Drought is one of the most disastrous natural hazards in Europe. It cannot be prevented, but its impacts can be reduced by mitigation. In Europe, numerous drought indicators have been proposed, but few studies have tested how commonly used drought indices actually relate to drought impacts and susceptibility. Even fewer studies have linked drought impacts with large-scale meteorological and hydrological drought indicators commonly used to describe events across Europe’s different eco-climatic regions. Thus, there is a need for a comprehensive pan-European investigation of historical events and their impacts built on a common data source, against which existing studies can be compared.

The European Drought Impact report Inventory (EDI) developed as part of the EU FP7 project Drought R&I (Fostering European Drought Research and Science-Policy Interfacing) aims to collect and build a database of past drought impacts in Europe reported by various sources. Impact information is:

(a) classified into pre-defined impact categories, (b) referenced temporally and spatially, and (c) complemented with additional reported impact information including drought response measures where applicable.

The initial database is still project-internal, but the aim is to make it publicly accessible as a web-GIS supported online database in the future.