

1st Polder2C's Winter School Fieldwork for flood resilience 1st-5th March 2021



Foto: Vilda-Yves Adams



Adaptation
to climate
change

1st Polder2C's Winter School: Fieldwork for Flood Resilience

Date	1-5 March 2021
Venue	Youth Centre Prosperpolder, St-Engelbertusstraat 5, 9130 Beveren, Belgium*
Max no. of participants	15
Study level	PhD, MSc
Disciplines	Hydraulic Engineering, Water Management, Safety & Security, Flood Risk Management, Crisis Management, Risk Governance, Resilience Engineering, Climate Change Adaptation and more
Organiser	HZ University of Applied Sciences Convener: Dr.ir. Vana Tsimopoulou (v.tsimopoulou@hz.nl) Logistical officer: Marijke van de Voorde (marijke.van.de.voorde@hz.nl)

* Participants will be given the opportunity to follow the Winter School remotely if COVID-19 developments prevent them from being physically present.

Climate-proofing the 2 Seas Region

Climate change has been affecting countries in the 2 Seas Region (Belgium, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and France) more severely than expected. The frequency and intensity of extreme weather conditions that induce storm-surges along the coast and river discharges that threaten the integrity of flood defences is increasing. Are flood defences safe enough, and how effective will emergency response be in case of a levee failure? How can the combination of flood defences and emergency response remain effective in light of the emerging circumstances? These questions are relevant to local stakeholders whose prosperity and wellbeing depend upon flood resilience. Polder2C's offers a rare opportunity to test and improve flood resilience by improving climate change adaptation capacity on a strategic, tactical and operational level.

The Winter School

Sponsored by the Polder2C's consortium, this Winter School aspires to contribute to the mission of developing a solid knowledge infrastructure in the field of climate change adaptation. The event will provide a podium for exchange, transfer and development of ideas and knowledge, giving the opportunity to participants to be immersed in the planned activities of the Living Lab Hedwige-Prosperpolder. Following a balanced schedule of theory and practice, they will be invited to contemplate the challenges of flood resilience capacity building, think together with the Polder2C's partners, and come up with practical solutions that contribute to the cause. This will provide a unique environment where they can learn by doing and explore how their knowledge and skills complement the knowledge and skills of professionals from other disciplines.

Tentative agenda of activities

Monday 1st March: Introduction	
9:00 - 10:30	Winter School kick-off
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 12:30	Introduction to the Hedwige-Prosperpolder: Depoldering & the Living Lab
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 - 15:30	Fieldwork: Levee inspection exercise
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 - 17:30	Flood resilience: exploring the concept
18:00 - 22:00	Dinner & Social event
Tuesday 2nd March: Flood emergency response	
9:00 - 10:30	Introduction to Flood emergency response
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 12:30	Flood emergency response exercises
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 - 15:30	Fieldwork: Emergency repairs of a levee
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 - 17:30	Challenges of operational leadership in flood emergency response
18:00 - 22:00	Dinner & Serious game: Managed realignment
Wednesday 3rd March: Flood defences	
9:00 - 10:30	Introduction to levee design and maintenance
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
10:45 - 12:30	Data collection and stress tests in the living lab
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 - 15:30	Fieldwork: Survey of levee damages
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 - 17:30	Advances in life-cycle maintenance of levees
18:00 - 22:00	Dinner & Social event
Thursday 4th March: Group challenges	
9:00 - 9:30	Introduction to the challenges
9:30 - 10:00	DDSC tutorial
10:00 - 12:30	Working in groups (in-class)
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 - 17:30	Working in groups (fieldwork/in-class)
18:00 - 22:00	Dinner & Social event
Friday 5th March: Group challenges & Final event	
9:00-12:30	Working in groups (in-class)
12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30 - 16:00	Final event

Speakers and instructors

Talks, workshops and field activities will be mostly facilitated by professionals and academics that are affiliated with organisations in the Polder2C's consortium. Confirmed contributors are:

- Dr. Juan Pablo Aguilar-López (Assistant Professor of Structural Flood Resilience, Delft University of Technology, NL)
- Ir. Marian Booltink (Crisis Coordinator, Water Board Rijnlanden, NL)
- Dr. Davy Depreiter (Researcher, Department of Mobility and Public Works, BE)
- Phil Foxley (Senior Advisor Asset Standards & Engineering, Environment Agency, UK)
- Dr.ir. André Koelewijn (R&D Specialist, Deltares, NL)
- Dr. Wietse van de Lageweg (Coordinator of Building with Nature Group, HZ University of Applied Sciences, NL)
- Dr.ir. Robert Lanzafame (Lecturer of Flood Defences & Probabilistic Design, Delft University of Technology, NL)
- Dr.ir. Vana Tsimopoulou (Research Project Leader Building with Nature Group, HZ University of Applied Sciences, NL)
- Bart Vonk (Senior Advisor of Water Safety, Rijkswaterstaat, NL)
- Wouter Zomer (Director, BZ Ingenieurs & Managers, NL)

The venue

The [Youth Centre Prosperpolder](#) is located only 3 Km away from the Living Lab Hedwige Prosperpolder. This gives the opportunity to conduct fieldwork on a daily basis. The venue has the capacity to host up to 52 persons divided in two dormitories. This will provide much space and comfort to participants and staff that will be present in very limited numbers.

Participation requirements

The event is open to MSc and PhD students worldwide. People with a broad range of academic and professional backgrounds can apply. Affinity with the field of flood protection is required.

How to apply

In order to participate in the 1st Polder2C's Winter School, you have to send a CV and a motivation letter (of max 300 words) to winterhz@hz.nl. Applications will be evaluated in the order that they are received. The application procedure closes upon admission of the 15th candidate.

Costs

Accommodation and food will be provided for free in the venue of the event. A registration fee applies to all admitted participants as follows:

	Payable amount	Application date
Early bird fee	€ 200	Before 12 December 2020
Regular fee	€ 300	From 12 December 2020

COVID-19 policy

The event will be held under the strictest measures that are deemed necessary in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Organising a Winter School that uses 'resilience' as its core theme creates the obligation for us to remain flexible and ready to adapt the event's layout in order to safeguard health. Participants will be updated about necessary adaptations in the schedule or form of activities in a timely manner.