Decision argumentation of sewer replacement projects

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Introduction

Decision-making for sewer asset management is inherently complicated, because of insufficient data and interaction with multiple actors. These constraints cause decision-making to be based on intuition and lacking clear argumentation, hampering decision transparency and reproducibility. Hence, in order to improve current sewer asset management, this study assesses the use of information in decision-making for sewer replacement projects.

Approach

The research is performed within the Dutch ‘Kennisprogramma Urban Drainage’ (Knowledge Programme Urban Drainage). The involved parties are: ARCADIS, Deltares, Gemeente Almere, Gemeente Breda, Gemeente ’s-Gravenhage, Gemeentewerken Rotterdam, Gemeente Utrecht, GMB Rioleringstechniek, Grontmij, KWR Watercycle Research Institute, Platform Water Vallei en Eem, Royal HaskoningDHV, Stichting RIONED, STOWA, Tauw, vandervalk+degroot, Waterboard De Dommel, Waternet and Witteveen+Bos.

Results & discussion

Sewer replacement projects are initiated by much more information sources than the currently used rational models prescribe. Hence, it is concluded that improved coordination processes between actors seems more promising than (investments in) increased information quality about the sewer system, in order to improve sewer asset management.

Conclusions

Sewer replacement projects are initiated by much more information sources than the currently used rational models prescribe. Hence, it is concluded that improved coordination processes between actors seems more promising than (investments in) increased information quality about the sewer system, in order to improve sewer asset management.