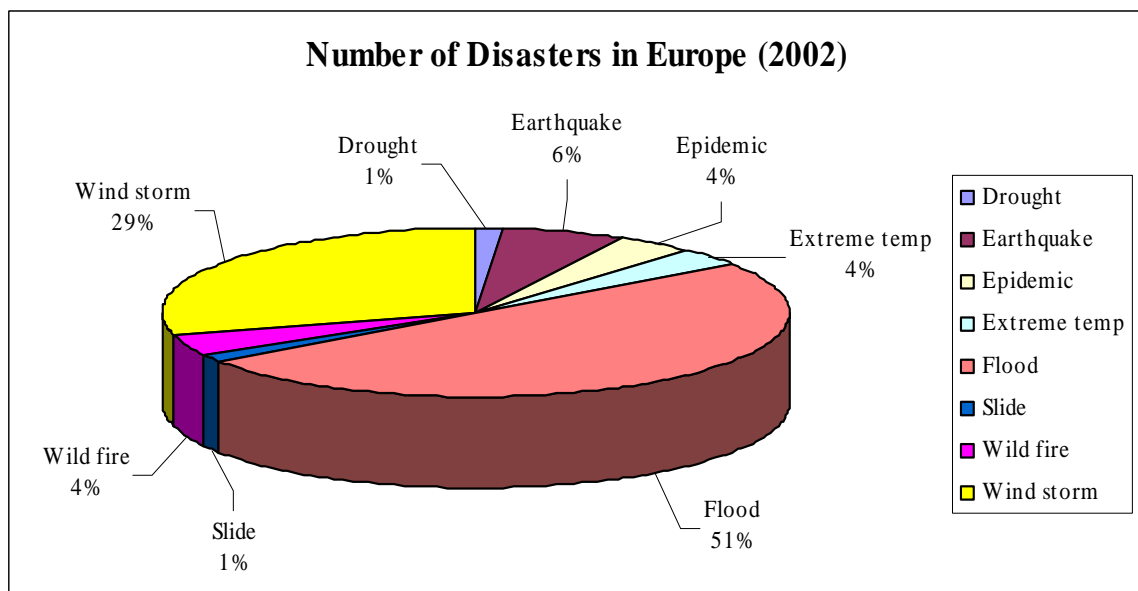


3.2.4 Characteristics of Disasters in Europe:

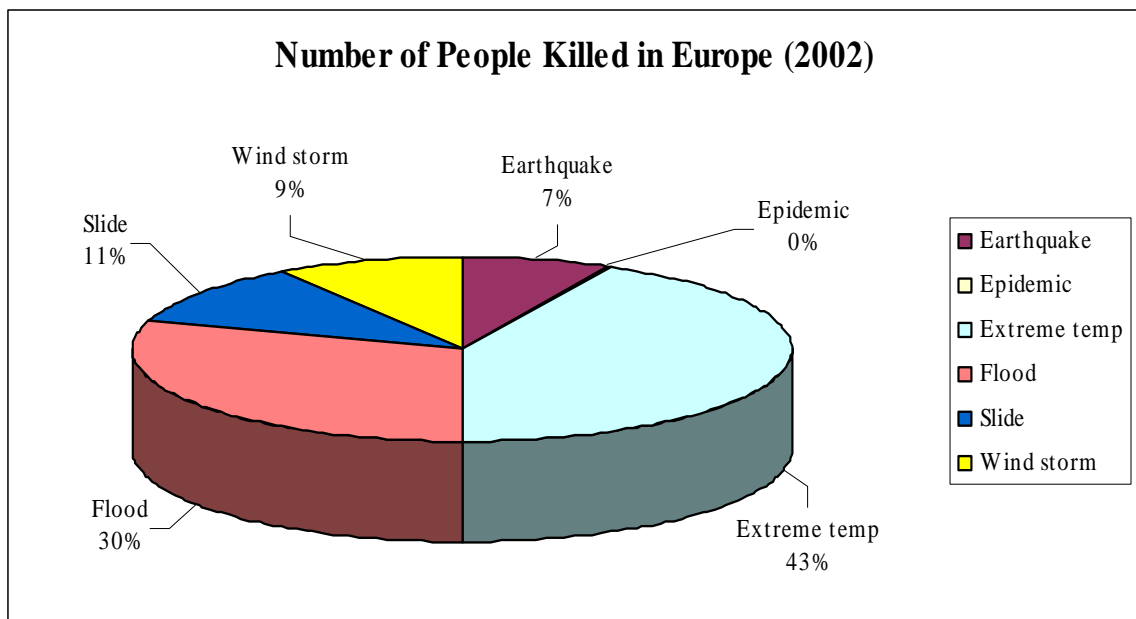
As we know, the year 2002 was devastating for Europe. As can be seen from the following figures, heavy rains and subsequent floods caused severe human and economic loss in the region. According to Figure 31, the majority of the disasters in 2002 were windstorms and floods as these two account for almost 80% of the total disasters. The majority of the human loss was due to extreme temperatures, floods, slides, and windstorms. All of these disasters caused about 90% of the total human loss in the region in 2002. Further, as seen in Figures 32 and 33, 96% of the *totally* affected people were affected by floods and windstorms. Thus it can be concluded that the year 2002 was tumultuous for Europe, as hydro meteorological disasters once again caused severe damage.

Figure 31:



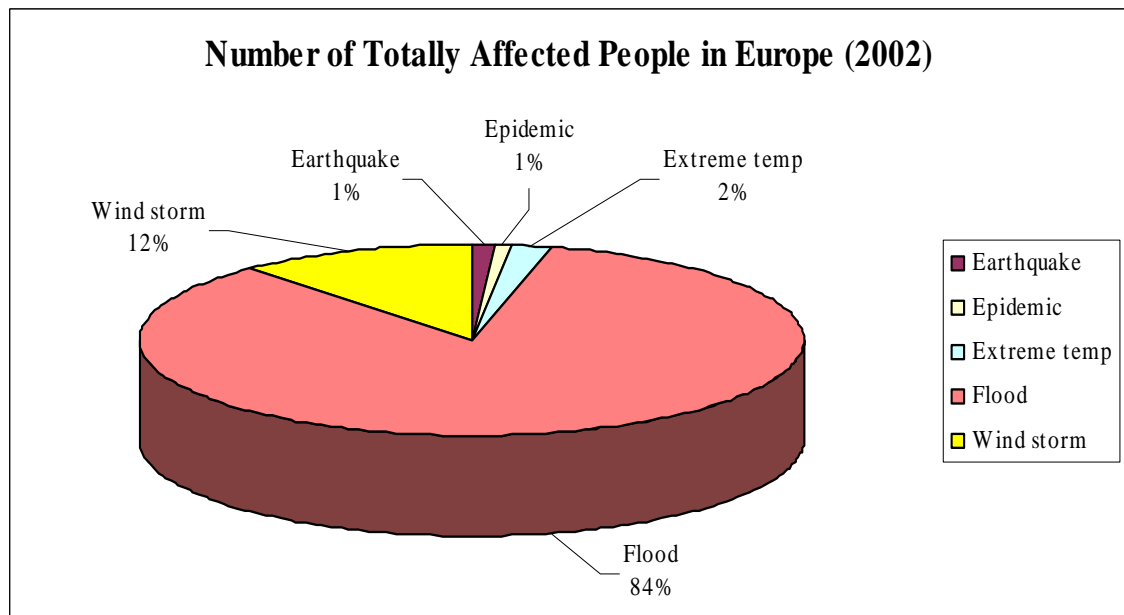
Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002

Figure 32:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002

Figure 33:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002