

## **EUMETSAT SUPPORT TO WMO STRATEGY ON RA-I AND RA-VI**

This document presents the activities undertaken by EUMETSAT and its partners to support to WMO strategy in the RA-I and RA-VI.

The main objective of these activities is to secure that countries in these two regions, which are not EUMETSAT members or cooperating states, can have operational access to EUMETSAT data and infrastructure and develop their capacities for using them.

This paper presents in more details the recent EUMETSAT activities in these two regions, more particularly the AMESD project for RA-I (which build on PUMA) and the DAWBEE initiative for RA-VI.

Concerning RA-I, this document presents the status of the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) programme, started in October 2007, with an emphasis on the activities directly relevant to NMHS of the RA-I, notably the installation of new PUMA 2010 stations to get operational access to EUMETSAT data and products and other products disseminated by EUMETCast. Focus is also given to the associated training activities.

Concerning RA-VI, EUMETSAT initiated the “Data Access for Western Balkan and Eastern European countries” – DAWBEE – project in order to answer to some needs expressed by the countries in these regions with respect to access to EUMETSAT data and products and related training. The document presents in more details the DAWBEE project, its status, the cooperation established with the WMO secretariat.

## **EUMETSAT support to WMO Strategy on RA-I and RA-VI**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

EUMETSAT support to WMO Strategy in RA-I and RA-VI is part of “EUMETSAT Strategy: 2030”. The main objective of these activities is to secure that countries in these two regions, which are not EUMETSAT members or cooperating states, can have operational access to EUMETSAT data and infrastructure and develop their capacities for using them.

This paper presents in more details the recent EUMETSAT activities in these two regions, more particularly the AMESD project for RA-I (which build on PUMA) and the DAWBEE initiative for RA-VI.

### **2 Activities in RA-I – AMESD Programme**

EUMETSAT activities in support to users in RA-I are part of “EUMETSAT Strategy: 2030” and contribute to WMO Space Programme in serving WMO Expected Result 9: *Enhanced capabilities of NMHSs in developing countries, particularly least developed countries, to fulfil their mandates.*

Over the past 15 years, EUMETSAT has conducted various activities that have greatly facilitated the use of EUMETSAT Data and Products in Africa (training, user forum, data dissemination with EUMETCast). Since 2000, the cooperation between EUMETSAT and the European Union has lead to the launch of the PUMA and AMESD projects

#### **2.1 Introduction to AMESD**

AMESD is financed by the European Development Funds (EDF) and has a budget of 21 M€. The AMESD programme has been technically kicked-off on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2007 in Addis Ababa and will last until 30 June 2013. The African Union Commission (the Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture) is in charge of the implementation of the programme.

AMESD aims at building African capacities in using operationally Earth Observation data and information to support environmental related decision making process in support to Sustainable Development.

#### **2.2 Procurement and installation of new EUMETCast stations and related training**

In the framework of the AMESD programme, the 53 existing PUMA stations deployed in the NMHS and regional centres are being upgraded (called PUMA 2010 stations) and 57 new EUMETCast station are installed in the premises of national and regional entities mandated for environmental monitoring (called AMESD stations).

The overall calendar foresees the installation of all stations by mid 2011.

The 3 WMO Centres of Excellence in Africa for training in Satellite Meteorology are also being equipped with adequate training material (PCs equipped with the application SW and connected to EUMETCast flux of data). The African Union Commission has also decided to equip the training centre of the NMHS of Mauritius with adequate material for training.

As part of the AMESD training activities, the personnel of the African NMHSs will benefit dedicated training on the new materials and software. This training will be conducted in close coordination between AMESD and EUMETSAT. At least two persons per meteorological service will be trained on the new PUMA SW application and one on the PUMA 2010 system administration.

### **2.3 GMES Africa**

The GMES Africa initiative started with the Maputo Declaration, signed by African stakeholders on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2006 on the eve of the 7<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa, held in Maputo in October 2006. This initiative called upon the European Union to extend the GMES initiative to Africa and to finance this through the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF.

