



Second Session of the South East European Consortium for Operational weather Prediction

Bar, Montenegro, 27 June 2016

Minutes

Item	Session	Chairs
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Luka Mitrović, Sanja Pavićević, IHMS
<p>The second session of the Council and Coordination Experts Team (CET) of the South East European Consortium for Operational weather Prediction (SEECOP) was opened by host of the meeting, Mr. Luka Mitrovic, Director of the Institute for Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro (IHMS). He greeted all the participants and wished them successful work and a pleasant stay in Montenegro. A full list of participants can be found in Annex 1.</p>		
<p>The session proceeded with the address delivered by Professor Jugoslav Nikolic, Director of the Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia (RHMSS), who emphasized the necessity of organizing the meetings of SEECOP Members on a continuous basis. Serbia took the initiative for the next meeting to take place in Belgrade in 2017, with the financial support of the CEI Cooperation Fund, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and RHMSS, and with the participation of the representatives of other consortia and international lecturers, including dr Zavisa Janjic from NCEP, who is the author of the NMMB model. However, it is necessary to find a long-term solution in order to ensure the sustainability of SEECOP. In his closing remark, Professor Nikolic suggested the introduction of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) within SEECOP Members, in accordance with the WMO recommendations.</p>		
<p>The session was followed by the address of Mr. Balazs Szintai from the NHMS of Hungary, who is at the same time the Manager of the Coordination – Short Range Numerical Weather Prediction (C-SRNWP) EUMETNET Programme. Mr. Szintai briefly described the C-SRNWP programme structure consisting of an Advisory Expert Team and eight expert groups that coordinate cooperation between five European consortia, and expressed hope that SEECOP representatives will soon take part in the meetings and work of these bodies. He also pointed out that Hungary is a Member of the LACE Consortium, that has plenty of similarities with SEECOP, and that these two consortia could closely cooperate in many fields in the future.</p>		
2.	Adopting SEECOP agenda, Selecting Chairs/Rapporteurs	Jugoslav Nikolić, RHMS
<p>The address of the EUMETNET representative was followed by the introduction of participants, adoption of the meeting agenda and selection of the proposed chairs and rapporteurs.</p>		
3.	SEECOP management	Almir Bijedić, FHMZBiH
<p>The participants officially established the SEECOP Council (comprising of Members' Directors) and CET (comprising, if possible, of one expert in charge of coordination and one expert responsible for operational work from each Member). The participants filled in the forms, distributed by Mr. Bijedic, with contact information of the Council Members and appointed experts. A full list of Council and CET members can be found in Annex 2 and 3, respectively. Professor Jugoslav Nikolic (RHMS) was elected as the SEECOP Coordinator and Chair of the SEECOP Council in the next two years.</p>		

It was agreed that all potential changes of the SEECOP Agreement should be carried out by adding annexes to the Agreement, without making changes to the adopted text of the Agreement. Furthermore, bearing in mind that the Membership in SEECOP does not imply any financial contributions, it was decided that Members should include the resources for the attendance at the upcoming SEECOP meetings into their yearly budget plans.

4.	Review of SEECOP activities	Slobodan Ničković, RHMSS
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It was ascertained that the SEECOP Agreement came into force bearing in mind that it was signed by all the Members except for the Federal Hydrometeorological Institute of Bosnia and Herzegovina that will sign the Agreement as soon as they receive the governmental approval, which is expected to happen soon.

Members discussed the conclusions from the previous EWGLAM and SRNWP meetings, held in Belgrade in October 2015, and the recommendations of the C-SRNWP Advisory Expert Team. Based on these recommendations, it was agreed that initially four working groups should be established within SEECOP: for data assimilation, for the link with applications, for system aspects (code management), and for diagnostics, validation and verification. With SEECOP development and growth, four additional working groups should be established in order to achieve full compliance with the working groups existing within C-SRNWP. Members will subsequently nominate experts that will be the members of the newly established SEECOP working groups.

As for the availability of the NWP data and products, it was agreed to formulate such data policy according to which SEECOP data and products would be freely available on the SEECOP webpage for non-commercial purposes, on the condition that a clear reference to the source is indicated. For commercial purposes, users would have to obtain consent from SEECOP Members.

It was decided that RHMSS should produce a user guide for the NMMB model installation and running, as well as user guides for NPS, POST, and other model-related applications. RHMSS should also hold a workshop on practical application of the model within the framework of the SEECOP meeting in Belgrade in 2017.

Angel Marcev (IHMS) gave a presentation on the web page of SEECOP (<http://seecop.meteo.co.me>), including its current possibilities and plans for the further development and expansion.

5.	SEECOP Annual and Mid-term Plan	Igor Kovačić, RHMZRS
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Members nominally adopted the proposed annual and mid-term SEECOP work plans with minor technical changes that would subsequently be applied. The final version of the plans can be found in Annex 4.

6.	Members' presentations	Vlado Spiridonov, UHMR
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Members provided an overview of the developments in their services in the field of NWP introduced in the period after the last meeting in Belgrade.

The NHMS of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina presented some new NWP applications.

The NHMS of the Republic of Srpska presented their plans related to computer resources.

The NHMS of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia shared their research activities related to the coupling of WRF with a cloud scale model.

The NHMS of Montenegro presented the new computer hosting the web page.

The NHMS of the Republic of Serbia presented their data assimilation system for NMMB and new operational-

ready NMMB domain running at ECMWF's supercomputer, as well as their research on cloud-dust interaction and the hydrology model.

The representative of the Belarusian NHMS, as a candidate for entering SEECOP, gave the general overview of their NWP activities. According to the participants, they showed respectable activities in the field of NWP, both research and operational.

The representative of the NHMS of Greece, that is a potential future SEECOP member, and already a member of the COSMO consortium and ECMWF, presented their rich experience in NWP. The NHMS of Greece is particularly interested in the modelling of dust and hydrology modelling, which are also among the SEECOP activities.

7.	Any Other Business	Metodi Marku, IGewe
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The proposal that the NHMS of Belarus becomes a new SEECOP Member was unanimously adopted.

8.	Conclusions	
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The Chair of the SEECOP Council stated his expectations that SEECOP should become one of the leading consortia in Europe.

The main focus in the following period will be on the implementation of aerosols into NMMB, linking NMMB forecasts with the HYPROM hydrological model, and further development of data assimilation for NMMB.

The next meeting will be held in the autumn of 2017 in Belgrade, Serbia.

Rapporteur: Bojan Kašić, NWP Division, RHMSS
Belgrade, 29 June 2016