

## ECSN Advisory Committee

### Minutes of the 8th Meeting, Toulouse, France, 24-26 September 2003

#### Agenda

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opening of the Meeting and Welcome</li> <li>2. Adoption of the Agenda</li> <li>3. Approval of the Minutes of the 7th EAC-Meeting</li> <li>4. Reports           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 EAC Chairman</li> <li>4.2 ECSN Manager</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Status Reports from ECSN Projects           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1 European Climate Assessment &amp; Dataset (KNMI)</li> <li>5.2 Generate Climate Monitoring Products (DWD)</li> <li>5.3 Climate Atlas of Europe (Météo-France)</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Status Reports           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.1 ECSN Data Management Workshop, Helsinki, 19-20 May 2003 (FMI)</li> <li>6.2 Project UNIDART - Uniform Data Request Interface (DWD)</li> <li>6.3 Task Group on Requirements for Regional Climate Networks (SMHI)</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. New Initiatives           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.1 Implementation of the working package GCMP into operation (DWD)</li> <li>7.2 UNIDART applied in Climatology (DWD)</li> <li>7.3 Defining an observational Network dedicated to Climate Change (Météo-France)</li> </ol> </li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.4 EURO-CLIPS (Information by DWD)</li> <li>7.5 EURO-GCOS (Information by DWD)</li> <li>7.6 EU Proposal ENSEMBLES (Information by KNMI)</li> <li>7.7 COST 719</li> <li>8. Meetings and Conferences           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.1 ECAC-2004 in Nice, France, 26-30 September 2004</li> <li>8.2 ECSN Data Management Workshop, 2005</li> </ol> </li> <li>9. National activities (Météo-France)           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9.1 Activity in Hydrometeorology</li> <li>9.2 Seasonal Forecasting</li> <li>9.3 Homogenization Techniques</li> </ol> </li> <li>10. Election</li> <li>11. Date and place of the 9th EAC Meeting</li> <li>12. Closure of the Meeting</li> </ol> |
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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
Tiziano Colombo	Italy
Tom Sheridan	Ireland
Aryan van Engelen	Netherlands

Eirik Forland	Norway
Fátima Coelho	Portugal
José Lopez	Spain
Bengt Dahlström	Sweden
Walter Kirchhofer	Switzerland
Stephan Bader (Minutes)	Switzerland
Simon Tett	United Kingdom

## 1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chairman of the ECSN Advisory Committee, Volker Vent-Schmidt, and the ECSN-Manager, Walter Kirchhofer, welcome the participants to this EAC Meeting held at Météo France in Toulouse. They thank Pierre Bessemoulin for the invitation and for organizing the Meeting. Special greetings are going to Simon Tett (UK) who is joining for the first time an ECSN Advisory Committee Meeting as representative of United Kingdom.

Claude Pastre (EUMETNET) welcomes the participants with the reference that for him it will be the last Meeting due to his retirement at the end of this year. Claude Pastre informed that at its 19th Meeting the EUMETNET Council agreed to continue the Optional Programme ECSN for a third phase of three years. MeteoSwiss was unanimously selected to be the Responsible Member for ECSN under the leadership of Dr. Walter Kirchhofer as Programme Manager.

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

After some minor changes, the agenda was adopted.

## 3. Approval of the Minutes of the 7th EAC Meeting

The Minutes were approved without any changes. The Manager thanks Stephan Bader for writing the Minutes.

## 4. Reports

### 4.1 EAC Chairman

#### WMO Congress

Within the Regional Activities the ECSN projects were considered as a substantial European contribution to the actual climatological tasks.

### Earth Observation Summit (July 31, 2003 Washington DC, USA)

The purpose of the summit was to promote the development of a comprehensive, coordinated and sustained Earth Observation System or systems among governments and the international community to understand and address global environmental and economic challenges. As a result of the Earth Observation Summit, an ad hoc Group on Earth Observations (GEO) was established to prepare a 10-year implementation plan for a coordinated, comprehensive and sustained Earth Observation System or systems. A two-day inaugural meeting of the group was held in August to facilitate planning for the year ahead.

