

ECSN Advisory Committee

Minutes of the 7th Meeting, Hohenpeissenberg, Germany, 3-5 June 2002

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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
Peer Hechler	Germany
Maria Michelaraki	Greece
Sandor Szalai	Hungary
Tiziano Colombo	Italy
Tom Sheridan	Ireland
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

Mr. Winkler, Director of the Meteorological Observatory Hohenpeissenberg, welcomes the participants to this EAC Meeting held at that famous meteorological site.

The ECSN-Manager, Walter Kirchhofer, thanks Volker Vent-Schmidt, Chairman of the ECSN Advisory Committee, for the invitation and for organizing the Meeting.

Special greetings are going to Tiziano Colombo (Italy) and Tom Sheridan (Ireland). Both of them are joining for the first time an ECSN Advisory Committee Meeting as representatives of their countries.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

With a new point 7.7 "Participation in the Framework of EU FP6" the agenda was adopted.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 6th EAC Meeting

Under point 10, the mentioned DWD-Information-Centre is the Global Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCC).

Otherwise approval of the Minutes and thanks to Stephan Bader for writing the Minutes.

4. Reports

4.1 EAC Chairman

At the RA VI Meeting in Geneva, 2-9 May 2002, the following points relevant to ECSN were discussed:

- **EUCOS:** In the context of EUCOS (EUMetnet Composite Observing System) there were first clarifications concerning the future of the European meteorological networks.
- **Regional Climate Centres:** The second session of the Inter-Commission Task Team on Regional Climate Centres emphasized the need to set up Regional Climate Centres. It also stressed the need to provide the European Commission (EC) with appropriate recommendations to enable EC to make progress in the implementation of the Regional Climate Centres concept. (Report available on the web: <http://www.wmo.ch/web/wcp/clips2001/html/index.html>)
- **EuroGCOS:** The DWD started the initiative to combine regional components of climate monitoring into EuroGCOS (GCOS: Global Climate Observing System).

4.2 ECSN Manager

At the RA VI Meeting in Geneva, 3 May 2002, the ECSN activity was presented as a successful Eu-

European program. The manager thanked Volker Vent-Schmidt and Aryan van Engelen for their presentations. The Final Report "European Climate Assessment" was distributed to all the Participants of the Meeting.

The Manager referred to the different documents, such as the ECSN Quarterly and the Annual Reports, where the ECSN activities are summarized. After a short discussion about the distribution of information, it was generally agreed that a certain selection is necessary, and that only important information relevant to ECSN has to be distributed directly to the EAC Members. As a further platform to reach in addition a larger community the EUMETNET Newsletter is recommended.

In the Managers opinion the main attention should be given to the running ECSN projects in supporting the work and the demands of the project leaders.

5. Status Reports from ECSN Projects

5.1 European Climate Assessment (KNMI)

The Final Report is printed and available for distribution. Aryan van Engelen gives a summary concerning the project activities. For the next report period several initiatives are planned:

- Specifying the definite responsibilities .
- Acquireing additional partners.
- Clarifying the needs on the part of IPCC .
- Concerning the requests on the part of the environment and scientific communities with regard to climate extremes.
- Ensuring the update of the datasets including metadata and homogeneity flags.
- Treatening the GCOS request concerning daily data stations.

The next report is intended for 2007. It is planned to include the regions Middle East and North Africa. A denser network of stations is aimed. It is foreseen to add meta data and homogeneity flags to the current dataset.

To reach these goals it is planned to combine the two projects "European Climate Assessment" and "ECSN Climate Dataset" to a long-term project ECA&D. To support such a long-term project in an efficient way the establishment of an Advisory Board is suggested.

5.2 Generate Climate Monitoring Products (DWD)

A first publication appeared in the recent WMO Region VI Bulletin. The last general action was the dispatch of the questionnaire. Actually the results are evaluated in detail, but many of the answers are not clearly interpretable, and many of the questionnaires were not sent back yet!

If problems and delays arise concerning answering the questionnaire, the ECSN-Members should contact immediately Mr. Reinhard Zoellner (Reinhard.Zoellner@dwd.de).

The GCMP web page is actually examined by software specialists in regard to optimize the availability. A proposal will be discussed during the GCMP workshop in Hamburg, 25-27 September 2002.

