

**World Meteorological Organization
Regional Association VI**

**MANAGEMENT GROUP
THIRD MEETING**

**9-10 April 2015
Istanbul, Turkey**



REPORT

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SUMMARY

At the kind invitation of the Turkish State Meteorological Service (TSMS), the third meeting of RA VI Management Group (MG-3) was held from 9 to 10 April 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The meeting was attended by 21 participants, including 12 MG members, 2 International advisers, 4 invited experts and 3 WMO officers. See the list of participants in INF.1.

Agenda and Programme were approved as contained in Doc.1 and Doc. 2 of the meeting.

The Chair of the Management Group and its members the chairs and co-chairs of the working groups reported on the progress in the implementation of the work plans (Doc.3 and Doc.4).

An Action List is compiled for easy follow-up of implementation of agreed actions (Doc. 5).

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

1.1 The Regional Association VI at its sixteenth session held from 11 to 17 September 2013 in Helsinki, Finland re-established the RAVI Management Group (MG) with a revised composition and terms of reference through adoption of the Resolution 5.3/1 (RA VI-16) - RA VI Management Group.

2.1 The re-established Management Group held its first meeting in Helsinki, on 16 September 2013. The second meeting of the RA VI MG was held in Tallinn from 14 to 15 May 2014. The meeting report is available at: <https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/eur/MG-22014.htm>.

Venue and date

3.1 At the kind invitation of the Turkish State Meteorological Service (TSMS), the third meeting of RA VI Management Group (MG-3) was held from 9 to 10 April 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Participants

4.1 The meeting was attended by 21 participants, including 12 MG members, 2 International advisers, 4 invited experts and 3 WMO officers. See the list of participants in INF.1.

2. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

Session I - Opening

5.2 The meeting was opened by Mr. Ivan Čačić, the RA VI president and MG Chairperson, who thanked the Turkish State Meteorological Service for hosting the event and the WMO Secretariat for their support. He welcomed Mr. Milan Dacić as the recently appointed Chief of the Regional Office for Europe.

6.2 Mr. Ismail Günes, the Director of the Turkish State Meteorological Service (TSMS) welcomed the participants on behalf of the host, noting the great role of the RA VI in the implementation of WMO activities. He also highlighted how important it is for TSMS to be involved in WMO activities and asked the Management Group members to support his candidature for Executive Council membership. He wished all participants a fruitful meeting and a pleasant stay in Istanbul.

7.2 Agenda and Programme were unanimously approved. See Doc.1 and Doc. 2 of the meeting. It has been noted that an Action List will be compiled as usual for an easy follow-up of implementation of agreed actions. See Doc. 5.

Session II - Progress of activities since the second meeting of MG

8.2 The meeting reviewed the progress of activities since the second meeting of the Management Group. The Management Group chairperson went through the Action List (Doc. 5.), reminding the meeting about the roles and responsibilities shared by the members of the Management Group.

9.2 The MG Chair further informed the participants of the outcome of the events that occurred since the previous meeting of the Management Group, such as:

- The 66th session of EC;
- RA VI MG meeting, as a side-event to the EC-66;

- The coordination meeting on the WMO Country Profile Data Base;
- Launch of the First Inter-regional Specialized Meteorological Center on Atmospheric Sand and Dust Forecast for Northern Africa, Middle East and Europe;
- The 2nd Hydrology Forum;
- The 3rd European Communication Workshop for NMHSs;
- Closure of the IPA Project: “Building resilience to disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey”;
- Regional Conference for flood prevention and management in the Western Balkans and Turkey;
- The 13th Assembly of the EIG EUMETNET;
- The 39th Assembly of ECOMET;
- The 4th session of Inter-Commission Coordination Group on WIGOS;
- The 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction;
- EUMETSAT Information Days for Western Balkans, for Eastern Europe and Caucasus;
- First meeting of the Steering Committee on Flash Flood Guidance for SEE region;
- LAS Forum on the implementation of Meteorology and climate Services Capacity Development in the Arab Region.

10.2 Further the meeting learned that the IPA Project Steering Committee held its last meeting in *Ankara, Turkey, 14 October 2014*, to review the project results, including the Multi-Hazard Early Warning System design, management and governance. With this the 2nd Phase of the WMO/UNISDR Project: „Building Resilience to Disasters in the Western Balkans and Turkey” has been successfully completed. As a way forward, a third phase of the project may be considered by the beneficiaries with the support of the Secretariat.

