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# ***Participatory early warning and monitoring systems for natural hazards***

Summary of progress in WP 4.3, 2017 – 2018

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**on behalf of Hans Jørgen Henriksen (GEUS)**  
**and the rest of the team**

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# Purpose and structure of the talk

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- Overall aims of work-package 4.3
- Methodological approach in WP 4.3
- Summary of progress in 2017
- Major achievements to-date
- An outline of this year's work-plan
- Case-study: Design and use of Online Geo-Forms for Public Observations of Natural Hazards in Iceland

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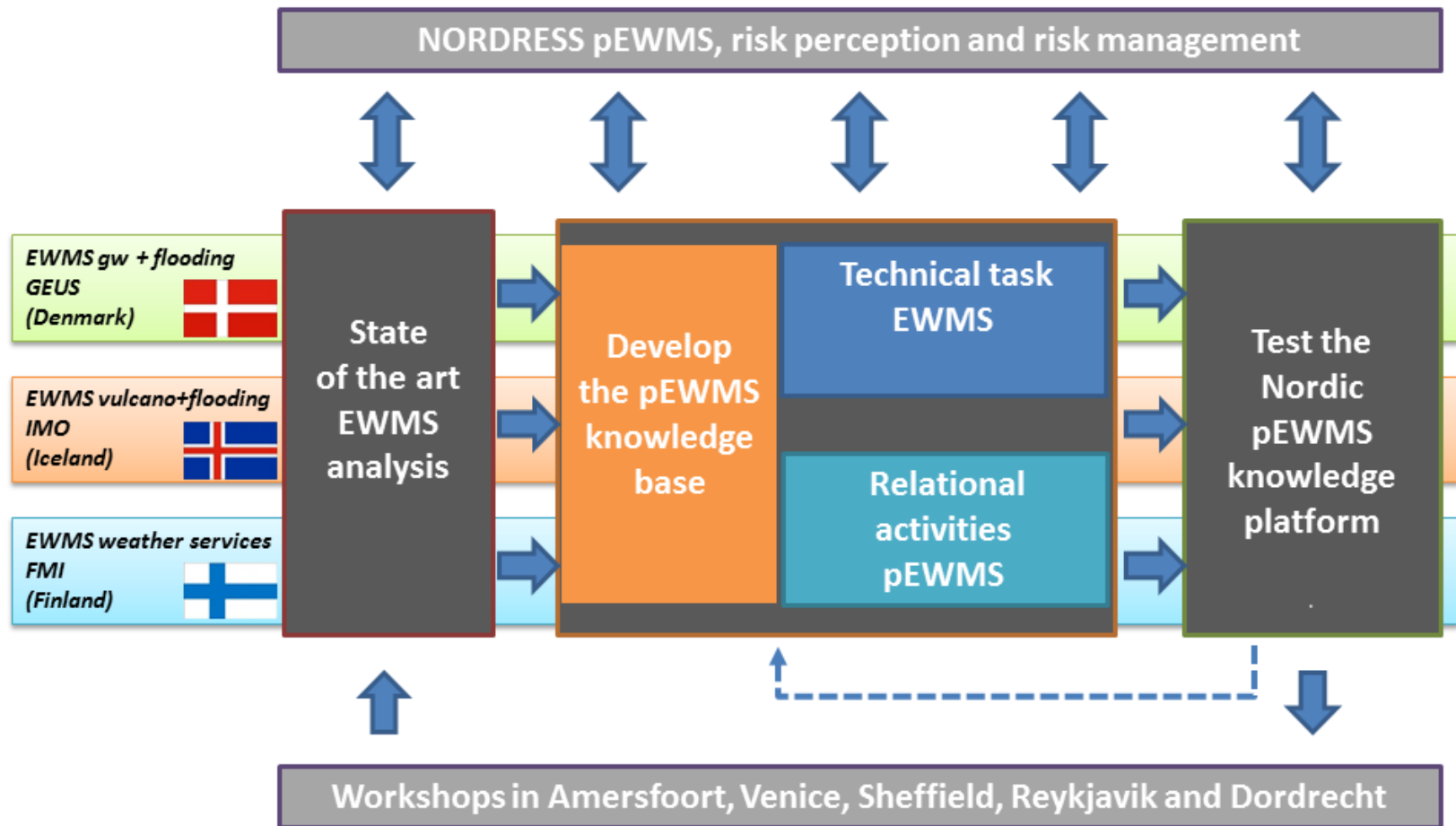
# Overall aims of the work-package

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- **The problem:** Early warning and monitoring systems are sparse or lacking in many hazardous areas, making it difficult to issue timely public warnings or follow the process of hazardous events as they unfold.
- **The response:** To incorporate public observations into existing monitoring networks and real-time modelling and forecasting systems.

