

ECSN Quarterly Report January-March 2002

Prepared by the ECSN Manager and the Project Leaders

General remarks

Mr Volker Vent-Schmidt, Chairman of the ECSN Advisory Committee (EAC), has invited its members for the next meeting to Germany. The 7th EAC Meeting will take place at Hohenpeissenberg, 3-5 June 2002.

The second Generate Climate Monitoring Products (GCMP) workshop with DWD, scheduled for September 25th to 27th 2002, will take place in Hamburg.

The Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium is organizing the Fourth Conference on Applied Climatology, ECAC-2002. The conference will take place in Brussels, 12-14 November 2002. The European Meteorological Society (EMS) will organize some meetings in the same International Congress Center, 14-15 November 2002.

UNIDART (Uniform Data Request Interface) had its workshop in January with a very good level of participation of the Members, EUMETSAT and ECMWF. The objective was to define the requirements for Internet access to meteorological data. It was agreed that UNIDART would encompass observation data, model output and imagery from radars and satellites. In the next phase - to be proposed to the EUMETNET Council in September - a prototype UNIDART could be built for the access to climatological datasets, fulfilling the requirements set by ECSN.

At the Thirteenth Session of the WMO Commission for Climatology (CCI) held in Geneva (21-30 November 2001), Pierre Bessemoulin, Meteo-France, was appointed as Vice-Chair of OPAG 3 dealing with "Climate applications, information and prediction services", and as the lead person of the expert team in charge of Part II of the Guide to Climatological Practices, dedicated to applications. ECSN countries will be solicited to contribute to the Guide, the content of which was endorsed at the CCI Management Group meeting held in Berlin beginning of March 2002.

European Climate Assessment (KNMI)

In the past months the work has been completed on the ECA Final Report. The Report entitled "Climate of Europe; assessment of observed daily temperature and precipitation extremes" will be distributed among the ECA participants and other interested institutions/persons. The Final Report will also be available for representatives at the WMO RA VI meeting in May. This report concludes the work on the assessment of Europe's climate that started in October 1998. A new proposal for a follow-up project is currently in preparation. Meanwhile the ECA website at <http://www.knmi.nl/samenw/eca> will be maintained at least until the end of the year featuring project results, climate indices graphs and maps. For the time being, the high-resolution tempera-

ture and precipitation series of meteorological stations in Europe collated for ECA/ECD can also be downloaded from this website.

Generate Climate Monitoring Products (DWD)

Summary

At the end of the preceding quarter, in December 2001, a questionnaire had been sent to the EUMETNET members, asking for contributions to GCMP and for nomination of focal points. Meanwhile ten NMSs have responded, indicating interest in the project and giving examples of candidate products, at least listing the categories of available products. Evaluation of the responses and integration of products into the structure of the GCMP test site are under way. Most of the products offered for inclusion fit into the part "National Climate Monitoring Products". Particular efforts are necessary in the context of the part "European Climate Monitoring Products". In co-operation with the participating NMHSs views will be exchanged on appropriate products matching with the objectives of the project as well as on methods to prepare them.

Along this line preparations have begun for a workshop with DWD in Hamburg which is scheduled for September 25th to 27th, 2002. It will present a forum for discussions and decisions on these topics.

In co-operation with external experts the software solution of the Internet platform for the presentation of the GCMP products is reviewed and adjusted as appropriate.

Achieved

- ten European NMHSs responded to the GCMP questionnaire
- nomination of focal points
- offers of products for inclusion in the GCMP Internet presentation; first products integrated into the test site
- further refinement of the GCMP site
- start of planning and preparations for the second GCMP workshop with DWD, scheduled for September 25th to 27th 2002 in Hamburg

Potential Problems

In the preceding report it was mentioned that the success of the project was very much dependent on the active participation of the European NMHSs. Although the questionnaire has augmented the number of interested Services, efforts will continue to involve additional partners.

Outlook for the next period

The GCMP Internet platform will be made more attractive by integrating new climate monitoring products and by reviewing and adjusting the software solution. Preparations for the second GCMP workshop will continue. In co-operation with the partners selection and development of products of the category "European Climate Monitoring Products" in the GCMP scheme will especially be pursued.

Climate Atlas of Europe (Météo-France)

Metadata from 23 countries representing about 670 stations have been received, checked, and harmonized into a single file. Amongst non EUMETNET countries, we have contributions from Albania, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Slovakia. The work with the subcontractor has started, in

order to adapt to Europe the product developed formerly for France. Datasets have been provided by Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Spain and Switzerland. First processing of these data have revealed problems, which are mainly due to the non respect of the required formats. Participants are again strongly urged to use these formats for all their files.

ECSN Climate Dataset (KNMI and DNMI)

Summary

After the realisation of the CD-ROM, the last stage of the ECSN Climate Dataset (ECD) project has begun. Main point of attention has been the development of the data model for the ECD database. Such a model anticipates a more extended exchange of climatological data and metadata in the near future.

Status of the activities

In addition to the CD-ROM, ECD has resulted in a web application which release has been delayed in order to guarantee a secure access. It is foreseen that the web application, demonstrating an updated version of the CD-ROM application, will be operational as from April via <http://www.knmi.nl/samenw/e.cd>. This version will be further updated and extended before the end of the ECD project. Additional functionality has been defined, mainly relating to the availability of so-called "level 2" metadata (data about the time series). In this way, information from ECA concerning several statistical tests is embedded in the ECD database.

Further Actions

EUMETNET members and other European countries have been approached with the request to

send updates of the time series and, additionally, time series of pressure at station level. The response has been very encouraging and therefore ECD will contain a number of pressure series.

Points for attention

The ECD application will be delivered by the end of June. As the project started a few months later than originally proposed, the total project duration remains the same.

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