



**Twelfth Session of the
SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SEECOF-12)
(19-20) November, 2014**

**SEASONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE WINTER SEASON 2014/2015 FOR THE SOUTH
EASTERN EUROPE AND CAUCASUS REGION (SEE&C)**

Climate experts from WMO RA VI RCC Network Node 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 European Virtual Climate Change Centre (SEEVCCC, Serbia), Eastern Mediterranean Climate Centre (EMCC), and National Hydrometeorological Services of the SEECOF region provided their valuable contribution to the successful implementation of SEECOF-12 by developing relevant documents and providing their scientific guidance and recommendations.

SEECOF-12 was composed of the following Steps:

- Step 1: qualitative verification of the SEECOF-11 climate outlook for 2014 summer season;
- Step 2: assessment of the current state of the climate, including large-scale climate patterns worldwide, and assessments of likely climate evolution in the course of the following months;
- Step 3: building the consensus forecast for 2014/2015 winter season.

All relevant documentation is posted and updated on the SEEVCCC web site: <http://www.seevccc.rs>

SEECOF-12 CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR 2014/15 WINTER SEASON

This prediction is based on output from dynamical models, statistical models and known teleconnections of large-scale climate features. The analysis of the current state of the driving factors prepared by MedCOF-3 also applies to the South East European region.

Throughout the summer conditions in the equatorial Pacific have been ENSO neutral; recently sea surface temperatures in the region have increased close to El Niño thresholds and the atmosphere has shown weak response reflected in the values of the Southern Oscillation Index, though not all indicators are typical of an El Niño event, especially in the western part of the Pacific basin. Forecast models suggest current conditions will either persist or strengthen over the next three months. Sea surface temperature patterns in the North Atlantic may offer some predictability for this winter, especially due to the anomalously warm water in the tropical region. The Quasi-Biennial Oscillation is currently and will remain in its negative phase during the next few months.

Since the large scale drivers are currently relatively weak, and their typical individual influences are in opposition, predictability for the whole season is low at present. Sub-seasonal variations, not predictable a long time in advance, may dominate at times, so regular updates to the forecast are strongly recommended. In addition, regional factors (for example sea surface temperatures in the smaller basins of the region) may shape local variability to a higher degree than usual.

The maps show the probabilistic consensus forecast for tercile categories of anomalies for seasonal mean temperature and precipitation, relative to the period 1981-2010. Due to the climate warming trend anomalies are affected by the selected reference period.

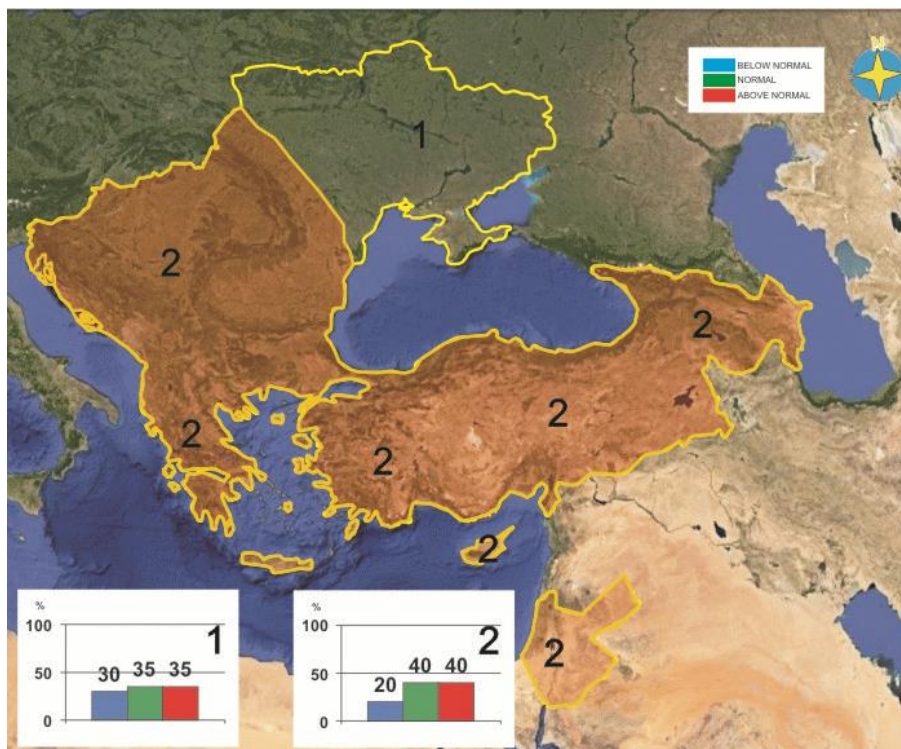


Figure 1. Graphical presentation of 2014/15 winter temperature outlook

Across the SEECOF region near or above average are seasonal temperatures are favoured, with equal probability: in region 1 on the map above the probability is 40%, in region 2 it is 35%.

