

Recent floods in Bulgaria (summer 2005) and the consequences due to non-proper management of the structural facilities

During the last summer (June – July 2005) Bulgaria experienced damaging flood events. As a result of the high rainfall, a great number of rivers in the country overflowed their banks. Such floods have not happened for 100 years, which makes them a rare event. The total damage was estimated to amount to 500 million Euro, ten people lost their lives.

The main factors that intensified the recent floods and their impacts are the climate change, hydraulic engineering infrastructure, changes in the catchment and flood – plain land use, urbanization, roads and railways.

The impact was stronger due to destruction some of dams and water release from some of them during the flood time.

Our country was not prepared for the hazardous flood situation.

Measures taken in response to flooding are usually aimed at reducing flood damage, in our situation they (dams) increased the impact.

Risk assessment system and adequate measures taken in response to flooding should be done for our reality – East European country with difficult economy and the poverty situation.