A large number of national products is already available on the Web. Most of the national products, however, are described in their national language. In order to avoid language problems, the description of the products should be in English and provided by GCMP. To be able to offer products without any large time delay, a close

arrangement between all ECSN Members should be envisaged. The topic will be put on the agenda of the GCMP workshop in September 2002.

5.3 Climate Atlas of Europe (Météo-France)

Since the last EAC meeting many members have supplied their data sets. The received datasets are examined on the basis of the first station. The examination of the entire dataset is in the responsibility of each member. So far, the datasets from 6 countries are correct. The datasets from 4 countries are still incorrect.

However, there are still 8 ECSN countries (Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and United Kingdom) which have not supplied their data sets.

All members are kindly requested to supply their datasets until end of August 2002.

Actually a questionnaire concerning the kind of data acquisition (i.e. the computation of daily mean values, daily sums etc.) has been sent to all Members. Despite the WMO-guidelines very different methods of data acquisition are still in use. Therefore the production of European maps, especially within the range of the national borders, could cause some difficulties. The knowledge of the data acquisition may reduce such problems. Therefore a list of national climate data specialists is in circulation because the direct contact to such data specialists is often very essential.

All Members are kindly invited to contribute to that list.

5.4 ECSN Climate Dataset (KNMI and DNMI)

The project ECD will soon be terminated. As previously mentioned, the projects ECD and ECA will be combined to a long-term project ECA&D. In the years to come the major task will be the extension of the dataset in regard to more stations, more parameters and a regular updating. But in order to avoid a commercial use of the dataset it must be made certain that the data density will not get too high. It was pointed out that the actual free access to the ECD is a break-through in the European data policy. So this free exchange within the scientific community may not be endangered. Also the ECD may not be supplied to other data provider, otherwise the ECD will soon become redundantly.

5.5 Final Report GIS (ZAMG)

The Final Report "GIS in Climatological Applications" is now also available in printed form. With this Final Report the GIS topic in the framework of ECSN is terminated. The results of the ECSN project "GIS in Climatological Applications" are taken up in the COST-719 project. Hartwig Dobesch as principal leader of COST-719 will report regularly on the progress of the COST project.

COST-719 link:

<http://www.knmi.nl/samenw/cost719/>

5.6 Final Report Drought investigations (Meteo HU, PT)

The draft version of the Final Report "Drought investigations" was presented. Germany, Netherlands and Spain expressed their willingness to review the report.

At a later stage the content may well be integrated into GCMP as a monitoring product .

6. Status Reports

6.1 ECSN Data Management Workshop, Langen

The ECSN Data Management Workshop in Langen, 12-13 November 2001, was focussed on climate data exchange and data quality. The EUMETNET programme UNIDART (Uniform Data Request Interface) was considered to be an appropriate approach to improve the infrastructure for the exchange of climate data in Europe. The benefits of UNIDART have been identified as follows:

- data holder keep control of data and access;
- availability of up-to-date data and metadata;
- access to international climate data.

The projects ECD (ECSN Climate Dataset) and MAC (Mesoscale Alpine Climate) were nominated to be pilot applications for UNIDART. The ECD-Web application was identified to be a user interface prototype for UNIDART.

The participants agreed that for the pilot phase the following data policy has to be applied:

- The rules for data provision have to follow the data policy practice of the respective National Met Services and the data policy of the European NMHSs.
- Only data without any condition or restriction as concerns distribution and use will be suitable for the UNIDART pilot phase.
- The ECSN participants recommended that within the UNIDART programme a clear vision of appropriate access control has to be drafted considering the future phases of the UNIDART project.

Access to the full workshop report:

http://www.dwd.de/research/klis/internat/ecsn/ecsn_workshop12112001/

6.2 Project UNIDART

(Uniform Data Request Interface)

The initial phase of UNIDART has been approved by the EUMETNET Council to create a web-based platform for the access to meteorological data and products, including climate data and indices. UNIDART will be accomplished by setting-up a virtual database granting access to the database systems keeping the real data.

The beginning of the implementation of a prototype is estimated to the beginning of 2003 (if the final report of the initial phase will be accepted by the EUMETNET Council in September 2002), and it will last to the end of 2003 until the completion of the prototype. The completion of the final version cannot be estimated so far. For more details see:

<http://www.dwd.de/UNIDART/Workshop/Final-Report.htm>

6.3 Task Group on Requirements for Regional Climate Networks (SMHI). Report from EUCOS Meeting in Zurich

The goal of the EUCOS Meeting in Zurich, 14-15 May 2002, was to promote the development of agreed objective methods and tools for the definition of the requirements and the design of networks. The Meeting obtained an overview to the following main topics:

- experience gained from the most recent surface network projects implemented by Members, from the point of view of network designers and data users (modellers), and to identify achievements and deficiencies;
- review the available scientific and technical tools applicable to the design of surface networks, such as construction of fields from point values parameters, as used for forecasting and climatology.

