

Notes of the WGCEF meeting in Dublin, 1 October 2010 Custom House

Introduction

- The Chairman opened the session of the 16th Meeting of the Working Group on Co-operation between European Forecasters (WGCEF).
- The Director of the Irish Met Service Liam Campbell welcomed the participants of the Working Group.
- 19 participants, representing 13 NHMSs, attended the meeting.
- The agenda was agreed.
- Messages of absence were received from: Manfred Kurz, Theodoro Rocca (Italy), Knud Jacob Simonsen (Denmark), Vida Raliene (Lithuania), Lola Olmeda (Spain).
- The participants introduced themselves.



the media and the political domain, and sometimes start after a severe weather event. Misinterpretation of facts within these discussions, appealing to already existing negative sentiments towards public services, is to be seen.

High quality meteorological services from NHMSs are therefore needed more than ever. Also good PR towards the media, especially during warning episodes, is of high importance.

NHMSs do however have a very good opportunity to develop and show their great benefits to society, such as we have seen during last winter's 'Salt Crisis' and the Volcanic Ash Cloud event. The ash cloud event highlighted the importance of seeking good international NMS co-operation in order to gain high visibility and better results.

Of course our Working Group is a great example of this co-operation. The exchange of knowledge - by discussions during our annual meetings, and the European Forecasters Magazine spreading this information to others - is of high importance. Thanks to all of your contributions we are able to improve each other's knowledge and more generally the skills of our institutes.

I wish all of us an inspiring 16th meeting of The Working Group on Co-operation between European Forecasters.

I want to thank Met Éireann, in particular Evelyn Cusack, Aidan Kelly and Gerald Fleming for their kind invitation and hospitality.

Actions from the Last Meeting

The following themes were covered in the day's programme:

- LAM EPS for short-range forecasting
- High resolution (<10km) NWP models in operational use.

The Chairman's Report

Dear Working Group members,

The economic crisis, and its possible threat towards our services, is being felt now. As we can see within our group travel expenses are being reduced. Moreover general reductions in budget are either established or are to be expected.

Public discussions nowadays seem to become more subjective. Discussions are often conducted within

Discussion of Newsletter N° 15 and the Website

The group thanked Meteo France and especially Bernard Roulet for producing the Newsletter. Meteo

France is willing to produce the next newsletter, and Will Lang will edit it once more.

The group also thanked Andre-Charles for his continued webmaster role for the WGCEF website on behalf of the group. Andre-Charles presented some hit rates. Proposals on changes on the website will be prepared for the WGCEF meeting 2011

Nomination and Election of the Vice-Chairperson WGCEF

Herbert Gmoser (ZAMG, Austria), the current Vice-Chair, informed the group of his intention to step down from the group due to his retirement in 2011. Will Lang (UK Met Office) was elected to replace Herbert as Vice-Chair. It was also decided that the duration of the Chair and Vice-Chair's office would be 4 years.

Short Meteoalarm update

Frank Kroonenberg explained the current Meteoalarm Phase III Eumetnet programme, a consolidation of the Meteoalarm service up to 2012. Also the new developments in the Meteoalarm Extended Features (EF) programme, initiated by the EC, were explained.

Short Update of New Developments and Applications in the NHMSs (all participants)

- Greece is facing great problems due to the financial crisis.
- Meteo France: Some local and regional offices would be closed soon, with forecasting increasingly centralised in Toulouse.
- Belgium: Will have a new director (and a new vision?) in 2011.
- Luxembourg is facing staff problems, and is looking forward to becoming an independent weather service, getting out of the airport service
- UK Met Office: The change of government in 2010 was bringing new perspectives, and the complex funding and ownership arrangements of the Met Office were due to be reviewed in October 2010.

- DWD: New forecasters are only being given short contracts. And there have been difficulties implementing the 'bachelor' level of forecaster roles, as they tend to have less knowledge and experience than other forecasters.

- Ireland: The amalgamation of the aviation office and general forecast office has presented some difficulties due to the different nature of the operations involved.

- Slovenia: There has been a reduction of staff. The number of forecasters is decreasing, and there has been no replacement of retired forecasters.

- Finland: New warnings have been implemented for thunderstorm wind gusts, high winds and heavy rain. Two new dual-polarisation radars manufactured by Vaisala Corporation have been brought into use. A new visualization workstation and forecast system has been implemented step-by-step, for which the development work has been done at FMI.

- Croatia: They are unable to employ new staff, so there is more work for fewer people. And money earned by the service goes to the government.

- ZAMG: There has been a new director, Michael Staudinger, since July 2010. It is possible that ZAMG will be privatised in January 2011, with the parliament due to make a decision in November 2010.

- Norway: Some slides "Update of the PROFF project – new tools, new methods" were presented. Automation of products is going further ahead, the goal is that forecasters should only make significant contributions, focussing on severe events and model errors.

- Meteo Swiss: There is pressure to reduce costs, and data may be made freely available.

- KNMI: A free data delivery policy has been agreed upon. Implementation of this system is well underway.

LAM EPS for Short Range Forecasting

Presentations:

- Klaus Bähnke, DWD, Germany: "Developments in Short Range Forecasting at DWD"

- Herbert Gmoser, ZAMG, Austria: “Limited-area Ensemble Forecasting for Short-Range Weather Forecasting”
- Jean Nemeghaire, RMIB, Belgium: “Limited-area Ensemble Forecasting for Short Range at the RMIB”
- Will Lang, UK Met Office: “MOGREPS-W: Ensemble Forecasting for Severe Weather”

High Resolution NWP Models in Operational Use

Presentations:

- Herbert Gmoser, ZAMG, Austria: “High Resolution NWP Models in Operational Use at ZAMG”
- Ande-Charles Letestu, Meteo Swiss: “Model Verification and its Use for the Forecaster”
- Panos Giannopoulos, HNMS Greece: “High Resolution NWP Models in Operational Use at HNMS”
- Antti Pelkonen, FMI, Finland: “The AROME Mesoscale Model in Aviation and Military Weather Service at FMI”
- Bernard Roulet, Meteo France: “AROME, the High Resolution Model at Meteo France”
- Janez Markosek, Slovenia: “High Resolution NWP Models in Operational Use in Slovenia”

Plan of Action for 2011 (Bergen WGCEF meeting)

- Round table update on new developments in the NHMSs.
- Communication of NHMSs with media and civil protection.
- New developments on short-period high-resolution model ensembling, and operational use of probabilistic short-range forecasts.

Date and Place of the next meeting

2011 Norway will invite the WG to Bergen, planned for 7 October 2011.

2012 Lithuania has offered to host the WG.

AOB and Closing of the meeting

- Everyone agreed that it had been a good meeting in Dublin.
- Deadline for the Newsletter January 2011
- Herbert Gmoser said his last words in the WG, and he wishes the WG good success in the future.