

In March 2002 a proposal called EUCOS-THOR<sub>pex</sub> was submitted to the EU Framework Programme 5:

We propose to test the hypothesis that the number and size of significant weather forecast errors could be reduced by extra observations over the oceanic storm-tracks, and other remote areas, and that cost-effective observing systems can be developed to provide them. To achieve this cost effectiveness, the extra observations will be targeted at key sensitive areas, determined each day from the forecast flow patterns. These are major goals of The Observing system Research and Predictability Experiment (THOR<sub>pex</sub>). THOR<sub>pex</sub> is a ten-year international research programme to accelerate improvements in short-range (up to 3 days) and medium-range (3 to 10 day) deterministic and probabilistic (ensemble) predictions and warnings of high-impact weather. We propose a small pilot experiment, in preparation for a later major THOR<sub>pex</sub> field campaign. This project is planning to make significant innovations in the types of observations used, their management systems, and the science of targeting.

Partners were The EUMETNET Composite Observing System (EUCOS) programme, the Met Office, ECMWF, Météo-France, SMHI, DMI, LSE and University of Reading. Disappointingly, it was ruled as "Outside the scope of the Call" because "Short Range Weather Forecasting is not a thematic requirement of the GMES call".

In June 2002 a similar consortium put in an "Expression of Interest" into the EC Framework Programme 6, for an Integrated Project called *New European Weather Hazard Prediction Systems in the Changing Climate (Euro-THOR<sub>pex</sub>)*:

Euro-THOR<sub>pex</sub> will bring together the international research community, National Meteorological Services, industry and others to develop a new integrated European weather hazard prediction system in the changing climate. To do this the programme will create a new multi-model ensemble weather prediction system. Key advances necessary for this system will be in predictability theory, data assimilation and understanding of dynamical processes and climate change; together with better use of observing systems. The new system will provide significantly improved short-range forecasts of high impact weather, building on recent breakthroughs in targeting observations and data assimilation, making it realisable now for the first time. These advances will allow European society to act more effectively to reduce the great losses incurred from severe meteorological phenomena (e.g. flooding and wind damage).

Discussions are underway on whether this EoI should be merged with related EoI (e.g. Euro-RISK and CLIMMET-RISK), before making a full proposal for a large integrated project. (I am aware that there are also proposed Networks of Excellence involving SRNWP - these are different.)