

**ICOLD European Club - Working Group on Levees and Flood Defences
PROGRESS REPORT
June 2017
Prepared by Marcel Bottema (secretary) and Rémy Tourment (chairman)**



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.

By mid 2016, two major achievements were made:

- A first draft of an Inventory Report on (characteristics, risks and governance of) Levees, containing chapters from 6 countries, was ready for presentation during the ICOLD Annual Meeting in Johannesburg.
- During the Johannesburg Meeting, it was decided that the topic of Congress Question 103 was to be 'small dams and levees', so that for the first time, levees were a topic for an ICOLD Congress Question

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. Still, three more countries provided a chapter for the Levee Inventory Report, which now covers nine countries in detail.

Also, the October 2016 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.

Therefore a special scoping meeting for this report was scheduled for January 2017.

The year 2017 started as quite an active and productive year for our Working Group:

- A website and first Newsletter (editors IRSTEA and UK Environment Agency respectively) have been produced, see <https://lfd-eurcold.irstea.fr/>
- A scoping workshop for the second WG Report was hosted in January by Rijkswaterstaat, and produced a template and starting materials for the Dam-Levee comparison report. A number of WG Members turned out to be willing to contribute to such a report, but further reinforcement of the writing team is needed. Meanwhile a TU-Delft student used his 3-month internship at Rijkswaterstaat to write a preliminary dam-levee comparison report, which may provide inspiration and may serve as a first start for the Working Group Report.
- Our WG chairman was invited (and attended) the USSD Annual Conference in Anaheim in April 2017. This led to some very interesting developments, see below.
- Between April and June, a combined USA-French-Dutch initiative developed to use the ICOLD Congress in Vienna as an opportunity to propose a permanent position within ICOLD for levees, contacts with the ICOLD Board have been established to further this initiative; the topic should be discussed at the Prague ICOLD board meeting, as an introduction before a decision to be taken in Vienna.

- Several Working Group members have prepared papers for the Wednesday 5 July Symposium of the Annual ICOLD meeting in Prague. This included a paper on our Working Group activities and on lessons that can be learnt from the Floodrisk2016 Conference of October 2016. This paper has been given a poster slot, and not an oral presentation; it will be included in the Proceedings of the Symposium.
- We initially had some difficulties in finding a time and location for our scheduled Working Group meeting in Prague, but finally succeeded thanks to the efforts of our Czech members. Despite the fact that some Workshops and the General Assembly are planned on the same Friday 7 July, we expect at least 15 participants and perhaps more.
- Besides the present members (Czech Republic, England, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland), ,Belgium and Russia are in the process of formalizing their Working Group membership. Contacts are also (being) established with Ireland and countries outside Europe, notably the USA, for the initiation of a wider ICOLD based levee community.

Situation in terms of membership – current members:

COUNTRY	NAME
BE (tentative)	Patrik PEETERS
CH	Christian HOLZGANG
CZ	Jaromir RIHA
CZ	Ivan VANÍČEK
D	Reinhard POHL
ES	Ignacio ESCUDER
ES	Francisco Javier SÁNCHEZ MARTÍNEZ
ES	Jessica CASTILLO RODRÍGUEZ
FI	Juha LAASONEN
FI	Ms Eija ISOMÄKI
FR	Rémy TOURMENT
FR	Sébastien PATOUILARD
FR	Thibaut MALLET
FR	Yann DENIAUD
FR	Bruno BEULLAC
HU	Ms Katalin SZABÓ
IT	Matteo SBARIGIA
IT	Fabio DE POLO
IT	Silvia BERSANI
NL	Marcel BOTTEMA
NL	Cees Henk OOSTINGA
NL	Robert SLOMP
NL	Bas JONKMAN
NL	Meindert VAN
NL	Bob MAASKANT
NL	Hans JANSSEN
NL	Andre KOELEWIJN
PL	Janus ZALESKI
PL	Krzysztof RADZICKI
PL	Edmund SIEINSKI
RO	Altan ABDULAMIT
RO	Sorin RANDASU
RU (indiv.)	Timofei IVANOV
SLO	Andrej KRYZANOWSKI
SLO	Ms Nina HUMAR
UK	Jonathan SIMM
UK	Andrew PEPPER
UK	Adrian RUSHWORTH
US (obs)	Ms Elena SOSSENKINA
US (obs)	Scott RASCHKE

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