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## **The WMO RA VI RCC Network and Results from the RCC Users Forum 2020**

*Stefan Rösner*

*Coordinator WMO RA VI RCC Network, Deutscher Wetterdienst,  
Offenbach, Germany*

The WMO RA VI Regional Climate Centre (RCC) is organized as a Network with dislocated functions. This is a challenge for communication among the contributing institutions. It therefore had been agreed to hold RCC Network Workshops/ Users Forums and RCC Coordination Meetings at least every four years. The latest RCC Users Forum and the Coordination Meeting have been held on 20-22 and 29 October 2020, respectively, both as virtual meetings, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This first time virtual event allowed for participation by up to 81 representatives from NMHSs and WMO, and identifies 36 activities to be implemented in order to improve RCC Network performance and services to its end users, the NMHSs in the Region.

*Keywords:* Regional Climate Centre Network, RAVI, User Forum, climate services, network performance

### **1. The WMO RA VI RCC Network**

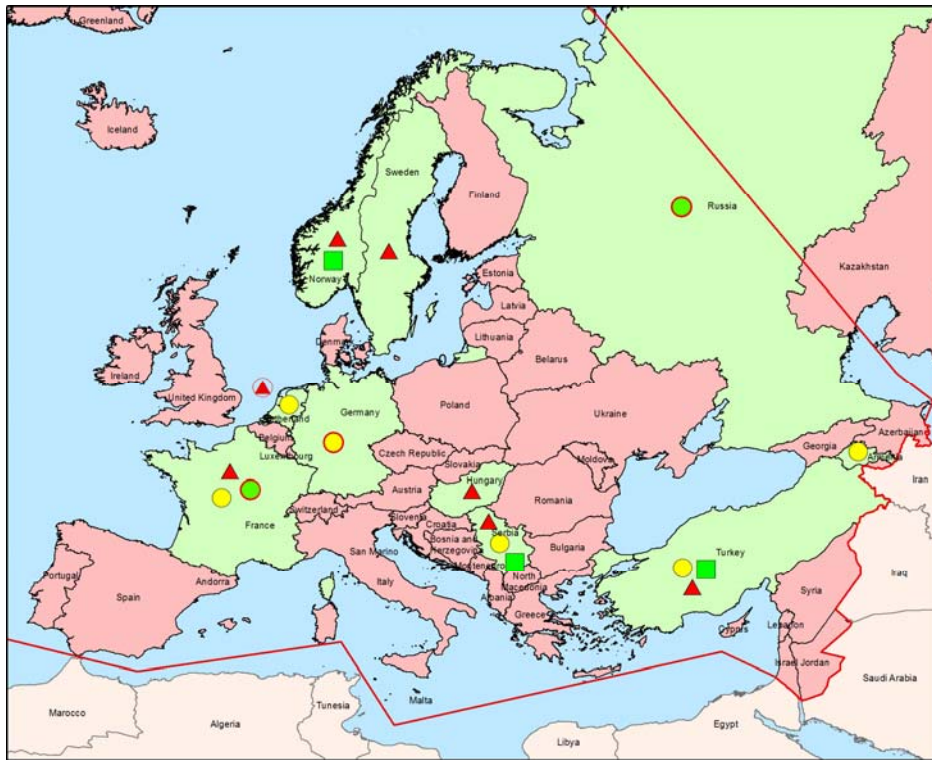
The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is working towards establishing Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) in all six Regional Associations (RAs). In addition, several cross-regional RCCs and an Antarctic RCC are being discussed. Each RCC is a centre of excellence that assists WMO Members in a given region to deliver better climate services and products including regional long-range forecasts, and to strengthen their capacity to meet national climate information needs. RCCs are WMO-mandated activities and comprise an important regional component of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) Climate Service Information System (CSIS).

For Regional Association VI, Europe there is only one RCC, which is implemented as a network. However, there is some geographical overlap with the ArticRCC in the North, also organized as a network.

The WMO RA VI RCC Network has been designated in 2013 by the WMO Executive Council in its sixty-fifth session (EC-65), while preparation started as early as 2008. Since its beginning, the network had ten members that contribute by regional and or sub-regional products to one or more nodes. The nodes are organized along functions, i.e. data services, climate monitoring and long-range forecasting. Each of the node is led by one member, e.g. the Node on Climate Data Services is led by The Netherlands (KNMI), the Node on Climate Monitoring is led by Germany (DWD), and the Node on Long-range

Forecasting (LRF) is jointly led by France (MF) and the Russian Federation (NEACC).

Fig 1 maps the members of the WMO RA VI RCC Network – the consortium – highlighted in light green. The red triangles indicate consortium members that contribute to the Node on Data Services (DS), i.e. France, Hungary, Norway, Serbia, Sweden, and Turkey. The yellow circles show consortium members contributing to the Node on Climate Monitoring (CM), and the solid green squares those contributing to the Node on Long-range Forecasting (LRF). The monitoring node is supported by Armenia, France, The Netherlands, Serbia, and Turkey. The LRF node is supported by Norway, Serbia, and Turkey.



**Fig. 1.** Mapping WMO RA VI RCC Network. Red triangles, yellow circles and green squares indicate consortium members of the nodes on climate data services, climate monitoring, and long-range forecasting, respectively. The respective lead is indicated by a red circle.