# Methodological approach in WP 4.3

- Review of different participatory early warn. and mon. systems
- Workshops in Europe and Nordic countries



# Why implement EWMS as participatory or people-centred?

Observations from the public can be of use in many ways...

## **Risk knowledge**

Knowledge of the relevant hazards, and of the vulnerabilities of people and society to these hazards

## **Monitoring and warn. services**

A technical capacity to monitor hazardous precursors, to forecast how a hazard evolves, and to issue warnings

## **Dissem. and communication**

Release of understandable warnings and preparedness material to those at risk

## **Response capability**

Knowledge, plans and capacities for timely and appropriate action by authorities and those at risk

Source: Basher, R. 2006. Global early warning systems for natural hazards: systematic and people-centred. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A*, 364, 2167–2182.  
doi:10.1098/rsta.2006.1819

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# Summary of progress in 2017

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## Funded directly by NORDRESS

- Two invited conference presentations
- Four talks / posters
- Outreach to the public via media interviews, e.g. IMO news about flooding in SE-Iceland in September 2017

## Funded indirectly by NORDRESS

- Community resilience report: *Sharing good practice and multi-agency partnership framework* (Co-operation between WP 4 and WP 6)

# Invited conference presentations in 2017

- Henriksen, H. J., 19 July 2017. *Participatory early warning and monitoring system (Nordress task 4.3)*. NordForsk Societal Security Meeting, Copenhagen.
- Roberts, M. J., 12 October 2017. *Design and use of online geo-forms for public observations of natural hazards in Iceland*. GI Norden and LÍSA conference, Reykjavík.



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**Design and use of Online Geo-Forms  
for Public Observations of Natural  
Hazards in Iceland**

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GI Norden and LÍSA conference, 12 October 2017

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**Matthew J. Roberts**  
*Group leader: Water and Glaciers*  
*Icelandic Meteorological Office, Reykjavík*

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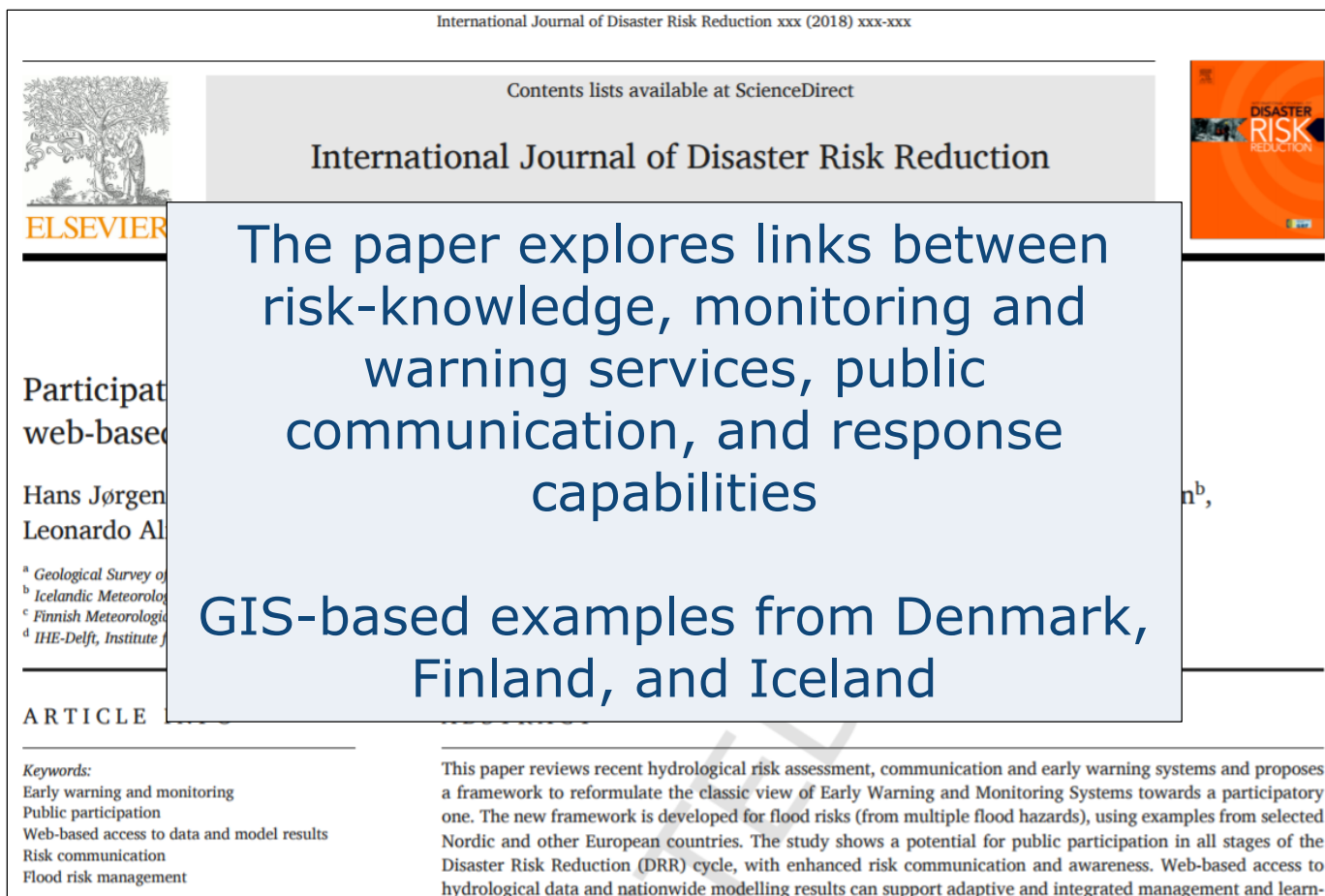
# NSSA grants received in 2017

