The Eighth Session
of the South-eastern European Climate Outlook Forum
(SEECOF-8)

Podgorica, Montenegro
27-29 November 2012

MEETING REPORT

14 December 2012, Geneva

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The Table of Contents:

Executive Summary

The Eighth Session of the South-eastern European Climate Outlook Forum (SEECOF-8) was held from 27 to 29 November, in Crna Gora Hotel, in Podgorica, Montenegro.

It was organized by the Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro in collaboration with the South-eastern European Virtual Climate Change Centre*, Meteo-France, UK Met Office and the Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization.

Being an activity of the IPA Project: "Building Resilience to Disaster Risk Reduction for Western Balkans and Turkey", the meeting was co-financed by the European Commission Directorate General for Enlargement.

It gathered 37 participants: 26 experts in climate and seasonal forecasting from NMHSs, 5 representatives of the climate sensitive sectors, 2 representatives of the Montenegrin Agency for Environmental Protection, a representative of the Montenegrin Non Governmental Organization, a representative of the UNDP Office in Montenegro and 2 representatives of the World Meteorological Organization.

The Meeting was opened by Mr Luka Mitrovic, the Director of the National Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro, who welcomed the participants, highlighted the relevance of the SEE COF, wished all a fruitful meeting and a pleasant stay in Podgorica. It was followed by a keynote presentation on the Regional WMO Activities in support of RCOF Mechanism, with an overview of the IPA Project: "Building Resilience to Disaster Risk Reduction for Western Balkans and Turkey", delivered by Mrs Natalia Berghi and Mrs Sari Lappi.

The Session II and III verified and approved the SEECOF-6 and 7 climate outlooks.

The Session IV was the main and the major Session that produced the consensus-based climate outlook for the winter 2012-2013, based on the inputs of the Global Producing Centres, the Regional Climate Centres and the NMHSs of South-eastern Europe. The Outcome of the Meeting was presented to the local mass-media to raise the visibility of the Forum and thus attract the interest of the end-users.

The Session V served as a Platform for the dialogue with the representatives of the climate sensitive sectors.

The Closing Session approved the list of conclusions and recommendations for the way forward.

The Meeting related materials, including the Consensus-based Climate Outlook for the winter 2012-2013, are available on the SEE Virtual Climate Change Centre web site and can be accessed via the following web link: http://www.seevccc.rs/?p=1112.

* South-eastern European Virtual Climate Change Centre (SEEVCCC) is a WMO RA VI RCC-Network' member, hosted by Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia

I. Introduction

I.1. Background

The overall objective of a Regional Climate Outlook Forum (RCOF) is to strengthen the capacity of participating countries in providing long-range forecasts and related climate services.

Its main outcome is the production of the consensus based climate outlook for the coming season.

The Eighth Session of the South-eastern European Climate Outlook Forum, held in Podgorica, Montenegro predicted the climate for the winter 2012-2013.

Its organization was co-financed by the EC DG Enlargement to enable the attendance of two participants from each of the following IPA beneficiaries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo (as per UNSCR 1244/99), Montenegro, Serbia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey and three resource persons representing Meteo-France, German Weather Service and UK Met Office. The rest of participants, coming from the South-eastern Europe, were co-supported by the World Meteorological Organization.

I.2. Date and venue

The SEECOF-8 was held from 27th to 29th November 2012, at the premises of *the Hotel Crna Gora* (address: Bulevar Svetog Petra Cetinjskog 2, www.hotelcg.com), in Podgorica, Montenegro. More information on the local arrangements was provided to participants through an Information Note that is attached to this Report as Annex I: *SEECOF/INF.1*.

I.3. Participants

The meeting was attended by 37 participants: 26 experts in climate and seasonal forecasting from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 5 representatives of the climate sensitive sectors, 2 representatives of the Montenegrin Agency for Environmental Protection, a representative of the Montenegrin Non Governmental Organization, a representative of the UNDP Office in Montenegro and 2 representatives of the World Meteorological Organization' Secretariat.

All IPA beneficiaries were present at the meeting, except Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244/99), which did not attend the meeting due to unknown reasons.

The List of participants is attached to the Report as Annex 2: *SEECOF-8/INF.2*.

I.4. Meeting Agenda & Programme

A Provisional Agenda and a Tentative Programme was developed in collaboration with the resource persons and the local organizers. The Agenda accommodated six sessions including the opening and the closing ones. The Programme started at 09:00 on Tuesday, 27 November and ended at 12:15 on Thursday, 29 November 2012.

The approved Meeting Agenda and the Programme are attached to the Meeting Report as Annex 3: *SEECOF/Doc.1* and Annex 4: SEECOF/Doc.*2.*

II. Description of the Meeting

II. 1. Working arrangements

II.1.1. Meeting Concept and Format

The SEECOF-8 was designed in a way to accommodate six sessions, out of which four were thematic:

Session I: Opening Session
Session II: Verification of the SEECOF-6 climate outlook
Session III: Verification of SEECOF-7 climate outlook
Session IV: Production of the climate outlook for winter 2012-2013
Session V: Interaction with the end-users
Session VI: Closing Session

The Opening Session set the tone for the Meeting and outlined the issues to be considered. It also had a round table introduction of participants and reviewed the agenda for approval.

The Sessions II and III of this SEECOF verified the climate outlooks prepared for the winter 2011-2012 and summer 2012 at the SEECOF 6 and 7 accordingly.

The Session IV: *Production of the climate outlook for winter 2012-2013* produced the climate outlook for winter 2012-2013 based on the inputs received from the Global Producing Centers, the Regional Climate Centers and the climate experts of the South-eastern European countries.