11.2 The participants were briefed on the outcomes of several major events such as: 39th ECOMET Assembly and 13th EIG EUMETNET Assembly held in Dublin, Ireland, from 18 to 19 November 2014. 13th EIG EUMETNET Assembly approved the proposed cooperation with WMO on WIGOS Implementation in the field of weather radar and AMDAR observations and agreed to add a cooperation annex to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WMO. The 39th ECOMET Assembly was informed that an MoU with WMO has been signed and that the president of RA VI and other WMO representatives will work on its best implementation.

12.2 It was also highlighted that the organization of the EUMETSAT Information Days for Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Caucasus continue as usual on a quadrennial basis.

Activities of the WMO Regional Office for Europe

13.2 Mrs Natalia Berghi, the Programme Officer of the WMO Regional Office for Europe, delivered a presentation on the activities of the Regional Office for Europe, the list of which are available on the ROE web page: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/eur/meetings/>.

14.2 The meeting was invited to suggest ways for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Regional Office for Europe. The following recommendations were proposed in this regard:

- To update at least once a year the info on CPDB;
- To promote the NMHSs’ role, to reinforce the NMHSs and to raise their visibility at the national level through playing an advocacy role and through giving the NMHSs a major role in the implementation of WMO activities for the attraction of governmental investment.

RA VI Working Groups

15.2 The chairpersons of the Working Groups reported on the progress made since the previous MG-2 meeting, presenting the current WGs' composition, the planned regional events, and plans to hold subsequent meetings of the WGs.

Working Group on Technology Development and Implementation

16.2 Dr. Dieter Schröder, the chairperson of the Working Group on Technology Development and Implementation delivered a presentation on the status of the WG's composition, tasks of the WG and envisaged meetings.

17.2 The Working Group consists of four Task Teams and four thematic Rapporteurs. The establishment of additional task team on nowcasting technologies is postponed for lack of maturity and finances.

18.2 The Working Group is ready to prepare for an RA VI Workshop on WIGOS Implementation (Belgrade, Serbia).

19.2 All Task Teams progress well with their work. The full report with the Work Plan and the membership composition of the Working Group on Technology Development and Implementation is available as INF.4 on the WMO Regional Office for Europe web page.

20.2 The next meeting of the Working Group on Technology Development and Implementation is planned for September 2015 to be hosted by Turkey.

Working Group on Service Delivery and Partnership

21.2 Prof. Adriaan Perrels, the Vice-chair of the Working Group on Service Delivery and Partnership, delivered a presentation on the Working Group status and progress.

22.2 The Working Group consists of three Task Teams and two thematic Rapporteurs. The work of the task teams is progressing well. There is need to search for additional expertise to contribute work in the Task Team on Service Delivery, Media and Communication, which is at present composed of two members, including its leader.

23.2 The Working Group is preparing for the RA VI Conference on aviation meteorological services is planned for 2015 (Vienna), and the RA VI SEB workshop (Zagreb, Croatia).

24.2 Mr Saalmüller, Rapporteur for EU and Partnership left his job in DWD and is to be replaced by another DWD expert. (N.B. at present Mr Michael Rohnof DWD is assigned as a new Rapporteur).

25.2 The next meeting of the Working Group on Service Delivery and Partnership is planned for November 2015.

26.2 The full report of the WG-SDP and its Work Programme are available on the Regional Office for Europe web page as INF.4 and Annex I of Doc. 3.

Working Group on Climate and Hydrology

27.2 Dr. Dominique Beród and Mr. Ernesto Rodriguez Camino, the co-chairs of the Working Group on Climate and Hydrology reported on the status of the WG composition and the ToRs.

28.2 The Working Group consists of six Task Teams and one thematic Rapporteur.

29.2 The Working Group will organize a RA VI Training Workshop on hydrological modeling, forecasting and warning services, back-to-back to the next 3rd Hydrology Forum, planned for 2016.

30.2 Based on the exchange with the Members on dissemination of Climate Watch Advisories via the RCC network web site, the co-chairs of the WG-CH proposed the

following tasks for RAVI MG endorsement: (i) to implement the distribution of CWAs through pre-operational RCC network websites; (ii) to distribute the advisories through a password-protected part of the existing RCC websites restricting access to NMHSs only; (iii) to continue the distribution to designated national focal points of CWA via email; (iv) to make arrangements with the RCC network ensuring that the website contains all necessary information on CWA; and (v) to start a pilot project to test and improve the CWAs.

