



20 years of ensemble prediction at ECMWF

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The first operational run of the ECMWF Ensemble Prediction System (EPS) was completed twenty years ago, on the 24th of November 1992. It started with only a crude representation of initial uncertainties, included 33 members and was run three-times a week at approximately a 200 km resolution with 19 vertical levels, for up to 10 forecast days.

Today, the system includes sophisticated simulations of initial and model uncertainties, uses a coupled ocean-atmosphere model and is based on 51 members. It is run twice a day for up to 15 days, with a resolution of approximately 30 km up to forecast day 10 and 60 km afterwards. Twice a week the system is extended to 32 days. It includes a re-forecast suite used to compute the model climate and to generate calibrated forecast products such as the extreme forecast index.

EPS developments, recent changes and plans for future upgrades will be discussed in this talk.