



Towards a database on societal impact of Mediterranean floods in the framework of the HYMEX project

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The Working Group 5 is a transversal group of HYMEX that deals with all the aspects related with societal and ecological impacts of hydrometeorological extremes, as well as their perception and communication processes. It includes heavy rainfalls, droughts and water scarcity, and the impact of climatic change on these risks and on water resources. Environmental services and water resources are also considered, as is shown in the Science Plan (SP) and Implementation Plan (IP). One of the main points of the IP is the creation of a common database on floods and their societal impact, for the Mediterranean region, as well as its analysis. In spite of that it is usual to have a similar objective in the main part of projects dealing with floods, it is not usually achieved. The main problem is usually the heterogeneity of available data and information, as well as the different criteria of insurance companies on sharing their information. Although some databases already exist and are frequently consulted, they are mainly focused on major catastrophic events. This is the case of the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT) from the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters of the Université Catholique de Louvain, and the Natural Hazards Assessment Network (NATHAN) of the reinsurance firm Munich Re. However, both databases only consider those events that fulfill several criteria to be considered major disasters. But the Mediterranean experiences every year a high number of minor flash-floods that usually give place to moderate damages and a short number of casualties (or anyone), but that considered in their totality produce important losses and disruption of the everyday life. This communication presents a preliminary database covering the period 1981-2010. Starting from the FLASH database (Llasat et al, 2010) it is focused on the Northeast of Spain (Catalonia and Balearic Islands), Southeast of France, Southeast of Italia and Croatia.