

Services of DWD (Deutscher Wetterdienst) for Civil Protection Authorities and Media

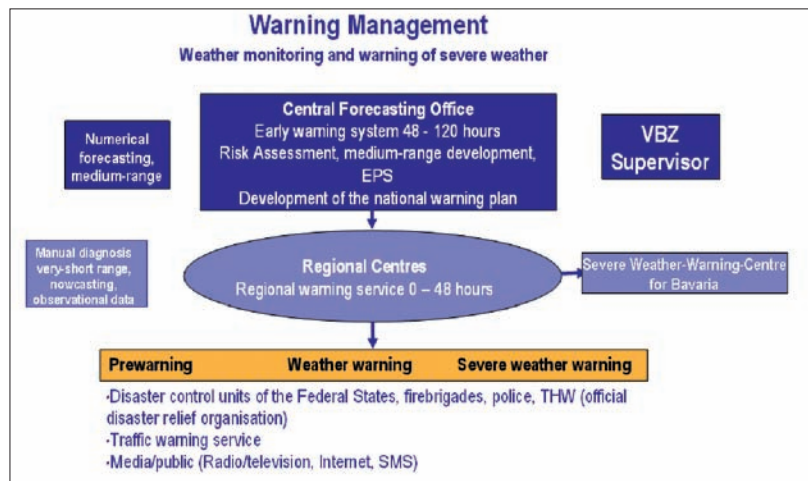
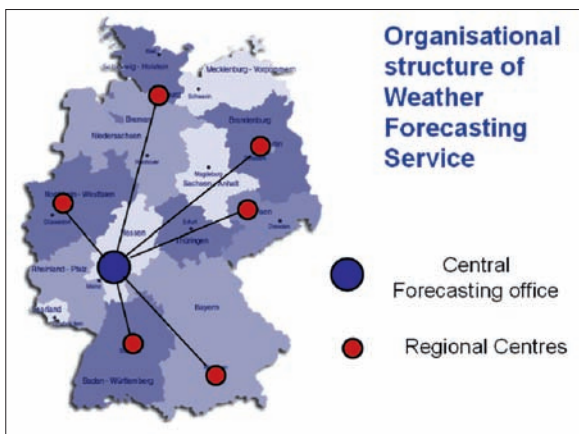
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Introduction

While the Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD) had over 3000 members of staff just after unification with the weather service of the German Democratic Republic in 1993, it continued to contribute to the ongoing, nation-wide process to reduce costs of the civil service while still achieving a high level of efficiency. The main challenges in this context were: concentration on core tasks, greater use of the opportunities provided by information technology as well as process optimisation and quality management. At the same time competition with private weather companies increased more and more. This led to a reorganisation of DWD's weather forecasting services, especially in collaboration with civil protection authorities and the media after the year 2000.

Organisation of the Forecasting Service at DWD

Currently weather forecasting at DWD is done at the Central Forecasting Office in Offenbach and at 6 Regional Forecasting Centres (Fig 1) throughout Germany.



▲ *Figure 2* The forecasting process is guided and co-ordinated by meteorologists at the Central Forecasting Office in Offenbach. Based on numerical products and breaking the forecasting process in to three time stages - medium range, short range and nowcasting - the the Offenbach meteorologists work with the Regional Offices to achieve a 'Single Voice Policy' for the forecasts. This applies especially to early warnings (lead time 7 – 2 days), prewarnings (48 – 12 hrs) and actual weather warnings (Fig 2).

During the reorganization of the forecasting service after 2004 the main objectives were newly redefined, while DWD concentrated on its core tasks. This meant the forecast and warning business area was restricted to its main target customers. They were redefined into 7 groups (Fig 3). These customers should be supplied with forecasts and warnings by a state-owned authority in a reliable way based on the principle of protection of life and property.



Service for Civil Protection Authorities

Weather warnings are issued at regional forecasting offices guided and co-ordinated by the Central

◀ *Figure 1*

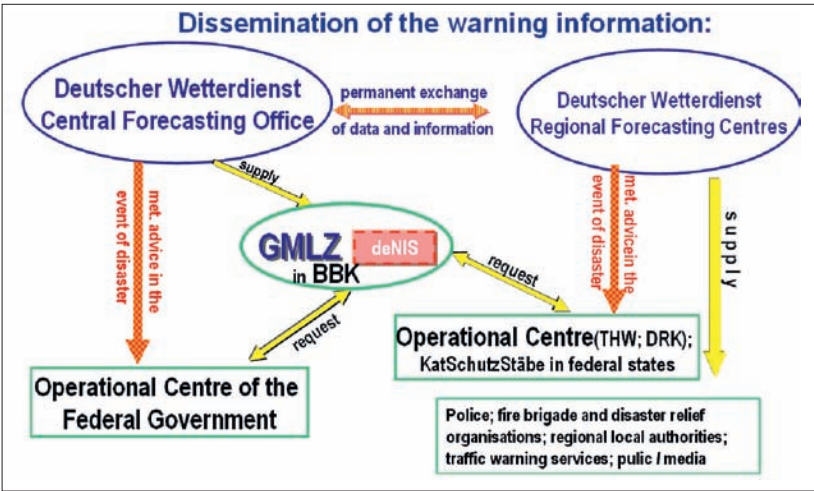
➤ **Strategy of DWD – Restriction of forecast products for key accounts:**

