

ECSN Advisory Committee

Minutes of the 6th Meeting, Zurich, 4-5 October 2001

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Participants

Claude Pastre	EUMETNET
Hartwig Dobesch	Austria
Claus Kern-Hansen	Denmark
Raino Heino	Finland
Pierre Bessemoulin	France
Volker Vent-Schmidt	Germany
Maria Michelaraki	Greece
Sandor Szalai	Hungary
Aryan van Engelen	Netherlands
Bjørn Aune	Norway
Fátima Coelho	Portugal
José Lopez	Spain
Bengt Dahlström	Sweden
Walter Kirchhofer	Switzerland
Stephan Bader (Minutes)	Switzerland

1. Opening of the Meeting

Gerhard Mueller, Deputy-Director of MeteoSwiss, welcomes the participants to this meeting held in Zurich at MeteoSwiss. A special greeting goes to Claude Pastre, representative of EUMETNET.

The ECSN-Manager, Walter Kirchhofer, thanks for the Minutes of the 5th EAC Meeting, held in Puerto de la Cruz, 14-15 December 2000.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

After some changes in the order, the agenda was adopted.

3. Election of a new EAC Chairperson

Volker Vent-Schmidt, DWD, was unanimously elected as new Chairperson of the ECSN Advisory Committee.

The ECSN Manager expressed his thanks to Volker for his willingness to act as Chairperson. He also thanked warmly Bjorn Aune for his long acting as Chairperson of EAC.

4. Reports from ECSN Projects

Introductory Claude Pastre reports from the 13th EUMETNET Council Meeting in Vienna, 2-3 October 2001. The ECSN report was well taken to the knowledge. The presentation and the progress of the ECSN projects are classified as very important. Particularly the project Generate Climate Monitoring Products, DWD, is regarded as very valuable and has been approved for continuation.

4.1 European Climate Assessment (KNMI)

The final report of the first ECA project phase is in preparation. The publication will follow in spring 2002. The scientific part will be published sequentially in international scientific journals.

The ECA is one of the most important projects of the ECSN. Therefore a great importance is attached to the question of the mode of international publication of the assessment (web-based, book, free of charge). The pro and contra of the different versions are still in discussion. It is reminded that the first assessment (1995) appeared as a book and was delivered free of charge.

4.2 Climate Databases (DNMI)

Due to a change concerning the project leader, Margareth Moe got a new job at the institute, the project is no longer in an operating phase. The project will be transformed into some basic activity with a more specific mandate. The new activity could be in the framework of Workshops, focussed on climate data bases.

A quite important focus of the project was the target to lead computer scientists and climatologists to a fruitful co-operation. A further step in this direction could probably be undertaken in the context of the UNIDART project, discussed at the meeting in Langen, D, 12-13 November 2001 (see point 5).

It is suggested to take up the topic Data Exchange as a fixed paragraph to the agenda. Aryan van Engelen will prepare a working list. With the intensified handling of the topic Data Exchange the ECSN may help to arrange a simplified and standardized European data policy.

4.3 Generate Climate Monitoring Products (DWD)

The preliminary results of the project were presented directly on-line. The web-page enables a very simple access to the current climate information for Europe (www.gcmp.dwd.de).

The web-page shows a first selection of products in operation. An appropriate questionnaire is in preparation. In June 2002 the working plan for the further steps of the project should be ready.

The web-page is a composition of data and products of different European countries. Therefore the origin of the data and products must always remain transparency, even if the products are finally presented in a uniform standard.

4.4 Climate Atlas of Europe (Météo-France)

Actually the inquiry is running concerning the general description of the national used parameters. Some countries supplied already complete data records. The data of the Baltic countries are accessible via BALTEX. The still pending data supplies must have taken place until June 2002.

The complete European data set will be delivered to each ECSN member as a master copy in English and French.

4.5 GIS in Climatological Applications (ZAMG)

With the presented Final Report the ECSN project GIS in Climatological Applications will be terminated and followed up by COST-719.

