Temperature extremes and heat stress on Swiss and European scales: Activities at MeteoSwiss

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Introduction by Dr Dasaraden Mauree – Followed by open discussion

Summary
Warm temperature extremes and associated heat stress on the human body are important features of the Swiss climate, particularly in southern valleys and in the major Swiss agglomerations. Climate projections consistently indicate a future increase of heat stress on both European and national scales. In Switzerland, this is considered as one of the main climate change-related risks that society will be facing.

The present contribution provides an overview on activities at MeteoSwiss relating to the monitoring of temperature extremes, operational heat warnings, the identification of responsible processes and the assessment of future climate change impacts on heat stress. An emphasis will be laid on results of the European HEAT-SHIELD project (www.heat-shield.eu), the upcoming CH2018 Swiss climate scenarios (www.ch2018.ch) and on the urban heat island (UHI) effect.

About the speaker
Sven Kotlarski is a senior scientist at MeteoSwiss and responsible for downscaling activities in the context of the upcoming CH2018 Swiss climate scenarios. As a trained hydrologist, his scientific background is in hydrology, regional climate modelling, climate downscaling, climate-cryosphere interactions and climate services. He was strongly involved in the EURO-CORDEX initiative which currently provides the most comprehensive and state-of-the-art regional climate projection ensemble for the European continent and the European Alps. He is also coordinating the MeteoSwiss activities in the Horizon 2020 research project HEAT-SHIELD which, among others, assesses the implications of future climate change and associated heat stress on the productivity of the European work force.

Organised in partnership with the Swiss Competence Centre for Energy Research "Future Energy Efficient Buildings and Districts" SCCER FEEB&D

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