- ✓ Disaster + technical relief organisations, fire brigades
- ✓ Military
- ✓ Public
- ✓ Aviation
- ✓ Marine shipping
- ✓ Energy suppliers,
- ✓ Road winter services

◀ Figure 3



▶ Figure 4



Dissemination of Severe Weather Warnings and Information

Information of general public and disaster management

www.dwd.de **www.fewis.dwd.de**

◀ Figure 5

Forecasting Office for the main target customers like fire brigades, technical relief organization (THW) et. al. In case of severe weather warnings, forecasts are disseminated to the Operational Centre of the federal government as well as to the joint information headquarters (GMLZ) (Fig 4).

DWD has two main tools for the dissemination of weather warnings: unrestricted information by **www.DWD.www** especially for the general public, and FeWIS (FeuerwehrInformatinsSystem) for fire brigades (Fig 5).

FeWIS supplies a closed circuit group with online weather information. Users get information about the present weather status (Fig 6) over the whole of Germany. Fire brigades in bigger cities can be provided with their area warning status (Fig 7) broken down into smaller districts.

In cases of severe weather warnings caused by heavy convective thunder and showers, customers have access to DWD's radartracking-system KonRaD (fig 8).

Disaster management authorities are assisted by a special dispersion model in case of dangerous chemical accidents (Fig 9).

During droughts and when there is a danger of forest fires, authorities are provided with the results of a forest fire model (Fig 10).

DWD arranges trainings and exercises for customers and authorities. User conferences and workshops as well as feedback meetings are performed following very extreme weather incidents like the "Kyrill"-storm.

Currently FeWIS is the most important severe weather information tool for disaster management in Germany. In recent years the number of users has risen to over 1450.

Service for Media

With restriction to its core tasks in 2004, Deutscher Wetterdienst decided to issue only standard forecasts for the media. This meant the production only of basic numerical forecasts, basic weather charts as well as occasional radio forecasts and interviews (Fig 11).

Since then DWD only delivers those media forecasts that usually can be expected by a national weather

service. This means products like standard national weather forecasts, a daily "Top Story of the Day", a newsletter, special media information in case of severe weather and a statement on Facebook (Fig 12). These information services are freely disseminated via the internet on **www.DWD.www**. Oral statements are only provided on special request but not regularly. Forecasters support DWD's public relation and press department on request (Fig 13).

Summary

- Deutscher Wetterdienst provides weather forecast products for its key accounts, i.e. civil protection authorities, fire brigades et. al. The main dissemination tools are the website **www.DWD.www** and the closed use circuit online tool FeWIS.
- Media services are issued on a limited basic level.
- Value added forecasts are not produced regularly.

