

Report of the 6th Meeting of the SRNWP Network

Bratislava, 14-15 October 1999

The meeting was opened by the Coordinator designated at the 1998 Annual Meeting in Copenhagen. After a short introduction, the Assembly started its work according to the agenda.

1. The EUCOS Programme

After a thorough presentation of this Programme by its Manager (François Gérard), the general discussion started with severe criticisms about the way the SOP (20 September - 14 November) has been defined. The EUCOS SAT (Scientific Advisory Team) had recommended 2 two month each SOP's, one in winter and one in summer. But it has been decided by the bodies responsible of the Programme to carry out only one SOP and to merge it with the MAP SOP. The general feeling in the Assembly was that this unique and autumnal SOP is not very representative and it was very clear for the participants that it could be misleading for EUCOS or EUMETNET to base the important decisions to be taken in the future on the results of this SOP.

The EUCOS SOP observing system is characterised by a large reduction in the number of the upper-air sounding stations: instead of about 60, only 27 but performing 4 ascents a day (instead of 2) and these ascents are supplemented by a significant increase of aircraft observations (AIREP/AMDAR).

Concerning the commitments to undertake OSE's (Observing System Experiments) with the standard observing system on one hand and the SOP observing system on the other, the NWS have been reluctant to commit themselves. Nevertheless Meteo-France envisaged a parallel suite for a fortnight during the SOP and will concentrate its attention first of all on the differences in the humidity analyses¹. UKMO could not commit itself for any experiment. COSMO promised OSE's for a period of at least 15 days and HIRLAM informed that it will study the possibility to participate to the assessment of the SOP observing system.

Important: for these OSE's, it has been decided not to define rules about what should be diagnosed and how: each group is free to define its experiments as it wishes to and to look at the results it is interested in. The only constraint is that the reports about eventual studies must be sent to the EUCOS Project Manager not later than June the 30th 2000.

2. Lead Centres

Important decisions have been taken regarding the activities of the Lead Centres.

2.1. Lead Centre for Verification

The Coordinator proposed to change the name of the "Lead Centre for Statistical Adaptation" to "Lead Centre for Statistical Adaptation and Verification".

Reason:

1. A parallel suite was in activity in Meteo-France during the SOP. The comparison with the operational suite has been made and a first internal report (in french) exists.

With the steady increase of the spatial resolution of our LAM's, the problem of the verification of the model results will become more difficult. For example, how should we verify cloudiness or precipitations of models with a grid point distance of, say, 5 km? It must be clear that the aim of this new "LC for Verification" is not to compare between them the results of our models, but to discuss, define, test and assess new methods of verification for very high resolution models.

In the discussion, it has been made clear that this important function should not be added to an existing LC but that a new one should be created. KNMI announced that it will, in the frame of HIRLAM, study the possibility to take over this function¹.

2.2. Workshops and Miniworkshops of the Lead Centres

It has been agreed that it was a duty for each LC to organise at least every two years a workshop or a miniworkshop. The difference between a workshop or a miniworkshop concerns the number of participants only.

In order for these events to be truly SRNWP events, a rule must be followed about who in our Network must be invited. The adopted rule is very simple:

- a). For workshops: each Network Member must be invited according to the list of the National Representatives.
- b). For miniworkshops: the 5 consortia (HIRLAM, COSMO, UKMO, ALADIN, LACE) have to be invited according to the list of the consortium focal points. The organisers can limit the number of participants per consortium.
- c). Beside a) or b), each organiser of a workshop/miniworkshop remains free to invite as many other guests as he wishes.
- d). For each workshop/miniworkshop, the Coordinator will have to write a report summarising the main points of the meeting. These reports will be distributed to all the Network Members.

List of the Workshops and Miniworkshops already announced for the years 2000 and 2001: see Annex 1.

3. Mean forecasts and/or mini-ensemble forecasts with the LAM's of our consortia

A project has been submitted by some NWS and other institutions to the EU for the study of the feasibility of mean and ensemble forecasts from different meso-scale limited area models. This project has been unfortunately turned down.

