



Preliminary exploration of relevant predictors usable by an empirical seasonal forecasting system for the Mediterranean region

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The skill of seasonal forecasts provided by any system based on statistical algorithms heavily relies on an adequate selection of the relevant predictors for the target region and season. As a previous step in the search and investigation of the best predictors leading to more accurate forecasts, a preliminary exploration has been carried out among the usual global and regional teleconnection indices. The exploration has been conducted over different domains within the Mediterranean area and covers up to four previous seasons to the forecasted one. The list of considered predictors here discussed is not exhaustive and should be considered as a first approximation to be complemented with other physically motivated sources of regional predictability arising from tropical and mid-latitudes oceans, extent of sea-ice and snow-covered land, soil moisture, etc. Moreover, a clear identification of regionally relevant predictors, reflecting well understood physical mechanisms, is a valuable tool for the evaluation of seasonal forecasting models performance.