

HyMeX - Contribution on social impact

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The Working Group 5 is a transversal group of HYMEX that deals with all the aspects related with societal and ecological impacts of hydrometeorological extremes, as well as their perception and communication processes. It includes heavy rainfalls, droughts and water scarcity, and the impact of climatic change on these risks and on water resources. Environmental services and water resources are also considered, as is show in the Science Plan (SP) and Implementation Plan. The objective of the present work is to show some of the main results obtained in the different strategic lines developed until now by WG5 that deals with risk perception and individual practices; impacts on human life; risk, vulnerability and mitigation strategies; and evaluation trough requests received in the Meteorological Services. The works presented in the poster are classified in three main topics, following the SP. The first one contemplates the data bases creation and their analysis. Four data bases are presented: two of them refers to Catalonia (NE Spain) and they show the systematic recovering of all the news related with natural hazards and published by some newspapers for the period 1982-2007, and all the requests received at the Meteorological Service of Catalonia between 2000 and 2002 focused on the heavy rain and strong wind events included in the MEDEX database; the third one is a database concerning Damaging Hydro-geological events occurred in Calabria (southern Italy) since 1800 that contains more than 10,000 records. Second topic refers to monitoring; finally, the fourth one introduces a new database collecting the profile of casualties and circumstances of death due to floods in southern France since 1980. The second topic deal with the vulnerability monitoring and it includes the description of the methodology and the first results in a French region, of a socio-hydrometeorological post event survey that allows collecting information on the individual's space-time practices and their link with both the nature of interpersonal connections mobilized to face the event and the evolution of the hydro-meteorological circumstances. The third topic deals with perception analysis, under this topic, the group has studied perceptions of the flood risk by permanent and temporary residents in Catalonia, and, particularly, in tourist areas of the Costa Brava, and also in Majorca islands.