



**Eight Session of
SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SEECOF-8)
27-29 November, 2012**

**SEASONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE WINTER SEASON 2012/2013 FOR THE SOUTH
EASTERN EUROPE AND CAUCASUS REGION (SEE&C)**

Climate experts from WMO RA VI RCC Network Nodes 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 Europe Virtual Climate Change Centre (SEEVCCC, Serbia) and National Hydrometeorological Services of SEECOF region provided their valuable contribution to the successful implementation of SEECOF-8 by developing the relevant documents and providing scientific guidance and recommendations.

The SEECOF-8 comprised of the following Steps:

- Step 1: qualitative verification of the SEECOF-7 climate outlook for 2012 Summer;
- Step 2: 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;
- Step 3: building the consensus forecast for 2012/2013 winter season.

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

SEECOF- 8 CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR 2012/13 WINTER SEASON

This prediction is based on output from dynamical models, statistical models and known teleconnections of large-scale climate features. Sea surface temperatures have been near to, but slightly warmer than, normal for the autumn season in the Equatorial Pacific. These conditions are very likely to persist for the coming winter season. Warmer than normal conditions are also likely to prevail in the northern tropical Atlantic and close to Newfoundland. Over the Mediterranean Sea warmer than normal conditions are forecasted in the eastern part of the basin.

The global models suggest increased likelihood of a positive North Atlantic Oscillation index (NAO +) and of blocking regimes over the North Atlantic. However, this signal is partly counteracted by Newfoundland SST and Eurasian snow cover signals which could favour a negative North Atlantic Oscillation index (NAO -). There is large uncertainty in the atmospheric response to tropical SST, due to differences in the forcing of the global models in this area.

All this information contributes to an increase in the uncertainty in the forecast for the 2012/2013 winter season.

The maps show the probabilistic consensus forecast for tercile categories of anomalies of seasonal - mean temperature and precipitation, relative to the period 1981-2010.

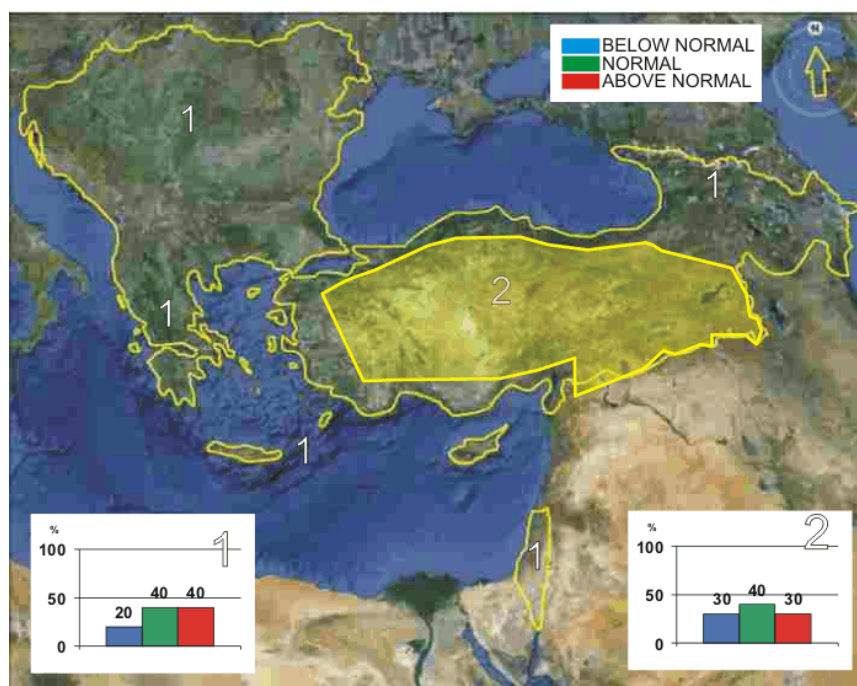


Figure 1. Graphical presentation of 2012/13 winter temperature outlook

For inland Turkey uncertainty for the temperature prediction is high; however the category with the greatest probability is the middle tercile (zone 2 Figure 1). In the rest of the SEECOF region (zone 1 in Figure 1) the winter seasonal mean temperature is likely to be near- or above-average.

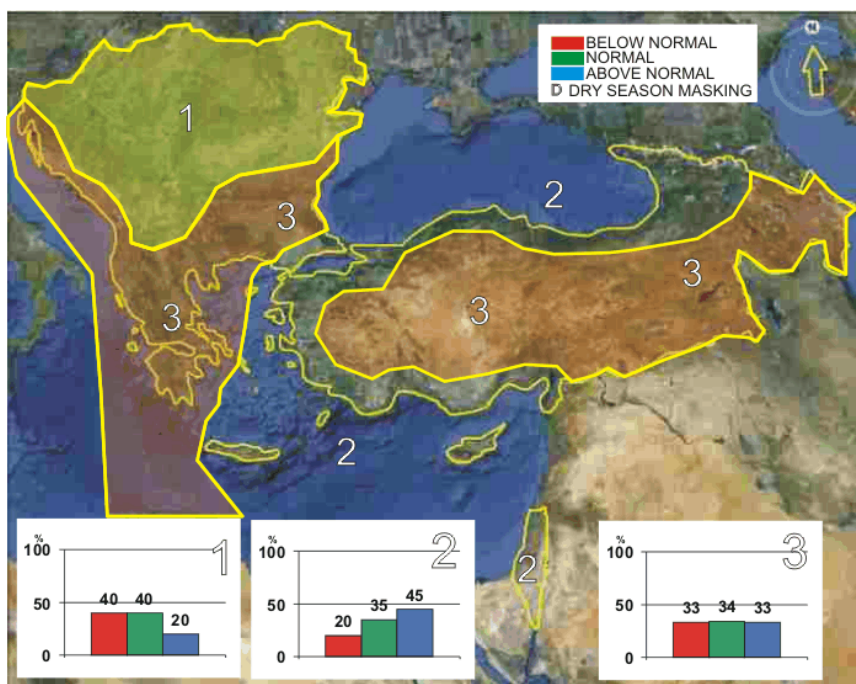


Figure 2. Graphical presentation of 2012/13 winter precipitation outlook

In the Pannonia Plain, Western and Central Balkan Peninsula and Carpathian region winter seasonal precipitation totals are likely to be near- or below-average (zone 1 in Figure 2). For the coastal areas of the Black Sea, eastern part of Aegean Sea and south-east Mediterranean Sea winter seasonal precipitation totals are likely to be near- or above-average (zone 2 in Figure 2). In the rest of the SEECOF region (zone 3 in Figure 2) the uncertainty is large: probabilities for below-, near- or above-average conditions are approximately equal.

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-8

- World Meteorological Organization
- Met Office, United Kingdom
- International Research Institute for Climate and Society, United States of America
- European Center for Medium Range Weather Forecast
- 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
- The National Environmental Agency of Georgia, Georgia
- Israel Meteorological Service, State of Israel
- 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