

ECSN Quarterly Report October - December 2001

Prepared by the ECSN Manager and the Project Leaders

General remarks

The 6th ECSN Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting has taken place in Zurich, 4-5 October 2001.

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

The ECSN Manager invited the members and the project leaders to focus the activities on a limited number of priority actions to permit allocation of enough financial and human resources to the projects. The EAC decided to follow these views and agreed upon the following proposals:

- The project Climate Databases will be transformed into some basic activity with a more specific mandate.
- With the presented Final Report the ECSN project GIS in Climatological Applications will be terminated and followed up by COST-719.
- The project Drought Investigations will be completed with a Final Report.

The third ECSN-Workshop on Climate Databases has taken place in Langen, Germany, 12-13 November 2001, focussing on climate data exchange and data quality. Since the EUMETNET project UNIDART (Uniform Data Request Interface) is considered to be a suitable project to develop an infrastructure for a border-crossing exchange of

climate data, UNIDART was the main discussion topic.

The Workshop was a success. All participants were up-dated on the actual state of the climate data management in Europe and professional contacts among experts have been intensified. We proposed that ECSN should collaborate very closely with UNIDART. Therefore a list of requirements has been prepared for the realisation of the pilot phase and further steps of UNIDART.

At the thirteenth Session of the WMO Commission for Climatology (CCI) in Geneva, 21 to 30 November 2001, a part of the session was devoted to scientific lectures where we had the privilege to inform the delegates about the main activities of the EUMETNET- ECSN programme. The ECSN lectures were as follows:

- European Climate Support Network
(W. Kirchhofer, Switzerland)
- Project: European Climate Assessment
(A. Klein Tank, Netherlands)
- Project: Generate Climate Monitoring Products
(V. Vent-Schmidt, Germany)

A proposal for climate monitoring in Europe:

The US Climate Prediction Centre (CPC) is providing products related to climate analysis and monitoring at global and regional scales.

A proposal has been made at the last EAC meeting in Zurich in order to improve significantly this kind of product for the benefit of European meteorological services.

The proposed framework for this project could be the ECSN project "Generate Climate Monitoring Products", aiming at facilitating the Internet access to data and products produced by different European countries through a common Web site.

The proposal has been distributed to all countries concerned. Météo-France is offering to realize such a product on a routine basis from the contribution of NMSs with their own raw data.

European Climate Assessment (KNMI)

Starting in October 1998, the project European Climate Assessment (ECA) has now almost finished the analysis of European climate on the basis of high-resolution temperature and precipitation time series of meteorological stations in Europe. Over the past months, we focussed on the production of a project report that will be published in spring 2002. Besides, ECA was presented at the 13th Session of the WMO-CCL, as part of a presentation on ECSN activities, and a paper describing the ECA dataset was submitted to the International Journal of Climatology. In November 2001 a selection of daily series of the ECA dataset was made available through Internet.

Generate Climate Monitoring Products (DWD)

A new proposal was elaborated concerning the continuation of the project up to the end of the year 2003 according to a refined work plan. It was

submitted to the EUMETNET Council and approved at its meeting in October 2001.

Development and installation on the Internet of an advanced test version of the project Web site were carried out. Thus providing support to interested NMHSs to select appropriate climate monitoring products from their portfolio and to propose them for inclusion in the scheme.

At the meeting of the ECSN Advisory Committee as well as at the last ECSN workshop on data management the platform was introduced and the participants gave positive response.

On the basis of a questionnaire ECSN NMHSs were asked to nominate focal points and to send proposals for enhanced contributions for incorporation in the project Web pages. Several replies signalling interest in participating in the project and announcing candidate climate monitoring products for inclusion in the scheme have already been received by the project leader.

As stated in the preceding reports the success of the project is very much dependent on the active participation of the European NMHSs. In this respect the Internet site, presentations at meetings and questionnaires are very helpful in raising further interest.

In the first quarter of 2002 the project Web site will be extended and further developed. Contributions of the ECSN NMHSs who have already announced their intent to join in the project will be integrated. Preparations for the second GCMP workshop, scheduled for summer 2002 in Hamburg, will begin in this period.

Climate Atlas of Europe (Météo-France)

All 18 EUMETNET countries have signed the contract, as well as Hungary.

Following a letter sent to a number of non EUMETNET countries offering them to join the project, positive replies were received from Slovenia, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Bulgaria.

Answers to the questionnaire concerning national practices for climate information have been received from all 18 EUMETNET countries and from Hungary and Slovenia. They will be processed soon and a synthesis presented at the next EAC meeting.

For the moment, the expected contributions in terms of number of stations are the following (the numbers between brackets represent the number of stations proposed by the considered country):

Austria (17), Belgium (8), Czech Republic (22), Denmark (8), Finland (22), France (104), Germany (100), Greece (15), Hungary (9), Iceland (3), Ireland (9), Italy (54), Luxemburg (1), Norway (40), Portugal (21), Slovenia (6), Spain (79), Sweden (30), Switzerland (14), The Netherlands (7), UK (70), i.e. a total of about 600 stations. For the time being, France, Germany and Spain have already sent complete datasets.

ECSN Climate Dataset (KNMI and DNMI)

With the production of a CD-ROM containing the EUMETNET part of the ECA dataset, the project ECSN Climate Dataset (ECD) has arrived at the first stage.

At the same time, the Web application was prepared, which will be operational as from the end of January 2002 (see URL: <http://www.knmi.nl/samenw/e.cd>). This first version is attended by only a minimum set of metadata. Furthermore, the Java application has only a limited set of functions to interact with the data.

This application was successfully demonstrated at the last ECSN Data Management Workshop in Langen. At this workshop the relevance of ECD for the UNIDART concept has been emphasized, expressed by the willingness to use the ECD database as a test case in the UNIDART project.

From the above it is clear that a lot more work has to be done, especially in the field of metadata. From the ECA project, statistical metadata are available on a time series level and this will be included in the final version of ECD. The next version of the Web application will be completely based on a relational database system (Oracle).

Originally, there was a workshop planned for the end of 2001. Given the status of the project and the priorities listed, it was decided to meet at a later stage of the project, preferably in the form of an evaluation/follow-up workshop.

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