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Operational data flow between hydrological forecasting systems

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One of the major challenges in operational forecasting is organizing and controlling the flow of data. In the Water Management Centre for the Netherlands several FEWS (Flood Early Warning Systems) have been set up for operational use. The six systems specialize in different areas, namely i) fluvial flooding, ii) water distribution during droughts, iii) real time control of canal water levels and gauges, iv) coastal flooding, v) lake management and flooding and vi) water management in the delta area. These systems obtain data partly from the same but also from different data sources. Each individual system uses (different) models and pre and post processing steps that have been optimized for the most important parameters.

It is crucial to exchange data and forecasts in an efficient way between the systems, for example to use as boundaries in model runs. This paper will describe the methods and challenges that we face in organizing the data flow between these systems.