

ECSN Quarterly Report January-March 2004

Prepared by the ECSN Manager and the Project Leaders

General remarks

The EUMETNET Council has decided to continue the ECSN Programme for a third phase of three years, starting on 1 January 2004. MeteoSwiss will remain the Responsible Member with Dr. Walter Kirchhofer as Programme Manager. MeteoSwiss has prepared the Contract for signature between MeteoSwiss as Responsible Member and the EUMETNET Members.

The European Meteorological Society (EMS), in partnership with ECSN, will organize the European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC). The first combined conference „EMS4/ECAC5“ will take place in Nice, 26-30 September 2004. The third ECAC Advisory Board (EAB) Working Meeting has taken place in Nice, 15-16 January 2004.

The Fifth European Conference on Applied Climatology will cover the following main topics:

- Climate change impacts
- Climate prediction and climate variability
- Climate change detection and climate trends
- Synoptic climatology
- Time series homogenization
- Climate risks and their management
- Climate monitoring and data products
- Information systems in climatology
- Renewable energy
- Bio-, agro- and urban climatology
- Historical Climatology
- International cooperation in climatology

The Call for Papers for ECAC-2004 is launched, Abstracts can be submitted until 23 May 2004 (see: <http://www.emetsoc.org/ECAC>).

The Irish Meteorological Service will host the 9th ECSN Advisory Committee Meeting in Dublin, 8-10 September 2004.

European Climate Assessment & Dataset (KNMI)

Various users currently test the prototypes that have been developed for the new operational database and the new web-interface of ECA&D. Because of firewall restrictions this test is performed inside KNMI. In a later stage, other users will be able to test the new system (also outside KNMI). Part of the test is related to the performance of the automated updating procedure of daily ECA series with GTS synoptical data and the performance of the DODS technology to make the daily data available in netCDF format.

It is our intention to officially release the new ECA&D website at the forthcoming European Conference on Applied Climatology in Nice in September. Since good progress is made with the automated quality control procedures and indices calculation procedures, they will also be ready and implemented at the time of the launch of the new ECA&D web site in September.

Finally, the preparations are underway for the earlier announced planning of the contents of the 2006 ECA report. All participants will be contac-

ted to ask their opinion on several options and to discuss further ideas. This will also make clear which future meetings and/or workshop activities are fruitful contributions to the project.

Generate Climate Monitoring Products (DWD)

The project Generate Climate Monitoring Products was completed in the last quarter of 2003, the final report was elaborated and finalized in the beginning of 2004. It is being distributed to EUMETNET/ECSN and especially to all participants.

The report explains the objectives, reviews the evolution and the achievements of the project, gives an analysis of the results and makes suggestions how to further develop the established structures, e.g. how to carry on with the GCMP Web site.

The envisaged goal of creating an appropriate Internet platform for dissemination of climate monitoring products generated by the participating European National Meteorological and Hydrological Services was reached by the development of the quasi operational GCMP web site in its existing form. This clearly structured system provides relevant climate monitoring information for the European region in a timely and continuous way.

The number of countries contributing to this system currently comprises Austria, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

Thus the project and its activities have strengthened the European co-operation in the field of climate monitoring by involving the European

project partners and by communication with additional European NMHSs. In this way GCMP helps significantly to achieve the corresponding ECSN goals.

So with the completion of the project a quasi operational Internet platform is at hand, accessible under the URL <http://www.gcmp.dwd.de> displaying European and national climate monitoring products timely and freely available to the other NMHSs and to the public.

In view of the results attained and the experiences gained in the project, a logical further step is seen in the transfer into a fully operational system for the co-ordination, collection and dissemination of standardized climate monitoring products for the European region. One of the main elements of the GCMP project, the well-proven communication platform, is still in operation and it is planned to maintain it in anticipation of a favourable decision on an appropriate follow-up project. In this context it should be noted that an extension of the group of European NMHSs contributing to the system would be highly appreciated.

Finally the project management wishes to express their thanks to all partners of the GCMP project for their active participation and their valuable contributions, thus forming the basis for the successful development of the project.

Likewise we are particularly grateful to the ECSN Manager, Walter Kirchhofer, and to his predecessor, José Antonio López-Díaz, for their advice and constant support.

Climate Atlas of Europe (Météo-France)

The English version of the software has been made available to participants end of January, for validation. This validation phase was supposed to finish by the end of February. The deadline was respected by nearly all participants; this allowed again to identify a few mistakes, which have been corrected. The only pending difficulty is that we are still awaiting corrected files from one country (Italy). Once received and the appropriate corrections made in the dataset, the software will be supplied to participants. The sub-contractor will have to produce guidelines for participating countries wishing to develop a version in their own language. This should not be a difficult task, as all texts have been concentrated into a single file.

We do not want to show excessive satisfaction, but we are really glad to say that generally the reactions of participants were at least very positive, even often enthusiastic!

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