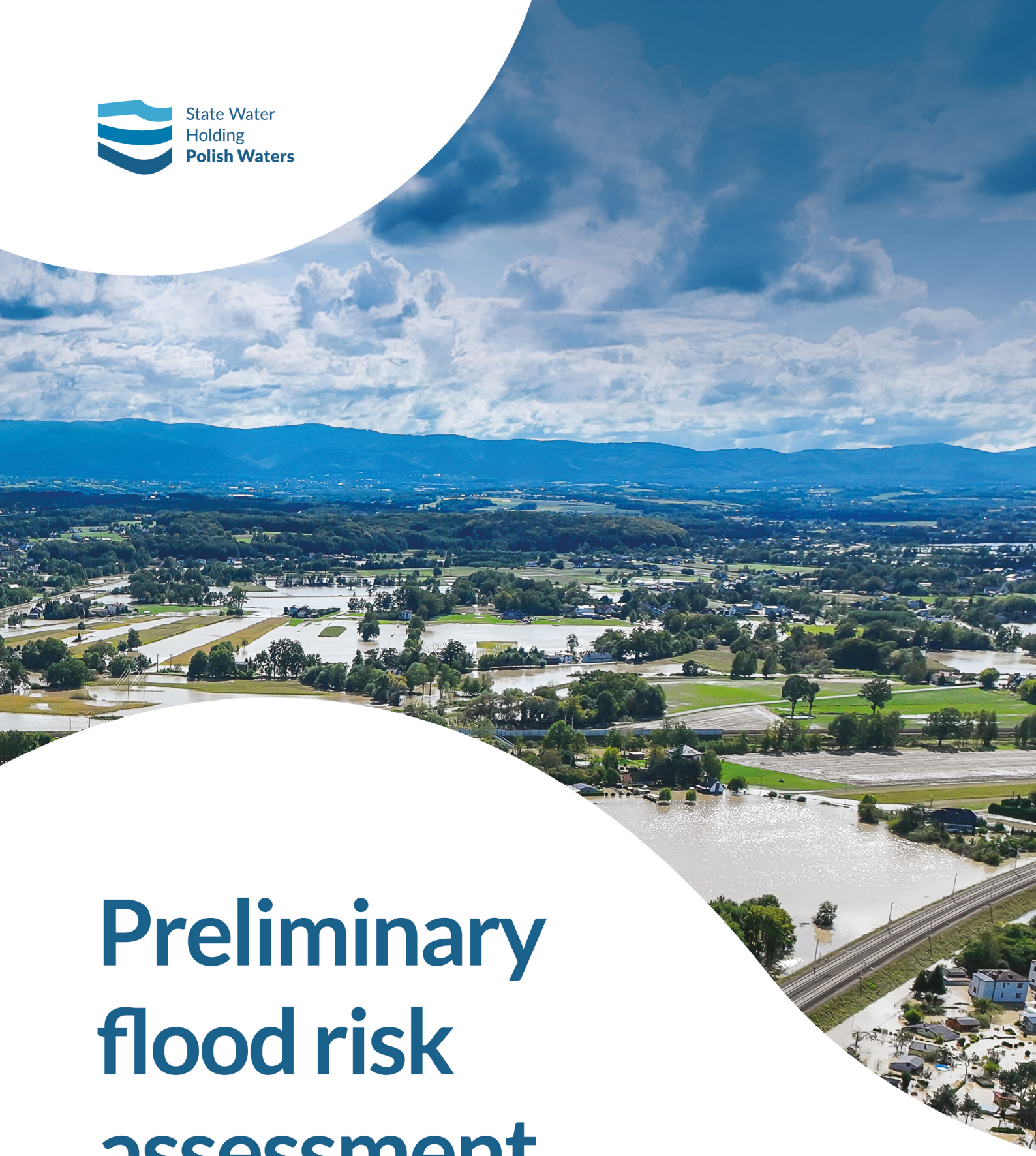
State Water Holding Polish Waters



Preliminary flood risk assessment

European Funds for Infrastructure, Climate, Environment

Republic of Poland

Co-funded by the European Union

A brief introduction to the preliminary flood risk assessment

ARE WE READY FOR WHAT WATER BRINGS?

Floods are not just dramatic images on TV – they are a real threat that can affect anyone. Both in Poland and worldwide, changing climate conditions increase the likelihood of flooding. This is why the preliminary flood risk assessment, or PFRA for short, was developed as the first document supporting flood risk management.

DOES THE PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT APPLY TO YOU TOO?

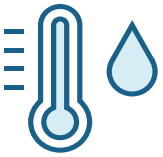
OF COURSE! Flooding is not only a problem for people living by the water; it affects us all, impacting road safety, infrastructure stability and continuity of supply.

Thanks to the PFRA, we can better prepare for such situations and protect what is most important to us.

THANKS TO THE PFRA, WE CAN:

identify the places where the risk of flooding is greatest, i.e. areas of potential significant flood risk (APSFR)

develop flood hazard maps, flood risk maps and flood risk management plans



prepare for a future where climate change brings more extreme weather events, such as flooding

STILL WATERS RUN DEEP THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IT!

The PFRA is a specific document that translates data into knowledge. It can help you recognise risks before they lead to problems and develop strategies to protect life, property and the environment from the potential impacts of floods.

FIRST STEP TO FLOOD PROTECTION

A preliminary flood risk assessment paves the way for the creation of practical tools to protect against the adverse impacts of flooding. It is where everything starts – flood hazard maps (FHM) and flood risk maps (FRM) are created using it, providing precise information on the places most vulnerable to this natural disaster. After creating maps, the next step is to develop flood risk management plans (FRMP), which outline specific measures and strategies. These documents provide a solid foundation for better anticipating, responding to and preventing the devastating effects of floods.