The Meeting also provided the opportunity to engage in the dialogue with the end-users *within the Session V: Interaction with the end-users.*

The Fifth Session, which served as a Dialogue Platform between the users and providers, who were supposed to discuss and answer the key questions on the possible ways of improving the communication strategy between the providers and the users and how users could make better use of the climate outlooks, lead to few recommendations for the way forward.

The Closing Session wrapped up the Meeting by making the conclusions and giving recommendations for the way forward.

II.1.2. Chairmanship

The Session II & III were chaired by Dunja Mazzocco Drvar, a senior forecaster in Weather Analysis and Forecasting Department at the National Met-Service in Croatia.

The Session IV was chaired by Dr Yoav Levi, the head of research and development of the Israeli Meteorological Service.

The Session V was chaired by Mr Branko Bijelic, the forecaster and the Chief of the Monthly weather forecast unit of the Department of hydrometeorological early warning system and aviation meteorology at the Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia.

The Session I & VI were chaired by Mrs Mirjana Ivanov, the head of the Sector for Applied Meteorology at the Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro.

II.2. Session I - Opening Session

The Meeting was opened by Mr Luka Mitrovic, the Director of the National Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro. He welcomed all participants and highlighted the relevance of the RCOF mechanism. He underlined that these Forums serve as one of the best

approaches towards the achievemement of the most important strategic goal: to meet the needs of the users with the best possible scientific and technical potential. He concluded his speach wishing all participants a productive and a successful meeting.

The Welcome Speech was followed by a keynote presentation on the *Regional WMO Activities in support of RCOF Mechanism*, with an overview of the IPA Project: "Building Resilience to Disaster Risk Reduction for Western Balkans and Turkey". The Key note presentation was delivered by Mrs Natalia Berghi and Mrs Sari Lappi.

Mrs Natalia Berghi is the Programme Officer of the WMO Regional Office for Europe. She supports the implementation of the WMO Regional Programme, based on the WMO Regional Strategic Plan.

Mrs Sari Lappi is the WMO Project Coordinator in Skopje. She coordinates the WMO Project entitled: "Building Resilience to Disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey", financed by the EC DG Enlargement.

The Opening Session continued with a round table introduction of participants and reviewed and approved the agenda and the programme.

It ended with a Group Photo followed by a Coffee break.

II.3. Session II – Verification of the SEECOF-6 climate outlook

The Session II was chaired by Dunja Mazzocco Drvar, who is a senior forecaster in Weather Analysis and Forecasting Department at the National Met-Service in Croatia.

Branko Bijelic, the forecaster and the Chief of the Monthly weather forecast unit of the Department of hydrometeorological early warning system and aviation meteorology at the Republic Hydrometeorolocical Service of Serbia, delivered two presentations during this Session, as follows:

- A presentation on C*limate monitoring of winter 2011-2012*,
- A presentation on the *Verification of the climate outlook prepared for the winter 2011-2012 at the SEECOF 6.*

The Session closed with a round-table discussion among the SEECOF Focal Points with the scope *to adopt the Final assessment of the SEECOF-6 climate outlook for winter 2011-2012.*

II.4. Session III – Verification of SEECOF-7 climate outlook

The Session III was chaired by Dunja Mazzocco Drvar and was conducted in a similar way like the Session II; however it considered the climate monitoring for summer 2012. It started with the verification of the climate outlook prepared for the summer 2012 at the SEECOF 7, and ended with a round-table discussion for the adoption of the Final assessment of SEECOF 7 climate outlook for the summer 2012.

The presentations were given by Jasminka Smailagic, who is a meteorologist and Head of Division for Climate Forecasts, Information and Training Department of the National Centre for Climate Changes at the Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia and the South East European Virtual Climate Change Centre, hosted by the Republic of Serbia.

II.5. Session IV – Production of the climate outlook for winter 2012-2013

The Session IV was chaired by Dr. Yoav Levi, who *has been working for the Israeli Meteorological Service (IMS) as the head of research and development unit since 2008.*

The Session IV was the main and the largest part of the meeting; therefore, it started in the afternoon of the 1st day, continued the 2nd day, all day, and ended with the presentation of the Consensus forecast in the morning of the 3rd day, which was the last day of the meeting.

The Introductory part of this Session was composed of 3 presentations, as follows:

1. "The *Climate monitoring information of the current conditions relevant to the region",* delivered by Karsten Friedrich, who has a diploma in Hydrology and since spring 2010 was working at DWD as a scientist in the regional climate monitoring department.

2. "The CWS Bulletin for Western Balkans ad Turkey", delivered by Jasminka Smailagic, who provided an overview of the CWS Bulletin for Western Balkans ad Turkey.

3. The third presentation of the introductory part of the Session gave an overview of the three projects, funded by the EU FP7 on "Seasonal to Decadal climate prediction towards climate services", as follows:

- SPECS (Seasonal-to-decadal climate Prediction for the improvement of European Climate Services), and

- EUPORIAS (EUropean Provision Of Regional Impact Assessment on a Seasonal-to-decadal timescale).
- NACLIM: North Atlantic Climate Variability.

The presentation was delivered by Jean-Pierre Ceron and Emily Wallace nee Hamilton, on behalf of Meteo-France and UK Met Office, which are the Project Partners.

The Projects have been launched in November 2012 to be implemented by a Consortium of 18 partners in NACLim, 20 in SPECS and 24 in EUPORIAS, from 10 European countries; and it will last until January 2017.

