



Euro-Climhist – a data platform for weather-, climate- and disaster history

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The Euro-Climhist data base (<http://www.euroclimhist.unibe.ch/de/>) presents evidence about weather and climate in space and time mostly originating from the archives of societies. It facilitates the cross-checking of proxy data with contemporaneous high-resolution narrative weather reports. Contemporary and non-contemporary data are distinguished for quality control. The original Euro-Climhist database was established between 1992 and 1994 to investigate weather patterns in Europe during the cold period of the late Maunder Minimum (1675-1715). The present-day internet version of Euro-Climhist went online in November 2015 with the Module Switzerland. It currently provides 160'000 records from 1501 to present, available in German, French, Italian and English. The module serves as a pilot project for developing an adequate methodology and user-friendly software. Currently a module “Middle Ages” led by Christian Rohr from the Bern University is being worked out. It includes evidence for the whole of Europe prior to 1501. Further modules may be established by regional working groups. The classification scheme includes 300 categories. A complementary facility—COMP—has been also been created to permit a still more precise description of events. For example, the facility can be used to describe in detail the impacts of nature-induced hazards. Moreover, it makes possible to rate quantitative evidence such as phenological data or the frequency of rain-days at a given location according to standard criteria. The elements of COMP are translated and can be augmented to an almost unlimited extent. The data are mapped according to the administrative organization of a country and to geographical units. Results are presented in the form of text and geographical charts. The structure of Euro-Climhist may be readily adapted to amplifications in relationship to content, spatial dimension and translation into further languages. In the long term, it may be possible to release evidence on weather and climate on a large scale, in order to improve knowledge of interconnections between humans and climate.