

Challenges of the European Flood Awareness System (EFAS) hydrological calibration

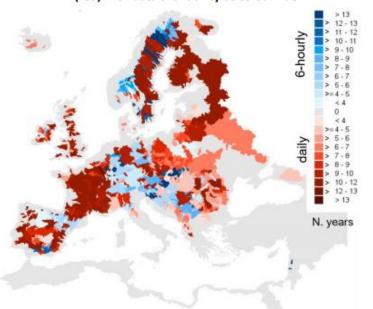


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THE CHALLENGE

- Calibrate LISFLOOD hydrological model on an area ~4Mil km2 at 5km spatial resolution
- 1137 calibration stations with 6-hourly and daily data over the period 1990-2017
- Diverse catchments: from 500 km² to 800'000 km² in drainage area, from steep flashy catchments to large routing dominated ones

Spatial distribution for 6-hourly (blue) and daily stations (red) with data availability as colour hue



EFAS CALIBRATION

- Used an Evolutionary Algorithm (EA) (DEAP), ECMWF's work scheduler (ecFlow) and HPC infrastructure
- Performed on 14 LISFLOOD parameters with 6hourly modelling steps
- 6-hourly model outputs were aggregated for daily stations
- Used modified KGE as metric

Evaluation performed on the period 1991-2017 using modified KGE

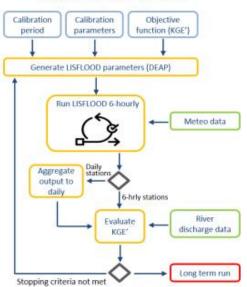
RESULTS

- Median KGE' = 0.75 across Europe
- Similar performance for stations with 6-hourly or 24-hourly observations, 6-hourly slightly better

Operational since Oct 2020 www.efas.eu

Spatial distribution of the EFAS v4.0 hydrological performance (KGE') across the EFAS domain combined with correlation: stations with KGE'<0.7 and correlation>=0.7 are highlighted in cyan. For each point, size of the dot represents area of the upstream catchment.

EFAS calibration workflow



Further reading: KGE' decomposition and full results on the

CEMS wiki

Cumulative distribution function of EFAS KGE' at calibration stations