31.2 The RA VI MG endorsed the above listed plan to be implemented as soon as possible. This will contribute to further consolidation of the activity of the RCC network.

32.2 All Task Teams progress well with their work. The full report is available as [INF.5](#). The modifications of composition, the ToRs and the Work Programme were approved as in [Doc. 4](#) and its [Annex I](#) on the WMO Regional Office for Europe web page.

33.2 The next meeting of the Working Group on Climate and Hydrology has been planned as a back-to-back meeting to MEDCOF-5 in Morocco, November 2015.

Task Team on Regional Operating Plan

34.2 Mrs. Vida Auguliene, the RA VI Vice-president, assumed the responsibility to coordinate the implementation of the RA VI Strategic Plan, and reported on the progress of the RA VI Task Team on Regional Operating Plan (see INF.6). The draft Regional Operating Plan for the next intersession period was submitted for consideration and approval.

35.2 The following recommendations have been submitted to MG-3 for consideration:

- TT-ROP proceeds as suggested and gathers comments to the draft RAVI OP 2016 – 2019 from the MG to be able to get it adopted by the MG before or at Congress in June 2015.
- The Capacity Development issue has been considered by the Regional Association VI at its XVI session and covered in the work programmes of the WGs and is handled as a cross-cutting issue in RAVI. The MG is being informed continuously about the WGs deliverables; therefore, TT-ROP is of the opinion that no specific coordinator or rapporteur for Capacity Development issues would be needed.
- The monitoring procedure of the RAVI/ROP will have to be agreed upon. There are two options: The MG has been invited to decide on one of the options, as follows:
 - a. TT-ROP makes use of the existing WMO questionnaire and performs its analyses, with no need for a specific, separate RAVI questionnaire;
 - b. The identified region-specific challenges have to be monitored, and a dedicated questionnaire could be necessary, with a view to submit its results at the next RAVI session.

36.2 It has been highlighted that the Regional Operating Plan for the upcoming period should include a RA VI Workshop on WIGOS, planned for November 2015 and a regional Technical Conference, planned for 2019.

MG members as Focal points on particular matters

37.2 Prof. Peteri Taalas, the ETR RA VI Focal Point reported on the Education and Training activities in the region. An Information Note is attached as INF.7 to the report.

38.2 Mr. Alexander Frolov reported on the progress of the activities planned by the Interstate Council on Hydrometeorology (ICH) of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) that held its meeting in September 2014 in Issykkul, Kyrgyzstan. It was noted that ICH reorganized its working structure following the structure of the WMO Technical Commissions. ICH will focus on the needs of the CIS NMHSs in cooperation with the European Meteorological Infrastructure, having a wide range of common relevant matters (e.g. development of the WIS, capacity building, the exchange of data through BALTRAD, and other initiatives).

39.2 The meeting was also informed about the modernization of the Russian satellite group and the observation network of Roshydromet.

40.2 It was noted that the experience of Roshydromet related to the development of the basic meteorological infrastructure in cooperation with the World Bank might be of interest for other European countries, in particular, for South-Eastern European countries.

41.2 The World Bank project enabled the modernization of the hydrometeorological network and institutional development of the country to provide early warnings.

42.2 The meeting was informed on the new EUMETSAT initiative *Baltic+*, that is open for the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Session III – Forthcoming regional events

43.2 The meeting reviewed the status of the forthcoming regional events, such as:

- Workshop on Socio-economic benefits has been planned for 29 June – 3 July 2015, to be held in Zagreb, Croatia. One of the objectives is to encourage the Members to conduct more studies on Socio-economic benefits of NMHS services and products. While acknowledging that the SEB training workshop in Zagreb is organized by the global PWS programme the meeting (MG-3) expresses its wish that the needs and experiences of RA VI Members with respect to SEB studies are sufficiently taken into account also during the preparation phase, inter alia through adequate inclusion and interaction with relevant RA VI expert groups, i.e. WG-SDP.
- European Conference on Meteorology for Aviation. It was planned for October 2015 in Vienna, Austria. The MG members considered the two following options for the dates 13 and 14 October or 16-18 November. The first option, i.e. 13-14 October 2015, was approved.

