



## **Summer 1875 Flash Floods in Central and Western Europe**

Libor Elleder, Jolana Šírová, and Stanislav Racko  
Czech Hydrometeorological Institute

The contribution presents an analysis of hydrometeorological situation of summer 1875, which resulted in a series of flash floods in Central and Western Europe. The main focus was put on the examination of conditions in the Czechlands and Austria.

In contrast to individual case-studies presented earlier, this contribution enables a general view of the situation, offering a day-after-day analysis in a wider spatial context of Europe. It points out the possible link between the 1875 flash floods and preceding catastrophic eruption of the Iceland volcano Askja, influencing by tephra the most of Europe.

The presented study draws attention to analogical situation in 2009, specifying the similarities and differences of both flash flood series.

Interestingly, the 1875 has been so far associated only with catastrophic flood in June in Southern France. Nevertheless, simultaneously occurring flood events in Central Europe have been lost more or less.

In the time context, the remarkable feature is that the period preceding the 1875 flash floods, specifically 1868–1874, was characterized by drought spells in Central Europe, whereas subsequent year 1876, in contrast, brought extensive winter floods.

A take home message is that the 1860s and 1870s, regarding the extreme occurrence (both floods and drought spells), highly resemble the recent hydrometeorological situation.