Thirty-five Session of the
SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM

SEECOF-35 ONLINE MEETING

ANALYSIS AND VERIFICATION OF THE SEECOF-34 CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR THE 2025/26 WINTER FOR SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR 2025/26 WINTER SEASON FOR THE SEE REGION

As stated in the SEECOF-34 Consensus Statement on the Seasonal Climate Outlook for the 2025/26 Winter Season over South-East Europe (SEE) document:
http://www.seevccc.rs/SEECOF/SEECOF-34/STEP-3/Consensus_Statement-SEECOF-34.pdf

Sea surface temperatures forecast through December 2025 - February 2026 indicated weak La Niña conditions and positive anomalies over the North Tropical Atlantic and Eastern Tropical Indian Ocean. In the atmosphere, models showed a cyclonic curvature over Western Europe. During the past winter, a slightly positive phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) and the East Atlantic (EA) pattern were forecast.

Analysis shows slightly negative NAO phase and positive EA, as well as neutral phase of Eastern Tropical Indian Ocean, while La Niña conditions were weak. Cyclonic curvature over Western Europe and Mediterranean Sea were anticipated.

In the entire SEECOF region, winter temperature was likely to be above-normal, with the probability increasing from the north and east (Zone 1 in Figure 1) towards south of the region (Zone 2 in Figure1).

Uncertainties in regional predictions are higher for precipitation than for temperature. Southern and southeastern parts of the Balkans and Cyprus was likely to experience above-normal conditions in terms of winter precipitation sums (Zone 2 in Figure 2). Winter precipitation was likely to be below- to normal in Israel and Jordan (Zone 3 in Figure 2). However, in the most of the SEECOF region, there was an equal probability for winter precipitation (Zone 1 in Figure 2). It was noteworthy that certain parts of the country, particularly mountainous regions, could observed near- or above-normal winter precipitation totals due to the episodes of heavy precipitation.

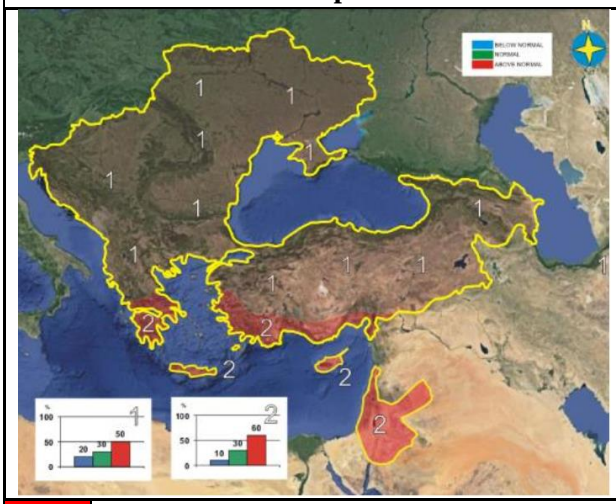
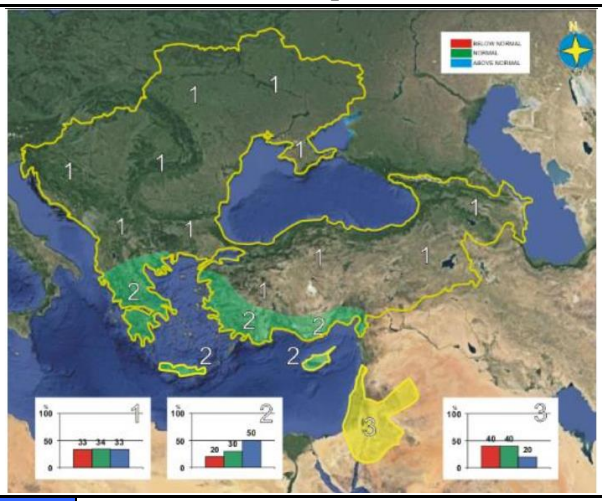
2025/26 Winter Temperature Outlook		2025/26 Winter Precipitation Outlook	
			
