

A potential European Regional Reanalysis project (EURRA)

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Following initial contacts between ECMWF and the European Environment Agency (EEA), the latter expressed a strong interest in commissioning, through Member-State interests and the needs of the European Commission to support the 6th Environment Action Plan, a high-resolution Europe-wide reanalysis describing the state of the atmosphere, coastal ocean, snow cover and land surfaces (including vegetation and soil moisture) over the last thirty years or more. Products would be widely distributed following the data policy of the INSPIRE directive on spatial data information.

Such an ambitious project could be developed only over a multi-year time frame and would require the active involvement of the European Meteorological Infrastructure (EMI). Accordingly, the Director of ECMWF presented this opportunity to the EUMETNET Council, and was asked by the Council to organize an initial discussion. A Workshop to consider a potential European Regional Reanalysis project (EURRA) was held at ECMWF on 21 and 22 November 2005. Each of the National Meteorological Services (NMSs) of ECMWF's Member States was invited to be represented at the meeting.

The objectives of the Workshop were to capture:

- the extent of existing EMI expertise in the various facets of a high-resolution Europe-wide reanalysis;
- the extent of any synergy between EURRA and European plans for global reanalysis;
- views regarding the scope and organization of the project;
- expressions of interest in participating in the project from actors within the EMI.

In addition, the Workshop provided an opportunity to consider, in the context of EURRA, the EUROGRID project prepared by the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute in cooperation with members of the European Climate Support Network.

Representatives of twelve NMSs attended the Workshop. Dr Philippe Crouzet participated for most of the first day on behalf of the EEA, and Dr Fedor Mesinger (NCEP and the University of Maryland) attended as an invited expert with in-depth experience of the North American Regional Reanalysis project. Dr Mesinger also assisted ECMWF staff in the preparation of the workshop and the writing of the workshop report.

The report provides summaries of the workshop presentations, consideration of a possible project outline, a summary of the NMSs' views on the project and their likely provision of data for use in the project, discussion of how the project might be organised and the anticipated next steps. These steps have subsequently been followed. Arrangements are currently being made for the appointment of a Consultant to lead preparation of a detailed proposal for the project.

The report and presentations made at the workshop can be found at:

<http://www.ecmwf.int/newsevents/meetings/workshops/2005/EURRA/presentations/presentations.html>