

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS
OPEN PROGRAMME AREA GROUP ON INTEGRATED OBSERVING SYSTEMS

INTER-PROGRAMME EXPERT TEAM ON SATELLITE UTILIZATION AND
PRODUCTS

ITEM: 5.2.5

SECOND SESSION

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**Data Exchange and Dissemination
Status in Regions: WMO RA VI**

(S. Wannop, EUMETSAT)

Summary and Purpose of Document

This document provides an overview of the current work performed by the EUMETSAT Secretariat to support members of the wider WMO RA VI community outside of the EUMETSAT Member State countries.

ACTION PROPOSED

The second session is invited to take note of the status of these activities and to comment accordingly.

DISCUSSION

1. Introduction

The EUMETSAT involvement in the wider WMO RA VI user community is part of the EUMETSAT Strategic Objective to “extend the user base for EUMETSAT data, products and services [...] in WMO Members”.

Since 2009, EUMETSAT has organised on a regular basis ‘Information Days’ for WMO RA VI members outside of the EUMETSAT Member State community. These events provide the opportunity for EUMETSAT to maintain a close relation with its user community in the Eastern European, Western Balkan and Caucasus regions and are in line with the EUMETSAT strategy to maximise the benefits of the investments made in satellite infrastructure by ensuring that all WMO RA-VI countries (including non EUMETSAT Member States) can develop capacities to exploit these data and products in various applications areas (weather, climate and environment). The focus of the cooperation is to increase the benefits of satellite data for the countries through their integration in the daily operational forecasting activities of the NMHS.

2. Information Days in 2015

During 2015, EUMETSAT conducted two Information Days, one for NMHSs of the Western Balkan region and the other for NMHSs of Eastern Europe and Caucasian countries. The focus of both events was to:

- Present the status of EUMETSAT programmes, including the contribution to Copernicus;
- Update on EUMETSAT data and products and on EUMETCast
- Approach for regional training;
- Feedback from the NMHS of the region on their use of satellite data and needs
- Discussion on future activities, in cooperation with WMO and the EU (Instrument for Pre-Accession)

3. Information Day – Western Balkans NMHS

The EUMETSAT Information Day for Western Balkan NMHSs took place in Albania on 18-19 March 2015.

The participants agreed on the following main recommendations, which are grouped in four main categories:

1. Infrastructure to access satellite and other meteorological information data via EUMETCast
2. Regional Training
3. Regional cooperation and projects
4. Continuous interaction between NMHS and EUMETSAT

EUMETCast infrastructure (reception station)

Regarding the EUMETCast infrastructure, a set of specific actions were identified to ensure that each NMHS can have a functioning DAWBEE station (see action list in Annex III). The following recommendation were also raised to ensure continuity and sustainability of the operational reception of satellite data, taking into consideration the aging PCs of the DAWBEE station, and the need for additional functionalities in term of data visualisations.

Recommendation #1: NMHS should install 1.8m antenna to ensure access to EUMETCast High Volume Service.

Recommendation #2: NMHS should get prepared for replacing the aging DAWBEE PCs, based on the experience made by the Meteorological Services of Republika Sprska

(Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Recommendation #3: NMHS should evaluate the possibility to acquire a EUMETCast reception station (based on manufacturer list provided by EUMETSAT) that would allow processing and visualisation of additional data (Nowcasting SAF products, EARS data, etc), as well as overlaying satellite and other meteorological information (NWP model outputs and radar data), possibly through regional project funding scheme.

Regional Training

Following the discussion on training, the following recommendations were agreed:

Recommendation #4: The need of the NMHS regarding training on satellite meteorology should be identified at regional level, through the Informal Conference of South-East European NMHS Directors (ICEED), as part of a broader training need assessment for various meteorological applications (e.g. forecaster training). EUMETSAT and ICEED will invite each other at their respective meeting (EUMETTrain meeting in Zagreb at end of April and next ICEED meeting in 2015) and will include a specific agenda point on the matter in their respective meeting.