Due to the progress in modelling, particularly concerning the parameters heat flux and humidity, it is expected that networks have to become denser. These discussions, however, were predominantly concentrated on meteorological topics. Climatological aspects were treated only few. Therefore it is important that the ECSN represents the climate needs in the EUCOS community. Bengt Dahlström, as invited speaker, could convince the EUCOS community that climatology is an important scientific issue also in the EUCOS framework. Therefore ECSN should submit a compilation of requirements. Bengt Dahlström will take care of these climatological aspects and prepare a first Draft.

All members are kindly requested to supply Bengt Dahlström their contributions regarding climatological needs for future regional networks.

6.4 Outcome of the inquiry on national practice with respect to operational Precipitation Correction (DMI)

The preliminar results of the questionnaire on operational precipitation correction were presented. The outcome does indicate that operational precipitation correction on a daily basis is not wide spread among the NMS's in Europe. Claus Kern-Hansen will prepare a report with suggestions on how to proceed in this matter.

7. New Initiatives

7.1 Continuation of the project European Climate Assessment (KNMI)

As already mentioned the projects "European Climate Assessment" and "ECSN Climate Dataset" will be combined to a long-term project ECA&D. A financial support will be needed mainly for manpower. A detailed description including the financial requirements will be delivered soon. The

full proposal should be submitted to the next EUMETNET Council Meeting in September 2002.

The continuation of the project ECA&D was unanimously accepted.

7.2 ECSN Information System (MeteoSwiss)

MeteoSwiss has generated a new ECSN web-site. The site will be placed on the EUMETNET internet server.

<http://www.eumetnet.eu.org/contecsn.html>

Besides the administrative information the new ECSN web-site will be the platform to access all official documents and ECSN-projects.

The ECSN web-site will go online in July 2002.

7.3 GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security)

GMES is an initiative of the European Commission to determine Europe's Global monitoring role in the field of Environment and Security. To show how information from space can provide a common framework to bring activities together and to develop ownership of a strategy. The ultimate aim is to match existing and new policy needs for information at the European Commission and member state level with operational satellite services, focussing on the use of earth observation. GMES is organised in three themes: international treaty implementation, environmental stress and crisis / risk management. The current phase is focussing on engaging member states and policy users to define requirements and to provide pilot implementations.

GMES information see: <http://gmes.jrc.it/index.htm>

The aspects of research can be financed within the context of the Framework Programme FP6. The financing of the operational phase however is not solved yet. Therefore a workshop was organised in Paris, 15-16 April 2002, by EUMETNET with the support of ECMWF and EUMETSAT to consider the possible participation of meteorological entities to GMES.

(http://www.eumetnet.eu.org/GMESwkp/GMES_wkshp_report.PDF)

Concerning the ECSN community certain connections to GMES already exist. The Netherlands and France are running projects which are linked with GMES. In the context of ECSN the GCMP project is also related very closely to GMES.

7.4 EuroCLIPS

The primary objective of the WMO-project CLIPS (Climate Information and Prediction Services) is to develop the capacity of the national Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to take advantage of the recent advances in the science of climate and in the processing and delivery of climate information, and to pass on the benefits of the improved climate services to the user community. It is envisaged that this process will be based on established technical cooperation arrangements between WMO and regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies, especially through the WMO Regional Associations.

(<http://www.wmo.ch/web/wcp/clips2001/html/index.html>)

The establishment of EuroCLIPS could become a nucleus for the Region VI regarding CLIPS-related issues. It should be aimed that the ECSN as an European project cooperates with EuroCLIPS already in its initial phase.

7.5 EuroGCOS

The Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) was created (1992) to develop a dedicated observing system designed specifically to meet the observation requirements for monitoring climate, detecting climate change, and for predicting climate variations and change. The first priorities of GCOS are to coordinate and facilitate the critical observation tasks necessary to address the principal science and application issues identified in climate, such as:

- seasonal and interannual prediction;
- earliest possible detection of climate trends and climate change due to human activities;
- reduction of the major uncertainties in climate prediction.

