



MINUTES FROM THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM FOR OPERATIONAL WEATHER PREDICTION (SEECOP)

***OHRID, REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
9 October 2018***

The fourth meeting of the Council of the South East European Consortium for Operational weather Prediction (SEECOP) was attended by participants from seven National Meteorological and Hydrological Services from the following countries: Albania (IGEWE), Bosnia and Herzegovina – the Federation of B&H (FHMZ), Bosnia and Herzegovina – the Republic of Srpska (RHMZ RS), Republic of Macedonia (UHMR), Montenegro (IHMS), Serbia (RHMSS), and Ukraine (UHMC), as well as by the representatives of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF).

Opening of the Session

The meeting was opened by Professor Jugoslav Nikolić, RHMSS Director and SEECOP Chair. Professor Nikolić welcomed the participants and expressed his pleasure for the expansion of SEECOP membership and the participation of observers from WMO and ECMWF in this meeting. In his opinion, the Consortium was well positioned and had good future prospects.

The meeting was then addressed by host of the meeting, UHMR Director Ivica Todorovski, who welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of regional cooperation in the field of numerical modelling, especially considering the fact that the requirements in this field were increasing daily.

Report on the SEECOP activities between two Council meetings

The meeting chairmanship was taken over by dr Slobodan Nicković, Special Advisor at RHMSS. After thanking the hosts for the excellent organization of the meeting and greeting the SEECOP members and observers, he presented a report on the SEECOP activities between two Council meetings. He reported that Ukraine had officially joined the Consortium and that Belarus still had not signed the SEECOP Agreement. It was proposed to get in touch with Greece, Cyprus and Moldova, which had previously showed interest to cooperate with SEECOP, in order to explore which form of collaboration would be most appropriate. He invited all members to participate more actively in the Consortium activities, noting that any reduction of activities could result in moving away from the main Consortium objectives. Recalling the fact that the Consortium activities were self-funded by members, which could potentially impede their efficient implementation, he suggested that external funding mechanisms should be explored. He also stressed the need to continue with training, but in a

changed framework (shape). For example, the topic of the next training could be aerosols as a numerical modelling component; assimilation, etc.

Within this agenda item, Dr Nicković also reported on the conclusions of the first online meeting of the SEECOP Coordination Experts Team (CET), held on 12 September 2018, during which it was agreed to establish CET Chairmanship. Charing shall be rotated every two years and Ilija Jovičić from RHMS was appointed as Chair for the next two years.

Country reports

Following the initial report, members' representatives briefly presented their activities between two SEECOP Council meetings.

Angel Marčev (IHMS) reported that the NMMB model had still not been in operational use. IHMS was running the NMM-E model. Through a GIZ project they would use operational products from NMM-E models with 9km and 3km horizontal resolution for input in PANTA RHEI forecast model (is an application of the hydrological PANTA RHEI modeling system in the flow forecast mode). In the forthcoming period, probably in the course of the next month, IHMS would install the Intel Fortran Compiler required to run the NMMB model.

Ruslan Reviakin (UHMC) pointed out that, as a new member, UHMC needed more assistance, clarifications, trainings and preparations for fulfilling their obligations concerning the Consortium activities. He emphasized that UHMC was open and ready to be more active.

Igor Kovačić (RHMZ RS) reported that RHMZ RS had not made any step forward in using the NMMB model and explained that the main reason for postponing the process was the lack of trained people.

Metodi Marku (IGEWE) emphasized that IGEWE was also faced with a lack of people, especially experienced ones. They were putting more effort in hydrological modelling and they were planning to use the NMM-E model.

Ibrahim Hadzismailovic (FHMZ) pointed out that FHMZ was in the process of NMMB model compiling and that they were overcoming the installation issues in cooperation with RHMS experts.

Bojan Cvetković (RHMS) reported that the NMMB model had become a Time Critical Application on the Cray supercomputer at ECMWF. The products of the model running at the ECMWF computer facility could be used by all members.

Kostadinka Arsovska (UHMR) reported that UHMR was also running the NMM-E model and that they still needed training on the use of the NMMB code.

