



## **EUMETNET: Organisation and Strategy**

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EUMETNET (the Network of European Meteorological Services) is a grouping of 22 European National Meteorological Services. With the organisation of new Programmes and its participation in international and European projects such as GEO and GMES, EUMETNET continues its endeavours to better coordinate meteorological activities on a European scale and to be the point of reference on European meteorological issues for international organisations.

The National Meteorological Services' main duties are to observe the weather, understand its behaviour and forecast its evolution in order to efficiently contribute to security and to the mitigation of human and property losses. As about 90% of natural disasters have meteorological or hydrological origins, they have an important role to play in the monitoring and protection of our environment when it is threatened by severe weather or climate change. To reach this goal, the European National Meteorological Services (NMSs) must develop and manage a variety of tools used for nowcasting, short-range meteorological forecast, climatology, education, etc. and organise a ground-based observation network that allows essential parameters such as pressure, temperature, humidity, wind or precipitation intensity, to be collected with sufficient accuracy. Because the atmosphere is not confined within national borders and because most of the meteorological applications and forecasting rely on information from wide areas, EUMETNET and its Programmes provide an appropriate framework for developing exchanges between European NMSs and for optimising the European observational networks.

Over the last few years, under the coordination of EUCOS and with the expert advice of the EUMETNET Programme Board of Observation (PB-Obs), the network of meteorological observations was reinforced, in particular over sparse areas such as the

Atlantic ocean or the Mediterranean sea. This was achieved thanks to the development and enhancement of: airborne measurements (E-AMDAR); radiosounding explorations carried out from commercial ships (E-ASAP); surface measurements from ships and from a network of fixed and drifting buoys (E-SURFMAR). Near real time information on precipitation (OPERA) and on wind vertical profiles (WINPROF) was improved over most of the European area. New sensors that are now being tested within E-AMDAR and the use of GPS data in the E-GVAP programme should allow a more accurate observation of the fields of atmospheric moisture in the coming years. EUMETFREQ devotes itself to the preservation of frequencies needed to realize meteorological observations from radars, lidars and satellite as radio-communication applications are developing very fast around the world and represent a threat for these observations.

ECSN develops new projects and continues to improve our knowledge of the European climate, while UNIDART now offers a single portal to access climatological data from several European centres. Regarding air quality forecasting, WG-ENV collaborates in projects that are developing on a European level. Meteoalarm, a website giving weather awareness information over the major part of Europe, was developed through the EMMA Programme and is now available to the public. With MAP-NWS, EUMETNET has actively supported research devoted to the study of atmospheric and hydrological processes over mountainous areas. EUMETCAL has developed a wide range of Computer Aided Learning software for training and education in meteorology. Within the framework of the C-SRNWP Programme, discussion has begun on the future organisation of numerical weather prediction in Europe and on the reinforcement of cooperation between NMSs in this domain.

Collaboration is very active with the WMO (World Meteorological Organisation) and in international programmes such as the THORPEX World Research Weather Programme, the Global Earth Observation (GEO) Programme, and the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) Programme. A new EUMETNET programme (EUMETRep) was developed in collaboration with WMO and ECMWF (the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts), in coordination with EUMETSAT (the European organisation for the exploitation of Meteorological Satellites) to ensure representation of the meteorological community in Brussels and to reinforce links with the European Commission and its programmes. The stakes are high because efficient coordination of meteorological activities is necessary to effectively contribute to the European organisation for the protection of the environment and the security of persons and property.

In 2008 EUMETNET will become an Economic Interest Grouping (EIG). This new framework means EUMETNET will become a legal entity, able to contract with third

parties, to manage and secure the financing of its programmes and to define a long-term strategy.