs, which automatically light up at defined threshold values to divert traffic. At the same time, information is sent to all relevant agencies (e.g. police). In this way, the flooded area is bypassed and potential damage to vehicles, buildings and people is avoided.

“An important part of project success lies not only in the technical solution, but rather also in good communication.”





POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND ORGANISATION

The Alexander Street in Oldenburg is an important traffic axis between the city center, the surrounding area and the highway. Due to local topography, flooding has occurred in this area in the past years during heavy rain events. In particular, the formation of bow waves from vehicles driving through the water caused damage to adjacent restaurants, stores, and residences at this viewpoint. Structurally, however, no further retention volume can be created within the sewer system. That is why the affected area is closed off by a smart traffic control. Good communication and cooperation with the city and the citizens were helpful in the implementation. The heavy rain hazard map provided a good basis for the discussions with stakeholders.





LESSONS LEARNED

The responsibilities involved in the prevention of heavy rainfall hazards are often distributed among different actors and institutions. Here, it is particularly important to exchange and coordinate with each other. Through the work in the project, a very good cooperation of the actors could be achieved in Oldenburg. A strategic approach to climate change will require further complementary measures in the future, the planning of which can be guided on the basis of the action map “water-sensitive city of Oldenburg”.



More information

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