	Above Normal		Above Normal
	Normal		Normal
	Below Normal		Below Normal

Figure 1. Graphical presentation of the Climate Outlook for the 2025/26 Winter Season for the SEE Region

ANALYSIS OF THE WINTER 2025/26 FOR THE SEE REGION

Analyses of the winter season temperature and precipitation anomalies are based on:

- Operational products of the RCC Node-CM (Regional Climate Centre on Climate Monitoring) provides maps for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Region VI (Europe and Middle East), http://rcccm.dwd.de/DWD-RCCCM/EN/products/europe/europe_node.html
- Climate monitoring products of the South East European Virtual Climate Change Center – SEEVCCC (Member of the WMO RA VI RCC Node-CM), http://www.seevccc.rs/imgsrc/clim_mon/202602/
- National climate monitoring reports of the following SEECOF-35 participating countries: Armenia, Croatia, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Greece, Israel, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey are available on: http://www.seevccc.rs/SEECOF/SEECOF-35/STEP-1/

Winter 2025/26 seasonal mean temperature was in a range from -5 ºC in Moldova, Ukraine, northern and part of central Romania and the mountainous areas of northeastern Turkey, to around 10 ºC in Cyprus, southern part of the Aegean Sea and Middle East. In most of the low-lying regions it was between 0 ºC and 10 ºC. In the Mediterranean Sea mean air temperature was in a range from 10 ºC up to 20 ºC (Figures 2 and 3, left panel). Most of the SEECOF region observed above-normal winter temperatures (Figures 4 and 5, left panel). Temperature anomalies reached up to +3 ºC above normal, relative to the 1991-2020 base period, in most of the SEECOF region and even up to +4 ºC in part of eastern Turkey. Below normal was in most of Ukraine and part of northeastern Moldova with air temperature anomaly up to -2 ºC.

