

Recommendations of the C-SRNWP Advisory Expert Team:

In its meeting on 8 October 2015 the C-SRNWP Advisory Expert Team (AET), consisting of the heads of European NWP consortia (ALADIN, COSMO, HIRLAM, LACE, UKMO) and the Chairs of the C-SRNWP Expert Teams, discussed extensively the proposal of Slobodan Nickovic (RHMS of Serbia) for the official acceptance of SEECOP (South-East European Consortium for Operational weather Prediction) as a new Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) consortium in Europe. The AET appreciated the information given about the organizational structure and scientific plans of SEECOP, and formulated the following opinion:

Based on the available information, AET would recommend the EUMETNET STAC to accept SEECOP as a new NWP consortium in Europe. At the same time, AET would recommend SEECOP to consider the following points, which could help the efficient operational and scientific collaboration both within SEECOP and with the already existing NWP consortia in Europe and C-SRNWP:

- AET would recommend Members of SEECOP to join the C-SRNWP Programme and possibly other programmes of EUMETNET (noting that Serbia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are already full members of EUMETNET, from which Serbia and Montenegro are also contributing to C-SRNWP, and that Bosnia and Herzegovina is already a cooperating member with respect to EMMA). This would foster the exchange of information in all scientific fields related to NWP.
- AET would kindly ask whether the Agreement Document for SEECOP could be made available to the AET for information.
- A preliminary structure of the organization of SEECOP was presented by Slobodan Nickovic at the EWGLAM/SRNWP meeting in October 2015. AET would recommend formulating this structure officially, for example as an annex of the consortium agreement of SEECOP (if this was not done already).
- According to the information provided at the meeting, the AET understands that SEECOP does not place any requirements on its member services as to minimum staffing commitments to the common research activities. The consortia already participating in C-SRNWP all have such minimum requirements, and in their experience these have proven quite important for their functioning. The AET would recommend SEECOP to consider this aspect more closely.
- Based on the information provided, AET understands that unlike in other European NWP consortia, there will be no formal and permanent Working Groups in SEECOP, only so-called ad-hoc working groups. This might hinder the collaboration of SEECOP with other European NWP consortia and C-SRNWP, because it would be not clear with whom different NWP aspects should be communicated within SEECOP. Consequently, AET would recommend SEECOP to try to organize permanent Working Groups for different aspects of NWP (like Data Assimilation, Physics or Predictability) in future, or at least to nominate Focal Points for these activities.
- The consortia already participating in C-SRNWP apply explicitly defined rules for the source code management to ensure high quality of the respective codes and models during the development process. The AET recommends SEECOP to consider also this aspect of consortium organization.