

The EU Millennium project - a reconstruction of the climate of Europe for the last thousand years

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End 2005 the EU approved the funding of the Millennium project in which 40 partners (Universities, GTI's, NMS's) under the coordination of the University of Wales (UK) aim at one and clear objective: "to determine with quantifiable precision whether the magnitude and rate of 20th Century climate change exceeds the natural variability of European climate over the last millennium".

The documentary, biological and sedimentary archives of Europe will be explored and sophisticated techniques will be applied to extract the paleoclimatic signals. The combination with existing instrumental and proxy paleoclimate data will allow to model the past and the future impacts of anthropogenic climate forcing using realistic patterns of natural climate variability across Europe.

The author is leader of team 1, acting in a group of three teams (chaired by prof. R. Brazdil) that focuses on instrumental and documentary archives.

Team 1 specially addresses the collation of long timeseries of instrumental meteorological data. For that purpose the network and deliverables of the ECSN project ECA&D will serve as a baseline platform.

As the community of ECA&D is dominated by the Climatological departments of the majority of the European NMS's, their contribution is of paramount importance for the success of the project and offers vice versa the NMS's a door to the paleoclimatological research community.