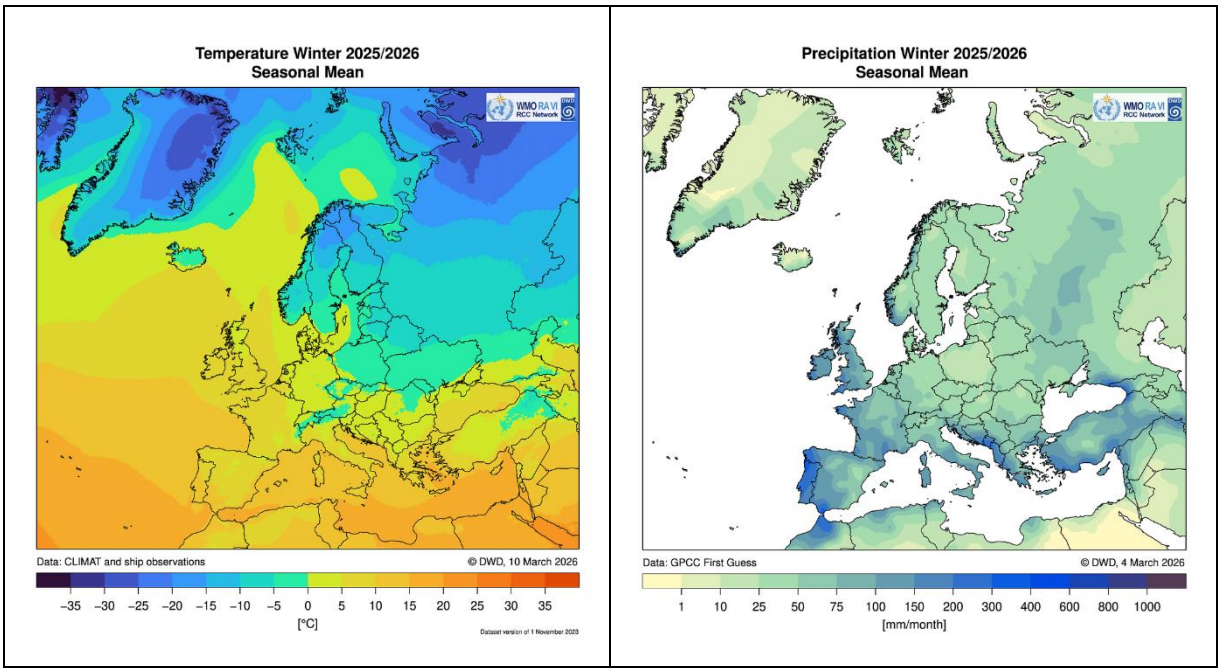


Figure 2. Winter season 2025/26, Europe – observed temperatures (left panel) and observed precipitation in mm per month (right panel). Source:
https://www.dwd.de/EN/ourservices/rcccm/int/rcccm_month_ttt.html?nn=796932 (left panel)
https://www.dwd.de/EN/ourservices/rcccm/int/rcccm_month_rrr.html?nn=796932 (right panel)

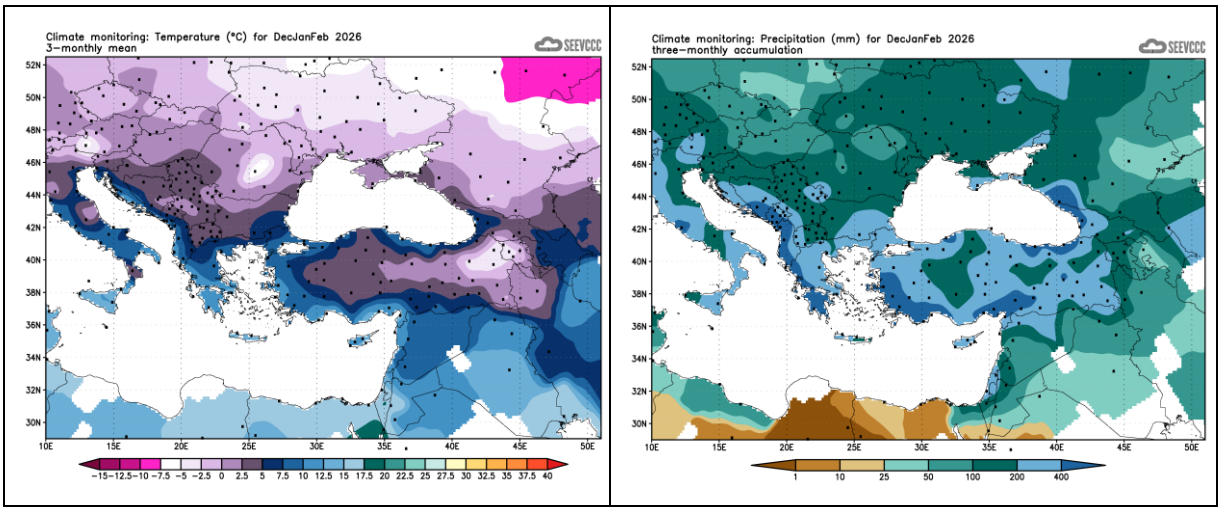


Figure 3. Winter season 2025/26, SEECOF region – observed temperature (left panel) and observed precipitation (right panel). Source:
http://www.seevccc.rs/imgsrc/clim_mon/202602/temp_av3m.gif (left panel)
http://www.seevccc.rs/imgsrc/clim_mon/202602/prec_tot3m.gif (right panel)

Seasonal precipitation totals (Figures 2 and 3, right panel) were between 200 mm and 400 mm in most of the Balkans, most of Turkey, Cyprus and western Georgia, with more than 400 mm in costal part of Ionian and southern Adriatic Sea, part of southern and northeastern Turkey, as well as westernmost part of Georgia. In rest of the SEECOF region, precipitation totals were below 200 mm. It was wetter than normal in most of Turkey, South Caucasus, most of Ukraine, Cyprus, southern and eastern Romania, the southern, eastern and southwestern Balkans, with more than 125% of the long-term average (Figures 4 and 5, right panel).

