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The WMO/MEDARE

An Initiative for the development of a high quality climate instrumental dataset for the Greater Mediterranean Region

By The MEDARE Community:
WMO/WCDMP, Geneva, Switzerland

Under the auspice of the World Meteorological Organization, a new scientific enterprise known as the MEDiterranean climate DATA REscue (MEDARE) was set up at the International Workshop on Rescue and Digitization of Climate Records in the Mediterranean Basin, held at the University Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain, 28-30 November 2007.

MEDARE brings together scientists from universities, research centres and other international climate-related institutions and projects together with experts and climatologists from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the Greater Mediterranean Region (GMR). The long-term goal of the project is to develop a comprehensive high quality instrumental climate dataset for the GMR with a focus on the Essential Climate Variables (ECV) of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). Such a dataset will support and improve our ability to monitor, detect and predict climate variability and change at regional and national levels, thereby allowing countries of the region to develop robust strategies for managing climate related risks and adapting to climate change.

The MEDARE initiative has defined a set of actions that need to be undertaken in order to enhance research activities, train young scientists, raise awareness and promote capacity building in support of GMR data and metadata rescue activities.

- MEDARE has already implemented a web portal at <http://www.omm.urv.cat/MEDARE-workshop-outcomes/index.html>. This portal will allow users to upload and access region wide inventoried long-time climate records drawing additionally upon the associated climate metadata. The portal also facilitates other scientific, technical and administrative information exchanges among the MEDARE community
- A technical assessment document will be produced for the region emphasising the need for climate data rescue and digitization, the apparent lack of some digitized data in the international databases, the techniques and procedures for recovery, digitising, composing, formatting, archiving, disseminating climate data and metadata, and the best techniques for homogenizing long climate time series. The document will also include a comprehensive overview on current climate data availability in each GMR country.

The MEDARE initiative will be conducted under the WMO World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme (WCDMP) with substantial scientific and technical support from the WMO Commission for Climatology (CCI) and its two Open Programme Area Groups (OPAGs), on Climate Data Management (OPAG1) and on the Analysis of Climate Variability and Change (OPAG2). MEDARE is open to all interested scientific individuals, groups and organizations wishing to take a proactive role in the ongoing process of data rescue, digitization and data set development activities over the GMR.