EuroGCOS is a new initiative to integrate the regional GCOS-components of climate monitoring into a common European project. The European Union prepared a document which clarifies the funding. Spain will organize a Workshop as starting point.

7.6 Establishment of RCC functions (Report from RA-VI Meeting)

The Inter-Commission Task Team on Regional Climate Centres (ICTT-RCC) recommended that the Regional Associations should be invited to consider detailed requirements for Regional Climate Centres in their regions. A Regional Climate Centre can be a single centre or a distributed function. Regions may require more than a single centre. Functionality is to be decided by the members. Possible functions include the generation of seasonal and interannual (SI) products, data management, climate observing system and monitoring, training, research and capacity building. Existing structures should be used as far as possible.

A starting point in the RA VI could be the project GCMP. Other projects, such as ECA&D, would be already enclosed thereby. On the basis of the ECSN a proper competence-center could be established.

7.7 Participation in the Framework EU FP 6

In the context of the Framework EU FP 6, ECSN was inquired concerning a participation in the project EUFORI (European Forecasting on Intra-seasonal Timescales) to supply data for the entire European area. The goal is the production of a gridded data record covering the last 50 years.

In the letter "Expression of Interest" (EoI) ECSN is mentioned in the context of daily gridded data sets. This work should be done by the ECSN community in order to ensure the continuity of the data records.

8. Meetings and Conferences

8.1 GCMP Workshop in Hamburg, Germany, 25-27 September 2002

The main goal of the workshop will be the integration of the European national products. The products must be defined concerning the following points:

- origin
- delay of the supply
- resolution

Likewise the list of events have to be co-ordinated.

8.2 ECAC-2002 in Brussels, Belgium, 12-15 November 2002

The European Conference on Applied Climatology ECAC is a very important scientific platform. Important All members are therefore kindly invited to participate actively at the conference. Pro-

spective authors of papers and posters are invited to send a full page abstract not later than 1 July 2002. Priority will be given to innovative scientific work and new scientific results.

(<http://www.meteo.be/ECAC-2002/MoreInfo.html>)

8.3 ECSN Data Management Workshop, 2003

The Workshop will take place in Finland, May 2003. The main tasks will be data quality and requirements for regional climate networks.

8.4 ECAC-2004

So far, there is no official host for the ECAC-2004. Pierre Bessemoulin made an offer to meet in Toulouse, France, but the financial questions have to be solved first.

In the meantime Claude Pastre informed that the Directors stated (ICWED Porto, April 2002) that the European Meteorological Society should take the responsibility to organise the European meteorological conferences beyond 2003 in a way similar to AMS in America.

9. National activities of interest

9.1 The Observatory Hohenpeissenberg and its History

Since 1952 the Observatory Hohenpeissenberg, located on top of the isolated mountain Hoher Peissenberg at 975 m a.s.l, is operated by the German Weather Service (DWD). However, it has a much longer history of meteorological and climatological observations (e.g. a continuous temperature record since 1781, the oldest record in Germany) and is also well known for its long-term record of vertical ozone profiles and total ozone measurements.

While the survey of the ozone layer and radar research were initiated in 1967, two new branches have been established in 1994:

- WMO Global Atmosphere Watch Long-Term Monitoring Program, Regional Ozone Center within the WMO RA VI (Europe/Africa).
- Methods and Processes in Atmospheric Chemistry

Besides the regular monitoring program, special activities of research are:

- aspects of photochemistry and oxidation capacity
- formation of aerosols by gas-particle conversion
- documentation and interpretation of cycles of trace constituents and their long-term change
- development of meteorological filters
- development/improvement of measuring techniques
- data validation
- investigation of precipitation processes
- use of radar data for quantification of area precipitation and severe weather warnings

10. Any other matters

No further remarks.

11. Date and place of the 8th EAC Meeting

Pierre Bessemoulin offered to organize the next EAC Meeting in September 2003, probably in Toulouse, France. Thanks for the kind invitation.

12. Closure of the Meeting

The ECSN Manager, Walter Kirchhofer, thanked all the participants for their engagement. He also congratulated the organizer, especially Volker Vent-Schmidt, Chairman of the ECSN Advisory Committee, for their work and for their kind hospitality.

The meeting was closed at 13:00 on the 5th of June 2002.