The initiative has been included in the Africa-EU Joint Partnership and has reached good political visibility. The Global Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (GMES Africa) initiative aims at strengthening the capacities and developing infrastructure for the intense and coherent exploitation by African users of Earth Observation (space and in-situ), data, technologies and services in support of the environmental policies for sustainable development in Africa.

Through the Ouagadougou Declaration, signed on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2010, on the eve of the 9<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa, the African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Communities, the ACP Secretariat, under the auspices of Burkina Faso have clearly requested for a project to be launched under the GMES Africa initiative that will ensure continuity of the main AMESD outcomes.

## **3 Activities in RA-I – DAWBEE initiative**

### **3.1 Objective of the DAWBEE project**

Following the organisation in 2009 of two Information Days in the Eastern Europe and Western Balkan region, EUMETSAT initiated the project “Data Access for Western Balkan and Eastern European countries” – DAWBEE – in order to answer to some needs expressed by the countries in these regions with respect to access to EUMETSAT data and products and related training.

The proposed activities are also perfectly in line with the “EUMETSAT Strategy: 2030” and the WMO Regional Association VI (Europe) Strategic Plan.

The objective of the DAWBEE project is to ensure that the following eleven RA-VI states have operational access to EUMETSAT data, within 2 years:

- Six RA-VI Eastern European Countries:  
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Byelorussia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

- Five RA-VI Western Balkan Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (under UN Security Council Resolution 1244), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYR of Macedonia) and Montenegro.

Through this project, activities will be conducted in view of:

- Supporting the installation of a “standard” EUMETCast station, with an appropriate training for the operation of the station;
- Creating a self-sustained network of experts across the countries that could pursue collaboration beyond the end of the proposed activity.

### **3.2 Scope of the DAWBEE project**

The project has three phases:

#### ***Phase I – Preparatory activities***

This phase includes contacts with the eleven beneficiary countries and further involvement of experienced users (experts) from countries within or neighbouring the two regions and interested in supporting DAWBEE activities. During this phase, a “standard” EUMETCast station (called DAWBEE station), with adequate HW and SW for basic processing and data visualisation is defined and a detailed plan of activities is prepared for the following Phases.

#### ***Phase II – Training of the trainers and Procurement of the EUMETCast station***

A set of experts from two regions are identified and trained at EUMETSAT. These persons are responsible for supporting the installation of the EUMETCast station in the various countries and for training local technicians. They will also be incentivised to create and animate a core group of expert in the region. The DAWBEE stations are procured for the eleven beneficiary countries.

#### ***Phase III – Deployment and dedicated training***

The procured stations are installed in the countries. Dedicated training (for the operation of the EUMETCast station and basics on data visualisation) is provided to the local technicians. Training of users on the SW installed in the DAWBEE station, on Satellite Meteorology and on EUMETSAT data is performed at EUMETSAT.

### **3.3 Current status**

The project is now in its third and final phase. The DAWBEE stations have been procured by EUMETSAT and are currently being shipped and installed in the countries which are ready to host them. Installation and local training have started in October 2010. Training of users took place from 18-22 October 2010 at EUMETSAT.

The implementation of the activities is taking place in close cooperation with WMO and in particular with the DRR/SEE project financed by the EU, which support NMHS of the Western Balkan countries and Turkey (EU accession and candidate countries).

#### **4 Conclusion**

Through the AMESD and DAWBEE project, EUMETSAT has contributed to secure operation data access to data and products disseminated through EUMETCast, through the installation and renewal of new EUMETCast stations. Large amount of efforts have also been dedicated to the training and capacity building activities to secure that the data and products can be efficiently used in the NMHS of the two regions.

EUMETSAT will pursue its efforts in 2011 to enhance the acquisition and use of satellite data in the countries of these two regions.