

ECSN Quarterly Report January-March 2003

Prepared by the ECSN Manager and the Project Leaders

General remarks

The EUMETNET Council has decided that in the future the European Meteorological Society (EMS), in partnership with ECSN, will organize the European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC). It was also decided, that ECSN will remain responsible for the scientific part of ECAC. The next ECAC will be a combined conference „ECAC-2004/EMS Annual Meeting 2004“ and will take place in Nice in September 2004. The scientific part of the conference will be managed by the ECAC Advisory Board (EAB) with the designated Members:

Pierre Bessemoulin	(France)
Hartwig Dobesch	(Austria)
Aryan van Engelen	(Netherlands)
Raino Heino	(Finland)
Walter Kirchhofer	(Switzerland)
Volker Vent-Schmidt	(Germany)
Arne Spekat	(EMS)

The first EAB Working Meeting will take place in Berlin, 30 June - 2 July 2003.

The fourth ECSN Climate Database Workshop on Data Management and Data Quality will take place in Helsinki, Finland, 19-20 May 2003. The workshop will continue the series of ECSN Climate Database Workshops to consolidate the network among climate database experts. The workshop handles also the status of climate data exchange within European countries.

The project Drought Investigations (Meteo HU, PT) was terminated with a Final Report in March 2003. The objectives of this project have been 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, and recommendation of drought indices.

The fourth Seminar for Homogenization and Quality Control in Climatological Databases will take place in Budapest, Hungary, 6-10 October 2003.

European Climate Assessment & Dataset (KNMI)

As announced in the previous report, a new project team member, Maarten van der Hoeven, started working on technical, web and database support. In future, his participation will ensure a timely treatment of new and updated data series and of the contributions of new participants. Meanwhile, the additional precipitation series of Romania and precipitation and temperature series of Estonia have been processed and included at the website www.knmi.nl/samenw/eca as part of a regular update.

The paper on homogeneity testing of the ECA&D series that was prepared in the previous months has been accepted for publication in the Int. Journal of Climatology. As soon as the paper is availa-

ble in print it will be distributed among participants. A table showing the results of the homogeneity analysis for all temperature and precipitation series is already presented at the ECA&D website.

In March, Tamas Szentimrey from the Hungarian Meteorological Service visited KNMI for a two weeks period and has developed the MASH software for time series homogenization.

Together with Janet Wijngaard (KNMI), Tamas Szentimrey applied the MASH software to all monthly mean temperature series in the ECA&D dataset. Early results show that his method is a clear addition to the methods that have been applied earlier in the ECA&D project. Preliminary plans have been made to continue the co-operation in the coming months, aiming at analysing maximum and minimum temperature series and precipitation series.

Generate Climate Monitoring Products (DWD)

The final report of the second GCMP workshop which had taken place in Hamburg in autumn 2002, hosted by DWD, was completed and mailed to the participants. According to the workshop decisions and on request by the project leader he received the offers from several project partners to include European and National monitoring products of their Services in the GCMP Web site. Appropriate links to the respective servers have been set up by the GCMP Web master and the system is now ready for operational application in accordance with the project plan as well as with the workshop findings which suggested the realized technical solution of the Internet platform. Concerning standardization of the products an

important question is concerned with the agreement on a reference period for the calculation of anomalies. Within WMO for instance the 30 year periods 1901 - 1930, 1931 - 1960, 1961 - 1990 etc. are used for the calculation of normals. On the other hand there are quite a number of applications using the 30 year period 1971 - 2000. The members of the project core group (France, Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany) will further discuss this question and come to a conclusion appropriate to the objectives of the project.

The ad hoc working group dealing with the problem of monitoring extreme events on the regional, subregional and national levels (Germany (chair), Portugal and Spain) worked by correspondence, suggesting that in the framework of GCMP percentiles and related statistical station information should be utilized for the selection of such events. Further the extent of damage caused by an extreme event should be taken into account for the classification.

Potential problems:

In order to fully reach the project goals it is important to obtain a good coverage of the European region with national climate monitoring products. Therefore efforts are continued to enhance the number of actively participating European NMHSs.

Outlook for the next period:

The implementation of the workshop results will continue. The GCMP Web site will be run in a quasi operational mode, project partners providing climate monitoring products on a timely and continuous basis. Efforts concerning standardization of the products and further improvement of the site will continue.

Climate Atlas of Europe (Météo-France)

Following the assessment of the initial database resulting from national contributions, a long list of anomalies had been established and disseminated to a significant number of participating countries. All corrections have been received by the end of march 2003. It is expected that no significant errors are remaining. The next step will be the establishment of the final database to be used by the project, and the test of display tools for visualization of the data (tables , time series, comparison between two stations, ...). Once this step completed, the product will be made available to participating countries through the Internet for final checks.

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