## 2. Results from the RCC Users Forum 2020

For the RCC Network it is important, though also complicated to ensure good communication among its nodes and consortium members. This is easier

for RCCs that have all functions concentrated at one location, in one organization.

Therefore the RCC Network regularly, although not too often holds RCC Workshops, and coordination meetings. While RCC Workshops bring together all WMO Members in the Region, coordination meetings are for consortium members to discuss issues related to operation and advancing the functions and services offered by the network.

RCC Workshops have been held in 2010, 2011, 2016 and 2020. Coordination meetings in 2010, 2013, 2016, and 2020.

The latest RCC Workshop was held from 20 to 22 October 2020 as a virtual meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and was also renamed RCC Users Forum, which it essentially always has been. The online forum was held as a virtual meeting for three hours each day. The overall experience with this new approach was very positive as it also allowed for additional experts to participate. The forum was attended by up to 81 participants!

Based on experiences from past RCC Workshops it was decided to use a survey ahead of the forum to collect important input from the WMO Members in the Region including on general aspects of the RCC performance and new and additional requirements. In addition the survey allows to monitor the performance of the RCC Network by repeating the same questions with the next survey. The survey was completed 31 times from 20 WMO Members. The overall satisfaction with the performance of the RCC Network was quite good. On a scale from 1 to 10 (low to high) 87% ranked the relevance of the WMO RA VI RCC Network for their respective institutions 5 and higher (fig. 2). Looking at the individual Nodes, they have been ranked 5 and higher by 84%, 87%, and 71% for the Data Services, Climate Monitoring, and Long-range Forecasting Nodes, respectively.

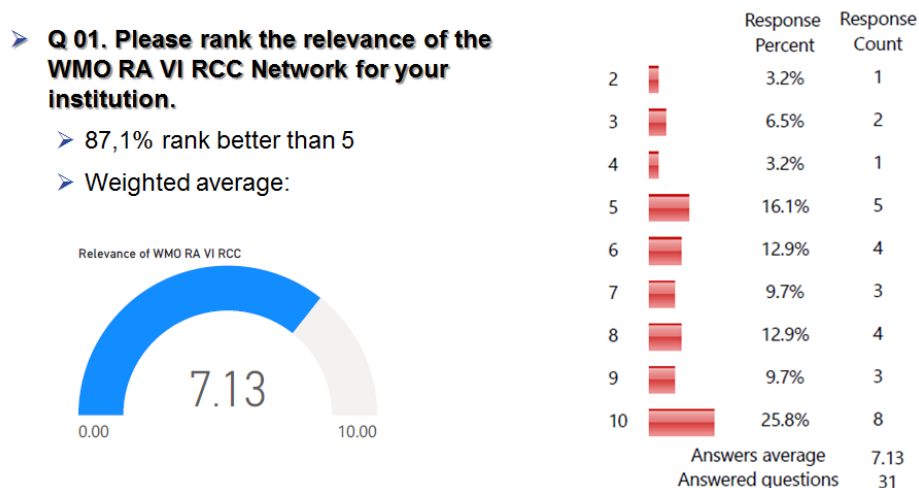


Fig. 2. Relevance of the WMO RA VI RCC Network for the institutions.

During the Users Forum 36 activities have been identified that would contribute to advance the services provided by the RCC Network.

To highlight a few of the activities:

- better communication: this is a special challenge for networks with dislocated functions compared to RCCs with all functions in one location/ institution. This would include a process to engaging members of the consortium in the definition of Climate Watch Advisories (CWAs). This would also include setting up a collaboration platform for developing joint papers;
- relationship with Copernicus: Copernicus is a service funded by the European Commission that includes provision of products relevant to, similar and in parts overlapping with those from the RCC. However, while Copernicus is aiming at serving the general public, RCCs are supporting the NMHSs in the Region to better serve their users, including the general public. Thus, there is an increasing opportunity to make services provided by Copernicus available to all NMHSs in the Region. In addition, Copernicus can contribute to a WMO State of the Climate in the Region report;
- another activity relates to improving the availability of data. Exchange of all observations taken in the Region will improve the quality of products from the RCC Network. Furthermore, the Mediterranean Climate Outlook Forum (MedCOF) is also interested to enhance data availability from Northern Africa.

### **3. Results from the RCC Network Coordination Meeting 2020**

The coordination meeting was held as a virtual meeting on 29 October, one week after the forum in order to allow participants to digest to forums' outcomes. Participants in the coordination meeting have been the node leads and representatives of the RCC Network Consortium.

The main purpose of the coordination meeting was to work through the actions identified in the forum and assign priorities, deadlines, and identify responsibilities.

In addition, issues related to training functions of the RCC Network have been addressed and participants heard a presentation by the Regional Training Centre IBE<sup>1</sup> in Italy. Participants also discussed issues related to the upcoming WMO RA VI-18 session.

Participants were also informed about the potential role of RCCs in raising the visibility of NMHSs at the political level, e.g. in the Regional UN System, the Regional UNECE Forum on Sustainable Development or via the UN Country Teams and UN Resident Coordinators by participation in the Regional UN System Coalition on Environment and Climate Change. The WMO RA VI Regional Office is participating in these activities, promoting the use of services provided by the RCC and NMHSs. .

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<sup>1</sup> Institute of Bioeconomy