



The EU FLASH Project: The link between flash floods and lightning flashes

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Since 1996 the European Union FP6 project titled FLASH has been focused on studying flash floods in the Mediterranean region, while trying to improve short term (hours) and mid term (days) forecasts of heavy precipitation events across the Mediterranean and Europe. Flash floods are a serious problem in the Mediterranean region in particular, and in Europe in general, resulting in enormous damages and loss of lives every year. Since lightning activity can be detected and monitored continuously from thousands of kilometers away using ground networks, lightning can provide a convenient tool to monitor intense convective activity across the continent, while tracking and nowcasting the motion of these storms. We have developed tools that allow us to better understand the inner workings of these storms, while supplying tools for nowcasting and forecasting that are freely available to end users and stakeholders. Our project results and real time products are available at our website www.flashproject.org