Further information see:

<http://www.earthobservationsummit.gov/>

#### Achievements

- The project „Drought Investigations“ (Meteo HU, PT) was terminated with a Final Report. All Members received a copy. Some copies are still available.
- The GCMP project presents a pre-operational version (<http://www.gcmp.dwd.de/>).
- The new project ECA&D was approved by the EUMETNET Council.

### 4.2 ECSN Manager

The ECSN Manager expresses his thanks to all the EAC Members for their kind support. A special thank goes to the project leaders. Without their leading functions the ECSN Programme could

not succeed. A very warm thank goes also to Volker Vent-Schmidt, EAC Chairman, and to Claude Pastre, CO EUMETNET, for their active support. The manager announces his willingness to take over the leadership of the ECSN Optional Programme for another three years. A general arrangement within the EUMETNET Council already took place.

### **Information concerning projects**

- The UNIDART (Uniform Data Request Interface) project has as its main goal the development of a Web portal which will provide uniform access to meteorological and climatological data and products through Internet. The prototype phase has started in April 2003. The focus of the prototype development will concentrate on the requirements set by ECSN for access to climatological data. So far, KNMI, FMI, DNMI, DWD, UKMO and MeteoSwiss will be actively involved in the prototype phase.

- After the successful termination of the two projects „European Climate Assessment“ (ECA) and „ECSN Climate Dataset“ (ECD), a follow-up project, namely „European Climate Assessment & Dataset“ (ECA&D), was prepared by KNMI and approved by the EUMETNET Council.

- The project „Generate Climate Monitoring Products“ (GCMP) will soon be terminated and a follow-up project „EuroCLIS“ will be launched by DWD.

- The project „Climate Atlas of Europe“ has produced a large database. A draft CD-ROM in the French version has been prepared. Whether a follow-up project should be launched has to be discussed soon.

### **European Conferences**

The two European Conferences ECAC and ECAM will in the future alternately be accomplished as one joint conference together with the Annual Meeting of the European Meteorological Society (EMS). So, the next ECAC will be a combined conference „ECAC-2004/EMS Annual Meeting 2004“ in Nice, 26-30 September 2004. The scientific part of the ECAC will be managed by the ECAC Advisory Board (EAB).

## **5. Status Reports from ECSN Projects**

### **5.1 European Climate Assessment & Dataset (KNMI)**

A report concerning the technical work of the ECA&D project and its infrastructure is presented. It outlines the technical and infrastructural activities in the ECA&D project for the coming years. A special view is given to the database, the quality control procedures, the extremes analyses and the website access. Further information see: [www.knmi.nl/samenw/eca](http://www.knmi.nl/samenw/eca) -> "Project info"

The next assessment report is planned to be printed in 2006. It is aimed to integrate the whole RA VI Region including the parts of Northern Africa. All relevant participants will be contacted in the near future to make clear which meetings and/or workshop activities are fruitful contributions to the project.

### **5.2 Generate Climate Monitoring Products (DWD)**

A new and re-designed version of the communication platform was published on the web. It is planned to complete the project at the end of 2003. Currently seven European Services are contributing routinely to the GCMP site, and there are contacts to three further ECSN members for delivering climate information regularly. But the

coverage of the European region with national climate monitoring products still has to be improved. Therefore continued efforts are necessary in order to accelerate this process. A special attempt is to incorporate the Mediterranean countries.

### **Data delivery**

GCMP contains two main parts. The one part is an assemblage of links to the European National Services. In the other part new products are generated at the base of the information delivered from the European National Services. So the real time use of both parts extremely depends on accurately timed data delivery. At the moment the data-delay is the main problem concerning the operational use of GCMP.

### **Free data exchange**

The GCMP site itself underlies no restrictions. But GCMP has no influence on the National products. To ensure an unobstructed data exchange, the main goal of GCMP, the National Services should be aware to enable a free access to their GCMP products. In addition, the main products should be delivered in an English version.

The project will elaborate a concept containing those two points as a decision of the ECSN Advisory Committee. The concept will be submitted to the directors of the National Services.

### **5.3 Climate Atlas of Europe (Météo-France)**

The draft CD-ROM in the French version has been presented. It includes all expected functionalities. The database including metadata will be accessible to anyone having the ACCESS software. It is reminded that it contains data from more than 700 stations from 24 countries, with up to 43 parameters.

An English version is in preparation. A test version will be available soon. Ireland kindly offered to edit the English text files.

