

A European Flood Database: facilitating comprehensive flood research beyond administrative boundaries

The current work addresses one of the key building blocks towards an improved understanding of flood processes and associated changes in flood characteristics and regimes in Europe: the development of a comprehensive, extensive European flood database. The presented work results from ongoing cross-border research collaborations initiated with data collection and joint interpretation in mind. A detailed account of the current state, characteristics and spatial and temporal coverage of the European Flood Database, is presented. At this stage, the hydrological data collection is still growing and consists at this time of annual maximum and daily mean discharge series, from over 7000 hydrometric stations of various data series lengths. Moreover, the database currently comprises data from over 50 different data sources. The time series have been obtained from different national and regional data sources in a collaborative effort of a joint European flood research agreement based on the exchange of data, models and expertise, and from existing international data collections and open source websites. These ongoing efforts are contributing to advancing the understanding of regional flood processes beyond individual country boundaries and to a more coherent flood research in Europe.

Auteurs du document : Hall, J., Arheimer, B., Aronica, G.T., Bilibashi, A., Bohac, M., Bonacci, O., Borga, M., Burlando, P., Castellarin, A., Chirico, G.B., Claps, P., Fiala, K., Gaal, L., Gorbachova, L., Gul, A., Hannaford, J., Kiss, A., Kjeldsen, T., Kohnova, S., Koskela, J.J., Macdonald, N., Mavrova Guirguinova, M., Ledvinka, O., Mediero, L., Merz, B., Merz, R., Molnar, P., Montanari, A., Osuch, M., Parajka, J., Perdigao, R.A.P., Radevski, I., Renard, B., Rogger, M., Salinas, J.L., Sauquet, E., Sraj, M., Szolgay, J., Viglione, A., Volpi, E., Wilson, D., Zaimi, K., Blöschl, G.

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