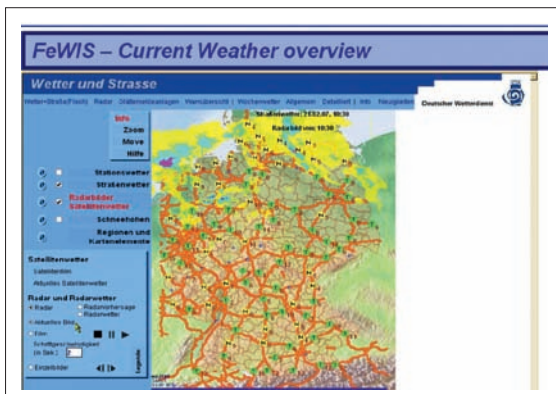


Figure 6

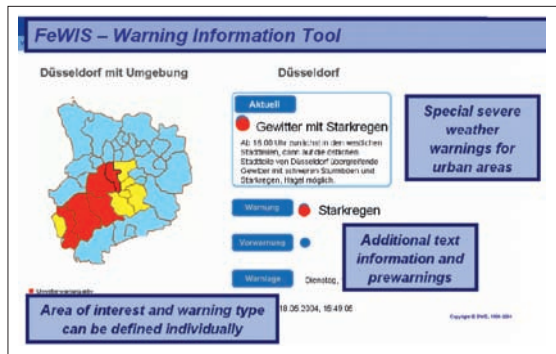


Figure 7

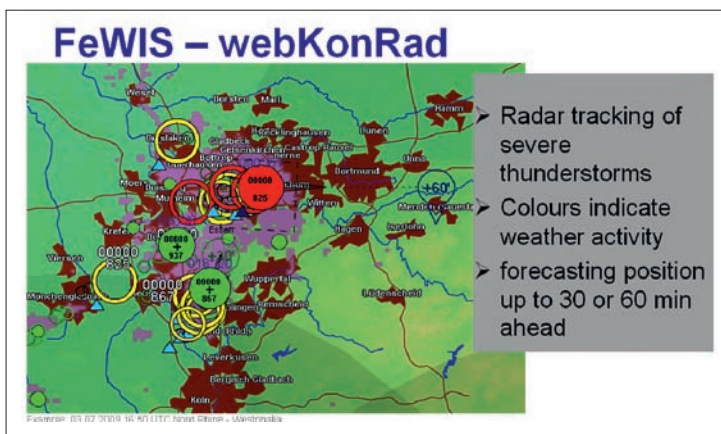


Figure 8

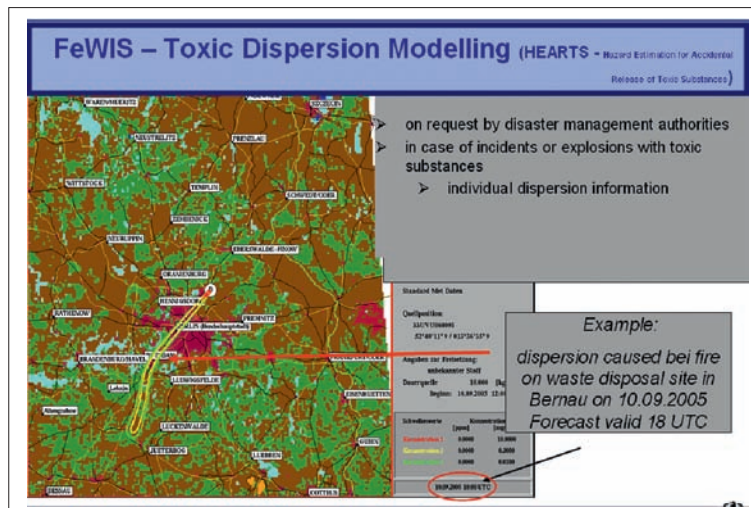


Figure 9

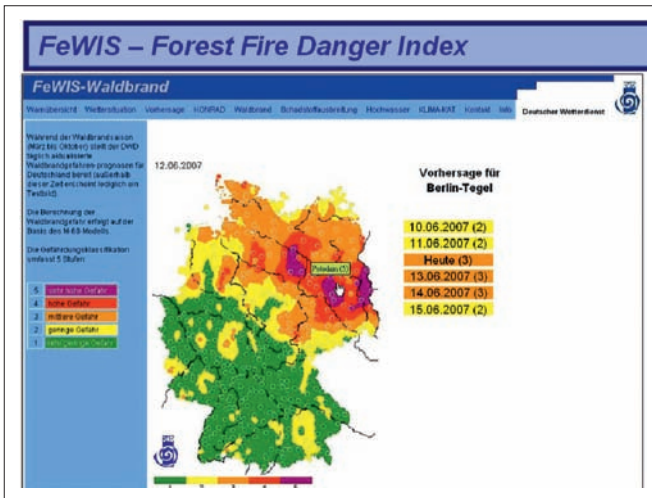


Figure 10

Figure 11

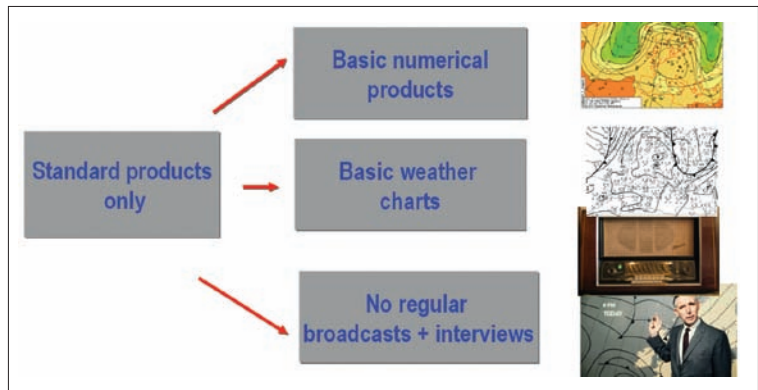


Figure 12



Figure 13

