



Project Update #16

Welcome to our sixteenth [CENTAUR](#) Project Update!

In this issue, we share recent highlights, including international recognition of CENTAUR's research, contributions to high-level discussions, and an overview of the project's upcoming activities.

Next Monday, on **13 October**, we celebrate the **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction**, under the theme *"Fund Resilience, Not Disasters."* On this occasion, we highlight the CENTAUR project's contribution to this global objective by developing innovative indicators to improve early warning systems and support anticipatory action in response to urban floods, as well as food and water security challenges.

What has CENTAUR been up to?

CENTAUR product shortlisted for the 2025 Harry Otten Prize for innovations in meteorology

At the [European Meteorological Society \(EMS\) Annual Meeting 2025](#) in Ljubljana, CENTAUR partners from [ECMWF](#) presented a novel approach to forecasting extreme precipitation for urban flooding. By focusing on the return period of an event rather than its intensity, the developed forecast products highlight regions where rare extreme precipitation is likely to occur.

At this event, CENTAUR's forecasting products were recognised among the three most innovative ideas in meteorology, shortlisted for the [Harry Otten Prize 2025](#) under the title "How rare, how risky? Actionable warnings for extreme precipitation despite biased forecasts." The presentation by Jessica Keune and Chris Barnard attracted strong interest for both scientific innovation and societal relevance.



[Read More](#)

CENTAUR participated in the Symposium on Crisis Early Warning

On 17 - 18 September 2025, CENTAUR representatives joined the Symposium on Crisis Early Warning, organised by the [German Federal Foreign Office](#) and the [Centre for Crisis Early Warning](#) (CCEW) of the [Bundeswehr University Munich](#). The symposium highlighted the need for flexible approaches which serve both policy and operational contexts and emphasised the importance of strong collaboration between data science teams and practitioners on the ground.

Coming Up!

EOTEC DevNet Drought Working Group - Europe regional meet-up

On **16 October**, CENTAUR will contribute to the **Drought Working Group Europe regional meet-up**, organised by [EOTEC DevNet](#), a global initiative to strengthen capacities and collaboration in applying Earth Observation for disaster risk reduction and climate resilience. The online session will be focused on sharing *lessons learned in drought impact monitoring*, with our representatives invited to present our recent work on [forecasting agricultural drought impacts](#). **More details** [here](#).

Conference of the AIS Italian chapter

Between 17 and 18 October 2025, our **CENTAUR** representatives will participate in the **22nd Conference of the Italian Chapter of the Association for Information Systems (AIS)** in Milan. The event will bring together leading academics and practitioners in the field of information systems. We will highlight our latest advances on early-warning systems. **More about the event** [here](#).

EU Science for Preparedness Conference

Looking ahead, the project will also be represented at the **EU Science for Preparedness Conference 2025**, to be held in **Turin from 4 to 6 November 2025**. Organised by the Join Research Centre's [Copernicus Emergency Management Service](#) (CEMS) and the [Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre](#) (DRMKC), the event will provide a platform to exchange knowledge, test new tools, and strengthen networks for advancing science-based crisis preparedness and response. We will present our latest advances related to urban floods monitoring at a poster session. **More about the event [here](#).**

Suggested Readings

1

Report on the state of food security and nutrition in the World in 2025

[Read More](#)

2

Study on the future of water availability and use in the EU

[Read More](#)

3

Report on drought hotspots around the World from 2023 to 2025

[Read More](#)

Facts & Figures

8.2%

of the global population may have faced hunger in 2024 - FAO

30%

of Europe's population faces water stress each year - European Parliament

+70,000

"excess" deaths may have occurred in Somalia between 2022 and 2024 because of drought - WHO



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