

ECSN Quarterly Report July-September 2003

Prepared by the ECSN Manager and the Project Leaders

General remarks

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.

The 8th ECSN Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting has taken place in Toulouse, France, 24-26 September 2003. The ECSN Manager, Walter Kirchhofer, thanked the organizer of Météo-France, especially Pierre Bessemoulin, for their invitation and for their kind hospitality. It was an interesting and fruitful meeting, also with regard to new activities.

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

Mr. Claude Pastre, CO EUMETNET, has got a very warm applause for his efficient and substantial support of the ECSN Programme.

Mr. Tom Sheridan, Irish Meteorological Service, invited the ECSN Advisory Committee to hold its 9th Meeting in Ireland. The Delegates thanked for the kind invitation. The EAC Meeting will take place in Dublin, 8-10 September 2004.

The second ECAC Advisory Board (EAB) Working Meeting has taken place in Toulouse, 26 September 2003. ECSN will remain responsible

for the scientific part of the European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC). The combined conference „ECAC-2004/EMS Annual Meeting 2004“ will take place in Nice, 26-30 September 2004. At its second meeting, EAB has prepared a list of scientific topics and specified the tasks of conveners who will have the responsibility for a scientific topic of the conference. The European Meteorological Society (EMS) is responsible for the organizational work and will launch the Announcement of the Conference and the Call for Papers according to the time-table.

In the meantime the Proceedings from the 4th ECSN Climate Database Workshop on Data Management and Data Quality, Helsinki, May 2003, have been published.

European Climate Assessment & Dataset (KNMI)

As announced in the previous status report the document that describes the technical work of the ECA&D project and its infrastructure is now available from the project website (www.knmi.nl/samenw/eca -> "Project info"). The document outlines the technical and infrastructure activities in the ECA&D project for the coming years. The purpose is twofold. First, it provides an overview of how the ECA&D work is embedded in KNMI. Second, the document, in particular its appendices, form the core of the documentation of the ECA&D system as developed in the project (database, quality control procedures, extremes analyses and website). It contains a detailed timetable for the planned activities in the coming years. Ap-

pendices A thru C are now available. The remainder of the appendices will be added during the course of the project according to the time-table. Once they are all attached, the document will provide a convenient and complete documentation for the ECA&D website and database. We are convinced that this document, which was presented to ECSN Advisory Committee members at their meeting in Toulouse in September, provides a solid basis for the ECA&D work in the coming years.

For the scientific part of ECA&D, we are starting the process of determining the contents of the 2006 assessment report. All participants will be contacted in the near future to discuss ideas. This will also make clear which meetings and/or workshop activities are fruitful contributions to the project. Meanwhile, the reprint of the paper on homogeneity testing of ECA series, which was published in the Int. Journal of Climatology, was distributed among project participants (see the website for details -> "Reports & papers"). Results of this analysis will also be presented at the forthcoming fourth seminar for homogenization and quality control in climatological databases in Budapest.

Generate Climate Monitoring Products (DWD)

Efforts to run the GCMP web site in a quasi operational mode continued. On July 17th this was achieved: a new and improved version of the communication platform was published on the Internet. 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. The new version of the GCMP site can be accessed under the same URL as before (<http://www.gcmp.dwd.de>). Repea-

ted appeals to the ECSN members to participate in the project and to contribute appropriate climate monitoring products were successful in the sense that in the third quarter of 2003 additional countries joined to support the GCMP site by supplying products on a routine basis. Moreover there are contacts with three further ECSN members so that it is anticipated that the number of currently 7 European Services contributing routinely to the GCMP site will increase to 10 shortly.

The results of the ad hoc Working Group on Extreme Events, WG EE, (Germany (chair), Portugal and Spain) were put together in a report. It is considered in the treatment of these events in the GCMP site and will be integrated into the Final GCMP Report.

Potential problems

Although the number of actively participating European NMHSs is increasing, the coverage of the European region with national climate monitoring products still has to be improved. Therefore continued efforts are necessary in order to accelerate this process.

Outlook for the next period

The project GCMP will be completed in the fourth quarter of 2003; preparations for the final report are under way. The web based quasi operational distribution mechanism, as suggested in the project proposal, is in existence. As it shows it is advisable in any case to transform it into a fully operational one, an undertaking that should be realized separately after the completion of the project.

Climate Atlas of Europe (Météo-France)

The draft CD-ROM has been presented at the ECSN Advisory Committee meeting (24-26/10/2003). It includes all expected functionalities. The database including metadata will be accessible to anyone having the ACCESS software (cf .mdb files). 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
- A map of European climates derived from Koeppen
- Some comments:
 - how climatological normals are computed,
 - how diagrams are drawn, etc.

There are different accesses to data:

1) By station:

- 3 types of zooms for selecting the chosen area
- choice of a station (by a click on the appropriate location or choice within a list of stations present into the selected domain)
- choice between 5 parameters (temperature, rainfall, sunshine duration, occurrence of phenomenon's (fog, thunderstorm, hail, snow), strong winds (graphical or numerical display)
- ombrothermal diagram
- wind roses

2) Seven general maps made with classical interpolation techniques (kriging). Their main objective is to provide a quick look, giving orders of magnitude for annual values for the following parameters:

- Number of days with precipitation amount $\geq 1\text{mm}$

- Amount of precipitation
- Number of days with $T_n \leq 0 \text{ deg C}$
- Average mean temperature
- Average minimum temperature
- Average maximum temperature
- Sunshine duration

3) Interactive search / comparison between stations:

- Interactive search: Five zoom zones or selection by country (possibility of selecting several countries which names are displayed). Then, a choice is offered between 5 parameters, and several associated statistical parameters Possibility to apply an adjustable filter according to the altitude (between -5 m to 3500m), to choose one period within the year, ordering stations by increasing/decreasing values
- Comparison of 2 stations (either graphical or numerical display).

Outlook for the next period

Action	Tentative corresponding deadline
End of French version validation	mid-October 2003
End of development of a draft English version. Validation of English texts by Ireland, who kindly offered to edit English text files.	Mid-December 2003.

Action	Tentative corresponding deadline
<p>English version made available to participants through the Internet, on the EURO-MET server for validation.</p> <p><i>Participants asked to provide all their comments/proposals for any change in a single mail!</i></p>	<p>From end of December 2003 to mid-February 2004.</p>
<p>Comments and possible corrections taken into account.</p> <p>Final English version made available to participants, with instructions for making their own version into their own language.</p>	<p>End of March 2004.</p>

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