



Using citizen science for improving a database of severe weather in Catalonia

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The Servei Meteorologic de Catalunya (SMC) manages a network of spotters that provides severe weather phenomena occurrence across the Catalan territory (but only in the densest areas). Moreover, thanks to an agreement with the Associacio de Defensa Vegetal (ADV-Terres de Ponent), it is possible to have information in near real-time of hail and strong wind occurrence in the area of Pla de Lleida, one of the regions of Catalonia with more severe weather cases, which produce large damages in the agricultural production. In spite of these two sources and the data provided by the remote sensing networks and the automatic weather stations, there are many cases where we have the doubt of the occurrence of severe weather. Because of this, in the 2017 campaign, the SMC decided to start a project that involves the civil population, in two senses. First, by means of social networks (twitter, instagram, facebook) or other media sources (e-mail or whatsapp), people that have taken pictures of severe weather, mainly hail or tornadoes, but also the affectations produced by wind, can send them to the SMC servers. This has helped to enlarge the information of many cases in the past year, and, in some particular events, to have knowledge about the episode itself. The second issue is the increase on information provided by the SMC (by means of its webpage and conferences for different sectors of population), in order of explaining better some issues connected with severe weather, the prediction and the climatology.