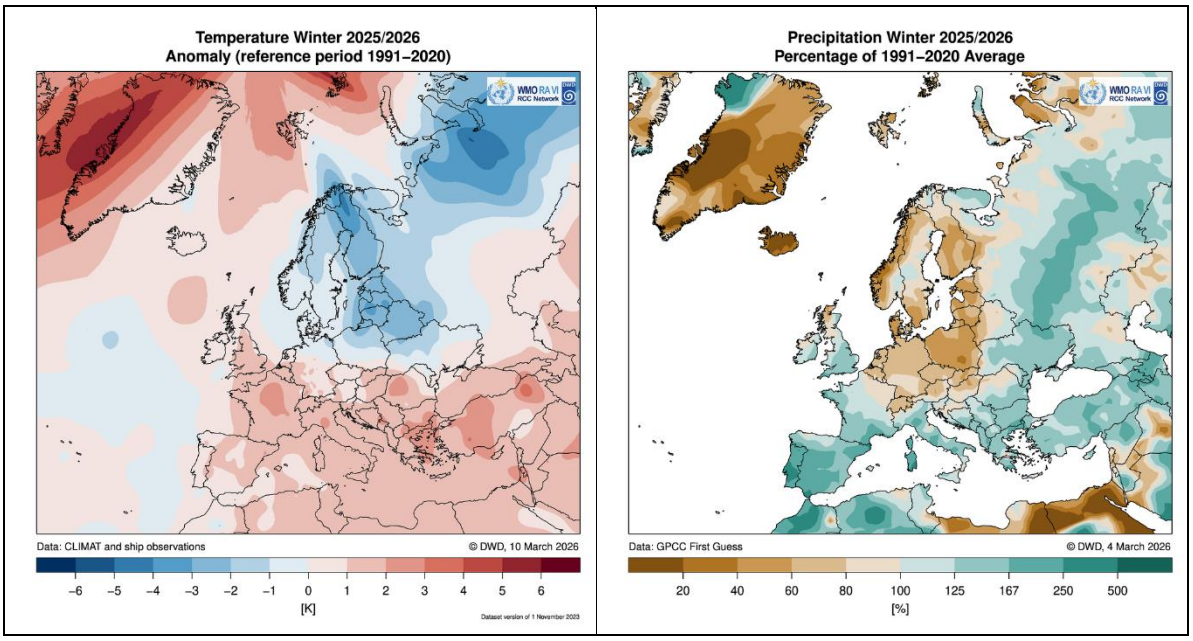


Figure 4. Winter season 2025/26, Europe – observed temperature anomalies (left panel) and observed precipitation anomalies in percent of 1991-2020 normal (right panel). Source:
https://www.dwd.de/EN/ourservices/rcccm/int/rcccm_month_ttt.html?nn=796932 (left panel)
https://www.dwd.de/EN/ourservices/rcccm/int/rcccm_month_rrr.html?nn=796932 (right panel)