For precipitation predictability is lower than for temperature. For region 1 a drier-than-average winter is favoured, with probability of 40% for the lower category. For region 2 the near- and above-average categories (35% and 40% respectively) are more likely than below-average, while for region 3 there is no signal.

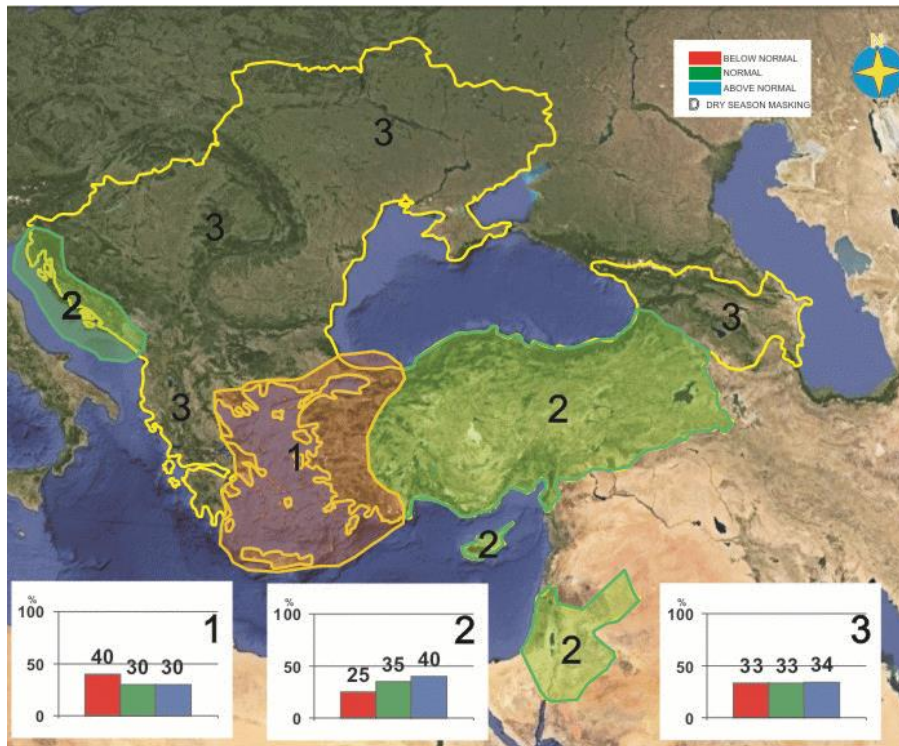


Figure 2. Graphical presentation of 2014/15 winter precipitation outlook

Seasonal averages cannot provide details about short spells of weather during the season. It is possible than even in an average season spells of severe wintry weather (for example: winter storms, very cold episodes, very wet spells) occur and lead to significant local socio-economic impacts.

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-12

- World Meteorological Organization
- Met Office, United Kingdom
- International Research Institute for Climate and Society, United States of America
- European Center for Medium Range Weather Forecasts
- Météo France, Republic of France
- Deutscher Wetterdienst, Federal Republic of Germany
- Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment, Albania
- National Center for Environmental Prediction, United States of America
- South East European Virtual Climate Change Center hosted by Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia, Republic of Serbia
- National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, Republic of Bulgaria
- Meteorological and Hydrological Service, Republic of Croatia
- Meteorological Service, Republic of Cyprus
- Hellenic National Meteorological Service, Greece
- National Environmental Agency of Georgia, Georgia
- Israel Meteorological Service, State of Israel
- Jordan Meteorological Department, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Republic Hydrometeorological Institute, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Hydrometeorological Institute of Montenegro, Montenegro
- National Meteorological Administration, Romania
- Federal Hydrometeorological Service of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Republic Hydrometeorological Service of the Republic of Srpska, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia, Republic of Serbia
- Turkish State Meteorological Service, Republic of Turkey
- Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Center, Ukraine