

ECSN Quarterly Report October-December 2002

Prepared by the ECSN Manager and the Project Leaders

General remarks

The Fourth European Conference on Applied Climatology, ECAC-2002, has taken place in Brussels, 12-15 November 2002, with the focus on "Climate-related Risk Analysis and Sustainable Development in the 21st Century". The ECSN Manager thanked the Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium for organizing and hosting this successful ECAC-2002.

At the EUMETNET Council Meeting, 4 December 2002, it was decided that in the future the European Meteorological Society (EMS), in partnership with EUMETNET-ECSN, will organize the European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC). So, the next ECAC will be a combined conference "ECAC-2004 / EMS Annual Meeting 2004" in Nice in September 2004.

European Climate Assessment & Dataset (KNMI)

After the EUMETNET Councils approval of the new ECA&D project in September, we started the detailed planning of the work for the coming four years. Among the urgent tasks in the project is the appointment of a KNMI officer responsible for technical, web and database support. The officer will join the project-team for ECA&D early in 2003 and ensure a timely treatment of new and updated data series and contributions of new participants.

In this respect we are happy to inform that we were successful in filling in some of the blank areas on the map of Europe with the new and firm

contacts in Estonia, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. This brings the total number of participants in the project to 39, coming from 37 countries.

Finally, our earlier work on the two projects "European Climate Assessment" and "ECSN Climate Dataset" has been presented successfully at the European Conference on Applied Climatology, ECAC-2002, held in Brussels, 12-15 November 2002 (see the project website for the presentations at: <http://www.knmi.nl/samenw/eca>).

Generate Climate Monitoring Products (DWD)

From 25 - 27 September 2002 the second GCMP workshop had taken place, hosted by DWD in Hamburg. The draft report was prepared and distributed among the participants who gave their comments and informed about the web addresses of their climate monitoring products. According to the workshop decisions the GCMP Web manager elaborated and distributed a product naming convention for the communication with the Web servers of the partners.

In order to tackle the problem of monitoring extreme events on the regional, subregional and national levels an ad hoc working group was established, comprising Germany (chair), Portugal and Spain. It is working by correspondence developing guidelines for the selection and treatment of extreme events to be monitored in the framework of GCMP. The related problem areas dealt with by the group include data collection and distribution, archiving, type and structure of

the reports and location of a data centre. A number of results and suggestions have already been achieved.

During the European Conference on Applied Climatology, ECAC-2002, 12 - 15 November 2002, held in Brussels, the project was presented to a wide audience.

Potential problems:

It is important to increase the number of actively participating European NMHSs, that is to say, that at least all ECSN countries should join the project and contribute actively.

Outlook for the next period:

The project core group will look after the further implementation of the workshop results. The partners will establish dedicated areas on their web servers for GCMP and provide climate monitoring products on a timely and continuous basis. The GCMP Web site will be adapted appropriately.

Climate Atlas of Europe (Météo-France)

Datasets from the 19 ECSN countries plus Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia have been received during the period.

Quality tests applied to the whole dataset have been engaged, revealing the detection of a large number of errors. This was the reason why participants were asked to stop sending new datafiles until a complete diagnostic on national datasets is made and sent to participants.

The most frequently encountered errors at this step of the project were the following:

- dates not at the correct format;
- monthly dates not corresponding to the considered month;

- dates of yearly extremum values differing from the dates of the extremum of the monthly extrema;
- number of days with some condition greater than the number of days in the month;
- monthly values greater than yearly values;
- values not expressed in the required unit;
- same values for several consecutive months, including dates.

Considering the large size of the dataset, graphical tools are necessary to assess the quality of some parameters. The tools are under development, and this may lead the project some months behind schedule. However, this is considered as a necessary step, and the advantage is that they may be used in a further step to map the considered parameters, once the file has been cleaned out from wrong data.

Drought investigations (Meteo HU, PT)

The objectives are the following ones:

- Evaluation and use of different drought indices;
- Analysis of long drought index series;
- Study of thresholds of drought indices;
- Calculate the spatial distribution of drought indices on different time scales;
- Recommendation of drought indices.

The project could not be cared permanently by a scientist. Therefore great time delays resulted. Nevertheless the project will be completed with a Final Report, supported by Portugal. A draft version of the report was presented at the last meeting of the ECSN Advisory Committee.

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