

Description:

Over the last 20 years, almost all large river basins in Germany have at least once been affected by flood events that caused damages of hundreds of million Euros. City authorities as well as their inhabitants have taken an active role to increase the resilience by implementing adaptation measures including management plans, technical measures and early warning systems to prevent or reduce future damages. The excursion will explore a range of topics at different locations in the city of Bonn which is located at one of the largest rivers in Germany, the river Rhine.

You can decide whether you would like to take the north route or the south route.

The presentations will be given by renowned experts and include personnel from different city departments, as well as from DKKV.

“North Route” Excursion (Beuel)

During our north route tour we will present examples of adaptation measures taken by the Bonn city administration as well as the population living in flood prone areas. Therefore, we will have a walk through Bonn Beuel. After our visit to the pump unit of the sewage plant we will walk to the newly established dykes. We will introduce the civil protection system of Germany and particularly highlight the importance of volunteers there.

Experts: Dr. Benni Thiebes (DKKV), Matthias Franke (Tiefbauamt Bonn, civil engineering department of the city of Bonn), Axel Müller-Storp (Federal Agency for Technical Relief, THW, Ortsbeauftragter Ortsverband Bonn), Ralf Beyer (THW, Technischer Berater Hochwasserschutz und Deichverteidigung)

South route Excursion (Mehlem)

We will visit the flood risk area Bonn-Mehlem during our south route. Here, technical infrastructure and an early warning system were installed deal with flood hazards, to protect inhabitants and infrastructures in case of flooding due to heavy precipitation events. We will also discuss the historical development of the Rhine, historical floods in Bonn and city-scale flood management. Droughts, low water and the cascading effects and consequences will also be addressed.

Experts: Jaqueline Hemmers (DKKV), Dr. Hendrik Walther/Peter Esch, Viola Haase and Viola Tavares (Tiefbauamt Bonn, civil engineering department of the city of Bonn), Prof. Dr. Jakob Rhyner (University of Bonn and Innovation Campus Bonn, ICB)

Requirements:

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Both tours will take approximately three hours and require no specific equipment or fitness. As we intend to walk outside, you might want to refill your water bottles and bring an umbrella.