

Meteoalarm - Latest developments for weather warnings in Europe

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Weather warnings for high impact weather play a more crucial role than ever. With rising vulnerability impact and damages continue to rise.

The meteoalarm platform brought producers of warnings (National Meteorological and Hydrological Services) and their users closer together. The users come in high numbers from the general public, but also from public institutions within Civil Protection, who looks for conditions outside their own country. Their feedback suggested more hazards to be integrated, a shift from warnings for hazards to impact and longer forecast periods/lead times for warnings.

The shift from hazard warnings to a more impact orientated perspective would also be reflected the relevant UNISDR and UN Hyogo Framework of Actions concepts.

Recent developments within meteoalarm try to cover these needs while maintaining a good balance between existing national procedures for warnings and the needs of Europeans and others who travel or act professionally outside their own country and expect homogenous warning procedures.

A well designed communication process outside the meteoalarm platform itself is needed to attract relevant users from the public and private institutions.

Warnings for coastal sea areas are one step in this direction, a heat index assessing the Thermal Environment of the Human Being will be another way to cover user needs. Closer co-operation between meteorological and hydrological services and possible flood warnings within meteoalarm also underline the importance of connecting pure meteorology with other applications.