



European meteorological services and harmonized warnings for extreme meteorological events

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The EMMA / Meteoalarm Project works as a platform for weather warnings of the National Meteorological Services of 25 European countries and is online and operational since March 2007 under the address: www.meteoalarm.eu. This system provides both to the public and the producers a unique place of display how extreme meteorological events are seen by the forecasters, climatologists and experts of weather related damages. To combine all these aspects in a single forecast across 25 different countries large efforts in harmonizing the different warning systems had to be undertaken. Damage assessment of past catastrophic events were the basis for this work, but also the behaviour of persons endangered by extreme events had to taken into account. The climatology of extreme events across Europe gives the key for harmonizing across different climate regions and damage characteristics. This results then in specified thresholds for the different regions between the Mediterranean and Scandinavian countries. Warned parameters range from extreme precipitation, wind, heat periods and cold surges, coastal events to avalanches and other parameters.