



European Club of ICOLD
Working Group on
Levees and Flood Defences

(EUCOLD LFD WG)

Terms of Reference

Context

The Working Group on Levees and Flood Defences of the European Club of ICOLD (EUCOLD LFD WG) has been officially created on June 13th, in Stavanger, Norway, during the ICOLD 25th congress.

Given the creation during the Prague ICOLD annual meeting of an ICOLD Technical Committee on Levees (ICOLD LE TC), which will pursue the initial activities of the WG, it was thought then that the LFD WG would end after the Vienna ICOLD Congress. After more thinking, it was decided to continue the WG with updated objectives.

These terms of reference of the WG will replace the initial ones from 2015.

Scope and objective

The thematic scope for the Working Group primarily includes levees but also other types of flood protection structures (flood walls, mobile structures, ...). System approach (levees with or without other types of structures working in a system) and risk approach (levee failure hazard and flood risk analyses) are important related issues.

The original objective of the working group was to demonstrate (through its outputs) that levees and flood protection structures should become part of the scope of ICOLD, and that this would have permanent added value for the ICOLD-community as a whole. Two actions from ICOLD indicate that levees, even not yet mentioned in its Constitution, are clearly related to its topics:

- the initiation of the ICOLD LE TC during the Prague meeting in 2017
- and the 2018 Vienna Congress in Prague includes a Question on "Small Dams and Levees".

Since it was set up during in 2015, the Working Group has carried out an inventory of levees in the member countries, the results of which will be available at the 26th Congress in Vienna 2018 and has commenced work on a dams and levees inter-comparison report, identifying their similarities and differences. This work will be passed on to the new ICOLD TC for completion.

The EURCOLD Working Group is therefore free to assume a new role with the following objectives:

1. To act as the European level Backing Group to the new ICOLD TC on levees, which will identify issues of importance to European practitioners that should be promoted to ICOLD, including technical, governance and policy issues.
2. To provide a European Community of Practice on levees (including engineers, managers, researchers, authorities,...), which will also act as a counterpart to the US Levee Safety Coalition.

3. To provide a vehicle for collation of issues for research and support for national and European level funding of such research.
4. To provide a vehicle for exchanging and disseminating news and views with regard to levee research and practice, including via workshops, the existing website and a regular newsletter

Governance

1. EUCOLD LFD WG is set up without a fixed lifetime. Continuation of the WG will be decided every three years during the ICOLD Congress, on proposition of the WG coordinating team and subject to approval by the EUCOLD board. Terms of reference can be updated at these same dates.

2. Membership is open to all individuals who are members of National Committees belonging to the European Club, with agreement from their respective National Committee.

Members of EUCOLD LFD WG from a given country will maintain close relation with the national member and the national backing group of ICOLD LE TC (when applicable).

Guest contributions from non-members should be allowed when this has significant added value.

3. A coordinating team of three persons is chosen for a full three-year term, unless the Working Group unanimously decides otherwise. The role of the coordinating team is to:

- collegially manage the WG activities,
- be the point of contact between the WG and the ICOLD LE TC, including active involvement in the TC activities,
- be the point of contact with US Levee Safety Coalition.

For the 2018-2021 period, the coordinating team will be composed of:

Rémy Tourment (F), Adrian Rushworth (UK) and Patrik Peeters (Belgium).

4. With regard to specific activities, like developing briefs for research agendas, or to organizing thematic workshops, one or more subgroups may be organized, with their own steering structure in close relation with the Coordinating Team and in relation with the overall Working Group .