PFRA ▶ **FHM FRM** ▶ **FRMP**

HISTORICAL AND PROBABLE FLOODS

An essential part of the flood risk assessment is the analysis of historical and probable floods. This analysis can be used to determine the flood hazard in specific areas.

HISTORICAL FLOODS

- have occurred in the past and had significant adverse impacts on human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity, where the likelihood of similar future events is still relevant.

PROBABLE FLOODS

- may occur in the future and potentially cause adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.
The risk of their occurrence is assessed using hydrological and meteorological data.

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN THE FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

Assessment of the current state:

impact of floods on human life and health

impact of floods on economic activity

impact of floods on cultural heritage

impact of floods on the environment

Long-term developments:

changes in land use planning

climate change

Where did the preliminary flood risk assessment come from?

LEGAL BASIS

The key document requiring a preliminary flood risk assessment was the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks, known as the Floods Directive (2007/60/EC), which establishes a common framework for Member States' flood protection measures.

FLOODS DIRECTIVE REQUIRES EU COUNTRIES TO PREPARE:

1. A preliminary flood risk assessment
2. Flood hazard maps
3. Flood risk maps
4. Flood risk management plans

The Directive aims to minimise flood-related damage caused to people, the environment and the economy. As a Member State, Poland meets these obligations to protect its citizens – their lives and property – more effectively and to adapt its actions to changing climate conditions.

The Floods Directive has been incorporated into Polish law by the Water Law Act.

WHY IS THE FLOODS DIRECTIVE SO IMPORTANT?

The Floods Directive introduces harmonised rules for flood risk management across the European Union. The Floods Directive helps to:

identify flood hazard areas more effectively

ensure coherent methods of flood risk management

promote cross-border cooperation regarding rivers that flow through more than one country

HOW OFTEN DO WE UPDATE THE PFRA, THIS IS THE PLANNING CYCLES?

PFRA reviews and updates are carried out every six years to account for data changes and floods that occurred during that time. The first PFRA was prepared in 2011, starting the first planning cycle for implementing the Floods Directive. The PFRA was revised and updated during the second planning cycle in 2018. During the third planning cycle, which is currently underway, the PFRA was updated in 2025.

BODIES INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE PFRA

STATE WATER HOLDING POLISH WATERS

is a state institution responsible for preparing the draft PFRA. State Water Holding Polish Waters is responsible for national water management, including protecting Polish residents from floods and droughts, sustainable water management to protect our water resources, and ensuring good water quality for present and future generations.

MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR MARITIME ECONOMY

is in charge of preparing the draft preliminary seawater flood risk assessment, including internal sea waters, which is submitted to the State Water Holding Polish Waters six months before the completion of work on the PFRA.

MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR INLAND NAVIGATION

agrees on the draft PFRA as far as inland waterways are concerned.

VOIVODES

give their opinion on the draft PFRA. They play a key role in crisis management during floods. They are responsible for coordinating the activities of the emergency services, organising assistance to the affected and making decisions to reduce the impacts of the disaster.

MINISTER IN CHARGE OF WATER MANAGEMENT

approves the preliminary flood risk assessment, forwards it to the Director of the Government Centre for Security and makes it available to the public on the Bulletin of Public Information's website.

PFRA implementation in the 3rd planning cycle

REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT IN THE 3RD PLANNING CYCLE

The PFRA has determined and identified historical floods and areas of potential significant flood risk, i.e. areas where a significant flood risk exists or areas of potential significant flood risk (APSFR). For river sections in areas areas of potential significant flood risk, flood hazard maps and flood risk maps will be drawn up, as well as flood risk management plans defining measures to prevent the adverse impacts of flooding.

The purpose of the PFRA is to assess flood risks to human health and life, the environment, cultural heritage, and economic activity, taking into account the impact of climate change on flood occurrence. Public access to the PFRA results helps raise public awareness of flood risks.

The project results will contribute to reducing flood risk, increasing the possibilities of preventing and responding to hazards, pursuing a coherent policy against natural hazards and managing risks related to climate change.

THE FOLLOWING TASKS WERE CARRIED OUT AS PART OF THE PROJECT:

1. Historical flood data have been provided.
2. Probable floods that may occure in the future have been identified.
3. A forecast of long-term flood risk developments has been prepared.
4. A flood risk assessment areas of potential flood risk has been carried out.
5. Areas of potential significant flood risk for rivers, areas of potential significant flood risk from damming structures and areas of potential significant seawater flood risk.
6. Report on review and update of the PFRA has been prepared.

RESULTS OF THE WORK ON THE PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT IN THE 3RD PLANNING CYCLE

Information on the course of the review and update of the PFRA in the 3rd planning cycle is available at:

https://powodz.gov.pl/en/PFRA_3rd_cycle

Map of areas
of potential significant flood risk for rivers

LEGEND:

Areas of potential significant flood risk for rivers

national borders
river basin districts border
water regions border

rivers
lakes and reservoirs
coastal belt border

Map of areas of potential significant flood risk from damming structures

LEGEND:

Areas of potential significant flood risk from damming structures

national borders
river basin districts border
water regions border

rivers
lakes and reservoirs
coastal belt border

Map of areas of potential significant seawater flood

LEGEND:

Areas of potential significant seawater flood

- national borders
- river basin districts border
- water regions border
- rivers
- lakes and reservoirs
- coastal belt border

For more information
on the preliminary flood risk assessment and flood risk management, go to:

www.powodz.gov.pl/en

Find out more about Polish Waters

www.gov.pl/web/wody-polskie

powodz.gov.pl/en/Project_description:_EFICE_2021-2027