After discussion, the assembly reached the conclusion that our Network should not embark on a similar project for the time being, but should encourage the initiators to resubmit, maybe in a different form, their proposal.

4. The WWW and our Network

Next to the sites of the Consortia, the Assembly recognised the need to have a SRNWP site as a tool where all the information pertaining to our Network as a whole will be found. The Coordinator promised to establish such a site and a non-exhaustive list of the items to be found in the SRNWP pages has been established.²

1. In November 1999, I have been informed that HIRLAM has agreed to take responsibility for the "Lead Centre for Verification" and that the management of that Centre has been given to KNMI.

2. The construction of this site on a server of the Swiss Meteorological Institute (SMI) will start very soon. An internal agreement has already been reached with the IT division of the SMI.

See Annex 2.

5. Scientific Workshops of the Consortia

The Assembly has decided that each Consortium must invite to its scientific meetings the other Consortia through the Consortium focal points. The Coordinator was pleased to recognise that HIRLAM is already applying this rule.

The Consortia have to announce to the coordinator the dates of their scientific workshops and the coordinator has to accordingly complete the "List of Events" (see Annex 2).

6. Scientific Publications of the Consortia

It is a fact that HIRLAM distributes to the other Consortia or interested NWS which ask for its scientific publications. The four other Consortia are also requested to do the same even when the 'look' and the printing quality of their reports do not reach the standard of the HIRLAM series.

7. Exchange of Software

As in the past annual meetings, this point has been presented by the National Representative of the UKMO. He presented the new idea which is the following: each member will write down on a list the software it is ready to put at disposal of the other members without - as the majority of the delegates would see it - any restriction. This would imply that the offered software could also be used in operational suites.

It will be the job of Terry and myself during the year 2000 to write down how this new strategy should work, then to send our proposition to the National Representatives for comments before we submit it to the EUMETNET Coordinating Officer (Claude Pastre).

8. Network Basic Model

Terry Davies proposed to the Assembly the following idea:

Next to the development works done in the consortia and independently from them, the Network should also try to develop a base line model. This idea, presented at the end of the meeting, rose a lively discussion that continued after the meeting had been formally closed. Together with Terry, the Coordinator shall try to promote this idea in the course of the year 2000 among the NWS ready to put at disposal of this idea some man(woman)-power.

Jean Quiby

SRNWP Network Coordinator

Annex 1

Workshops and Miniworkshops of the Lead Centres for the Years 2000 and 2001

(indicated is also the date of the last workshop)

LC for 4D-VAR

Last: In 1996 and WMO Conference in Quebec in 1999

Next: **8-10 May 2000, Shinfield Park**

LC for Nonhydrostatic Modelling

Last: 25-27 October 1999, Offenbach

Next: In autumn (October?) 2001 in Offenbach

LC for Numerical Techniques

Last: 26-27 April 1999, Prague

Next: In spring (April?) 2001

LC for soil

Last: 13 Nov. 1998, Madrid (incorporated in the HIRLAM Workshop)

Next: In 2001. Incorporated in a HIRLAM Workshop

LC for Statistical Adaptation

Last: 18-19 Sept. 1995

Next: First week in December 2000

LC for Verification

First workshop: No information

8 Dec. 1999

Content of the WWW Network Site

EUMETNET

- List of the EUMETNET NWS
- Optional Programme Co-ordination SRNWP
- Annual Reports of the Responsible Member
- Address of the EUMETNET Coordinating Officer

SRNWP Network

- List of the NWS Members of the Network
- List of the National Representatives

Consortia

- List of the Consortia with their focal point
- List of the Scientific Meetings of the Consortia

Lead Centres

- List of the LC with their person of contact
- List of the LC Workshops/Miniworkshops
- Reports of the LC Workshops/Miniworkshops

Annual Meetings of the Network

- Minutes of the past Annual Meetings
- Information about the next Annual Meeting

Other documents

- List of the operational models at the SRNWP NWS
- Nnnn

WWW links

- Link to the EUMETNET site
- Links to the SRNWP Consortia sites