## Hydrologic ensemble prediction: enhancing science, operation and application through HEPEX

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HEPEX activities include:

- organizing scientific exchange between participants through workshops and sessions or meetings at major conferences,
- planning and coordinating experiments or testbeds,
- highlighting operational or experimental real-time forecasting systems to help practitioners find out about how ensemble prediction is being used around the world for various applications,
- maintaining a community online interaction and related resources via its website.



Workshop on seasonal hydrological forecasting: 21-23 September 2015, Norrköping, Sweden, SMHI, 55 participants, 30 oral and poster presentations

- We need to understand better the limitations of climate forecasts and how to make the best use of them: i.e., when and where the best source of predictability is.
- Communication is still a challenge: we need to increase transparency in methods and decisions to the user.
- Examples of impact-base forecasts can be of great benefit to a better understanding of forecast skill (and limits) and usefulness (added-value).

The Special issue: "Sub-seasonal to seasonal hydrological forecasting" on HESS is open for submissions: <u>http://www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci.net/special\_issue824.html</u>

> HEPEX (Hydrologic Ensemble Prediction Experiment) began in 2004 at an ECMWF workshop that was jointly organized with the US National Weather Service (NWS) and the European Commission (EC). Over its more than 10 years of existence, it has connected the research community, forecast users and facilitated the exchange of ideas, data, methods and experiences.

HEPEX has contributed to the implementation of operational ensemble prediction systems around the world. Numerous opportunities to further progress science, operation and application are indicated in the posts published in its website: • "The true test of any forecasting method is, of course, how it performs for real-time applications. Forgetting to cross-validate reference forecasts can unfairly disadvantage your forecast method" (D. Robertson et al., 2016) • "[...] a lack of experience is bad, but experience might as well result in excessive certitude of how to decide" (J. Danhelka, 2015) "With respect to flooding at least, to have value for decision-making we need to link the forecast of a particular magnitude river flow with the hazard posed by that size flow" (L. Stephens, 2014)





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