

## ECSN Quarterly Report October-December 2006

Prepared by the ECSN Manager and the Project Leaders

### General remarks

At its 28th Meeting the EUMETNET Council has decided to continue the ECSN Programme for a fourth phase, starting on 1 January 2007 for a four year period, with KNMI as the new Responsible Member and Aryan van Engelen as Programme Manager.

After a successful period of six years as Responsible Member for the EUMETNET-ECSN Optional Programme, MeteoSwiss will hand over the mandate to KNMI with the best wishes for a further successful period. The retiring ECSN Manager, Dr. Walter Kirchhofer, will step back with thanks to the EUMETNET Council for supporting the ECSN Programme, and in gratitude to the Project Leaders and to the ECSN Advisory Committee Members for their very kind co-operation during all these years.

The next combined Conference of the European Meteorological Society (EMS) together with the European Conference on Applied Meteorology, EMS/ECAM-2007, will take place in Madrid - El Escorial, 1-5 October 2007. This EMS/ECAM Conference will also contain a substantial part of climate topics.

The first meeting of the Conference Committee to organize this joint EMS/ECAM-2007 Conference has taken place in Madrid, 2-3 November 2006.

The Meteorological Office of Austria, ZAMG, will host the 6th ECSN Data Management Workshop in Vienna, 20-22 November 2007.

### European Climate Assessment & Dataset (KNMI)

Progress has been made in the technical upgrading of the ECA&D platform with the help of a third party software house with respect to:

- a) repair of bugs related to data gaps, missing stations and errors in Q-control procedures.
- b) improving of system performance with respect to increasing the speed of indices calculations and increasing the speed of automatic updates by means of SYNOP data from GTS.

A technical assessment of the ECA&D system is carried out by a third party software house for major changes in the software architecture. A technical assessment report will be produced next.

With Met Office UK yet informal deliberations started to incorporate the ACRE air pressure dataset of Europe in ECA&D.

The use of the ECA&D platform for (daily) data access is offered to the whole Millennium research community. The terms of use/access have similarities with the agreement made with the EU-ENSEMBLES project.

It has been decided that the final report of ECA&D, foreseen for June 2007, will be focussed mainly on a description of the ECA&D system than on an assessment of the European Climate.

## ENSEMBLES (KNMI, MeteoSwiss)

The dataset of observational series that will be used to create the European high-resolution daily gridded datasets now counts 2033 stations. Five interpolation methods have been applied to the temperature, precipitation and air pressure series of this set, namely Natural Neighbour Interpolation, Angular Distance Weighting, Thin Plate Splines, Kriging, and Conditional Interpolation (for precipitation only). The best method for each climate variable has not been selected yet.

Many of the data providers have recently been asked to send information about the measurement intervals of their series. Often, NMHSs measure daily variables using different methods, despite the WMO intentions of standardization. Besides, the dataset includes observations from different measurement networks (automatic and conventional/manual observations). Therefore, the time interval for observing minimum and maximum temperatures or for the accumulating 24-hour rainfall amount can differ between countries and within countries. For instance, daily precipitation can be recorded as the amount between the morning of the previous day and the morning of today, whereas at other locations between the morning of today and the morning of the next day. This, of course, influences the interpolation results when creating the daily grids. In order to deal with this problem, each data series in the database will be assigned by an element identification that gives information about the measurement procedure. This enables a correction to the time series.

At the Third General Assembly of ENSEMBLES in Lund, Sweden, the most recent results of this gridding project were presented.

## Generate Climate Monitoring Products / European Climate Information System (DWD)

The GCMP platform [www.gcmp.dwd.de](http://www.gcmp.dwd.de) is maintained ongoing in a quasi operational state by DWD in Offenbach and the products are checked once a month. The Hungarian Meteorological Service started to provide monthly products since October 2006 and also contributed a significant weather report on the storm in Budapest on 20 August 2006. Thus, 19 ECSN countries now contribute products to GCMP.

The new successor platform EuCLIS is expected to go public in 2007 when the new DWD Internet portal is ready. Presently some technical preparations still have to be done before the integration of EuCLIS into the new DWD portal can be realised.

Meanwhile the EuCLIS application has been installed successfully on an internal DWD computer and is now in an internal testing phase. A number of tests have been carried out at DWD. Also some documentation (system manual, administrator manual) has been prepared in German and English. A second test phase ("beta-testing") will follow soon with participation of colleagues from the NMHSs of the UK, France, Belgium and Germany. During this test phase it is planned that a small selection of products of these four countries could be inserted into the new system. After this second test phase an improved official release of EuCLIS can go public in a preoperational state to be filled by the other member states with their own products.

As promised, GCMP will not be switched off before EuCLIS is able to perform at least all the GCMP functions satisfactorily.

## Alpine Tmap / HRT-GAR (ZAMG)

In autumn 2006 data collection of CLINOs for the period 1971 - 2000 has been started. Up to now the responsible Weather Services from Austria, Croatia, Germany, Luxembourg and Slovenia have contributed to a data set of 588 stations. Data collection will be continued.

For the 1961-1990 period analyses are still in progress. A paper "First steps towards a new Temperature Climatology of the Greater Alpine Region (GAR)" has been prepared and submitted for the Proceedings of the final workshop of COST-719 hosted by the University of Grenoble (France). ECSN/HRT-GAR activities could also be presented in November 2006 on the occasion of the 1st MedCLIVAR Workshop in Carmona - Seville (Spain).

## EUROGRID (SMHI)

At its 28th Meeting the EUMETNET Council has approved that the SMHI will become Responsible Member for the ECSN Showcase EUROGRID project, with Christer Persson as Project Manager. The project will start on 1 January 2007 and will run for 24 months at a total cost of 65 kEuros. The following 13 Members have declared their support to the revised project and will contribute financially, namely Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. Italy and United Kingdom will be „in-kind“ participants.

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