Project no. GOCE-CT-2003-505539

Project acronym: ENSEMBLES

Project title: ENSEMBLE-based Predictions of Climate Changes and their Impacts

Instrument: Integrated Project

Thematic Priority: Global Change and Ecosystems

Evaluation of workshop outputs (M8.7)

Due date of deliverable: Month 36
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Organisation name of lead contractor for this deliverable

UNIGENEVA

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Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	✓
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the Consortium (including the Commission Services)	

Evaluation of workshop output by Reviewer # 1 (Michel Verstraete)

Evaluation of:

OECD-Ensembles workshop on “Climate, Climatic Change, and Human Health” Wengen, Switzerland, 12-14 September 2005

by Michel M. Verstraete (Institute for Environment and Sustainability, EC Joint Research Centre)

“The ENSEMBLES project is a large 6-year (2004-2009) Integrated Project supported by the European Commission's 6th Framework Programme under the Thematic Sub-Priority 'Global Change and Ecosystems'. The content and overall objectives of this large Integrated Project can be found at the following address:

http://ensembles-eu.metoffice.com/

This project is itself structured along 8 principal research themes, and this assessment only covers some of the activities of RT8, whose objective is to provide an efficient means of disseminating the results emerging from the ENSEMBLES research community at different levels. More details on this project component can be found at

http://www.unige.ch/ia/climat/rt8/index.html

The workshop entitled 'Climate, Climatic Change, and Human Health ' took place in Wengen, Switzerland, 12-14 September 2005, and was jointly organized by the University of Fribourg, Switzerland; the Graduate School for International Studies, Geneva, Switzerland; NOAA-OAR, Climate Diagnostics Center, Boulder, Colorado, United States; the University of Acre, Brazil; the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, Columbia University, New York, United States; the World Health Organization, and the EU-ENSEMBLES Project coordinated by the Hadley Centre, Exeter, United Kingdom. It is one of the deliverables of RT8.

The report reflects what must have been a very interesting meeting, addressing a critical global problem, namely the relations between climate changes and health issues, with particular concern for the design and operation of early warning systems based on space observations and regional climate models to predict the occurrence of risks or monitor impacts.

The various sessions encompassed a broad range of scientific tools and techniques to document the state and evolution of the climate, as well as to assess the current and possible future consequences of changes in terms of heath risks. The organizers must be commended for organizing such a broad interdisciplinary workshop with international partners and users such as the World Health Organization that can exploit these findings in concrete projects.”

Evaluation of workshop output by Reviewer # 2 (Gilles Sommeria)

Evaluation of :

Ensembles workshop "Climate Change and Impacts in Eastern and Central Europe", Poiana Brasov, September 10-13, 2006

and

OECD-Ensembles workshop on "Adaptation to the impacts of climate change in the European Alps", Wengen, October 4-6, 2006.

by Gilles Sommeria (WMO Geneva)

"**Climate Change and Impacts in Eastern and Central Europe"**

This workshop has been organized in September 2006 under one of the research themes of the ENSEMBLES Project, dedicated to "Climatic change and impacts in Eastern and Central Europe". It was organized by the National Meteorological Administration of Romania, jointly with the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, in Brasov, a Romanian mountain resort.

A report is not available, and the comments will be made mostly on the agenda.

This initiative appears as a step to bring together scientists from the modelling centres in western Europe involved in the Ensembles" project and scientist or experts from new Eastern Europe EU members, more specifically Romania and Bulgaria. The number of attendants, about 30, favoured personal interaction and should normally help the development of new research projects between the teams involved.

The workshop topics are particularly relevant to the use of results from regional climate models for a better evaluation of likely climate changes and their practical consequences for society. The first stage is the validation of regional model simulations, which is important by itself and enables the potential users to get familiar with modelling techniques and the potential benefits brought by models. A large part of the workshop was dedicated to extreme events, and the way they can be simulated and their probability of occurrence modified by global climate change. Impacts of climate change particularly on the water cycle, and risk reduction strategies were also covered. Those aspects of impact of climate variability and climate change on human activities are particularly relevant for national development strategies, and respond to international recommendations by the EU and the United Nations (particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change and its newly launched programme on "impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change").

I can also judge the quality of some of the invited speakers from well renowned research centres in Europe, Ecole Normale Supérieure In Paris being one of them.

Overall, I would think that this workshop was very relevant to the priorities of the Framework Programme in the area of climate, and greatly benefited from provisional results of the Ensembles Project.

OECD-Wengen 2006 workshop " Adaptation to the impacts of climate change in the European Alps".

This workshop, organized in October 2006 was part of the "Wengen workshops on global change research". It is a now well established series of high level research seminars of reasonable size to encourage dialogue, and in a pleasant and quiet location favourable to both formal and informal scientific interactions. I have personally attended previous workshops of this series, and was very positively impressed by the quality of the organisation and of the scientific agenda.

The topic chosen for 2006 was particularly relevant to the increasing concern on impacts of climate change on society and the development of adaptation strategies, present in the priorities of the EU and the United Nations, as mentioned above. It was in part dedicated to the presentation and discussion of results from the "ENSEMBLES" FP6 project. The additional co-sponsorship of the OECD was also a good reference of the quality and adequacy of the workshop agenda to international priorities.

I can acknowledge the quality of the research centres and agencies which were represented and the quality of the speakers. One of the interesting characteristics of Wengen workshops, and particularly this one, is the interaction they develop between disciplines, interaction which would not have happened at the same level otherwise. This can be seen by the joint presence of physicists specialized in climate change issues, economists specialized in impact issues, experts in winter tourism, agriculture and ecosystems, natural hazards in mountain regions, water resource management and property insurance.

Overall, I would qualify the Wengen as a valuable outcome of the Ensembles project."