Name, job title, organisation	Place visited	Purpose of visit	Duration of visit	Comments, output of the visit
EDUCEN conference	Dordrecht	Collect inspiration about culture in DRR	29.-31.03.2017	Oral presentation on NORDRESS + IDRiM
ECCA (European Climate Change Adaptation)	Glasgow	Session on local knowledge (WP4)	6.-8.06.2017	Oral presentations on pEWMS
CSA 2017 (Citizen Science Association Conference)	St. Paul	Academic / stakeholder conference	16.-21.5.2017	Oral presentation on NORDRESS results
IDRiM conference	Reykjavik	Session on risk communication	23.-25.08.2017	Oral WP4.3 presentation on trust and pEWMS



# Major achievements to-date

## *IJDRR research article*



*International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, 2018*



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# An outline of this year's work-plan

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## In progress

- IMO technical memo: *Guidelines for developing a web-based registration form for public documentation of natural hazards*

## Planned (with some tasks involving separate funding)

- Summary of work-package findings for the NORDRESS web-site
- DRR course at the University of Copenhagen, June 2018
- Additional paper to extend the findings of our IJDRR paper
- UNESCO conference Tech4Dev 2018, Switzerland, July 2018
- Autumn meeting of the WP team – Citizen observatories for natural hazards (COWM2018), Venice, Nov 2018

# DRR course featuring staff from GEUS and results from WP 4.3



University of Copenhagen - Courses

NNMK16002U Natural Hazards

Volume 2017/2018

Expand all ▼

Content ^

In an increasingly economically integrated, urbanized and populated world, society's vulnerability to natural hazards has never been greater. This course provides an introduction to the different types of natural hazard, their location, scale and frequency and the science of the processes at work during, for example, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, storms, meteor impacts and space weather events. Case studies will be used to illustrate methods of natural hazard risk assessment, warning and mitigation.

Learning Outcome ^

**Knowledge:**  
At the end of this class the student should have a basic understanding of

- The different types of natural hazard, their scale and frequency
- The location of high-risk, natural hazard, zones
- Climatic and other effects of large volcanic eruptions
- Mass-extinction events in the geological record
- Age dating methods for determining event frequency beyond the historical record
- Methods of natural hazard risk assessment, warning and mitigation

# Why do observations from the public matter? Verification of impact!



Public observations can be incorporated into existing monitoring networks and forecasting systems so that:

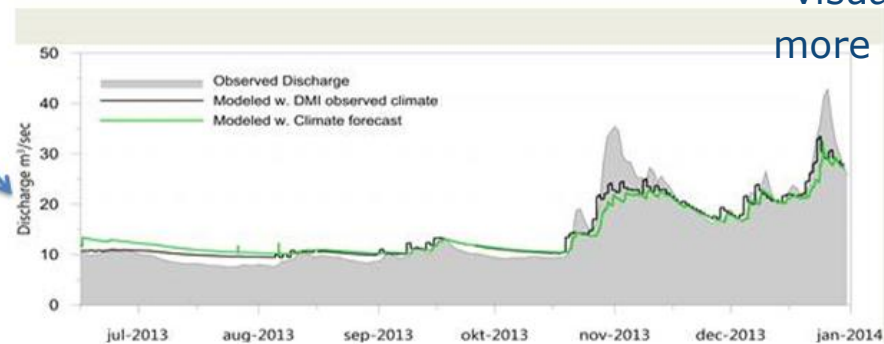
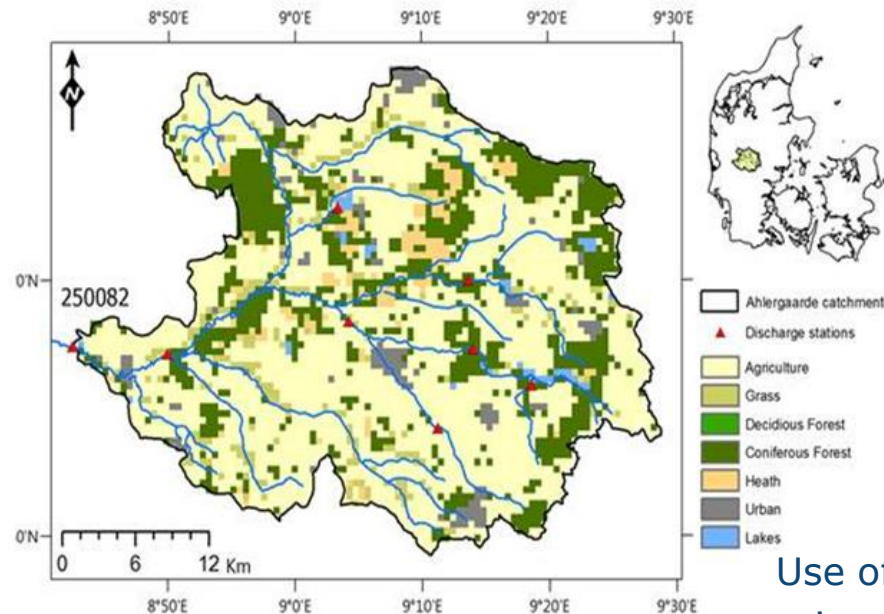
- i. more timely and accurate warnings can be issued;
- ii. more comprehensive compilations of damage impacts are received; and
- iii. hazard awareness and perception of risk are improved.