The projects have been clustered by the European Commission and joint dissemination activities will be set up in order to maximize the outreach and optimize the communication.

NACLIM will demonstrate the use of the physical North Atlantic European climate predictions by evaluating their impact on two different but highly relevant sectors: oceanic ecosystems and urban climate.

SPECS will deliver a new generation of European climate forecast systems, including initialized Earth System Models (ESMs) and efficient regionalization tools to produce quasi-operational and actionable local climate information over land at seasonal-to-decadal time scales with improved forecast quality and a focus on extreme climate events, and provide an enhanced communication protocol and services to satisfy the climate information needs of a wide range of public and private stakeholders.

One of the objectives of EUPORIAS project is to develop and deliver a reliable and trusted impact prediction system for two or three semi-operational prototypes. These will provide working examples of 'end-to-end' climate-to-impacts-to-decision-making services operating on the Seasonal and Decadal (S2D) time scales.

More info on the above projects is available on the following web links:

- http://naclim.zmaw.de/Project-office.2136.0.html,
- http://www.specs-fp7.eu/SPECS/Home.html, and
- http://www.euporias.eu/.

The second part and main part of this Session considered the global, regional and country level inputs for the production of the climate outlook for winter 2012-2013.

Jean-Pierre Ceron delivered a presentation on Regional Climate Centres' Bulletin. It included the presentation of large scale forecasts of both individual models and Euro-SIP.

Mr Ceron is the Scientific Deputy Director of the Climatology Department at Meteo-France. Among different tasks (related to Climate and Climate Services), he is responsible for the Operational Seasonal forecasts at Meteo-France. He is leading (with the Russian colleagues) the node on Long-Range Forecasting of the Regional Climate Centers-Network for Regional Association VI (Europe). Last but not least, he is involved in the Climate Outlook Forum (COF) and Clips activities since the beginning (1998), including in the most recent Climate Outlook Forum, implemented in the South-West Indian Ocean (SWIO) region.

Emily Wallace nee Hamilton gave a presentation entitled *'Climate Prediction Tools' outlooks based on dynamical seasonal forecast systems'*. She presented the forecasts for the December-January-February period consisting of output from the International Research Institute' Climate Predictability Tool based on model output from UK Met Office, ECMWF and Meteo-France.

Mrs. Wallace works at UK Met Office in seasonal forecasting group, working mainly on product development. Her main research interests are the prediction of extreme weather events a season ahead, and optimal methods for combing dynamical model output. She contributes to the seasonal forecast consensus meeting for the UK.

The following presentations were delivered by the SEE NMHSs' representatives as part of the Fourth Session:

1. A presentation on *Seasonal outlook for the winter season 2012/13 in Bulgaria*, by Ilian Gospodinov.

Mr Ilian Gospodinov is a researcher at the Information Centre of the Department of meteorological forecasting at the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology of Bulgaria. He deals with analysis, modelling and forecast of atmospheric processes of various scale. Since 2005, he prepares, on a regular basis, the seasonal forecast for Bulgaria.

2. A presentation on *ECMWF seasonal forecast verification for Israel and SEECOF region*, by Yoav Levy

Dr. Yoav Levi has been working for the Israeli Meteorological Service (IMS) as the Head of Research and Development Unit since 2008. The research unit is involved in nowcasting, NWP, and seasonal to climate projections.

3. A presentation on *Climate-outlook-for-DJF-2012-2013-in-Serbia-SEE-region*, by Branko Bijelic, which comprises the Climate outlook for December, January and February 2012-2013, for both South East Europe as a whole and also apart for Serbia.

Mr Branko Bijelic is the forecaster and the Chief of the Monthly weather forecast unit of the Department of hydrometeorological early warning system and aviation meteorology at the Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia. He is also the member of Task Team for RCOFs in RA VI.

4. A presentation on *Weather and climate services in Turkey*, by Serhat SENSOY and Omer DEMIR

Mr Serhat SENSOY has been working in Turkish State Meteorological Service (TSMS) as an engineer since 1987. He has been preparing monthly, seasonal, annual climate assessments, climate classifications, climate indices, heating and cooling degree day's analysis. He contributes to State of the Climate Bulletin of WMO and NOAA. He is preparing climate monitoring, climate watch and seasonal forecast product for WMO RA VI Pilot RCC Network. Currently he is the Chief of

Climatology Division of Turkish State Meteorological Service and the Vice-President of the WMO Commission for Climatology and leader of Expert Teams on Capacity Building and Quality Management for Climatology.

Mr. Ömer DEMİR is an agricultural engineer (M.Sc.). He has been working in the Turkish State Meteorological Service (TSMS) on the RegCM' regional climate model. He produces the high resolution' climate data' products from the present to the end of the century with the new RCP Scenarios. He is the SEE COF focal point for Turkey and makes the seasonal assessments.

The third and final part of this Session followed with discussions towards the a*doption of the Consensus statement for the SEECOF-8 climate outlook for winter 2012-2013*, which was presented by Mrs Mirjana Ivanov.

The Consensus –based Climate Outlook' Statement is attached to the Meeting Report as Annex V: SEECOF-8/Doc.3.

II.6. Session V – Interaction with the end-users

The Session V was chaired by Branko Bijelic, who is the forecaster and the Chief of the Monthly weather forecast unit of the Department of hydrometeorological early warning system and aviation meteorology at the Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia.

As part of it, Emily Wallace Hamilton gave a presentation entitled *'Best practices in the communication of seasonal forecasts: A case study'*. She explained the essential components of a seasonal forecast, and showed that these features can be seen in the Met Office's seasonal forecast for contingency planners.

