



## **RCOF in European region: current status and future perspective**

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Regional Climate Outlook Forums are a key component of WMO WCASP/CLIPS activities. The RCOF process pioneered in Africa in late 1990s, since then it spread worldwide, and at present climate outlook forums are being conducted nearly in all regions all over the world.

The RCOF brings together experts from a climatologically homogeneous region and provides consensus based climate prediction and information, which has critical socio-economic significance. This information has been applied to reducing climate-related risks and supporting sustainable development.

The RCOF process has facilitated a better understanding of the links between the past, current and future evolution of the climate system and its consequences for Members' socio-economic activities. RCOFs have greatly enhanced interactions and exchange of information between providers and users of climate information. In addition, RCOFs contribute substantially to training and capacity building in the regions targeted at.

In RA VI the RCOF process was launched in 2008. The South-East European Climate Outlook Forum (SEECOF) mechanism covers mainly countries of South East Europe and Caucasus. Two SEECOFs have been successfully conducted in 2008 and 2009: SEECOF-I took place in Zagreb/Croatia in June 2008 and SEECOF-II was hosted by Hungary, Budapest, in November 2009. SEECOF-III was held as an online COF.

Nevertheless, the RCOF mechanism in RA VI still needs substantial support in order to strengthen the process, to better involve the participating countries and users, to sharpen the communication of the consensus forecasts to build trust amongst the user communities, and most importantly to achieve sustainability, which is one of the priority tasks of the RAVI Working Group on Climate and Hydrology (WG CH). Through the Task Team on Regional Climate Outlook Forums (TT RCOF) the WG CH has taken responsibility for the co-ordination of the RCOF process in RA VI, in order to extend it to other parts of RA VI region, strengthen climate change section in the SEECOF, to better involve the participating countries and users, to sharpen the communication of the consensus forecasts in order to build trust amongst the user communities, and most importantly to achieve sustainability of RCOF in Europe.