

Dear SEECOF participants,

As we are aware, Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) are considered to be a very important process to facilitate the development of consensus-based climate prediction and information for the season 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.

Six South East European Climate Outlook Forums (SEECOF's) have been held till now. It is now time to prepare for the next SEECOF. As we agreed, it is useful to have two SEECOF's per year, one focussing on the Summer season (June, July, August) and another one focussing on the Winter season (December, January, February). However, due to resource limitations and in the light of the significant efforts needed to prepare and conduct two face-to-face SEECOF sessions per year, it has been decided to arrange SEECOF-7, focussing at Summer 2012 as an online-COF, co-facilitated by South-east European Virtual Climate Change Centre (SEEVCCC) and to plan for a face-to-face SEECOF-8 aiming at the next Winter season.

The purpose of this message is to explain the procedure of the online-COF and to invite your participation. All contributions and discussions should be exclusively on SEECOF Forum on www.seevccc.rs/forum web site.

SEECOF-7 comprises 3 steps, which all require your participation.

Step 1 deals with the qualitative verification of the SEECOF-6 Winter forecast (December 2011 – February 2012). Facilitated by Dr. Kreso Pandzic, Ms. Ulviyye Mamedova, Ms. Mirjam Vujadinovic, Mr. Zeljko Majstorovic and Mr. Branko Bijelic, you are invited to provide:

- information on high-impact events of the last winter season,
- brief assessments of the correctness of the SEECOF-6 outlook, and
- comments on user perceptions of the SEECOF-6 outlook

by 13th April to: <http://www.seevccc.rs/SEECOF/SEECOF-7/STEP%201/> . Based on your National climate reports for Winter season 2011/2012, monitoring results of the RA VI Pilot RCC Node on Climate Monitoring and own considerations, Dr Kreso Pandzic, Mr. Branko Bijelic and Ms. Mirjam Vujadinovic will provide a qualitative summary of the correctness and perception of the SEECOF-6 outlook by 10th May.

Step 2 comprises an assessment of the current state of 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. Dmitry Kikteev (or J.P.Ceron) by 20th April on the: <http://www.seevccc.rs/SEECOF/SEECOF-7/STEP%202/> . In the following three weeks 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 and Mr. Ismail Demir by 11th May.

Step 3 aims at building the consensus statement for Climate outlook for Summer 2012. The first draft for discussion will be provided by J.P. Céron and Mr. Goran Pejanovic by 11th May and will be put on: <http://www.seevccc.rs/SEECOF/SEECOF-7/STEP%203/>. In a 2 week discussion period afterwards, 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, Mr. Yoav Levi, Dr. Vladimir Djurdjevic and Mr. Ilian Gospodinov. From 21st to 29th May the final version of the consensus statement will be elaborated by Mr. Goran Pejanovic, Mr. Yoav Levi and Mr. Ilian Gospodinov and on 31st May the outlook will be released (WMO and SEE-VCCC WebSites; press release -details to be discussed).

Also, we should outline that WMO experts (Rupa Kumar Kolli, Dimitar Ivanov etc.), as well as experts from GPC (UKMO, Meteo-France, Roshydromet and ECMWF), will provide us with background assistance in the SEECOF-7 process. This means that participants of the SEECOF-7 Forum and especially our colleagues, above mentioned for preparation of the Final documents for all 3 steps of SEECOF-7 Forum, will be helped in any upcoming specific issue, where necessary.

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

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