

Interactive comment on “READY: a web-based geographical information system for enhanced flood resilience through raising awareness in citizens” by R. Albano et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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The authors of this manuscript correctly identify the increasing rate of disasters of various types that negatively impact growing numbers of people and property. The discussion paper is focused on flooding and the need for better methods of informing potentially affected groups of a possible flood using a Web-based Geographic Information System (WEB-GIS) named READY. The authors demonstrate READY for a study site in Italy.

The discussion paper is well written and includes a large number of appropriate citations. There is an interesting review of some of the challenges to creating an easily understood web interface. There is a logical flow to the text and the graphics of READY

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are professional. The goal of READY is to provide information to members of the public who are likely to be impacted by a flood event.

The interest and need for flood alerts is most acute in response to an active event often caused by intense precipitation or snow melt. It is not clear from this discussion paper how READY would respond to such an event as the discussion and figures are primarily based on historic events. To justify construction of a WEB-GIS system such as READY, there would need to be a justification that it would be equally or more effective than traditional communication media such as TV or radio. There is also the issue of who would create such a system. It is unlikely that it would be an independent, private contribution and gaining public funding in many counties or locations would often be challenging. Another obvious issue, is that the greatest need of these warning devices are in areas of the world where the necessary data for such a system are limited and the potentially affected population often does not have the needed electronic capabilities.

In summary, this is a well written discussion paper and an appropriate call for methods for timely increased awareness of disasters. The method suggested, WEB-GIS, has many challenges to operationalize.

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