

Dear SEECOF participants,

As we all know, Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) are considered to be a very important process to facilitate the development of seasonal consensus-based climate prediction and information with having critical socio-economic significance. Such information has been applied in several parts of the world to reduce climate-related risks and support sustainable development.

South East European Climate Outlook Forums (SEECOFs) have been organized 25 times thus far. Due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 crisis affecting our work and daily life, the MedCOF MG has decided to change our usual schedule and to replace face-to-face winter session meeting with the on-line meetings. Consequently, the SEECOF-26 will be arranged as an online COF, focusing on the winter season (December 2021, January, February 2022).

The purpose of this message is to clarify the procedure of the online-COF and to encourage your participation. **All contributions and discussions should be posted exclusively on the SEECOF Forum on www.seevccc.rs/forum website.**

SEECOF-26 comprises 3 steps, which all require your participation.

Step 1 deals with the qualitative verification of the SEECOF-25 summer forecast (June-July-August 2021), and is facilitated by Ms. Dunja Placko-Vrsnak, Ms. Jasminka Smailagic and Mr. Branko Bijelic. You are invited to provide:

- information on high-impact events of the last summer season,
- brief assessments of the correctness of the SEECOF-25 Climate outlook, and
- comments on user perceptions of the SEECOF-25 Climate outlook

by 15th October to: <http://www.seevccc.rs/SEECOF/SEECOF-26/STEP-1/>. Based on your National climate reports for summer season 2021, monitoring results of the RA VI RCC Node on Climate Monitoring and RA VI SEEVCCC/RHMSS and their own considerations, the SEEVCCC team will provide a qualitative summary of the correctness and perception of the SEECOF-25 outlook by 22th October.

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 Mr. Christian Viel (Peter Bissolli or Ms. Valentina Khan) by 5th November on: <http://www.seevccc.rs/SEECOF/SEECOF-26/STEP-2/>. In the following 7 days, you are invited to contribute to the discussion of this draft. This discussion will be moderated by Dr. Roxana Bojariu, Ms. Zara Petrosyan, Ms. Slavica Micev and Dr. Ismail Demir. Based on your inputs the final assessment will be elaborated by Dr. Roxana Bojariu, Mr. Ismail Demir and Mr. Branko Bijelic by 12th November.

Step 3 aims at building the Consensus statement for the Climate outlook for winter 2021/2022. The first draft for discussion will be provided by Mr. Christian Viel and Mr. Goran Pejanovic by 16th November and will be available on: <http://www.seevccc.rs/SEECOF/SEECOF-26/STEP-3/>. In the following 1-week discussion period, 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 Dr. Roxana Bojariu, Dr. Vladimir Djurdjevic and Mr. Ilian Gospodinov. From 16th to 19th November the final version of the consensus statement will be elaborated by Mr. Goran Pejanovic, Dr Ithzak Carmona and Mr. Ilian Gospodinov and on 25nd November the outlook will be released (WMO and SEEVCCC Websites; press release – details to be discussed).

Also, we should point out that WMO experts (Mr. Rupa Kumar Kolli, Ms. Anahit Hovsepyan, etc.), as well as the experts from GPCs (UKMO, Meteo-France, Roshydromet and ECMWF), will provide us with background assistance in the SEECOF-26 process. This means that the participants of the SEECOF-26 Forum, and especially our colleagues previously mentioned with reference to the preparation of the Final documents for all 3 steps of the SEECOF-26 Forum, will be given assistance in any specific issue, where necessary.

All communication will be facilitated exclusively over the SEECOF Forum on www.seevccc.rs/forum website and final results of Steps 1 to 3 will be posted on WMO's and SEEVCCC's WebPages.

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