

ECSN Quarterly Report July-September 2004

Prepared by the ECSN Manager and the Project Leaders

General remarks

The 9th ECSN Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting has taken place in Dublin, Ireland, 8-10 September 2004. The ECSN Manager, Walter Kirchhofer, thanked the organizers of Met Eireann, especially Mr. Tom Sheridan, for their invitation and for their kind hospitality. It was an interesting and fruitful meeting, also with regard to new activities.

The main achievements can be listed as follows:

- After the successful termination of the two projects "European Climate Assessment" (ECA) and "ECSN Climate Dataset" (ECD), the follow-up project "European Climate Assessment & Dataset" (ECA&D), conducted by KNMI, is very well on the way.

- The project "Generate Climate Monitoring Products" (GCMP) was terminated with a Final Report. In order to enhance the number of participating Members, it was decided to keep the GCMP project going on a quasi operational mode. A follow-up project "EuroCLIS" will be launched soon by DWD.

- The project "Climate Atlas of Europe" has produced a large database. A CD-ROM in a French and in an English version has been prepared. The project is completed. A CD-ROM will soon be distributed to all participating countries, with guidelines for installing the software.

- Within the European Integrated Project "ENSEMBLES", the project "Development of daily high-resolution gridded observational datasets for Europe" started on 1 September 2004.

- New project activities, as EuroCLIS and EURO-GRID, have been initiated. The idea of a EURO-GRID project is to create and to promote a rational and a quality assured climatological production of high resolution gridded data, based on information from the European National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs).

Mr. Claus Kern-Hansen, Danish Meteorological Institute, invited the ECSN Advisory Committee to hold its 10th Meeting in Denmark. The Delegates thanked for this kind invitation. The 10th EAC Meeting will take place in Copenhagen, in June 2005.

In the future ECSN will organize the European Conference on Applied Climatology, ECAC, in partnership with the European Meteorological Society. The first combined Conference "EMS4/ECAC5" has taken place in Nice, 26-30 September 2004. The scientific part of ECAC-2004 was managed by the ECAC Advisory Board (EAB) and the Conveners. EAB has organized three Planning Meetings, in Berlin, in Toulouse and in Nice. The Call for Papers for ECAC-2004 was a success. About 250 papers have been submitted and selected by the conveners. Thanks to the efficient work done by the conveners and by the EMS Secretariat, ECAC-2004 was, with respect to climatology

and its application, a success. But with respect to the organization as such, EMS has to meet and to improve the requirements, as for example for the allocation of responsibilities, the budget, the location, the programme, the time table for sessions, the poster sessions and the social events.

European Climate Assessment & Dataset (KNMI)

In this three months period, the testing phase of the ECA&D website was finished. Following the test conclusions and recommendations, adjustments have been made to the website. Furthermore, dedicated machines and tools for operational implementation of the prototype system within the KNMI infrastructure were configured and installed. All these activities in the previous three months have led to the conclusion that the website can go live.

<http://www.eca.knmi.nl> was formally launched and presented at the European Conference on Applied Climatology in Nice, September 2004. The new website features improved access to the daily station series and provides a much more complete overview of the results of the trend analyses that have been performed with the aid of indices of extremes. In addition, the results of the quality control procedures and homogeneity tests that have been applied to all series are better presented. One of the eye-catching features of the website is the ability to create custom cross-sections through the data.

To minimize time gaps in data series and to extend the data series until present, synoptical messages are used as exchanged over the Global Telecommunication System. This daily extension of the series, in combination with full automation of statistical procedures, gives the visitor of the

website the functionality to download data series and to create time series plots and trend maps for indices of extremes that are very up-to-date. In the coming months, activities are planned to fulfil the remaining technical issues on the ECA&D website. These activities include the functionality for participants to maintain their own data, as well as for non-participants to upload datasets and subject these data to the statistical functionality (calculation of indices and trends) available on the website.

ECA&D is involved in a related activity called ENSEMBLES. This FP6 project of EU held its kick-off with a meeting in Hamburg on 15 and 16 September 2004. ENSEMBLES is a major research project with a total of 72 partners, including most meteorological services in Western Europe (the UK Met Office is the overall co-ordinator of ENSEMBLES). The project covers climate change modelling and prediction on time scales from seasons to decades, as well as model validation using observational datasets. MeteoSwiss and KNMI participate in the workpackage WP5.1, which aims at developing a daily resolution gridded dataset for Europe on the basis of a network of daily station data. In that respect we do see ENSEMBLES as a good starting point for a new EUROGRID initiative of ECSN. This activity can only be successful if it builds upon the dataset developed in ECA&D. To be successful we need the support of all ECSN members to contribute additional station series in order to obtain a denser network. Note, that these additional station series are only used for gridding purposes and they will not be released or made public like the other ECA&D data.

Generate Climate Monitoring Products (DWD)

After completion of the project Generate Climate Monitoring Products and distribution of the Final Report, as well as in view of the results attained and the experiences gained, it was recognized that a logical further step would be the transformation of the project into a fully operational system for the co-ordination, collection and dissemination of standardized climate monitoring products for the European region.

So, the established GCMP website with its well-proven communication platform (accessible under the URL <http://www.gcmp.dwd.de>) is maintained and continued in anticipation of a favourable decision on an appropriate follow-up project to develop and achieve this transformation. There are also plans to improve the technical solution of the Internet platform and to develop appropriate software in the meantime.

Thanks to continuing efforts made to further enhance the participation in the project, additional European NMHSs, such as Denmark and Belgium, are joining the group of members contributing climate monitoring products and thus being represented on the GCMP web site. The products are integrated into the Internet platform, helping to extend the coverage of the European region. It should be stressed, however, that this coverage still has to be improved and the European National Meteorological and Hydrological Services are expressly encouraged to actively participate in and to contribute to the project.

Climate Atlas of Europe (Météo-France)

The project is completed. The only remaining thing is to check (with support of Met Eireann) that the procedure to install the software, which will be made available on a CD Rom, is correctly described in English, and is working with Word English version.

Once this is made, one CD will be distributed to all participating countries (a total of 24), with the guidelines for installing the software, and recommendations on how to do a version in other languages than French and English.

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