

ECSN Annual Report 2003

Prepared by the ECSN Manager, January 2003

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. The first combined conference „EMS4/ECAC5“ will take place in Nice, 26-30 September 2004 (www.emetsoc.org/EMS4/). The scientific part of ECAC-2004 will be managed by the ECAC Advisory Board (EAB). So far, EAB has organized two Planning Meetings, in Berlin, 30 June - 2 July, and in Toulouse, 26 September 2003.

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. All participants were updated 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, conducted by DWD. It was a very instructive Workshop and well organized by the Finnish Meteorological Institute.

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.

Within the European Integrated Project „ENSEMBLES“, the Work Package WP 5.1: „Development of high-resolution observational datasets for Europe“ was proposed by KNMI in connection with ECSN.

The 8th ECSN Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting has taken place in Toulouse, France, 24-26 September 2003. It was an interesting and fruitful meeting, also with regard to new activities, and well organized by Météo-France.

Mr. Volker Vent-Schmidt, DWD, was unanimously elected as Chairperson of the ECSN Advisory Committee for another three years.

The 9th ECSN Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting will take place in Dublin, 8-10 September 2004.

At its 19th Meeting the EUMETNET Council agreed to continue the Optional Programme ECSN for a third phase of three years, starting on 1 January 2004. MeteoSwiss was unanimously selected to be the Responsible Member for ECSN with Dr. Walter Kirchhofer as Programme Manager.

European Climate Assessment & Dataset (KNMI)

The paper „Homogeneity of 20th Century European Daily Temperature and Precipitation Series“ has been published in the International Journal of Climatology.

A document was prepared that describes the technical work of the ECA&D project and its infrastructure (www.knmi.nl/samenw/eca). The document provides an overview of how the ECA&D work is embedded in KNMI, and forms the core of the documentation of the ECA&D system as developed in the project (database, quality control procedures, extremes analyses and website).

Following the document that describes the technical work of the ECA&D project and its infrastructure, prototypes were developed for the operational database and the web-interface. Also, an automated updating procedure of daily ECA series with GTS synop data has been implemented. The necessary preparations have been made for supporting the pilot project of UNIDART with ECA&D data.

The results of the homogeneity analysis of ECA series were presented at the fourth seminar for homogenization and quality control in climatological databases in Budapest in October. The results of the trend analyses of indices of extremes based on the ECA dataset were discussed at the Norwich meeting of the CCI/CLIVAR working group on Climate Change Detection and Monitoring Indices in November.

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)

According to the decisions of the second GCMP workshop in Hamburg, and on request by the project leader, several countries offered 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. Efforts were concentrated on the transformation of the GCMP Web site into a quasi operational mechanism. The number of countries contributing to the GCMP web site continued to increase up to eight NMHSs. It should be noted with acknowledgement that in spite of commercial constraints the participants make their contributions timely and freely available to the other NMHSs and to the public via the GCMP web site.

Taking into account the findings of the second GCMP workshop, special emphasis was put on monitoring products of temperature and precipitation. Moreover the layout and navigation were revised and adapted. Thus with the completion of the project a quasi operational Internet platform is at hand, accessible under the URL <http://www.gcmp.dwd.de>, displaying European and national climate monitoring products on a regular basis.

On the occasion of the second GCMP Workshop an ad hoc Working Group on Extreme Events (Germany, Portugal and Spain) was established

to elaborate guidelines for the selection and presentation of extreme events . The group has prepared a first report on their findings. 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. The results will be incorporated in the Web site as appropriate.

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.

Looking back at the objectives of the project it can be stated, that it has helped to promote the European cooperation in the field of climate monitoring by bringing the participating NMHSs together and involving them in the development, provision and dissemination of monitoring products.

Climate Atlas of Europe (Météo-France)

The “Climate Atlas of Europe” will contain monthly normals for precipitation, temperature, wind and sunshine duration and additional statistical information for these parameters and for the occurrence of phenomena such as fog, thunderstorm, hail and snow.

After the database, including the metadata, were considered as final, a set of yearly maps has been drawn.

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

The draft CD-ROM has been presented at the last ECSN Advisory Committee Meeting. It includes all expected functionalities. The database including metadata will be accessible to anyone having the ACCESS software. It is reminded that it contains data from more than 700 stations from 24 countries, with up to 43 parameters.

A general presentation includes a text describing the main features of the European climate and a map of European climates derived from Koeppen.

There are different accesses to data:

- By stations for selecting the chosen area, choice of stations, parameters, ombrothermal diagrams and wind roses.
- By maps to provide a quick look , giving orders of magnitude for annual values for a number of parameters.
- By interactive search for the comparison between stations, parameters and associated statistical parameters for different countries.

A CD-ROM comprising the French and the English versions of the software has been made.

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