Factsheet EUMETNET Data Rescue

https://www.zamg.ac.at/dare/activities/data-inventory

EuMetNet Data Rescue

EuMetNet Data Rescue Homepage

Long-term datasets are of great importance for climate research. They allow describing past climate variability highly resolved in space and time, are important for re-analyses and model evaluation. Especially early instrumental series are the connecting link to the paleoclimatic community. In Europe there is a good data coverage since the 1960ies, however to capture the full climate variability including extremes time series are often too short. Although a considerable part of long-term series have already been digitized and made available, there are still millions of data to be recovered and rescued. Due to a number of completed or running activities (http://www.climatol.eu/DARE) the number of digital available data has been increasing continuously, however an extended overview has not been made available so far.

The EUMETNET Expert Team will contribute to the European climate services by providing an extended inventory of digitized and non-digitized data, focusing on centennial or even longer daily data, long-term mountain stations of at least 50 years and data in sparse regions. The portal is updated whenever new information is provided by hydrometeorological services.

What is Data Rescue?

Data rescue is the ongoing process of preserving all data at risk of being lost due to deterioration of the medium and digitizing current and past data into computer compatible form for easy access. The establishment of the data rescue project has a high priority within WMO Programs (http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcdmp/CDM_2.php) and is critically important to ensure future generations of scientists and other data users to have access to all the information necessary for their studies and projects. To get an overview what is happening in WMO Regional Association VI we refer to web-page http://www.meteobal.com/climatol/DARE.

References:

L.S. Tan, S. Burton, R. Crouthamel, A. van Engelen, R. Hutchinson, L. Nicodemus, T.C. Peterson, F. Rahimzadeh, 2004. Guidelines on Climate Data Rescue. WMO/TD No.1210, http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcdmp/documents/WCDMP-55.pdf.

Terms of Reference

The purpose of the EUMETNET Data Rescue and Recovery Initiative is to support the running data rescue activities by

- Providing a “preliminary” data inventory of digital existing data and of data to be rescued
- Increasing the number digitized records (as far as possible)

- Searching for projects or other support to facilitate data rescue
- Homogenizing digital existing data when necessary
- Making these data publicly available

Above all our focus is on climate change, therefore we are looking for

- Series of really long-term (centennial) stations
- Series of mountain station of at least 50 years
- Series of time series in data sparse regions

The expert team on Data Rescue has developed a questionnaire to get an overview of the data situation in WMO's area of the Regional Association VI. In general NMHSs have realized the necessity of data rescue; however a number of them are not aware in detail of the amount of data slumbering in their archives. On the other hand a number of countries provided detailed insight about existing data (digitized and non-digitized).

Most of the countries have a free data policy and are willing to share their data, only for some countries data policy is still a stumbling block.

The highest priority of data to be rescued is on temperature and precipitation, followed by wind, snow, humidity, sunshine, clouds and air pressure.

There are more monthly data than daily data available.

Not all countries responded to our request, especially those outside Europe.

Data Inventory

A list of already digital available data and in archives existing data, that was not digitized until now can be obtained by clicking on the country of interest in the map below. In the Excel File two Sheets are included, one for the already available data and one for the data still not digitised.