



Climate change attribution and extreme weather events. From the perspective of the stakeholder (EUPHEME)

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Hazardous weather events across Europe occur on an annual basis. Such extreme weather events include heat waves, floods, storm surges and windstorms. Many feel that these events are increasing in frequency, and that this positive rate of occurrence is connected to anthropogenically produced climate change. Developing a more robust understanding of the link between extreme weather events and climate change is vital, when trying to mitigate their impacts upon stakeholders in society.

The EUPHEME project aims to try to decipher this connection, while also developing a climate change attribution service for stakeholders. This newly created service will have a positive impact for stakeholders, with the ultimate objective that it would help reduce the economic and operational impacts of extreme weather events upon said stakeholders.

During the initial phase of developing an attribution service, it was important to gather as much information from stakeholders about the impacts of extreme weather events and climate change. Such information was collected via questionnaires and reading reports created by stakeholders. It was also vital to gather an understanding of what language, terminology and communication styles are beneficial for delivering such climate change attribution information to interested stakeholders. This was achieved through interviews and group discussions with stakeholders, conducted during a workshop.

By holding a workshop and exposing stakeholders to the climate change attribution website, a good understanding of the some of the essential criteria to develop meaningful communications and engagement was discovered. This newly gathered information was fed back into the EUPHEME research group. By maintaining a constant feedback interaction loop with our stakeholders, information and details about the requirements of our stakeholders in relation to extreme weather events were collected. This permitted further development of the EUPHEME climate change attribution service and website.

Many positive benefits will be delivered, and these will be experienced by the engaged stakeholders. These benefits include an increased awareness of extreme weather, a better understanding of the rate of change of risk of certain weather events occurring, a potential reduction in any financial costs and providing better planning and services for the public.