

Interactive comment on “Forecasters priorities for improving probabilistic flood forecasts” by F. Wetterhall et al.

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I think that showing the opinion of forecast end-users of operational centres in a scientific journal like HESS is a very good idea. This should help scientists steer the research priorities towards what is considered most important in daily flood forecasting, which is not only about new technologies or higher resolution datasets. The increasing need for probabilistic approaches to characterise the different sources of uncertainty in modelling and prediction poses new challenges in the communication of forecasts to the end-users. Delivered forecasts should ideally contain probability information and at the same time avoid too much information which can make the interpretation less intuitive or even biased, particularly in stressful conditions such as during a flood emergency.

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Strengthen the dialogue and the feedback between researcher and forecast end-user is therefore essential. Also, more emphasis should be put in the discussion, to stress the background of the group of participants. Indeed, they make up a unique sample which represents the decision makers, in terms of flood mitigation, for many among the European countries. Such meetings are fundamental to put together national services and possibly lead to the creation of common standards to adopt at international level in the field of hydrological forecasting and hopefully the creation of a consolidated hydrological network at the continental or global scale.

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