

## **ECSN Quarterly Report**

### **April-June 2002**

Prepared by the ECSN Manager and the Project Leaders

#### **General remarks**

The 7th ECSN Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting has taken place at Hohenpeissenberg, Germany, 3-5 June 2002. The ECSN Manager, Walter Kirchhofer, thanked the organizer of the Deutscher Wetterdienst, especially Volker Ventschmidt, for their invitation and for their kind hospitality.

At the Meeting of the WMO Regional Association VI in Geneva, 3 May 2002, the ECSN activity was presented as one of the successful EUMETNET programme. On this occasion the Final Report "Climate of Europe: Assessment of observed daily temperature and precipitation extremes" was presented.

The presentation of the Final Report of the "European Climate Assessment" project marked the end of the ECA project. The ideas for a follow-up project have lead to a draft proposal. The draft proposal will soon be elaborated and hopefully submitted to the EUMETNET Council for approval at the September meeting.

Concerning the project "Climate Atlas of Europe", there are still 8 ECSN countries (Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and United Kingdom) which have not supplied their data sets. All members are kindly requested to supply their data sets until end of August 2002.

MeteoSwiss has generated a new ECSN web-site. The web-site will be placed on the EUMETNET internet server. Besides the administrative information the new ECSN web-site will be the platform to access all official documents and projects.

The second workshop of the project "Generate Climate Monitoring Products" (GCMP), hosted by DWD, will take place in Hamburg, 25-27 September 2002.

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 goal of the EUCOS (EUMetnet Composite Observing System) Meeting in Zurich, 14-15 May 2002, was to promote the development of agreed objective methods and tools for the definition of the requirements and the design of networks. The discussions were predominantly concentrated on meteorological topics. Climatological aspects were treated only few. Therefore it is important that ECSN represents the climate needs in the EUCOS community.

#### **European Climate Assessment (KNMI)**

At 2 May 2002 the final report entitled "Climate of Europe: Assessment of observed daily temperature and precipitation extremes" was issued. The

presentation of the report at the WMO RA VI meeting in Geneva marked the end of the ECA project. Over 1500 copies of the report were distributed among participants, interested persons and institutions.

The ideas for a follow-up project have led to a draft proposal that was discussed at the ECSN Advisory Committee meeting at Hohenpeissenberg, Germany. The draft will be elaborated and submitted to EUMETNET for approval at the September meeting of the Council. The proposal will lead to a follow-up report to be issued in 2006. It also addresses the question of keeping up-to-date the European daily dataset assembled within ECA and the question of maintaining the ECA website at <http://www.knmi.nl/samenw/eca>. At the moment this website is still heavily used for dissemination of project results and download of data series. A pdf-version of the final report can also be found at the website.

## Generate Climate Monitoring Products (DWD)

### Summary

According to the work plan the content of the GCMP web pages has been extended and the technical solution of the communication platform is being refined.

Further monitoring products offered in response to the questionnaire have been selected and included in the site. But there is still the requirement to enhance the number of contributions as well as to ask the partners to describe them in English. As most of the responses are confined to "National Climate Monitoring Products", particular efforts are necessary with respect to the category "European Climate Monitoring Products".

A mechanism has been developed to access products which the project partners make available on their servers. It will allow visitors of the GCMP web pages to scroll the provided series of analyses forward and backward in time. In this context the important aspect of automated provision of the products by the project partners has to be taken into account. Focal points have been contacted with the intent to come to an arrangement.

The test version of the GCMP Homepage which is available now has proved to meet simple requirements. Therefore in conformity with the work plan it was decided to refine the site in order to transform it into an efficient operational tool. In cooperation with external experts proposals for improvements concerning the functionalities, the content and the layout of the communication platform are worked out. Consultations about the conception and the extent of this process have taken place. The presentation of the new conception by the experts is scheduled for September 2002. At this milestone it is necessary to discuss the elaborated proposals among the project partners, to decide on them and to agree on the implementation. This will be one of the main topics of the GCMP Workshop, which is planned for September 25th - 27th 2002, hosted by DWD in Hamburg.

### Achieved

- additional offers of products for inclusion in the GCMP Internet presentation, extension of the test version;
- work on transforming the GCMP test site into an operational tool;
- preparations for the second GCMP workshop with DWD, scheduled for September 25th - 27th 2002 in Hamburg

### **Potential Problems**

As stated in the previous reports the success of the project is very much dependent on the active participation of the European NMHSs. Although there has been additional response to the questionnaire, it is important to increase the number of project partners and to intensify the cooperation.

### **Outlook for the next period**

The GCMP web pages will be made more attractive by integrating new climate monitoring products and by reviewing and adjusting the software solution.

Preparations for the GCMP workshop in Hamburg, September 25th - 27th 2002, will continue.

Important topics of the meeting will be discussion and recommendation of further steps concerning the implementation and provision of relevant products as well as the content and technical solution of the required Internet communication platform.

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

### **European Atlas Project**

Metadata from all (24) participating countries representing about 685 stations have been received, checked, and harmonized into a single file. Amongst non EUMETNET countries, we have contributions from Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia.

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland have sent files consistent with the requirements, both in terms of data and formats.

Albania, Slovenia, have sent data, still containing some errors, but this should be solved soon. The Netherlands have nearly completed their data processing and should submit their data shortly.

Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia, and United Kingdom did not yet submit any data, and the project leader has not been informed about the progress of the work in these countries. It is upsetting considering the deadline for submitting data which was agreed at the Hohenpiessenberg meeting, i.e. end of August 2002, which is very close. Past experience shows that it may take some weeks after the first submission of data to get the files in the appropriate format and content. It is the opportunity to remind participants that data coming late (or even absent compared to the list of stations for which metadata have been provided) will induce at least an extra cost to the project, which was not taken into account when establishing the budget of the project, not to mention additional charge of work for Meteo-France.

### **Participation to GCMP**

The access through the GCMP Web site to climate monitoring products elaborated at Meteo-France, such as monthly or three-monthly temperature, pressure or rainfall anomalies derived from the ARPEGE model and from the processing of CLIMAT messages, at the scale of Europe, will be operational soon.

## **ECSN Climate Dataset (KNMI and DNMI)**

### **Summary**

The ECD application has been further adapted by the Norwegian partner during a one week stay at

KNMI. The data model for the ECD database has been finished and the database is currently being "fed" with data. In addition to the time series, metadata from the ECA project is included in the database. The final release of ECD is foreseen for the end of July.

### **Status of the activities**

The ECD server has been made operational and is currently hosting the JAVA/XML application (<http://ecd.knmi.nl>). The next step, the realisation of a relational database instead of the XML files has resulted in a flexible and extensible data model and the preparation of the data tables. At the same time, the JAVA application has been rewritten in order to work with the Oracle database. Also, extra functionality has been added in comparison with the current version of ECD.

### **Further Actions**

Final adaptations and testing of the application as well as actual data loading will finish by the end of July. Soon after, the final report will be presented to the ECSN board. In order to conti-

nue the efforts, a joint project proposal by ECD and ECA will be submitted to the EUMETNET Council.

### **Points for attention**

There are no warnings to issue, although it must be stated that ECD will be delayed by 1 month (end of July instead of June). It is hoped that this won't cause organisational problems, the delay is mainly caused by the technological and administrative preparations needed to operate a system outside the firewall.

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