### **Future proceedings**

The Climate Atlas of Europe could serve as a base to produce National Climate Atlases. In France, a country-specific climate atlas derived from the Climate Atlas of Europe has already been realised.

An extended version could include the countries of eastern Europe.

In the actual version no climate maps are generated. In a further version, based on a highly enhanced dataset, climate maps could be a valuable completion.

## **6. Status Reports**

### **6.1 ECSN Data Management Workshop, Helsinki**

The 4th ECSN Data Management Workshop, held in Helsinki, 19-20 May 2003, was mainly focussed on the UNIDART (Uniform Data Request Interface) project. The proceedings from the Workshop has been published, including a CD-ROM. It is also planned to put the contributions on the web.

The participants of the workshop agreed that there is a special need to continue these workshops and they invited the ECSN manager to care for their continuation.

### **6.2 Project UNIDART**

The UNIDART concept is aimed at the development of an information system based on Internet access to all kinds of meteorological and climatological datasets and products. The first phase of the project, to define a set of requirements, to make a feasibility assessment, to estimate the costs for an implementation of UNIDART has been completed.

In the second phase a prototype version of UNIDART will be implemented, focussed on the following tasks:

- to prepare the detailed definition of the prototype, taking into account the possibility to use already existing solutions;
- to fulfil the requirements set by ECSN for access to climatological data;
- to fulfil the requirements set by WMO-CBS for the development of the Future WMO Information System (especially concerning a WMO metadata standard);
- to implement the prototype;
- to evaluate and test the prototype.

#### **ECSN Requirements for UNIDART**

- Application of the data policy of WMO (Resolution 40) and of the data policy of the European NMHSs;
- user registration and appropriate access control;
- online access to data stored in relational databases;
- data holders keep control of data and metadata access conditions;
- integration of new data providers;
- addition of further data and products.

#### **Next steps**

- to get an agreement for a data grid as the basis of a technical infrastructure;
- to test the grid software Globus and UNICORE;
- eventually consider further grid software developed in other projects, e.g. EDG project ([www.eu-datagrid.org](http://www.eu-datagrid.org));
- to choose the grid software for the prototype implementation;
- to find data providers for the prototype implementation;

- to establish a data grid between these providers;
- to start the prototype implementation.

### **6.3 Task Group on Requirements for Regional Climate Networks (SMHI)**

The design of surface networks is very sensitive in view of the focussed products. From the same observational base several and quite different products must be generated. As a first step towards a climate observation system therefore a sensitivity analyses is required. A considerable point within this discussion is the effect of the density of the network concerning climatological statements. Other important points are the location-setup and the manner of the data-recording. It is claimed out that a group of several ECSN Members should elaborate a proposal how to pursue this topic.

## **7. New Initiatives**

### **7.1 Implementation of the working package GCMP into operation (DWD)**

Based on the existing prototype of the ECSN project GCMP a high sophisticated system will be developed and implemented to provide climate monitoring products at national and European levels on a routine basis. For access to climatological data the applications developed within ECSN-UNIDART will be used. Through liaison with UNIDART, the experiences made will be shared as far as possible. The primary users will be European NMHSs with a strong vision to also address the general public.

The draft for an ECSN project European Climate Information System (EuroCLIS) has been presented at the EAC meeting. The Members have been impressed by this proposal and urged DWD to formulate an ECSN project EuroCLIPS which can be put to the EUMETNET Council for approval.

## 7.2 UNIDART applied in Climatology (DWD)

See under item 6.2.

## 7.3 Defining an observational Network dedicated to Climate Change (Météo-France)

In Europe, the concepts of the observation networks usually are based on meteorological tasks. In the USA, however, a special climatological network is in use. In Ireland, stations with long term observations actually are recombined to a climatological network. In view of the actual climate change discussion, this effort should be extended to the whole of Europe.

This topic maybe an issue to be discussed within the ad hoc Group on Earth Observations (GEO), not only on a European, but also on a global level.

## 7.4 Euro-CLIPS (Information by DWD)

Within the new project SCOPE the climatological impacts of the well known North Atlantic climatic patterns on the Mediterranean region should be analysed. The research is based on the ECMWF seasonal forecasts. The main task of the project is to evaluate climate risks.