Then, Jean-Pierre Ceron delivered a presentation on the '*Use of seasonal forecast with respect of the user point of view vizavi the provider point of view'.*

The Session was a good opportunity for the providers to interact with the representatives of the climate sensitive sectors. A round table discussion attempted to answer, in the form of recommendations, the key questions on:

- The possible ways of improving the communication strategy between the providers and the users, and
- How users could make better use of the climate outlooks.

The Chair summarized the discussions and noted the major key points, which have been included in the List of conclusions and recommendations (See Chapter III: *Conclusions & Recommendations*).

II.7. Session VI - Closing session

The Closing Session was chaired by Mirjana Ivanov, who works (since 2008) in the Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology as the Head of the Sector for Applied Meteorology.

This Session wrapped up the Meeting by making the conclusions and giving recommendations for the way forward.

A draft List of Conclusions and Recommendations was prepared in advance, based on the deliberations during all Sessions, and presented to the participants for comments and further inputs.

The Session' Chair thanked all participants for taking active part in the discussions during the Sessions, thus, enriching the debates and influencing the outcomes of the meeting.

It was announced that all materials related to the Meeting, including the Consensus-based Climate Outlook for the winter 2012-2013, will be posted on the SEE Virtual Climate Change Centre' web site and the CDs with the presentations will be given to all participants.

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:15.

III. Conclusions and recommendations.

III. 1. Conclusions

The Meeting made the following conclusions:

1. The participants appreciated the offer of Serbia to host the next face-to-face SEECOF.
2. The participants took note of the willingness of Spain and France to support the expansion of RCOF to the Mediterranean basin region and agreed to use the online facility of the SEE VCCC web forum to discuss further how to proceed.
3. SEECOF took note of the suspension of RA VI Task Team on Regional Climate Outlook Forum with the condition that the RA VI Task Team on Regional Climate Centers will further coordinate and support the RCOF activities.
4. The participants considered relevant the information on EU FP 7 projects on seasonal to decadal predictions.
5. The models used by UK Met Office, ECMWF, Meteo-France in general have moderate positive skill in the region for temperature and marginal positive skill for the precipitation.
6. The South- East of the Region has better prediction skills for temperature.
7. The baseline for the forecast was shifted from 1971-2000 to the more recent period of 1981-2010 to correspond to numerical weather prediction products.
8. Every expert gave graphical inputs to the consensus forecast with the special emphasis to their own sub- region, assigning probabilities to geographic locations.

III.2. Recommendations

The Meeting recommended the following actions:

1. The host country should invite the project representatives from UK Met Office and Meteo-France to the next Session of SEECOF to provide the information on the projects progress (Conclusion 4).

2. The host of the next face-to-face SEECOF should invite the representative of the DMC for SEE to the next SEECOF session to deliver a presentation on the Interaction with the end-users.

3. The experts should use the same baseline next year (Conclusion 7),

4. The SEECOF should keep the collaborative consensus production approach, using the graphical inputs (Conclusion 8).

5. Experts should note when different reference periods are used.

6. Experts should give the reference to the last year when communicating the forecast.

7. Experts should define the terciles, according to the distribution (climatology).

8. Experts should give the info about the predictability (as a Disclaimer to the outlook), when communicating the forecast to the end-users.

9. Experts should make bigger dots in the monitoring documents, to make them more visible in the graphical outputs for B/N/A anomalies.

10. Experts should look into the driving factors which lead to the forecast conclusion, and compare these to the driving factors for the observed anomaly, in the process of validating the probabilistic forecast. This may help to improve the future forecasts.

11. Experts should enhance verification techniques in order to evaluate models forecast skill in the region.

12. SEEVCCC should take the lead for the interaction with the end-users related to the seasonal climate outlooks.

13. SEEVCCC in cooperation with other RCC network members should organize information sessions for the end-users from SEE with lecturers from the WMO GPC for LRF, RCCs and DMC/SEE.

14. RA VI RCC Network should provide technical and scientific assistance to the SEE countries in development and implementation of the capacity development projects, including research projects, using various existing mechanisms, such as twinning and others.

15. SEECOF FPs should use the Online Forum, moderated by the SEEVCCC, to discuss various topics of interest, including the existing ones opened for discussion, such as Climate research.

16. Experts should respect the deadline for the submission of the national climate report to the SEEVCCC.

17. Experts should standardize the high impact events, using the online forum.

18. Experts or the SEECOF Focal Points should provide suggestions as to what items should be discussed at the next face-to-face SEECOF' sessions.

19. SEECOF Focal Points should increase the set of exchanged data with at least the mean monthly climatological data. That will improve the climate monitoring, especially in the region of Eastern Mediterranean region, Turkey and Caucasus.

20. The representatives of the climate sensitive sectors are encouraged to be more active at the Forums, in particular during the Session dedicated to the Interaction with the end-users, engaging themselves in a dialogue with the providers of the seasonal climate outlooks, by giving questions and making suggestions towards a more efficient collaboration.

21. SEECOF Focal Points are encouraged to use the online facility of the SEE VCCC to clarify the usefulness of climate watch system, to take into account the climate assessment during the season and to emphasize the need for RCM-SEEVCCC model to perform 30 years hind cast.

