

ASSESSING HYDROLOGICAL CHANGES 5th CONFERENCE OF THE EUROMEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF EXPERIMENTAL AND REPRESENTATIVE BASINS (ERB)

FOREWORD

One of the main aims of the Euromediterranean Network of Experimental and Representative Basins (ERB) is to encourage international contacts and cooperation between scientists and research teams through data exchanges, scientific meetings and excursions. This volume includes papers presented at the fifth ERB General Assembly and Conference in Barcelona in 1994 on Assessment of Hydrological Temporal Variability and Changes. Since the ERB was established in 1996 conferences have been held at Aix en Provence (1986), Perugia (1988), Wageningen (1990) and Oxford (1992). ERB member countries are at present: Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. A focal ERB tool is the basin inventory ICARE, which provides an informal database concerning the data of small research basins in ERB area. The ICARE inventory is located at CEMAGREF in Lyon, and it is accessible to scientists from ERB member countries.

The themes of the Barcelona Conference focus on examples of field experience from ERBs for the analysis of temporal variability and spatial differences in hydrological phenomena. Whereas previous ERB Conferences largely dealt with methodical and comparative hydrological problems which arise on a small basin scale,

the present contributions are dominated by anthropogenic environmental impacts using the hydrological cycle and climatic issues as examples. Many of the studies presented in this special issue were conducted in Mediterranean environments, considering specific hydrological behaviour and effects such as soil erosion in one of the most degraded regions since early historical times. Some important ecohydrological aspects of land use pattern and change were demonstrated by field excursions to the Vallcebre study basins in the eastern Pyrenees, and the Prades research catchments situated in the Catalanian Pre-Coastal Range.

We hope that this collection of scientific papers will contribute to strengthen links between scientists working of ERBs, and to establish new scientific contacts. We are grateful to the organizers of the Barcelona ERB conference and editors of this proceedings volume, Dr. Pilar Llorens and Dr. Francesc Gallart from the Institute of Earth Sciences Jaume Almera (CSIC) in Barcelona, and to the publishers of Acta Geologica Hispanica for inclusion of this volume in this series.

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