

## ECSN Quarterly Report April-June 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). ECSN will remain responsible for the scientific part of ECAC. The ECAC-2004 will take place in Nice, 26-30 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 has taken place in Berlin, 30 June - 1 July 2003. For the office of the EAB Chair and the EAB Vice-Chair, Walter Kirchhofer, respectively Pierre Bessemoulin, were unanimously elected.

The determination of an EAB structure, including the Terms of Reference, have been discussed. A first step has been made to develop a programme and a time frame for the ECAC-2004. For the preparatory work concerning the selection of papers for the oral and poster sessions of the conference, EAB is proposing to organize this

kind of work with an approach of invited conveners. A convener will have the responsibility for a scientific topic of the conference.

EAB will prepare a list of scientific topics to be discussed at the next ECSN Advisory Committee Meeting in September.

The second EAB Working Meeting will take place in Toulouse, 26 September 2003.

The 8th ECSN Advisory Committee Meeting (EAC) will take place in Toulouse, 24-26 September 2003. Pierre Bessemoulin has kindly invited the EAC Members to the International Conference Center of Meteo-France.

The fourth ECSN Climate Database Workshop on Data Management and Data Quality has taken place in Helsinki, Finland, 19-20 May 2003. The workshop continued the series of ECSN Workshops to consolidate the network among climate database experts. The Workshop was a success. All participants were up-dated on the actual state of the climate data management in Europe and professional contacts among experts have been intensified. One of the main topics was the UNIDART (Uniform Data Request Interface) project. DWD, the Responsible Member for UNIDART, will invite some additional partners to act as data providers for the prototype phase of UNIDART. The ECSN Manager thanked the participants for their active participation and the workshop organizers, especially Raino Heino and Pauli Rissanen, for their engagement and for their kind hospitality.

## European Climate Assessment & Dataset (KNMI)

A document is prepared that describes the technical work of the ECA&D project and its infrastructure. The document will soon be available from the project website ([www.knmi.nl/samenw/eca](http://www.knmi.nl/samenw/eca)). It contains a detailed timetable for the planned activities in the coming years. Once the appendices are attached during the course of the project, the document will also provide a convenient and complete documentation for the ECA&D website and database.

On the basis of this document we will continue with the technical part of ECA&D. For the scientific part, e.g. determining the contents of the 2006 assessment report, we will contact all participants and discuss our ideas in the next 3-months period. This will also make clear what meetings and/or workshop activities are fruitful contributions to the project. Meanwhile, the reprints of the paper on homogeneity testing of ECA series, which was published in the *Int. Journal of Climatology*, were distributed among project participants (for details see the website).

The experiences gained over the past years in using indices to analyse changes in extremes were shared with the participants of the CLIPS RA VI workshop in Erfurt (Germany) as part of a training session. As a follow-up, the countries in WMO Region VI that are not yet registered as project member were invited on an individual basis to become participant.

## Generate Climate Monitoring Products (DWD)

As indicated in the preceding Quarterly Report, efforts were concentrated on the transformation of the GCMP Website into a quasi operational mechanism. Following the offers of several project partners, quite a number of their European and National climate monitoring products have been incorporated in the Website to be available online. They are accessible via links to the servers of the participating NMHSs. The respective addresses are provided to the GCMP webmaster by the partners.

The problem concerning the agreement on a reference period for the calculation of anomalies has to be further discussed. In the current state the period 1961-1990 is widely used.

On the occasion of the second Workshop on the ECSN Project „Generate Climate Monitoring Products“ an ad hoc Working Group on Extreme Events (WG EE) was established to elaborate guidelines for the selection and presentation of extreme events (Germany, Portugal and Spain). The group has prepared a first report on their findings and submitted it to the project leader. The results comprise items as area covered, time of reporting, data collection and distribution, reprocessing, type and structure of reports, historical events and, especially important, definition of an extreme event. Currently the results are evaluated and will be incorporated in the Website as appropriate.

### **Potential problems**

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 GCMP Web site will be further completed and run in a quasi operational mode, displaying the climate monitoring products of the project partners on a timely and continuous basis. Efforts concerning standardization of the products and further improvement of the site will continue, preparatory work for the conclusion of the project will be taken up.

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

The database including metadata is considered as final. A set of yearly maps has been drawn. The text content of the original product, a CD entitled „Le Climat de la France“, has been modified to be adapted to the European context of the project.

All this information has been provided to the subcontractor in charge of the CD Rom. The priority assigned to the subcontractor is to realize first a web site from which all the information is available to all participants, for a final check of both data and English text.

The information has been passed also to the chairman of COST719, Hartwig Dobesch, as he would like to check as early as possible if we should make it an item within the COST719 environment.

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