



Climate Services in the activities of WMO and GMES: an analytical overview

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In view of the great interest and concern worldwide regarding climate change issues, climate services are in the focus of attention of many international and European organizations. In particular, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has established and developed the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) as well as has been working to address the need for improved climate information and to provide an effective interface between scientists, service providers and decision-makers. In 2009, WMO organized the 3rd World Climate Conference during which the development of a new Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) is proposed and decided to start. On the other hand, Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) - the European Union' contribution to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), has the purpose to deliver information which corresponds to user needs. The processing and dissemination of this information is carried out within the "GMES service component" which depends on Earth observation data, collected from space, air, water or land measurements.

In the proposed paper, the understanding, experience and practice in climate services within WMO and GMES are analysed to find the cross-points which can enable the National Hydrometeorological Services (NHMs) to perform strategic planning in a way to optimize resources in the time of economic difficulties. The present situation in the above aspects is examined on the example of National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (NIMH-BAS) as national HMS of Bulgaria. Operational and research activities carried out at NIMH-BAS are discussed from point of view to suggest future initiatives that will contribute to the respective development of climate services within both WMO-GFCS and GMES activities. Practical steps towards implementation of improved climate services nationally and internationally are defined to serve as basis for development of respective proposals further.