

Dear SEECOF participants,

As you are aware, Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) are considered to be a very important process to facilitate the development of consensus-based climate prediction and information for the season having critical socio-economic significance. Such information has been applied in several parts of the world to reducing climate-related risks and supporting sustainable development.

The first South-east European Climate Outlook Forum (SEECOF) was held in Zagreb, Croatia in June 2008 and the second SEECOF took place in Budapest, Hungary in November 2009. It is now high time to prepare for the next SEECOF. In fact it has been found useful to have two SEECOFs per year, one focussing on the Summer season (June, July, August) and another one focussing on the Winter season (December, January, February). However, due to resource limitations and in light of the significant efforts needed to prepare and conduct two face-to-face SEECOF sessions per year it has been decided to arrange SEECOF-III, focussing at Summer 2010 as an online-COF, co-facilitated by South-east European Virtual Climate Change Centre (SEEVCCC), and to plan for a face-to-face SEECOF-IV aiming at the next Winter season.

The purpose of this message is to explain the procedure of the online-COF and to invite your participation.

SEECOF-III comprises 3 steps, which all require your participation (cf. outline attached).

**Step 1** deals with the qualitative verification of the SEECOF-II Winter forecast (December 2009 – February 2010). Facilitated by Mr. Branko Bijelic, Ms. Mirjam Vujadinovic, Ms. Aleksandra Krzic, Ms. Ana Vukovic you are invited to provide

- information on high-impact events of the last winter season,
- brief assessments of the correctness of the SEECOF-II outlook, and
- comments on user perceptions of the SEECOF-II outlook

by 30 April to Mr. Branko Bijelic ([branko.bijelic@hidmet.gov.rs](mailto:branko.bijelic@hidmet.gov.rs)) and Ms. Mirjam Vujadinovic ([mirjam.vujadinovic@hidmet.gov.rs](mailto:mirjam.vujadinovic@hidmet.gov.rs)). Based on your input, the monitoring results of the RA VI Pilot RCC Node on Climate Monitoring and own considerations, Ms. Mirjam Vujadinovic ([mirjam.vujadinovic@hidmet.gov.rs](mailto:mirjam.vujadinovic@hidmet.gov.rs)) will provide a qualitative summary of the correctness and perception of the SEECOF-II outlook by 7 May.

**Step 2** comprises an 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. For this, a draft for discussion will be provided by Dmitry Kiktev by 19<sup>th</sup> of April. In the following two weeks you are invited to contribute to the discussion of this draft. This discussion is moderated by Diana Mijuskovic (Email-address: [rhms.intdep@hidmet.gov.rs](mailto:rhms.intdep@hidmet.gov.rs)). Based on your inputs the final assessment will be elaborated by Diana Mijuskovic and Anahit Hovsepyan by 7<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Step 3** aims at building the consensus forecast for Summer 2010. A first draft for discussion will be provided by J.P. Céron and Mr. Goran Pejanovic by 7<sup>th</sup> of May. In a 2.5 weeks discussion period afterwards, participants are invited to feed in their own outlooks and contribute to the discussions in order to come to a consensus outlook. The discussion will be moderated by Anahit Hovsepyan (Email-address: [anahit\\_hovs@yahoo.com](mailto:anahit_hovs@yahoo.com)). From 25 to 28 May the final version of the consensus statement will be elaborated by Diana Mijuskovic and Anahit Hovsepyan and on 28 May the outlook will be released (WMO and SEE-VCCC WebSites; press release -details to be discussed).

Communication will be facilitated by Email and final results of steps 1 to 3 will be posted on WMO's and SEE-VCCC's WebPages.

Finally, I would like to invite and encourage your active participation in and contribution to the successful implementation of the online-COF.

Anahit Hovsepyan  
Co-Chair of RA VI Working Group on Climate and Hydrology