IV. Annexes

The Meeting Report has five Annexes, as follows:

Annex I: *SEECOF/INF.1- Information Note on local arrangements*
Annex II: *SEECOF-8/INF.2- List of Participants*
Annex III: *SEECOF/Doc.1- Meeting Agenda*
Annex IV: *SEECOF/Doc.2.- Meeting Programme*
Annex V: *SEECOF-8/Doc.3- Consensus-based Climate Outlook for the winter 2012-2013.*

THE EIGHTH SESSION OF
SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SEECOF-8)

27 – 29 November 2012, Podgorica, Montenegro

INFORMATION NOTE FOR THE PARTICIPANTS

BACKGROUND

SEECOF was established in 2008 and till now has been conducted seven times – four times in the form of a face to face session (Croatia, 2008; Hungary, 2009; Serbia 2010, 2011), and three times in the form of on-line sessions (SEECOF-3, 5 and 7), co-facilitated by the South East European Virtual Climate Change Centre (SEEVCCC), hosted by the Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia.

As a partner to the SEEVCCC, and one of the SEECOF process members, the Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro will host the next face to face SEECOF-8, which will be focusing on the winter season 2012/2013 (December, January, February).

DATE AND VENUE

The SEECOF 8 will be held from **27th to 29th November 2012,** at the premises of the Hotel Crna Gora (address: Bulevar Svetog Petra Cetinjskog 2, www.hotelcg.com), in Podgorica, Montenegro.

SEECOF-8 FORMAT & REQUIREMENTS TO THE PARTICIPANTS:

The SEECOF-8 is designed in a way to accommodate six sessions, out of which four are thematic:

Session I: Opening Session
Session II: Verification of the SEECOF-6 climate outlook
Session III: Verification of SEECOF-7 climate outlook
Session IV: Production of the climate outlook for winter 2012-2013
Session V: Interaction with the end-users
Session VI: Closing Session

The participants are encouraged to provide inputs to the Session IV: *Production of the climate outlook for winter 2012-2013,* as well as to take an active part in the discussions during the sessions, to enrich the debates and influence the outcomes.

SEECOF-8 would also provide the opportunity to engage in the dialogue with the end-users.

In addition, the participants are kindly requested to bring their own laptops, as the host institution has no renting possibilities.

Registration of the participants will take place half an hour before beginning of the Session. The exact time will be given in the Programme, which will be provided in due time.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Crna Gora

Address: Bulevar Svetog Petra Cetinjskog 2.

Phone. + 382 20 443 443

Fax.. + 382 20 634 294

E-mail. recepcija@hotelcg.com

www.hotelcg.com

Block reservations have been made at the Hotel Crna Gora, with the discount of **10 %** on the rooms' prices, as shown in the table below:

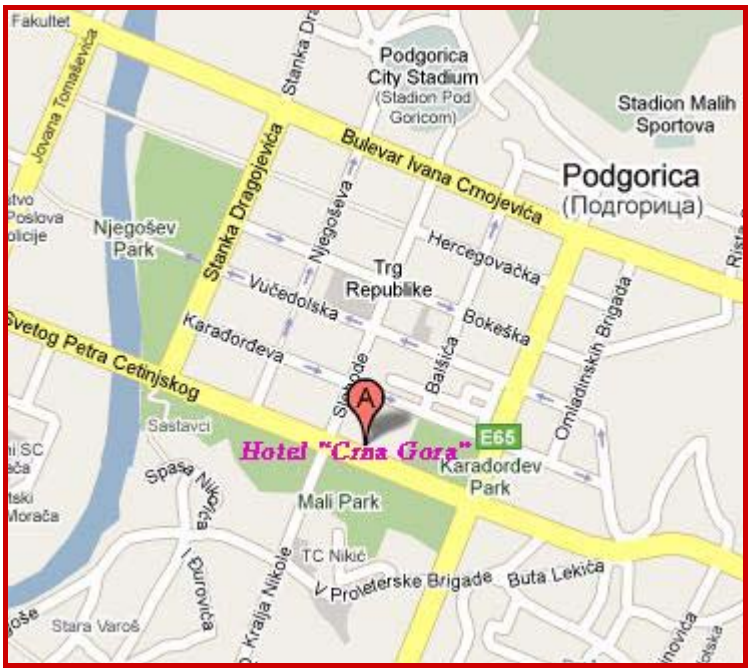
Room choice	***Night + breakfast***	***Half board***	***Full board***
Standard single room / french bed	74 €	84 €	94 €
Lux single room	89 €	99 €	109 €
Standard twin room / for two persons	99 €	119 €	139 €

*Please note that the prices do not include the **residence tax** (0.60€ per person/daily) + **insurance** (1.00 € per person/daily).

The participants are requested to fulfill the Hotel Reservation Form attached to this Note, and to e-mail it to the City Tours Agency: citytours@t-com.me, with a copy to Ms. Ivana Pavicevic: ivana.pavicevic@meteo.co.me.

Hotel Crna Gora was built in 1953, and is located in the centre of Podgorica, close to the Parliament, and between two parks. It features a popular stone terrace, the City Café and a restaurant with Montenegrin specialties. The cuisine of the Hotel could be characterized as international, with the accent on the national specialties.

Hotel is located in the centre of the town, surrounded with bridges, walking areas and parks. Just nearby is Sloboda Street, which after 17:00h became a pedestrian area. Hercegovacka Street is also pedestrian area, with numerous cafes, restaurants, boutiques and shops.



Distance from Podgorica Airport to the Hotel “Crna Gora” is 8km (app.7 min).

