

## ECSN Quarterly Report July-September 2006

Prepared by the ECSN Manager and the Project Leaders

### General remarks

The EUMETNET Council has decided to continue the ECSN Programme for a fourth phase, starting on 1 January 2007, and at its 28th Meeting the Council approved that KNMI will become the new Responsible Member for the EUMETNET-ECSN Programme for the coming phase of four years, with Aryan van Engelen as ECSN Programme Manager. The present ECSN Manager is very pleased with this election because with KNMI as Responsible Member the quality of the ECSN Programme will be guaranteed.

At its 28th Meeting the EUMETNET Council has approved that SMHI will become Responsible Member for the ECSN Showcase EUROGRID project, with Christer Persson as Project Manager. The ECSN Manager thanked SMHI for its substantial support.

This year's Conference of the European Meteorological Society (EMS) together with the European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC), EMS/ECAC-2006, has taken place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 4-8 September 2006.

The scientific part of the ECAC Conference was managed by the ECAC Advisory Board (EAB), assisted by ECSN and by selected conveners.

This joint EMS/ECAC-2006 Conference has been the most successful event so far. Not only because of the large number of participants of about 500, but also because of the high scientific level. The Organizing Committee is fulfilled with satisfac-

tion that these goals could be reached in real partnership. The ECSN Manager thanked the Organizing Committee for its efficient working method and the Director General of the Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for the kind support of the Conference.

The next combined Conference of the European Meteorological Society (EMS) together with the European Conference on Applied Meteorology, EMS/ECAM-2007, will take place in Madrid - El Escorial, 1-5 October 2007. This EMS/ECAM Conference will also contain a substantial part of climate topics.

The Meteorological Office of Austria, ZAMG, has agreed to host the 6th ECSN Data Management Workshop in Vienna, 20-22 November 2007.

### European Climate Assessment & Dataset (KNMI)

The recognition of ECA&D as a baseline of high resolution datasets for Europe is increasing. The EC-FP6 project "Millennium", focussing on a climate reconstruction of the last 1000 years in Europe, invited ECA&D to collaborate. The benefit is that ECA&D will provide the Millennium research with long instrumental data series and vice versa that ECA&D will be fed with new additional long observational series from the research world.

The collaboration is announced and enlightened at the 6th ECAC Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia, September 2006. The presentations were gi-

ven related to ECA&D and to the co-operation with ENSEMBLES in order to strengthen the awareness of and the co-operation with the participants.

The preparations for the planned assessment report are well on the road. Quite many partners contributed already with papers and text-boxes. The following countries offered us, during the foregoing quarter, upgrades of their national datasets that were processed in the ECA&D platform during this quarter: Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Rumania, Spain and Turkey. The website of ECA&D has been cleaned up and the accessibility improved. In September an external software audit was applied on ECA&D and subsequent improvements will be implemented during the coming months.

### **ENSEMBLES (KNMI, MeteoSwiss)**

The station network for the ENSEMBLES gridded dataset is still slowly expanding, and work on the quality control of the series and homogeneity testing is still ongoing. Five interpolation methods to produce the final daily grids for minimum, maximum and mean temperature, precipitation, snow depth and air pressure have been nearly completed. The best method for each variable will be selected soon. There could be a different method for each variable but all temperature variables will be done using the same method. Whether the snow depth series will be interpolated depends on the final station availability. The present network seems to be too low to create a gridded snow depth dataset.

At the 6th European Conference on Applied Climatology in Ljubljana, September 2006, 3 ENSEMBLES presentations were given. Michael

Begert (MeteoSwiss) presented a poster with the title "Testing an automated homogenization procedure for large multivariate datasets". Lisette Klok (KNMI) reported on changes in small, medium and heavy precipitation events over Europe as analysed from the ENSEMBLES precipitation series. Finally, Nynke Hofstra (Oxford University) gave a presentation on the correlation decay distances of the daily temperature and precipitation data. See the conference website for abstracts:

(<http://meetings.copernicus.org/ems2006/>)

### **Generate Climate Monitoring Products / European Climate Information System (DWD)**

The GCMP platform [www.gcmp.dwd.de](http://www.gcmp.dwd.de) is still maintained quasi operationally by DWD in Offenbach. This will be continued at least until the beginning of 2007; then it is planned that operations will switch over to the successor platform EuCLIS which will also be maintained by DWD. In any case, GCMP will not be stopped before EuCLIS is able to provide all present GCMP products.

GCMP products are still checked at least monthly by DWD for completeness and the website is updated as far as necessary. Like before, 18 NMHSs contribute to the GCMP platform regularly. In addition, the Hungarian Meteorological Service announced to provide climate monitoring products as well, starting in October 2006.

A first prototype of the successor platform EuCLIS is now available as an internal web application at DWD. The next step of development will be the implementation of EuCLIS into the new web portal system of DWD which is intended to go public in November 2006. Internal and external tests of the new system will be carried out before

the system will start regular operations in 2007. All contributing NMHSs will then be able to administrate their products themselves; this will improve the timeliness of the products certainly. A first version of an administration manual has been provided (in German language); the final English version will be distributed first to the external testers and later on to all contributing NMHSs.

The EuCLIS prototype has been presented at the ECAC conference in Ljubljana in September. During some discussions at the conference, many representatives of European NMHS expressed their interest in contributing products to EuCLIS; among them also some representatives of NMHSs who did not contribute before to GCMP are interested in this project.

### **Alpine Tmap / HRT-GAR (ZAMG)**

During summer 2006 the ECSN-HRT-GAR project could welcome a number of new active participants: DWD, Meteo France and UK Met Office have nominated representatives for the Core Group on Spatial Modelling (CGSM). ZAMG has continued its activities in spatialisation.

Results have been presented and discussed in July 2006 in Grenoble (France) at the final COST 719 meeting. For the EMS/ECAC-2006 in Ljubljana a poster has been prepared.

The CGSM could meet in September during the EMS/ECAC-2006 Conference in Ljubljana on kind invitation of the Slovenian Weather Service (EARS). After the presentation of ZAMG „what has been done up to now“, a number of open questions related to network density, sub-regions, land-use and land-shape parameters, and the

availability of national grids have been discussed. The minutes have been distributed in September 2006.

### **EUROGRID (SMHI)**

At the 27th EUMETNET Council meeting the proposal on the Showcase EUROGRID project has been approved, but unfortunately only a small majority of 7 Member countries, namely Austria, Iceland, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland declared their financial support. But with this small core group the project could be launched.

At the 11th ECSN Advisory Committee (EAC) meeting in Exeter, June 2006, the Delegates discussed the Showcase EUROGRID project in depth. The decisions were to postpone the start of the project, to extend it in time and to reduce the cost to cover just the part of management and workshops. SMHI has accepted to revise the previous proposal based on the ECSN/EAC recommendations for presentation to the Council.

At its 28th Meeting the EUMETNET Council has approved that the SMHI will become Responsible Member for the ECSN Showcase EUROGRID project, with Christer Persson as Project Manager. The project will start on 1 January 2007 and run for 24 months at a total cost of 65 kEuros.

In addition to the original 7 Members a further group of 6 Members, namely Denmark, Germany, Finland, Ireland, Italy and United Kingdom declared their financial support of the revised project proposal. Hopefully all ECSN Members will participate in the near future!

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