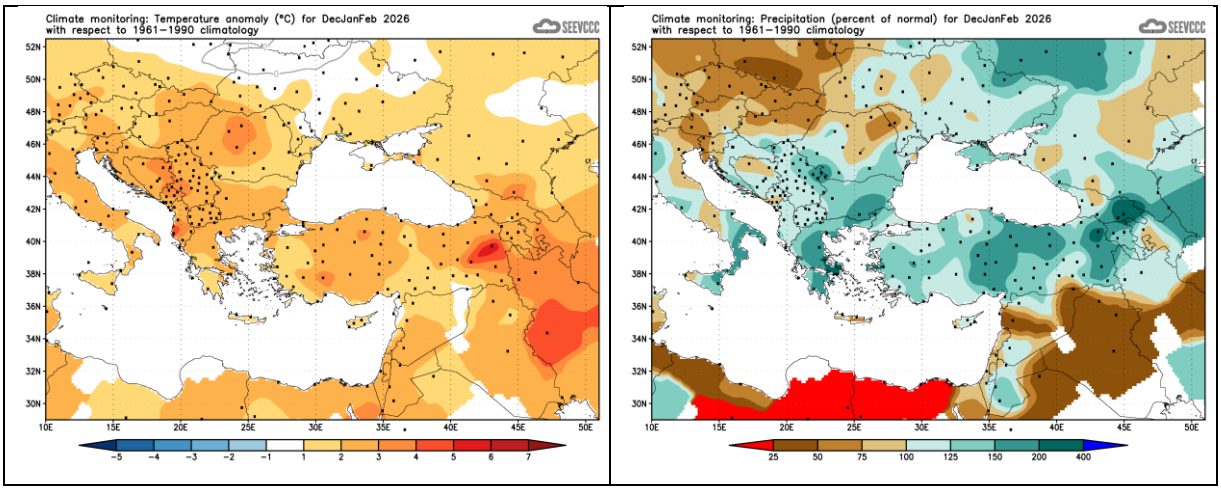


Figure 5. Winter season 2025/26, SEECOF region – observed temperature anomalies (left panel) and observed precipitation anomalies in percent of 1961-1990 normal (right panel). Source:
http://www.seevccc.rs/imgsrc/clim_mon/202602/temp_an3m.gif (left panel)
http://www.seevccc.rs/imgsrc/clim_mon/202602/prec_pn3m.gif (right panel)

VERIFICATION OF CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR THE 2025/26 WINTER

Winter 2025/26 temperature was in the above normal category in most of the SEECOF region, except in most of Ukraine and part of northeastern Moldova, where they were below normal category. Consequently, the outlook was correct for most of the SEECOF region.

SEECOF-34 Climate outlook for winter precipitation was correct for southwestern and western Turkey, Cyprus and the southern Balkans, forecasting above-normal precipitation sums. On the other hand, the outlook did not anticipate above-normal winter precipitation totals in South Caucasus, the eastern Balkans, most of Turkey and Ukraine.

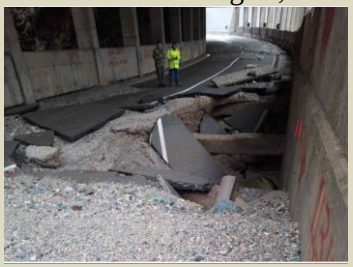
APPENDIX A: **Analysis and verification of the SEECOF-34 climate outlook for the 2025/26 winter season:**
Verification summary based on the national reports and contributions of the participants of Pre-COF of the SEECOF-35 meeting

Country	Seasonal temperature (DJF)		Seasonal precipitation (DJF)		High Impact Events
	Observed	SEECOF-34 climate outlook for temperature	Observed	SEECOF-34 climate outlook for precipitation	
Armenia ref. (1991-2020)	**Above normal**	**Above normal** (20, 30, 50)	**Above normal**	**No predictive signal** (33, 34, 33)	• The 8th warmest winter since 1935 • The 7th wettest winter since 1935 • The warmest and third wettest February during the entire period of the observations, since 1935
Croatia ref. (1991-2020)	**Above normal**	**Above normal** (20, 30, 50)	**Normal** (most of Croatia) **Above normal** (part of Dalmatia)	**No predictive signal** (33, 34, 33)	• **December 2025** – Heavy snow on Christmas caused traffic problems in the northern part of Croatia. Fallen trees made traffic difficult and even stopped it in some places. There was a strong and stormy bora (NE wind) along the coast, also causing damage and major traffic problems. • **January 2026** – From January 3rd to 9th, Croatia experienced heavy rain, flash floods, heavy snow, and freezing rain, which caused extensive material demage. On January 28th and 29th, a heavy rain and hail fell in the interior of Dalmatia. The thickness of the ice layer in some places was up to five centimeters. It is feared that the consequences will be long-lasting, especially in orchards, vineyards and olive groves. • **February 2026** - On February 4th, heavy rainfall and a hurricane-force south-east wind (jugo) caused flooding (sea levels in central Dalmatia were more than 70 centimeters above average), disruption of road and maritime transport (a number of catamaran, ferry and boat lines were interrupted).