ADDITIONAL ACCOMODATION

In case you wish to stay in another hotel, here are few links to the web-pages of the hotels located closely to the Hotel Crna Gora:

www.hotelpodgorica.co.me

www.hotelkerber.co.me

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation from the airport to the hotel and back to the airport will be organized by the Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro. Please make sure to fill in your flight number and the time of your arrival in the hotel Registration Form, so that you could be met at the airport.

In case of unexpected flight delay, please use taxi services which are available at the airport or call some of these numbers for the taxi service: ((+ 382)19700 / 19704 / 19705 / 19721).

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Some countries needs visa for entering their citizens in Montenegro, and they are listed in the Annex II, with information on competent consular missions in their countries for visa issuing. Additional information can be found on the website of Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European integration / www.mip.gov.me.

Visa exemption of 7 days is for participants holding valid USA or Schengen visa.

For the participants requiring visa for Montenegro, Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology will provide an official invitation letter, upon receiving participant's request.

LANGUAGE

The meeting will be held in English.

INTERNET CONNECTION:

Hotel business centre offers free Wife internet access.

CURRENCY AND BANKS

The currency in Montenegro is **Euro**.
Banking hours are from 8:00h to 19:00h on weekdays.

WEATHER IN PODGORICA IN NOVEMBER:

Mean max T:	15.6 ^{0}C
Mean min T:	7 ^{0}C
Abs. daily max T:	18.9 ^{0}C
Abs. daily min T:	2.2 ^{0}C
Mean precipitation:	236 mm

Podgorica area code for domestic calls is **020** and for international calls **+ 382 20**.
Podgorica power voltage is 220V and the frequency is 50 Hz.

LOCAL ORGANIZER AND CONTACT DETAILS:

For any other information, please contact:

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LAST UPDATE : 03.12.2012

INFO.2

Eighth Session of the Southeast European Climate Outlook Forum (SEECOF-8)

27-29 November 2012, Podgorica, Montenegro
PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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The Eighth Session of the S-E European Climate Outlook Forum (SEECOF-8)
27-29 November 2012, Podgorica, Montenegro

Annex III. SEECOF-8-Doc.1

AGENDA

27 November

Session I: Opening Session

- Host institution' representative
- WMO Secretariat' representative

Session II: Verification of the SEECOF-6 climate outlook (Branko Bijelic**)**

Session III: Verification of SEECOF-7 climate outlook (Branko Bijelic**)**

Session IV: Production of the climate outlook for winter 2012-2013

- Climate monitoring information of the current conditions relevant to the region (Karsten Friedrich)
- CWS Bulletin for Western Balkans and Turkey (Jasminka Smailagic)
- EU FP7 Projects on Seasonal to decadal climate prediction towards climate services (Jean-Pierre Ceron & Emily Wallace)

28 November

Session IV: Production of the climate outlook for winter 2012-2013 (Continuation)

- Global inputs (Jean-Pierre Ceron)
- Regional inputs (Jean-Pierre Ceron)
- CPT outlook (Emily Wallace)
- Country inputs (SEECOF Focal Points)

29 November

Session IV: Production of the climate outlook for winter 2012-2013 (Continuation)

- Consensus forecast

Session V: Interaction with the end-users

Session VI: Closing Session

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN EUROPEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM
27-29 November 2012, Podgorica, Montenegro

SEECOF-8/Doc. 2

08:30-16:30	**Tuesday, 27 November**		
08:30-9:00	**REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**		Duration
9:00-10:20	**Session I: OPENING SESSION**	**Chair: Mirjana Ivanov**	50
09:00-09:15	Welcome speech	Luka Mitrovic, Director of the Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology	15
09:15-09:35	Keynote on the Regional activities in support of RCOF mechanism	Natalia Berghi and Sari Lappi, the WMO Secretariat' representatives	20
09:35-10:00	Introduction of participants	Mirjana Ivanov	25
10:00-10:20	Approval of the Agenda and the Tentative Programme	Mirjana Ivanov	20
10:20-10:50	***Group Photo and tea/coffee break***	Host institution	30
10:50-12:00	**Session II: VERIFICATION OF THE SEECOF-6 CLIMATE OUTLOOK**	**Chair: Dunja MAZZOCCO DRVAR**	70
10:50-11:00	Introduction to the Session	**Dunja MAZZOCCO DRVAR**	10
11:00-11:20	Climate monitoring of winter 2011-2012	Branko Bijelic	20
11:20-11:40	Verification of the SEECOF-6 Consensus statement of the climate outlook for 2011-2012 winter season	Branko Bijelic	20
11:40-12:00	Adoption of the Final assessment of SEECOF-6 climate outlook for winter 2011-2012	SEECOF FPs, round-table discussions	20
12:00-14:00	***Lunch break***	Host institution arrangements	1h
14:00-15:10	**Session III: VERIFICATION OF SEECOF-7 CLIMATE OUTLOOK**	**Chair: Dunja MAZZOCCO DRVAR**	70
14:00-14:10	Introduction to the Session	**Dunja MAZZOCCO DRVAR**	10
14:10-14:30	Climate monitoring of summer 2011-2012	Jasminka Smailagic	20
14:30-14:50	Verification of the SEECOF-7 Consensus statement of the climate outlook for 2011-2012 summer season	Jasminka Smailagic	20
14:50-15:10	Adoption of the Final assessment of SEECOF-7 climate outlook for summer 2011-2012	SEECOF FPs round-table discussions	20
15:10-15:20	***Tea/Coffee break***		10
15:20-16:30	**Session IV: PRODUCTION OF THE CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR WINTER 2012-2013**	**Chair: Yoav Levy**	1h30
15:20-15:30	Introduction to the Session	Dr Yoav Levy	10
15:30-16:00	Climate monitoring information of the current conditions relevant to the region	Karsten Friedrich	30
16:00-16:20	CWS Bulletin for Western Balkans and Turkey	Jasminka Smailagic	20
16:20-16:30	**Wrap up: the first day**		10