44.2 A plenary with the breakout sessions is the suggested format for the Conference. It was noted that the EU, EC, and Eurocontrol should be invited to deliver presentations about their policies that might affect the NMHSs' activity. The Conference should also take into account the requirements of Single European Sky undertakings.

- Training-Workshop for INTAD-6 was approved by the Management Group being considered as a priority capacity-building activity. It was proposed to be held in autumn 2015 in Alanya, Turkey;
- Workshop on tailoring agrometeorological services and products, planned for the end 2015 or for the beginning of 2016;
- RA VI Hydrology Forum, planned for 2016, should consider the possibility of inviting climate experts to contribute to the Forum discussions;
- Workshop on Modeling and Forecasting, planned for 2016, back to back to the Hydrology Forum;
- Workshop on WIGOS, planned for the first quarter of 2016; (N.B. moved earlier to November 2015)
- Workshop on WIS, planned for the last quarter of 2016;

Session IV - Common standpoints for the Cg-17

45.2 The meeting considered the common standpoint for the Cg-XVII, including the amendments to the Resolution on EC seats and to the WMO Convention.

46.2 Members willing to amend the Resolution on EC seats should submit a request for EC consideration and approval to revise the Resolution on EC seats. The Management Group encouraged Germany to prepare the draft resolution with suggested amendments on behalf of RA VI with the view to request one more seat for RA VI in the EC.

47.2 However, it is estimated that additional 45,000CHF are needed per EC seat for the intersession period. Amendments were made to the WMO Convention at Session 9 and Session 14 of the WMO Congress. There was a significant increase in membership. One of the ways the issue of costs was addressed was to reduce the costs per participant of the Executive Council (EC). Nowadays the costs for the participation of the EC members in the EC sessions are covered only partially: the travel in economy class or the DSA, while in the past costs for both DSA and travel were covered. There is not much room to further reductions at this stage. Therefore, the impact of the increase of the EC membership on the EC budget might be an issue for debate.

48.2 The meeting reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the RAs. The following RAs responsibilities proposed as amendments were underlined, such as:

- To coordinate and organize activities of the Members;
- To study the needs of the Members and identify gaps;
- To request TCs and other bodies, as necessary, to address the needs and deficiencies, with appropriate solutions recommended to Congress and EC;
- To determine the composition of required networks;
- To monitor performance of the network;
- To establish a regional operating plan;
- To establish an adequate regional structure and working bodies focusing on regional priorities,
- To build up and promote collaboration and regional initiatives

49.2 As one of the budget issues, the request was expressed that budget planning for the governance of GFCS should be reconsidered in order to secure sufficient financial resources for the participation of Members in IBCS meetings. WMO as parent organization could consider the possibility to contribute to the IBCS budget from the WMO regular budget.

Data Policy

50.2 Climate Data policy is another issue that will be discussed at the Congress and requires careful consideration. In the variety of climate data there is no full description of metadata for climate data; therefore it is very difficult to prepare a list of necessary data for climate. There are many institutions at national levels, which could be involved as partners in providing data on behalf of the country in addition to the data provided by the NMHSs. This partnership could be established with the support of the concerned UN agencies.

51.2 In Resolution 40 and Resolution 25, countries should follow bottom-up rather than top-down approach in exchanging the data. An example is the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission where each country decides on the national level which data to exchange internationally.

52.2 Executive Council established a Task Team to develop a proposal for the Congress for data policy on climate data. The Executive Council limited the scope on data for which WMO is responsible and recommended to the partners to develop similar data policies to support the NMHSs. The draft resolution on data policy, approved by EC, will be submitted to the attention of the Congress.

53.2 There are different ways to pay for data: one way is that government covers the full costs of the data, and open the data to all, and the other is where Members could decide to open essential data only, but not additional data. The MG participants were informed that several consultation meetings are planned during the upcoming session of the WMO Congress, which will enable further discussions and consultations on the above issues.

Session V – Challenges and opportunities

54.2 The meeting reviewed challenges and opportunities, in particular related to the WMO RA VI response to Copernicus, EU Programme funding infrastructures and services.

55.2 Prof. Gerhard Adrian provided a summary on the Copernicus Programme:

European Union established its own Space Programme for earth observations, Copernicus, formerly known as GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security).

The programme ensures operational monitoring of the atmosphere, oceans, and continental surfaces, and will provide reliable, validated information services for a range of environmental and security applications.