This recommendation has been implemented through the formation of the South East Europe Meteorology Training (SEEMET) group which will provide yearly training courses for the region with a focus on forecasting applications. EUMETSAT will be supporting this group.

Regional IPA-II project

Recommendation #5: Based on the EU IPA II Multi-Country Strategy Paper, and on the willingness expressed by the NMHS to continue cooperating within regional IPA projects, WMO and EUMETSAT should further explore with the EU, the possibility for the NMHS to take part and contribute to a regional IPA-II project, and inform the NMHS on the preliminary findings of this exploration;

Continuous interactions

Recommendation #6: The meeting indicated that a biennial interaction at director level on EUMETSAT activities was appropriate and shall continue to take place, notably in view of the new satellite programme (Copernicus, MTG, etc). However, in view of the continuous evolution of data needs and increased availability of data provided through EUMETCast, the meeting recommended the creation of a "Focus Group on satellite data access and exploitation", composed by one representative per each NMHS, nominated by the Director of the NMHS. This group will mainly interact through videoconferencing, and EUMETSAT will act as Secretariat of that group. Terms of Reference will be discussed at the first meeting.

4. Information Day – Eastern Europe and Caucasian NMHS

The EUMETSAT Information Day for Eastern European and Caucasian NMHSs, took place in Georgia on 22-23 April 2015. The focus of the event was to:

The participants agreed on the following main recommendations, which are grouped in four main categories:

1. Infrastructure to access satellite and other meteorological information data via EUMETCast
2. Regional Training
3. Regional cooperation and projects
4. Continuous interaction between NMHS and EUMETSAT

EUMETCast infrastructure (reception station)

Regarding the EUMETCast infrastructure, the following recommendation were also raised to ensure continuity and sustainability of the operational reception of satellite data, taking into consideration the aging PCs of the DAWBEE station, and the need for additional functionality in term of data visualisation.

Recommendation #1: NMHS should increase the size of their antenna (from 1.2 to 1.8m or from 1.8 to 2.4m) to ensure access to EUMETCast High Volume Service.

Recommendation #2: NMHS should get prepared for replacing the aging DAWBEE PCs, EUMETSAT could facilitate the sharing of experience with the NMHS of the western Balkan region, that faces similar issue.

Recommendation #3: Noting the interest of several NMHS to visualise additional data and products, the NMHS should evaluate the possibility to acquire additional processing and visualisation software notably to support agro-meteorology or hydrology applications. EUMETSAT might provide list of software that could be considered.

Regional Training

Following the discussion on training, the following recommendations were agreed:

Recommendation #4: The need of the NMHS regarding training on satellite meteorology should be identified at regional level, through existing structure, in close liaison with the regional WMO training centre in the region (e.g. Turkey and Russia) as part of a broader training need assessment for various meteorological applications (e.g. forecaster training).

Recommendation #5: the NMHS invited the EPIRB project and EUMETSAT to investigate the possibility to organise an H-SAF course in the region to ensure that NMHS could provide added-value information to the authorities in their country for water basin management purposes.

Continuous interactions

Recommendation #6: The meeting indicated that a biennial interaction at director level on EUMETSAT activities was appropriate and shall continue to take place, notably in view of the new satellite programme (Copernicus, MTG, etc). However, in view of the continuous evolution of data needs and increased availability of data provided through EUMETCast, the meeting recommended the creation of a "Focus Group on satellite data access and exploitation", composed by one representative per each NMHS, nominated by the Director of the NMHS. This group will mainly interact through videoconferencing, and EUMETSAT will act as Secretariat of that group. Terms of Reference will be discussed at the first meeting.

5. Future Perspectives

The biennial Information Day events are expected to continue in future years to build upon the existing cooperation between EUMETSAT and the NMHS of the wider WMO RA VI community.