09:00-17:00	**Wednesday, 28 November**		
09:00-09:15	**Day Plan**	**Chair: Yoav Levy**	15
09:15-12:00	**Session IV: PRODUCTION OF THE CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR WINTER 2012-2013** (Continuation)	Chair: Yoav Levy	2h45
09:15-09:45	Information on EU FP7 Projects on seasonal to decadal predictions	Jean-Pierre Ceron and Emily Wallace	30
09:45-10:20	Presentation of the RCC Bulletin	Jean-Pierre Ceron	40
10:20-10:40	*Tea/coffee break*		20
10:40-11:30	'CPT outlooks based on dynamical seasonal forecast systems'.	Emily Wallace, UK Met Office Seasonal Forecasting Group	50
11:30-12:00	Seasonal outlook for the winter season 2012/13 in Bulgaria	Ilian Gospodinov.	30
12:00-14:00	***Lunch break***	Host institution arrangements	2h
14:00-17:00	**Session IV: PRODUCTION OF THE CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR WINTER 2012-2013** (Continuation)	Chair: Yoav Levy	3h
14:00-15:00	ECMWF seasonal forecast verification for Israel and SEECOF region"	Yoav Levy	30
15:00-15:30	Climate-outlook-for-DJF-2012-2013-in-Serbia-SEE-region-Serbia	Branko Bijelic	30
15:30-15:50	***Tea/coffee break***		20
15:50-16:20	Weather and climate services in Turkey	Serhat SENSOY & Omer DEMIR	30
16:20-16:50	Discussion and *Adoption of the Consensus statement for the SEECOF-8 climate outlook for winter 2012-2013*	SEECOF FPs, Round-table Discussion	30
16:50-17:00	***Wrap up: the second day***	Dr Yoav Levy	10

09:00-12:15	**Thursday, 29 November**		
09:00-09:10	**Day Plan**	**Chair: Yoav Levy**	10
09:10-09:30	**Session IV: PRODUCTION OF THE CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR WINTER 2012-2013** (Continuation)	Chair: Yoav Levy	20
09:10-09:30	Presentation of the Consensus forecast	Mirjana Ivanov	20
09:30-12:00	**Session V: INTERACTION WITH THE END-USERS**	Chair: Branko Bijelic	
09:30-10:00	'Best practices in the communication of seasonal forecasts: A case study'.	Emily Wallace, UK Met Office Seasonal Forecasting Group	30
10:00-10:30	'Use of seasonal forecast with respect of the user point of view vizavi the provider point of view'	Jean-Pierre Ceron	30
10:30-10:50	Use of climate outlooks	Round table discussion	20
10:50 – 11:00	**Summary of the Session V**	Chair: Branko Bijelic	10
11:00-11:20	***Tea/coffee break***		15
11:20-12:00	**Session VI: CLOSING SESSION**	Chair: Mirjana Ivanov	
11:30-12:00	Wrap up: Conclusions and recommendations	Round-table discussions	30
12:15	Closure of the meeting	Mirjana Ivanov	

Eight Session of
SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SEECOF-8)
27-29 November, 2012

SEASONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE WINTER SEASON 2012/2013 FOR THE SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE AND CAUCASUS REGION (SEE&C)

Climate experts from WMO RA VI RCC Network Nodes on long-range forecasting (Meteo France, France and Roshydromet, Russia) and WMO RA VI RCC Network Node on climate monitoring (Deutscher Wetterdienst, Germany), UK Met-Office, Global Producing Centre ECMWF, International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI, USA), National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP,USA), South East Europe Virtual Climate Change Centre (SEEVCCC, Serbia) and National Hydrometeorological Services of SEECOF region provided their valuable contribution to the successful implementation of SEECOF-8 by developing the relevant documents and providing scientific guidance and recommendations.

The SEECOF-8 comprised of the following Steps:

- Step 1: qualitative verification of the SEECOF-7 climate outlook for 2012 Summer;
- Step 2: assessment of the current state of the climate including large-scale climate patterns worldwide and assessments of its likely evolution in the course of the next months;
- Step 3: building the consensus forecast for 2012/2013 winter season.

All relevant documentation is posted and updated in SEEVCCC web site: http://www.seevccc.rs

SEECOF- 8 CLIMATE OUTLOOK
FOR 2012/13 WINTER SEASON

This prediction is based on output from dynamical models, statistical models and known teleconnections of large-scale climate features. Sea surface temperatures have been near to, but slightly warmer than, normal for the autumn season in the Equatorial Pacific. These conditions are very likely to persist for the coming winter season. Warmer than normal conditions are also likely to prevail in the northern tropical Atlantic and close to Newfoundland. Over the Mediterranean Sea warmer than normal conditions are forecasted in the eastern part of the basin.

The global models suggest increased likelihood of a positive North Atlantic Oscillation index (NAO +) and of blocking regimes over the North Atlantic. However, this signal is partly counteracted by Newfoundland SST and Eurasian snow cover signals which could favour a negative North Atlantic Oscillation index (NAO –). There is large uncertainty in the atmospheric response to tropical SST, due to differences in the forcing of the global models in this area.

All this information contributes to an increase in the uncertainty in the forecast for the 2012/2013 winter season.

