

ECSN Quarterly Report

July-September 2002

Prepared by the ECSN Manager and the Project Leaders

General remarks

After the successful termination of the two projects “European Climate Assessment” and “ECSN Climate Dataset”, a follow-up project was envisaged by KNMI in order to continue the ECSN activities in these fields. The follow-up project proposal “European Climate Assessment & Dataset” (ECA & D), promoted by KNMI and the ECSN Advisory Committee, was approved by the EUMETNET Council in its September meeting. On behalf of ECSN the Manager expresses his thanks to the EUMETNET Council and to KNMI for their substantial support.

The second workshop of the project “Generate Climate Monitoring Products” (GCMP), hosted by DWD, has taken place in Hamburg, 25-27 September 2002. This GCMP workshop was an important milestone in the project development. The ECSN Manager thanked the participants for their active participation and the workshop organiser for their engagement and for their kind hospitality.

The Fourth Conference on Applied Climatology ECAC-2002 will take place in Brussels, 12-14 November 2002. The European Meteorological Society (EMS) will meet in the same International Congress Center, 14-15 November 2002. The preparations for the ECAC-2002 are well on the way thanks to the staff of the Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium. See the Conference web-site: <http://www.meteo.be/ECAC-2002>

European Climate Assessment & Dataset (KNMI)

After the publication of the Report “Climate of Europe: Assessment of observed daily temperature and precipitation extremes” in May 2002, the past months have been used to prepare a follow-up proposal for both activities, namely for “European Climate Assessment” (ECA) and for “ECSN Climate Dataset” (ECD). The new project is entitled: European Climate Assessment & Dataset (ECA & D). At its September meeting the EUMETNET Council approved the proposal. This implies that the work on the assessment of the climate of EUROPE and on assembling a daily dataset will continue for another 4 years. The plans for the coming months will soon be discussed with all project participants.

Generate Climate Monitoring Products (DWD)

Summary

Work on the development of the Website “Generate Climate Monitoring Products” (GCMP) continued. In order to further improve the Internet platform, external software experts elaborated concept proposals concerning the

- layout, functionalities,
- contents and
- technical solutions to include the products contributed to GCMP by the project partners.

Some of these proposals have already been implemented.

An important milestone in the project development was the GCMP workshop, 25 - 27 September 2002, hosted by DWD in Hamburg. At the

workshop 18 participants were present, including the ECSN Manager, Dr. Walter Kirchhofer, 13 representatives from 9 ECSN Met. Services, the Chief of the World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme (WCDMP) Division of WMO, Dr. Paul Llanso, the Vice-President of the WMO Technical Commission for Climatology, Mr. Volker Vent-Schmidt, and two external software experts.

In short presentations by the participants numerous further climate monitoring products appropriate for GCMP were offered, cooperation with WMO/WCDMP discussed and proposals of the software experts concerning the GCMP site presented.

Two session working groups prepared the basis for discussion and decisions in plenary concerning the standardized layout, contents as well as the technical solution of the GCMP Internet presentation.

- A core group (France, Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland) was established to support the project management and to steer and accomplish the project.
- Project partners shall ensure the timely and continuous provision of monthly seasonal and annual national monitoring information in English language on dedicated areas of their Web servers, primarily maps, graphs, text on temperature and precipitation.
- In order to tackle the problem of extreme events on the subregional and national levels an ad hoc working group was established comprising three members (Germany, Portugal and Spain). The group will elaborate a document on guidelines concerning the criteria for selection and presentation of extreme events.

- It was decided to develop the area of European climate monitoring products in contact with major European climate centres.

Implementation of the workshop results has begun already.

Potential problems

Although cooperation within the project has intensified, especially due to the GCMP workshop in September, it is nevertheless indispensable to increase the number of actively participating European NMHSs to achieve sufficient regional coverage, especially concerning the national climate monitoring products.

Outlook for the next period

Implementation of the workshop results will continue. The GCMP Website will be adapted accordingly. GCMP Web manager and project partners will coordinate the filenaming and directory structure as well as information on the links of the contributions on the respective servers.

Additional climate monitoring products will be included in the site in compliance with the workshop decisions.

Climate Atlas of Europe (Météo-France)

Datasets from the following countries have been received in final form (that means that formats are the required ones, and that preliminary checks did not reveal anomalies):

1. EUMETNET countries:

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

Italy has sent a preliminary file beginning of September. The final version should be available mid October. Ireland has sent a preliminary file mid August. Final version still awaited. Iceland did not send any data so far.

2. Non EUMETNET countries:

Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, and Slovenia. Slovakia will send data mid October.

The data collection phase will definitely end up by the end of October 2002.

ECSN Climate Dataset (KNMI and DNMI)

Summary

The project "ECSN Climate Dataset" (ECD) is formally finished as the server is operational and the final report is prepared on the website HYPERLINK "<http://ecd.knmi.nl>" <http://ecd.knmi.nl>. The server will be fully operational as from beginning of November as it has to be tested and configured in the network environment of KNMI. The ECD project reached the objectives in an efficient and straight forward manner. With the approval of the ECA&D project proposal, the successful ECD project will be the platform for further activities in this field.

Status of the activities

A relational database hosting time series of 203 stations of 29 countries is accessed through a Java application. The tables in the database are as complete as possible, but they will be completed further when more data are available. The database is easy to maintain and extensible, a prerequisite for any follow-up project.

Further Actions

After finishing the project, only some technical issues remain and they are expected to be done by November 2002. The ECD project will be presented at the ECAC-2002 conference in November this year, in Brussels.

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