					On February 14th, in Istria, after heavy rain, many agricultural areas, vineyards and olive groves were flooded. Heavy snowfall has fallen in northern Croatia. In the city of Varaždin, the snow cover reached 20 centimeters on February 21st. Several dozen traffic accidents were recorded, and the traffic situation was further complicated by fallen trees and branches, which led to several roads being closed. The snowfall also caused problems with the electricity supply.
Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia and Herzegovina ref. (1991-2020)	**Above normal** in almost entire Bosnia and Herzegovina	**Above normal** (20, 30, 50)	**Normal and above normal**	**No predictive signal** (33, 34, 33)	• The largest temperature deviations were recorded in February. • Higher snow cover heights were recorded in December. • One person was killed by a falling branch from a tree in early January. • In January, precipitation in southern Bosnia and Herzegovina amounted to over 300 mm.
Georgia ref. (1991-2020)	**Above and Near normal**	**Above normal** (20, 30, 50)	**Above normal** in most parts of the country	**No predictive signal** (33, 34, 33)	• **No high impact events**
Greece ref. (1991-2020)	**Above normal**	**Above normal** Zone 1 (20, 30, 50) Zone 2 (10, 30, 60)	**Above normal** in most parts of the country **Normal and below normal** in the central and southern – southestern island region	**No predictive signal** Zone 1 (33, 34, 33) **Above normal** Zone 2 (20, 30, 50)	• The weather storm “Byron” that lasted from **December 4 to 9, 2025**, brought heavy rainfall, strong winds, and caused serious flooding problems. In Greece, on December 4, 2025, authorities issued red code weather alert for many regions, including Attica, Thessaly, Peloponnese, and several Aegean islands. The main characteristics of the storm were heavy rain and thunderstorms, flash floods, winds reaching up to Beaufort scale force 9 in the Aegean Sea disruptions to ferry services and preventive school closures in high-risk areas. • From **January 6 to 8, 2026**, a severe weather system hit Greece, leading to intense rain, thunderstorms, strong winds, and floods in many parts of the country. The mainly

					impacted 9 areas were western and northeastern Greece, including the Ionian Islands, Epirus, Western Greece, Eastern Macedonia, and Thrace. The storm was accompanied by hailstorms and powerful southerly winds reaching 8–9 Beaufort in the Aegean Sea. Flooding, transport disruptions, and damage to infrastructure were reported. • A strong weather system affected Greece on **January 21, 2026**, bringing heavy rain, thunderstorms, snowfall, and gale- force winds across much of the country. Authorities issued a "Red Code" weather alert for several regions, including Attica, Thessaly, Central Greece, the Peloponnese, and Western Macedonia. The storm caused widespread flooding, especially in Athens and southern suburbs such as Glyfada, where streets turned into rivers and several homes were evacuated (1 casualty). Strong winds in the Aegean Sea reached up to 10 Beaufort, creating major transportation disruptions. • During **January 31 and February 1, 2026**, Greece experienced severe weather conditions with intense rainfall, thunderstorms, powerful winds, snowfall, and hail affecting many areas of the country. A "red alert" warning was issued. The storm grew stronger in western Greece and expanded across the nation. The most affected regions included the Peloponnese, Thessaly, Central Greece, Macedonia, Crete, the Ionian Islands, the Cyclades, and Attica.
Israel ref. (1991-2020)	**Above normal**	**Above normal** (10, 30, 60)	**Normal**	**Below normal and normal** (40, 40, 20)	• **No high impact events**
Montenegro ref. (1991-2020)	**Above normal**	**Above normal** (20, 30, 50)	**Normal and below normal**	**No predictive signal** (33, 34, 33)	• **January:** **02/01/26: Snow fall**

			in NW-NE mountainous region		Snow blizzard in capital town Podgorica. The bus got stuck on the road to Ostrog. Congestion and occasional delays were expected as it was a busy road.  Photo:Blic portal, road to Ostrog, 2nd January  Photo: Blic portal, Podgorica, 2nd January • **06/01/26: Heavy rainfall, Floods;** After snow fall, floods and river overflows were recorded in several cities and their surroundings. Zeta and Morača were the most critical points. The rise of the Zeta river was solely the result of heavy rainfall. Water level of Morača reached 11m, i.e. 1.26 less than absolute maximum.  Soruce: CDM, river Morača, 6th January