Report from the EWGLAM/SRNWP meeting

Ljiljana Dekić (RHMS) did not attend the meeting and her presentation will be posted at the SEECOP Consortium web page.

Suggestions for future SEECOP activities

The key issue was how to motivate the Consortium members to participate more actively in the SEECOP activities. It was proposed that CET should define a strategy for the following 3–5 years. For that purpose, by the end of the year CET shall prepare a questionnaire related to the needs of the members in the field of numerical modelling, obstacles preventing successful implementation of activities, expectations in this area, etc. Ilija Jovičić, CET Chair, shall coordinate this activity. Responses to the questionnaire should be collected by the end of the year, and the results analysed by the end of February, after which CET should start preparing the long-term strategy.

The participants agreed to establish a Working Group (Marku from IGEWE, Cvetković from RHMS and Marčev from IHMS) to prepare a questionnaire on the members' needs and wishes concerning the 4km resolution products of the NMMB model running as a Time Critical Application. After the analysis of the responses to the questionnaire, the Working Group shall present the results to the SEECOP Council, which shall decide at its next session on the final list of products to be published on the SEECOP website.

ECMWF representative Umberto Modigliani informed the participants on the possibility of obtaining additional observations and agreed to subsequently provide information on the distribution and delivery of precipitation data and the possibility of receiving advice/help from ECMWF experts concerning the verification of precipitation forecasts. It was agreed that there was a need to establish a Working Group on Verification to propose a plan of activities in the future period. In order to initiate the verification process, the participants decided to regularly exchange additional observations data.

Status on membership

This issue was considered within the item “Report on SEECOP activities between two Council meetings”.

Any other business

Within this item, there was a discussion on intellectual property rights and commercial use terms and conditions. Recalling the 5-day training on the use of the NMMB model (Belgrade, October 2018), dr Ničković explained that the need to sign the Statement on the Use of Software Packages stemmed from the fact that the NMMB model had been modified for the needs of the training, meaning that added value had been created by including the developments of some new software components and procedures. The Statement had also been written following the Recommendations of the C-SRNWP Advisory Expert Team to SEECOP to “apply explicitly defined rules for the source code management”. The Statement had been signed by all workshop participants, with the exception of the representative from IHMS of Montenegro, who had objections to the content of the statement and claimed this kind of documents (statement) must first approved from CET (consortium expert team) and after that also adopted by the SEECOP Council.

The discussion was continued by considering terms and conditions for the commercial use of the products with added value.

Head of RHMSS International Cooperation Division recalled Article 4.2 of the SEECOP Agreement which defined the code/extensions use and ownership rights, and gave examples of the manner in which issues related to intellectual property rights and use of code by third parties were solved by other consortia, such as Hirlam and Aladin/Hirlam. It was agreed to prepare proposals on the manner in which this issue could be settled and put them before the Council which would make the final decision.

Date and place of the next meeting

The next meeting of the SEECOP Council will be held back to back with the ICSEED meeting in Israel in October 2019.

Closure of the meeting

The meeting was closed on 9 October 2018 at 1 PM.

AGENDA

Tuesday, 9 October 2018	
Fourth SEECOP Council Session	
9:00-9:30	Registration of participants
9:30-9:45	Welcome address - <i>Mr Ivica Todorovski, Director, NMHS of the Republic of Macedonia</i>
9:45-10:00	Report on SEECOP activities between two Council Sessions - <i>Dr. Slobodan Ničković, NMHS of Serbia</i>
10:00-11:00	Country reports – achievements between two meetings Report from the EWGLAM/SRNWP meeting, Salzburg (Austria), 1-4 October 2018 - <i>Ms. Ljiljana Dekić, NMHS of Serbia</i>
11:00-11:30	Suggestions for future SEECOP activities
11:30-12:00	<i>Coffee break & group photo</i>
12:00-12.30	Status on membership Possible funding mechanisms
12:30-13:00	Any other business Closure of the meeting
13:00-14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30-	<i>Excursion to Sveti Naum</i>