

Collaboration Report

HydroEurope2010



Team 10

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Introduction

HydroEurope is a project-based collaborative work on river Var in south of France. In order to improve engineering and hydrological skills and deal with team work collaboration, students from many countries gather in France for two weeks. Students involved in several masters degrees having specialization in water management and related software technologies participate in this intensive activity.

HydroEurope 2009-2010 had the participation of about 90 students coming from 36 different countries. In this generation of HydroEurope, 10 different teams with about 9 students each worked towards the main aim of the project. HydroEurope 2009-2010 was held in Nice from 22nd February – 6th March 2010. In our team, we had 8 members each from different country. We have been working together for 2 weeks. The objective of the project was modelling and analysis of the VAR catchment flood event that happened in 1994.

Web-collaboration before coming to Nice

● Collaboration in team 10

Before we met in Nice, we had been working online. We exchanged emails and added all team members on Skype and introduced ourselves to team members. We had a first web meeting on third week of December. After that we continually contacted each other by email and Skype and followed the regulation which we laid down together in the meeting.

For preparing the face to face work we divided our task into various parts, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), hydrological, and hydrodynamic and floodplain modeling. Before coming to Nice, all members took part working individually and used to share the results on remote desktop. The problems faced while carrying out tasks were discussed in the online weekly meetings or via emails.

● Challenges

- Finding time slots that suit every member in the different locations
- Equilibrate different levels of technical knowledge by helping each other.
- Different ways of expressing ourselves more explicitly

● Advantages

- Combining different ways of approaching a task may yield more integrated results
- Sharing best of your knowledge
- Improve skills by working together

- **Recommendations**

- A detailed schedule and timetable to prevent problems
- Communication is the key to success

Face to face work in Nice

During face to face work, our tasks went on well. In daily meetings we discussed the work progress and helped each other due to different level of understanding, but after some time all the members attained almost the same level of understanding for tackling technical problems. Team supervisor had a great experience in the same field which proved very helpful for us to achieve our target successfully.

The collaborative work was developed in a very pleasant environment, with respect and continuous help between the members. Lectures related to the Var River were delivered by experienced professors; these were very useful to complete our task. It was necessary to project the results of the hard work along with the presentation. Three group presentations were delivered during these two weeks: first presentation was about the progress made before coming to Nice and the methodology adopted for web-collaboration. For the second presentation, which was held on the last day of the first week, all the teams were given specific question to relate it with the work so far done and present to all the teams and supervisors. The question assigned our group in the first week was “Hydrological modelling concepts (Black Box, Lumped, and Physically Based Model) “.

The same idea was followed for the final presentation but with complete results. The question for the presentation was “Level of Detail and Topographical Representation Needed in River Modelling, especially in the Lower Var Catchment”.

Moreover, we also spent some nice evenings together at the restaurant after the hectic day and completing daily tasks.



Conclusion

HydroEurope 2009-2010 was an excellent experience and a great opportunity to work with the people from different nationalities and multidisciplinary.

Under the guidance of experienced supervisors from all over the world, we made it possible to come up with possible solutions and tackle the technical problems. Despite the differences in language, background and culture, the work was done successfully.