					Impacts of heavy rainfall and floods were recorded in the municipalities of Danilovgrad, Nikšić, Mojkovac, Bijelo Polje, Pljevlja, Ulcinj and Cetinje.  Source: Portal Onogost, Cetinje, 6th January  Source: Patrola CG, road Jelovice, 6th January • In Mojkovac and Kolašin; traffic was suspended on several routes due to overflowing rivers and landslides; flooded houses, endangered settlements and roads. the main road Danilovgrad - Nikšić in the town of Orja Luka was closed. • Floods slow down coal deliveries to Pljevlja TPP. • Increase in water level of Scadar Lake endangered households along the coast. Small places Vranjina and Žabljak Crnojevića were particularly affected. • **07/01/26: Snow drifts and wind gusts** The pole on the "Štuoc" power line in Žabljak was broken due to snow drifts wind gusts, causing the Broadcasting Center, the

					transmitter for the Army of Montenegro and telephone operators to be without power (source: CEDIS).
Republic of North Macedonia ref. (1991-2020)	**Above normal**	**Above normal** (20, 30, 50)	**Normal to wet in the west part**	**Above normal** (20, 30, 50)	• Exceeded Tmax for January - Skopje 19.7°C 04.01.2026
Republic of Moldova ref. (1991-2020)	**Mostly near normal**	**Above normal** (20, 30, 50)	**Mostly near normal**	**No predictive signal** (33, 34, 33)	• Difficult weather conditions were observed in the third ten-day period of January and the first ten-day period of February. During this period, ice deposits 1–10 mm in diameter were reported almost everywhere, along with severe icy conditions on the roads, which led to traffic disruption and power cuts. • On February 18, the Ceadîr-Lunga weather station recorded a severe snowfall: 21.7 mm of precipitation fell in 12 hours..
Serbia ref. (1991-2020)	**Above normal**	**Above normal** (20, 30, 50)	**Normal to above normal**	**No predictive signal** (33, 34, 33)	• Warm winter in Serbia and averagely rainy in most of the country • Among 10 warmest winter seasons at 11 meteorological stations • Record low number of ice days in Sjenica • There were 2 heat wave; the first mid-December at Crni Vrh and Kopaonik, and the second at the end of January in Kikinda and Kraljevo • The 3rd wettest winter for Crni Vrh, 4th wettest for Smederevska Palanka, 6th wettest for Negotin, and 9th wettest for Zajecar

Slovenia ref. (1991-2020)	**Above normal**	**Above normal** (20, 30, 50)	**Normal across most of Slovenia, below-normal in parts of southern and north-western Slovenia, and above-normal in the north-eastern part of the country**	**No predictive signal** (33, 34, 33)	• Winter 2025/26 has been the ninth warmest on record at the national level since 1950. • December: 15th warmest and 9th driest since 1950 • February: 6th warmest since 1950 • **24 December and 19–20 February:** In eastern and north-eastern Slovenia, heavy and wet snow fell, leading to widespread snow breakage. Large amounts of wet caused trees to fall and damaged power lines. As a result, some locations were without electricity for several days. Damage to the electricity infrastructure and forests was unusually severe.
Turkey ref. (1991-2020)	**Near normal** **Above normal at western regions**	**Above normal**	**Above normal**	**No clear signal** for most parts **Above normal** at western regions	• During the winter season, Türkiye experienced 589 meteorological disasters. The most frequent types were storms, with 179 occurrences. • The 2025-2026 winter season was the wettest winter season on record • The 2025-2026 winter season was the 5th warmest on record • February 2026 was the 3rd warmest February with an anomaly of 3.5°C