

THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN COLD WAVE 2012 ON THE WINTER CONDITIONS OVER KOSOVO AND ALBANIA AND THE NEED FOR COHERENT TOOLS ON WEATHER PREDICTION OFFICES

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Abstract

During the last days of 2011 and the beginning of the 2012, the European continent faced one of the wildest winter conditions since the harsh one of the 1981. At the early days of 2012, the same conditions were placed over Albania and Kosovo as well. Extremely low air temperatures and abundant snowfall dominated the atmospheric conditions over the countries. Besides the temperature and precipitations reached extreme values, another hazardous index was the high number of consequent days with extremely low air temperatures values. In many locations of both Kosovo and Albania, during more than 10 consecutive days, the air temperatures recorded many degrees below zero. In some locations, the extreme low air temperatures exceeded the historical record minimum temperature ever observed. One of the most discussed topics during this cold wave episode in between public in both countries was the weather forecast accuracy. Did the weather forecasters a good or a bad forecast? Do they have the coherent tools to use on the hard and long process of meteorological prediction? A very interesting thing is the fact that the weather forecasters all around the world ever take into account that any extreme weather phenomena recorded in their forecast area, can never be treated as an isolated island. Extreme weather events occur anytime and everywhere around the world and the statistic of similarities and specifications of any extreme weather event play a key role in weather prediction.

Keywords: *cold wave, meteorological prediction, extreme weather*