

The South-Eastern European Meteorological Training Initiative and its continuation

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Initiative

- Following the initiative of the Directors of the South-East European NMHSs (ICSEED), supported by EUMETSAT, WMO and Eumetcal/EUMETNET a series of courses has been undertaken to regularly train operational staff of the South Eastern European Meteorological and Hydrological Services.
- The kick-off meeting held in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 8 - 9 September 2015
- Overall it has been conceived as a 5-year training programme approved, sponsored by EUMETSAT and EUMETCAL

Challenges

- Lack of in-house training, lack of training in general
- LANGUAGE barrier
- Different levels of skills and expertise
- Training in many topics needed

SEEMET Training Courses

- The courses are addressed to weather forecasters and hydrological forecasters working in national hydro-meteorological institutes of South-Eastern European countries
- 3-5 days classroom training courses organized every year
- 2 levels
 - Basic course** ~ covering basics of satellite meteorology, satellite image interpretation and satellite data/products applications in operational weather forecasting
 - Advanced course** ~ cover a certain meteorological/hydrological topic of interest.
- The courses alternate and are organized in a different country every year

Course design

- WMO Training Development Plan (TDP) tool used to design the course: this ensured a recognised quality standard for the course planning phase.
- A course page in the Met Learning online environment (maintained by Eumetcal) providing background subject related material and hosting the training material delivered during the course.

<https://www.met-learning.eu/course/index.php?categoryid=16>

- **The learning objectives:**

improvement of the skills of operational meteorologists in interpretation and application of satellite images and products

=> improvement of the competencies in short-term weather forecasting

=> improvement of the capabilities of the NHMSs of South Eastern Europe in providing weather and warning services to national stakeholders and public.

Previous Courses

SEEMET initiative started in 2016 and 4 courses were organized until today:

- Ljubljana, Slovenia (2016) – Advanced course on floods and flash flood forecasting (hydrological forecasts and warnings)
- Bar, Montenegro (2017) – Basic satellite meteorology course – translated into Serbian/Croatian/Montenegrin language
- Primošten, Croatia (2018) – Advanced course on convection forecasting and warnings
- Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (2019) – Basic satellite meteorology course in English



LJUBLJANA, Slovenia, 2016
Advanced course on flash floods and floods



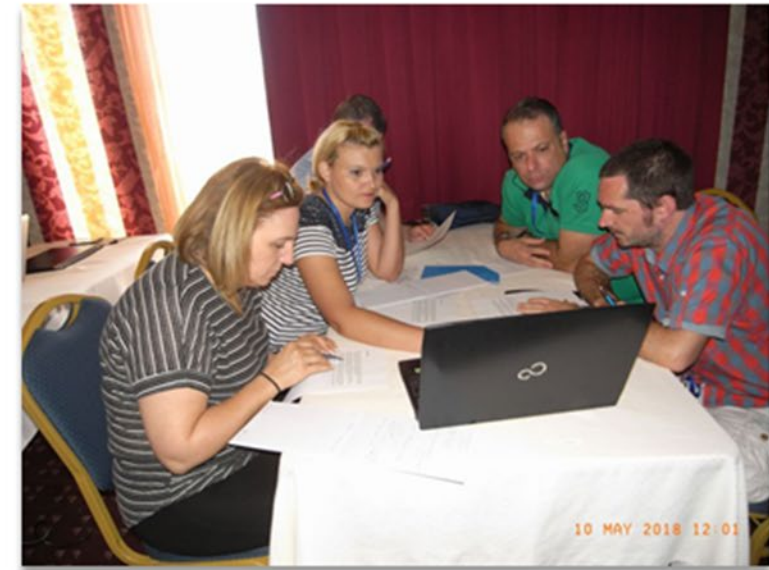
BAR, Montenegro, 2017

Basic satellite course



Lecturers

- Invited experts from EUMETSAT, EUMeTrain, ECMWF, ESSL,
- Experts from participating NMSs



Participants

- Forecasters from Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, Greece



PRIMOŠTEN, Croatia, 2018

Advanced course on convection nowcasting

Expectations as communicated by the stakeholders in the Region

Future aim of the initiative

improving the skills of operational meteorologists in interpretation and application of satellite images and products, leading to **improved competencies** in short-term weather forecasting.

improving the capabilities of the NHMSs of South Eastern Europe in providing weather and warning services to national stakeholders and communities

Future plans

- 2020 Advanced course – topic not yet defined. Kind offer received from Romania to host the 2020 course (i.e. the last course of the current 5 year phase)
- Demand is there to continue to a new 5-year cycle in which vastly new satellite programmes will start operations with prime time view of the region → support by ICSEED as in the last phase is highly desired to confirm regional ownership of the training requirement.

Procedure used last time

After strong ICSEED support and naming of the initiative at its Bucharest Meeting in November 2015 → Exchange of letters (EUMETSAT received a letter jointly signed by the ICSEED Chairman and the Director of the first course host NMHS)



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Number:

5110-26/2015-7

Date:

19.11.2015

Reference:

/

Subject:

Information on SEEMET Initiative and request for support

Dear Mr Ratier,

It is my pleasure to inform you on the initiative of South-eastern European National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to organize common regional meteorological training courses. The courses will focus on the use of EUMETSAT satellite products in combination with other relevant products in our operational work. We named the initiative as South-Eastern European Meteorological Trainig Courses (SEEMET).

With the help of EUMETSAT Training Unit, the SEEMET kick-off meeting was organized in Ljubljana, 8-9 September 2015. Ten countries from the region were represented at the meeting: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia. In addition, Greece expressed its interest in such courses; we received no response from Kosovo. We would like to thank EUMETSAT for extensive support with this meeting.

Participants at the meeting unanimously recognized the great need for proposed training courses in the region, but also noticed heterogeneity of the region with regards to existing capacity, as well as specific organisation of most NMHSs in the region in terms of their area of responsibility. Most of the services in the region have not only meteorological, but also hydrological responsibilities; therefore we should not neglect the use of satellite data in hydrological applications. The level of knowledge and usage of satellite products in NMHSs in the region is also quite diverse; some NMHSs would already benefit strongly from basic courses on satellite image interpretation, especially if performed in local language, while others would prefer advanced training courses taking into account also Satellite Application Facilities

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Summary

- SEEMET has been a stable and well-received training initiative appreciated by the target audience
- Ownership of the training requirement in the region with EUMETSAT and others in support has been a good model for a sustainable and relevant training initiative
- Need for continued political support by ICSEED, and confirmation of the next venue (s), from 2021 onwards
- Confirmation of the alternating nature between basic and advanced courses, or a variation thereof
- Consideration of the geographic emphasis, noting that so far the actual participation has centred around the “Danube Basin” countries