



The use of a Web as a learning tool about natural hazards: EDRINA and FLASH

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The use of new technologies favours the education and awareness raising of a wide range of public. Nowadays, Internet has become a major information channel. It allows arriving to a wide number of people, of different ages, cultural level and location. The work presented here was born into the framework of the European project Rinamed, devoted to the creation of tools for the sensibilization and education in front of natural risks in Mediterranean countries. A role playing, a web, an exhibition, a CD-Rom, a collection of dossiers and a video, were some of the tools created into this project. Following this project, a specific web project called EDRINA (EDucación en RIEsgos NATurales) was created. Initially it was elaborated in Catalan language, due to the great interest about the meteorology that exists in Catalonia (Spain). However, a second and improved version was developed in Spanish language, with the aim of arriving to a major number of people. Nowadays EDRINA deals with all the natural risks, although a specific consideration about those that affect specifically the Western Mediterranean is made. It includes information about the definition of each risk, the main features, what to do in case of warning, some examples... Besides this, a lot of links with other web pages about this issue are also included, as well as technical and scientific documentation. An added value of this web are the maps with the number of floods that have affected the different municipalities of Catalonia along the 20th century. The maps are presented by county and they also include some specific information, like news published by the press, damages and so on. Those maps are

developed into a SIG (Barnolas and Llasat, 2007), meanwhile the news have been obtained from a database developed in ACCESS that contains all the news about natural hazards published in Catalonia since 1982, by La Vanguardia. Associated to this web, a similar web in English Language is being developed in the framework of the European Project FLASH, although in this case is mainly devoted to flash floods and lightning.