



Two models are better than one – Operational multi-model hydrological forecasting over the European continent

Chantal Donnelly (1), Fredrik Wetterhall (2), Yeshewa Hundecha (1), Henrik Spångmyr (1), and Ilias Pechlivanidis (1)

(1) Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, Norrköping, Sweden, (2) European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, Reading, United Kingdom (fredrik.wetterhall@ecmwf.int)

The European Flood Awareness System (EFAS) has been running operationally since October 2012. The system produces early probabilistic information using a multi-model ensemble weather forecasts as input. Hydrological forecasts are currently based on the distributed LISFLOOD rainfall-runoff model, which was setup on a 5 x 5 km grid covering the European continent. In this study, forecasts based on LISFLOOD are compared with forecasts from the EFAS-HYPE v1.0, which was setup by the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI). EFAS- HYPE v1.0 is an application of the HYPE model (Hydrological Predictions for the Environment) for European flood forecasting. The two models were compared over a number of stations (about 800) in Europe driven by deterministic forecasts from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts over a period of two years to assess the added benefit of a multi-model operational hydrological system. The models were also tested in two case studies to compare their performance for extreme discharge. Finally, the two models were combined using a Bayesian model averaging and compared against discharge observations.