The maps show the probabilistic consensus forecast for tercile categories of anomalies of seasonal - mean temperature and precipitation, relative to the period 1981-2010.

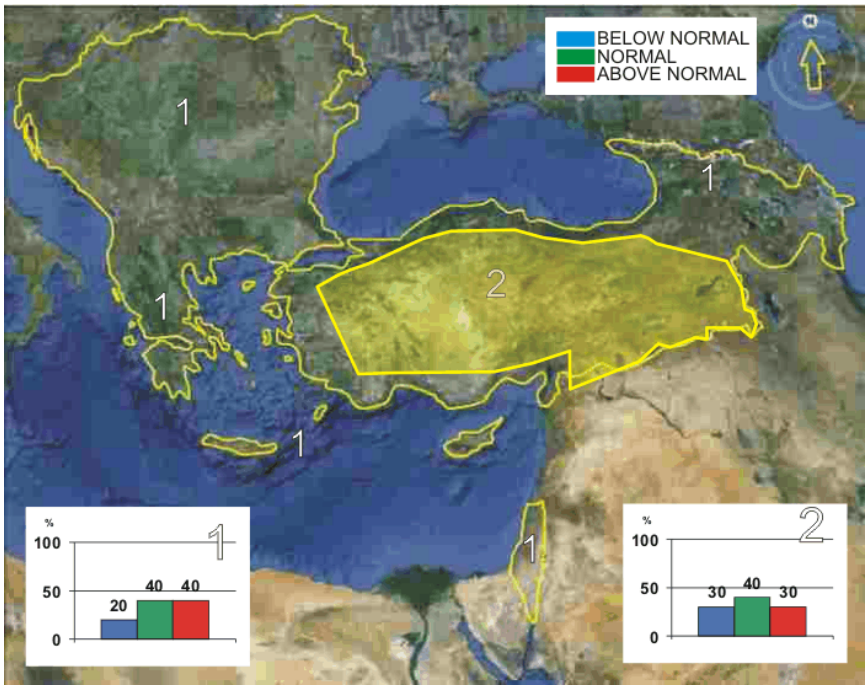

Figure 1. Graphical presentation of 2012/13 winter temperature outlook

For inland Turkey uncertainty for the temperature prediction is high; however the category with the greatest probability is the middle tercile (zone 2 Figure 1). In the rest of the SEECOF region (zone 1 in Figure 1) the winter seasonal mean temperature is likely to be near- or above-average.

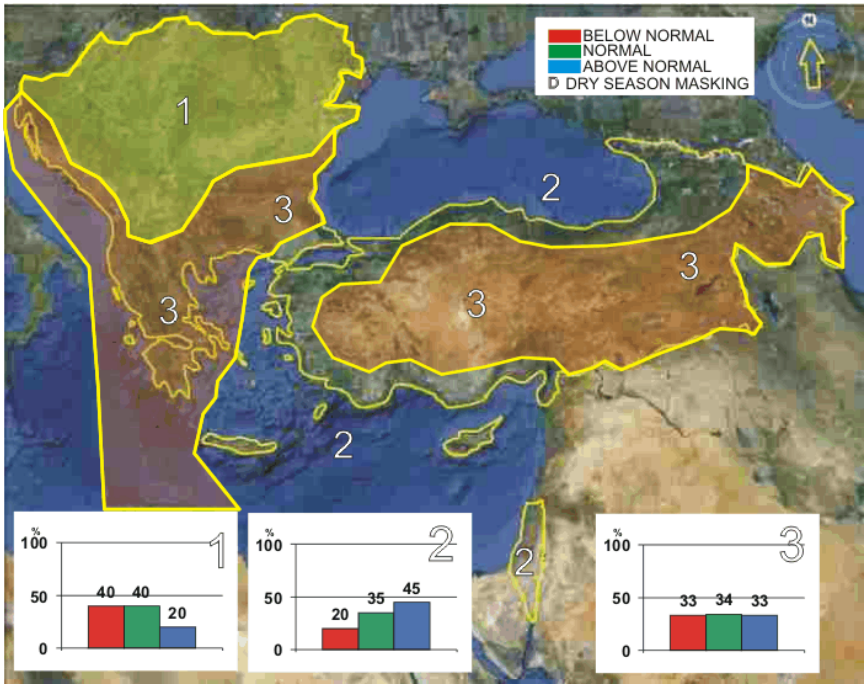

Figure 2. Graphical presentation of 2012/13 winter precipitation outlook

In the Pannonia Plain, Western and Central Balkan Peninsula and Carpathian region winter seasonal precipitation totals are likely to be near- or below-average (zone 1 in Figure 2). For the coastal areas of the Black Sea, eastern part of Aegean Sea and south-east Mediterranean Sea winter seasonal precipitation totals are likely to be near- or above-average (zone 2 in Figure 2). In the rest of the SEECOF region (zone 3 in Figure 2) the uncertainty is large: probabilities for below-, near- or above-average conditions are approximately equal.

Note that it is necessary to express seasonal forecasts in terms of probability due to inherent uncertainty. Any further advice on the forecast signals, shorter-range updates and warnings will be available throughout the winter from the National Meteorological Services, along with details on the methodology and skill of long-range predictions.

** The graphical representation of climate outlook in this statement is only for guidance purposes, and does not imply any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.*

APPENDIX A: Contributors to SEECOF-8

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- International Research Institute for Climate and Society, United States of America
- European Center for Medium Range Weather Forecast
- Meteo France, Republic of France
- Deutscher Wetterdienst, Federal Republic of Germany
- Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment, Albania
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