The programme has a ceiling budget of €4.3 billion for the period from 2014 until 2020; EU members annually decide on the budget. There is an agreed regulation that most of hardware of satellite instrument will become available in 2018-2019.

European Commission had the task to identify the responsible entities for the core-services.

As a result, ECMWF has been entrusted to operate the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) and the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) on behalf of the European Commission until the end of 2020. In this connection, ECMWF organized an Information Day on Copernicus on 2 February 2015.

The Commission's proposal entrusts the operations of the developed space infrastructure jointly to ESA and EUMETSAT. EUMETSAT will be entrusted with the operations of satellites and instruments particularly relevant for the atmosphere and marine communities (i.e. Marine part of Sentinel 3, Sentinels 4, 5 and 6), which are very close, often identical, to its own domain of competences.

Mercator Ocean was entrusted to manage marine services. If Mercator will deal with ocean data, it should be made clear that the data and information should be made available to all other intergovernmental organizations or be merged into the existing structure.

The Joint Research Center is entrusted to manage emergency related services and land-related services, the last one to be managed in cooperation with the European Environmental Agency.

Under the SES Framework, Eurocontrol is entrusted to perform the additional services, which might have an impact on NMHS activities.

The main task of these operators is to manage the core-services, that is why they are allowed to use 20% of the financial resources for the management and for their own contributions. The other 80% of the financial resources will be used to buy the necessary services, through an open and transparent procurement process, i.e. the contributions to the Copernicus services are procured in open competition. The bidders could be NMHSs or private companies. In this regard, the NMHSs are forced to compete with private companies and other NMHSs. But, the Member states who contribute to Copernicus are more than EU members, as these are all members also of EUMETSAT. This Copernicus development is regarded as a threat for the NMHSs; that is why the concerned RA VI NMHSs should establish a framework to secure the cooperation which should not be influenced by Copernicus activities. These NMHSs should develop their own system of cooperation in such a way to remain open for cooperation in future by accepting to be competitors for a part of the services at the same time.

56.2 The Working Groups should take note of the above processes and consider them when planning for further developments in service delivery and technology. WMO should further ensure a close collaboration with the European Commission, e.g. through EUMETNET/WMO representative at European Commission in Brussels.

57.2 NMHSs should be able to distinguish between politically driven decisions of the European Commission and its Copernicus programme that should also support the needs of

the local hydrometeorological community. The society is changing and what is expected now is different from what was expected several years ago. There is a continuous need to adjust.

58.2 In accordance with the Copernicus general regulation, all the data and information of the Copernicus programme services, which might include also the data and information resulted from the NMHSs' observation, will be available free of charge for all EU Members. It will put a lot of political pressure on the operators of the Copernicus' services.

59.2 WMO should inform the European Commission – its Copernicus Programme – about the concerns of NMHSs regarding the duplication of efforts, and should strive to find a way to reduce the impact of Copernicus services on the NMHSs' activity.

60.2 Commercialization and relationship with the private sector is another issue for the NMHSs, in this regard the conduction of a Regional Workshop on relationship with the private sector is considered to be relevant.

Session VI –Next meeting of MG and closing

61.2 The next (fourth) meeting of the RA VI Management Group has been planned for March-April 2016.

62.2 After reviewing the proposed draft decisions (contained in Doc. 5 - MG Decisions-Follow-up on actions) the Chair expressed appreciation to the host country for the excellent arrangements and overall organization of the meeting and closed the meeting.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

63.3 The concluding decisions and recommendations are listed in the Doc. 5 - MG decisions- Follow-up on actions.

4. ANNEXES AND ATTACHMENTS

64.4 The report has 7 Information Notes and 5 Documents which are available from the meeting web page: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/RAVIMG-3.htm>

- INF. 1 - List of participants
- INF. 2 – Information Note on local arrangements
- INF. 3 – Report and Work Programme of the WG-TDI (.PPT)
- INF. 4 – Report of the WG-SDP
- INF. 5 – Report of the WG-CH
- INF. 6 – Report of the TT-ROP
- INF. 7 – Report on ETR in RA VI
- Doc. 1 - Agenda
- Doc. 2 - Programme
- Doc. 3 - Work Programme of the WG-SDP
- Doc. 4 – Work Programme of the WG-CH
- Doc. 5 – MG decisions- Follow-up on actions