The ECSN Members from the Mediterranean countries are interested to participate. The CLIPS Office is willing to support the project concerning training.

A detailed proposal will be worked out under the leadership of Portugal, supported by Spain, France, Italy and Greece. The proposal must also contain a detailed compilation of the financial resources. Further on, this initiative could lead to a new ECSN project.

## 7.5 Euro-GCOS (Information by DWD)

It is planned to organize in 2005 a European GCOS Regional Workshop in accordance with the UNFCCC. The workshop will be organized by the GCOS Secretariat, with the support of DWD. The

workshop will include the following aims:

- identification of regional deficiency on observation networks for climate;
- to assess priority needs and funding requirement to overcome the observation deficiency;
- to initiate the development of a Regional Action Plan;
- to establish a network of national GCOS Focal Points/Coordinators;
- to establish a permanent EuroGCOS;
- to consider the development of a EurOSIC (European Observation Systems Information Centre).

Participants of the workshop will include people from NMHSs, National Oceanographic Services and other relevant Agencies as well as the National Climate Change Focal Points.

## 7.6 EU Proposal ENSEMBLES (Information by KNMI)

As discussed at the 7th ECSN Advisory Committee Meeting, held in Hohenpeissenberg, 3-5 June 2002, KNMI was trying to link the work on the „European Climate Assessment & Dataset“ to the research activities in the new Framework Programme FP6 of the European Union.

Within the European Integrated Project „ENSEMBLES“, the Work Package WP 5.1: Development of high-resolution observational datasets for Europe, was proposed.

The budget reduction for ENSEMBLES implies that also the partners of the WP 5.1 have to downscale the level of ambition in the work and deliverables, but with some optimism the project should get the starting shot next spring.

## 7.7 COST 719

Hartwig Dobesch, Chairman of COST 719, informed that in spring 2003, the financial support of the projects within COST 719 were stopped due to

a possible integration into EU's Framework Programme FP6. Some work have been done on the level of the project management.

## **8. Meetings and Conferences**

### **8.1 ECAC-2004**

The European Conference on Applied Climatology, ECAC-2004, will be held in Nice , France, 26-30 September 2004.

A working paper concerning proposals for the main topics for the part „Applied Climatology“ has been distributed by the EAB chairman, Walter Kirchhofer.

The EMS Secretary, Arne Spekat, reported about the 3rd EMS Annual Meeting in Rome and the side-meetings dealing with matters of the 4th EMS Annual Meeting with ECAC as part and partner. In particular he presented the updated list of topics as it came out of these meetings; the top-level subjects are under the guidance of coordinators, and the second-level entries are steered by conveners.

### **8.2 ECSN Data Management Workshop, 2005**

The 5th ECSN Data Management Workshop will be held in De Bilt, Netherlands, in 2005. Aryan van Engelen kindly agreed to organize this workshop.

## **9. National activities (Météo-France)**

### **9.1 Activity in Hydrometeorology**

Jean-Paul Goutorbe gave an interesting speak about the actual activity in Hydrometeorology. A closer view was given to the Garonne catchment (Southern France) under special consideration of soil and vegetation types.

### **9.2 Seasonal Forecasting**

Jean-Pierre Ceron gave an interesting overview about Seasonal Forecasting, which is not done for

single catchments, but for the whole of France. The goal of this effort is to get a general overview concerning the climatological development that can be used for several purposes.

### **9.3 Homogenization Techniques**

Jean-Marc Moisselin gave an interesting speak about Homogenization Techniques in France. He introduced a homogenization method that does not depend on a reference series.

## **10. Election**

With acclamation, Volker Vent-Schmidt, DWD, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the ECSN Advisory Committee for another three years.

## **11. Date and place of the 9th EAC Meeting**

Tom Sheridan invited the ECSN Advisory Committee to hold its 9th Meeting in Ireland. The Delegates thanked for the kind invitation. The 9th EAC Meeting will take place in Dublin, 8-10 September 2004.

## **12. Closure of the Meeting**

The ECSN Manager, Walter Kirchhofer, thanked all the participants for their engagement. He congratulated the organizer, especially Pierre Bessemoulin, for their work and for their kind hospitality by Météo-France.

The Meeting was closed at 12:00 on the 26th of September 2003.