

Keeping people away from water

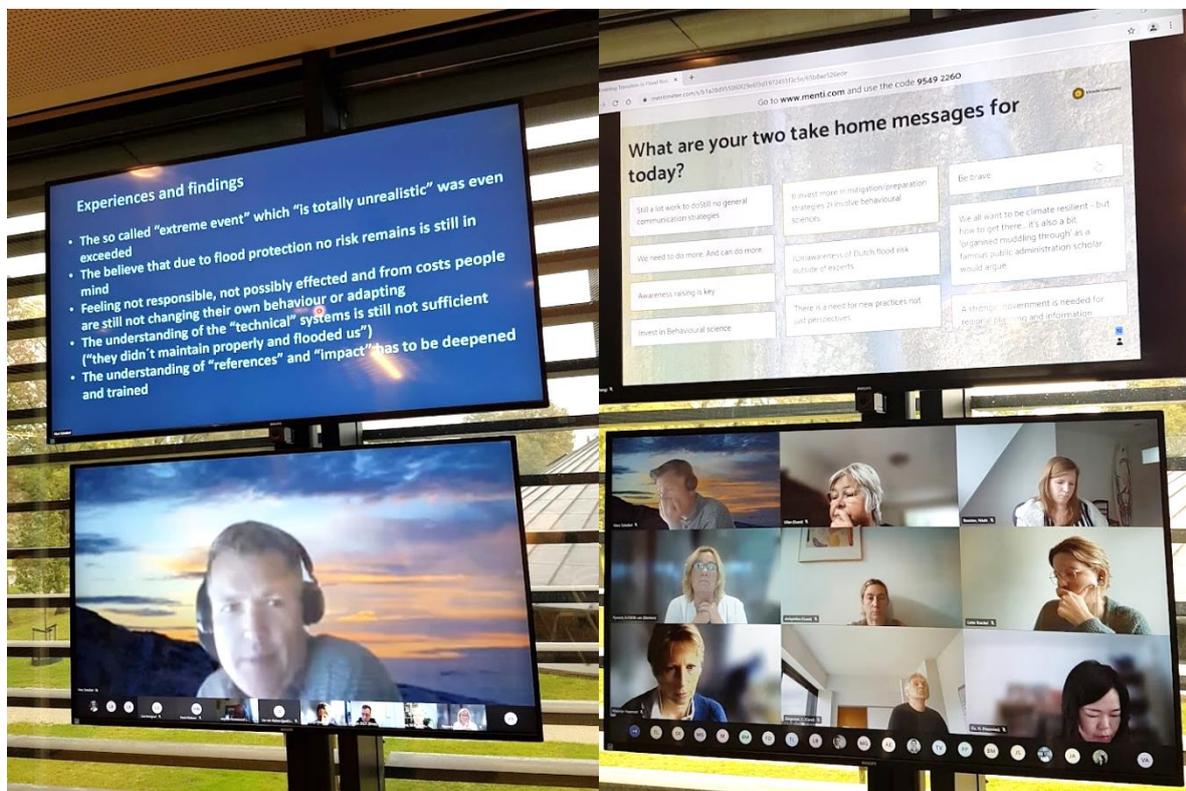
Participants in the breakout group agreed that proactive spatial planning is shared responsibility – we need to better envelop the "why", "what" and "how", but also the "who" (including who benefits, who loses and who is responsible). This strategy should be discussed at the regional level where the physical system and actors are known.

Living with water

The breakout group concluded that flood damage mitigation should be more relevant already today for proper preparation of large-scale flood mitigation measures needed in the future. For implementation of this strategy, clear vision on the current risk of the system and future benefits of flood damage mitigation strategies is required to improve communication, raise awareness, explore compensation mechanisms and support informed decision-making.

Preparing for water

To implement flood preparation strategy, we need multilevel policy involvement and societal awareness raising on risks and evacuation options. The communication of evacuation routes and flood risks needs to be in clear and simple language using multiple media.



Need for citizen participation

During the workshop, it became apparent that it is crucial that citizens take a more active role in flood risk management. It is the task of scientists to support them by providing information and clearly communicating research results. However, the question remains of what the effective ways are to encourage more active involvement of citizens. It may require changing behaviours. Unawareness of flood risk and its impact may also play an important role. Concluding the session, one participant noted: *"This session has been eye-opening. My family and I were under the impression that the Netherlands already have flooding and sea level rise totally under control. But this session showed me that with all the uncertainty in the future, more needs to be done to prevent future catastrophes and we, as citizens, need to take a more active role."*