Flash flooding in Siglufjörður, 28 Aug 2015

# Flood forecasting with in-built verification of river changes (NORDRESS)

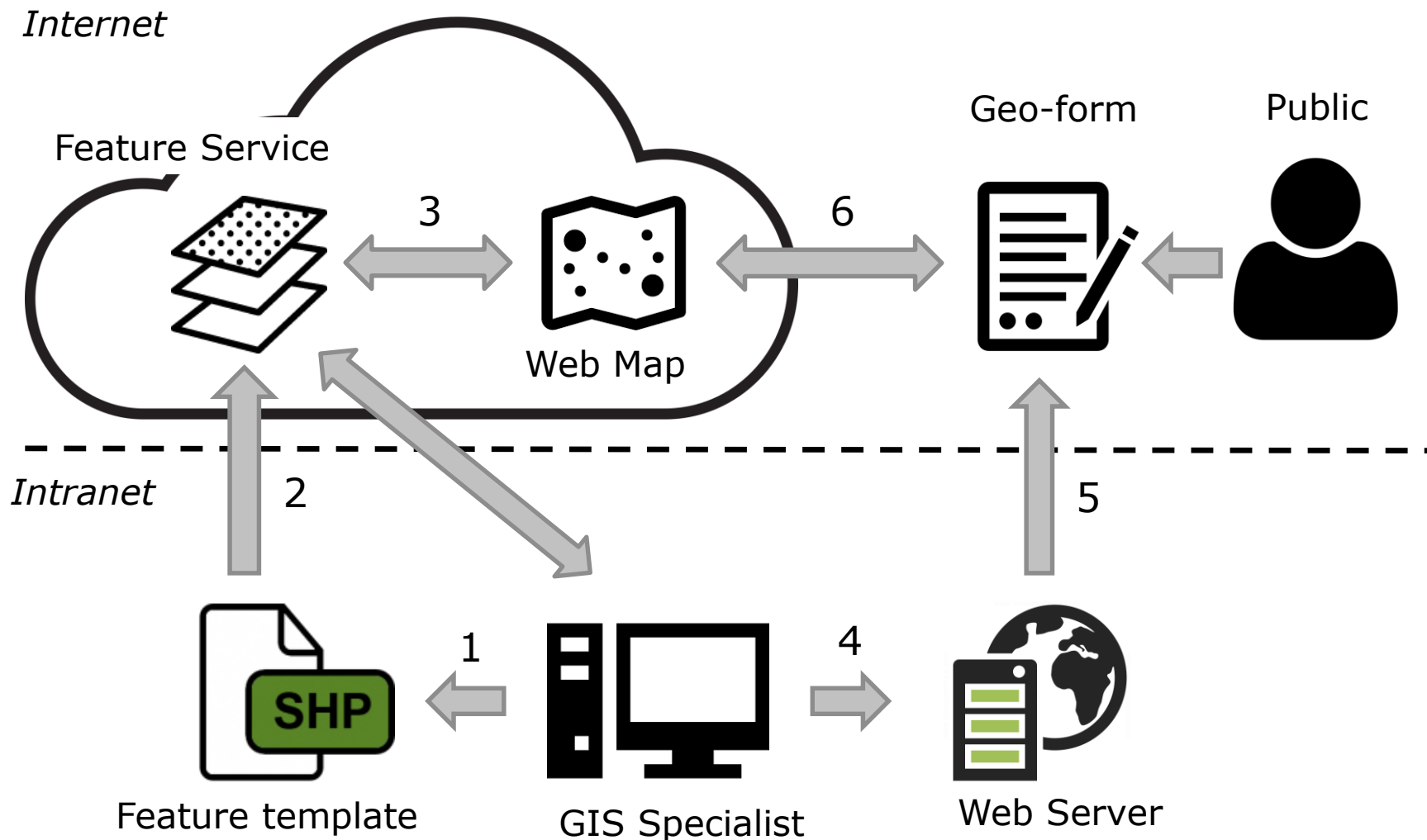
Danish case-study from the  
NORDRESS project  
(Henriksen *et al.*, in press)



Use of gauging data and  
visual observations for  
more accurate discharge  
estimates



# Participatory-based approach to early warnings – NORDRESS





# Experimental online geo-form at IMO for registering flooding

<http://vatnsflod.vedur.is>



*Introductory  
text*

*Observer's  
name and  
contact  
details*

vatnsflod.vedur.is

Veðurstofa Íslands

## Tilkynning um vatnsflóð

Vinsamlegast tilkynnið um hvers konar vatnsflóð sem vart verður við með því að gefa upp upplýsingar sem óskað er eftir hér að neðan. Ljósmyndir eða önnur gögn sem sýna atburðin eru vel þegnar.

**Athugið!** Veðurstofa Íslands áskilur sér rétt til að birta skráningar á vef stofnunarinnar án takmarkana. Þátttaka jafngildir samþykki fyrir slíkri birtingu. Vinsamlegast beinið spurningum og/eða ábendingum til [fyrirspurnir@vedur.is](mailto:fyrirspurnir@vedur.is), kærar þakkir.

### 1. Skrá upplýsingar

Nafn (Nauðsynlegt að skrá!)

Back Forward Home Bookmarks Tabs

+/- táknum og hliðrið kortinu til með fingrinum eða með mús.

Leit Lengd/Breidd

Find address or place

Staðsetja mig

Breiddargráða: 64.51892, Lengdargráða: -14.97551

Reykjavík

Keflavík

REYKJANES 402 m 702 m

Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO,...

*Location options,  
including automatic  
location from the  
telephone's built-in  
GPS*

URL: <http://vatnsflod.vedur.is>

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# Geo-form services have a role in the disaster-risk-recovery cycle

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Participatory early warning systems take advantage of people-centred observations via a two-way exchange of warnings and local feedback, helping to:

- i. improve risk-awareness within the affected region;
- ii. increase the technical capacity to monitor, model and forecast with **higher accuracy**;
- iii. improve the content and timeliness of public warning, thereby helping to maintain trust; and
- iv. heighten response capabilities, both during the hazard itself and in the long-term recovery between recurring events.



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# Conclusions

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- i. On-line GIS services are clearly a viable and effective way of gathering non-technical information from the public.
- ii. Public participation in key stages of the warning process can help to validate forecasts and provide early recognition of potentially harmful changes.
- iii. Public reports of unusual or damaging natural events not only provide scientists and first-responders with valuable local information and context, they also help to increase public awareness of natural hazards.