



Forecasting skill assessment for the European flood alert system EFAS

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The European Flood Alert System (EFAS) prototype is running pre-operationally for the whole Europe and is already providing 3-10 day hydrological EFAS forecasts for 22 hydrological national services (covering most of the transnational river basins in Europe). EFAS features deterministic as well as probabilistic hydro-meteorological forecasts. Deterministic hydrological EFAS forecasts are based on DWD (7 day lead-time) and ECMWF (10 day lead-time) deterministic meteorological forecasts, while EFAS hydrological ensemble forecasts are based on the 51 meteorological member EPS forecasts (10 day lead-time) provided by ECMWF. A continuous period of 18 months of recent EFAS performance is analyzed statistically. The skill is evaluated spatially for the whole of Europe. Methods for improving forecast skill through the use of persistence criteria are presented. Special attention is paid to the skill of EFAS probabilistic forecasts.