The project is pointing out many further targets, which in particular could be integrated in the European GIS project COST-719. In this case the return flow of the information from COST-719 is very important. The COST-719 activities must be reported regularly to the EAC in the context of a fixed paragraph in the agenda.

4.6 Drought Investigations (OMSZ)

The project could not be cared permanently by a scientist. Therefore great time delays resulted. In addition, drought is not a very important issue in Europe, and recently it is treated also in the context of the IPCC.

The project Drought Investigations will be completed with a Final Report, supported by Portugal, by the end of this year.

In the context of a future early warning system concerning forest fires, the topic is further pursued in Hungary. It is planned to publish index-based maps on the Internet showing the actual danger of forest fires.

4.7 ECSN Climate Dataset (KNMI and DNMI)

The ECD project has started at the end of April 2001. As foreseen in the proposal, the first milestone will be reached at the end of November 2001. Then a CD-ROM will be presented while the web application will be operational.

The daily data of the ECA project will be integrated completely into the project ECD.

5. ECSN Workshop on Climate Data Exchange and Data Quality (DWD)

The workshop will take place on 12-13 November 2001 in Langen, Germany. One of the substantial focal points will basically be the demands of the UNIDART project. A further point of discussion will be the demand of data for the MAC project (Mesoscale Alpine Climate Programme) to be integrated in UNIDART. MAC does not require real-time data. So far no larger problems are expected in the case of an integration.

6. Outcome of the inquiry on observational systems (SMHI)

There are still meteorological data which cannot be collected automatically, for example solid precipitation. Such real-time data are very important for the creation of systems for product generation of high resolution gridded information. Therefore a remote-sensing concept for the future structure of ground-based networks is needed.

The outcome of the inquiry is presented as follows:

- The trend towards automatic climate data collection is strengthened.
- Information from remote sensing is used to a very limited extent.
- There exists no satisfactory solution con-

cerning the measurement (automatic as well as manual) of solid precipitation.

- Methods for estimation of climate parameters in a regular grid are in use in several countries.
- There is a need for a higher level exchange of information and co-operation concerning observational systems in Europe.

To deal with these kind of matters an ECSN Task Force should be formed under the leadership of Bengt Dahlström. The cooperating countries could well be: A, D, E, S, CH.

7. European Conference on Applied Climatology ECAC-2002

The Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium is organizing the Fourth Conference on Applied Climatology "ECAC-2002". The conference will take place in Brussels, 21-25 October 2002. The core-members of the International Organizing Committee (IOC) had a first meeting in Brussels on September 6th, 2001.

8. ECSN presentation to 13th Session of CCI

On the occasion of the next CCI session we will present the ECSN activities. The ECSN presentation is part of the Scientific Lectures, scheduled on the 27th November 2001. We will present an ECSN survey and the two most advanced projects ECA (KNMI) and GCMP (DWD).

9. National activities of interest

9.1 Climate research activities of MeteoSwiss

Geneviève Baudraz informed about the project NORM90, which deals with the homogenization of climatological time series.

Christof Appenzeller introduced NCCR-Climate, a Swiss Network of climate research.

10. Any other matters

National climate report

Bjorn Aune was presenting the newest issues of the National Climate Report of Norway.

Web-page

It was suggested to implement an ECSN web-page containing the following topics:

- Purpose of ECSN
- Abstracts of the projects
- Reports
- Meeting Agenda
- FAQ (frequently asked questions):
- Links to other bodies

Precipitation correction

Claus Kern-Hansen was suggesting to compile an overview concerning the various methods of precipitation correction in Europe. A close co-operation with the DWD-Information-Center will be essential. An inquiry among the ECSN members is in preparation.

11. Date and place of the 7th EAC Meeting

Volker Vent-Schmidt offered to organize the next EAC meeting, probably at Hohenpeissenberg (Germany). The date will be indicated later.

12. Closure of the Meeting

The Chairman thanked all the participants for their engagement. He also congratulated the organiser for their work and for their kind hospitality.

The meeting was closed at 12:30 on the 5th of October.