

ECSN Quarterly Report October-December 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.

On the basis of the new EUMETNET Programme Decision for the Optional Programme ECSN, MeteoSwiss has adapted the Contract for signature between MeteoSwiss as Responsible Member and the EUMETNET Members.

The 8th ECSN Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting has taken place in Toulouse, France, 24-26 September 2003. The main achievements can be listed as follows:

- The project „Drought Investigations“ (Meteo HU, PT) was terminated with a Final Report.
- The new project „European Climate Assessment & Dataset“ (KNMI) was approved by the EUMETNET Council.
- The project „Generate Climate Monitoring Products“ (DWD) will soon be terminated and a follow-up project „EuroCLIS“ will be launched by DWD/ECSN.
- The project „Climate Atlas of Europe“ has produced a large database and a CD-ROM comprising the French and the English versions of the

software has been prepared.

- 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 4th ECSN Data Management Workshop, held in Helsinki, 19-20 May 2003, was mainly focussed on the UNIDART (Uniform Data Request Interface) project. The proceedings have been published, including a CD-ROM.

The 9th ECSN Advisory Committee (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. The combined conference „EMS4/ECAC5“ will take place in Nice, 26-30 September 2004. EAB has prepared a list of scientific topics for the European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC) and specified the tasks of conveners. In the meantime the European Meteorological Society (EMS) has launched the Announcement for the Conference and the Call-for-Programme (see web page: www.emetsoc.org/EMS4/).

European Climate Assessment & Dataset (KNMI)

Following the document that describes the technical work of the ECA&D project and its infrastructure (available from www.knmi.nl/samenw/eca), 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. DODS technology has been adopted to make the daily data available in netCDF format. The necessary preparations have been made for supporting the pilot project of UNIDART with ECA&D data. Still under development are the planned quality control procedures and automated indices calculation procedures for ECA&D. A prototype for these workpackages will be finished by the end of February 2004.

The results of the homogeneity analysis of ECA series performed earlier in 2003 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 reprint of the paper describing these results, which was recently published in the *Journal of Climate*, will be distributed among project participants soon (see the website for details -> "Reports & papers").

For various reasons the earlier announced planning of the contents of the 2006 ECA assessment report is delayed until March 2004. At that time all participants will be contacted to discuss ideas. This will also make clear which future meetings and/or workshop activities are fruitful contributions to the project.

Generate Climate Monitoring Products (DWD)

During the last quarter of 2003 the project "Generate Climate Monitoring Products" entered the final phase. The number of countries contributing to the GCMP web site continued to increase and presently comprises eight NMHSs. Other ECSN members consider to join in providing appropriate products.

As in the preceding reporting periods new products were developed and provided by participants, in accordance with the results of the second GCMP workshop, which had attached priority to the parameters temperature and precipitation. Among these products are reports in English language on extreme weather and climate events e.g. concerning the heat wave in summer 2003, or presentations in the form of diagrams of the course of daily temperatures and precipitation at selected national climate stations.

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.

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, currently from eight European NMHSs on a regular basis.

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.

The basic approach has been completed successfully and the feasibility of the system demonstrated. The final report will be finished and presented shortly. It will show the objectives, the evolution and the achievements of the project, give an analysis of the results and make suggestions how to further develop the established structures, e.g. how to carry on with the GCMP Web site.

Outlook

The next logical step on the way to develop a European Climate Monitoring System is seen in the transformation of the now existing quasi operational system into a fully operational one. In a new ECSN project dedicated to this task the achieved results could be consolidated and integrated into operational management structures.

Climate Atlas of Europe (Météo-France)

The project is progressing as scheduled. A CD-ROM comprising the French and English (validated by Ireland) versions of the software has been made.

The next step will be that the English version is made available to participants through the Internet, on the EUROMET server, for validation. This will be done as soon as some compatibility problems with the mostly used Internet navigators have been solved.

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