

Creating new opportunities by integrating water safety and spatial planning

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Abstract The Netherlands is world renowned for its continuous battle against water. In the last decades more and more buildings have been built, leaving little space for the water. In order to be able to anticipate climate change and to ensure that water aspects are incorporated into spatial plans, the WaterCheck has been designed. So in the last decades, the role and importance of water has been incorporated into spatial planning in the Netherlands. In this paper more information regarding the new opportunities for integrating water safety and spatial planning in relation to flood risk management are explored, possibilities for temporary use of land, multifunctional flood defences and the role of knowledge in decision-making process are explored. Water managers are currently adjusting their various roles in spatial planning in the Netherlands and across Europe. Moreover, an overview of relevant Dutch policy is provided.

Key words flood management; flood risk; spatial planning; integrated assessment framework; water governance