



European Cooperation on Storm Naming

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EUMETNET and the Working Group for the Cooperation between European Forecasters (WGCEF) are working together to develop a common approach for European storm naming in order to help assert the authority of NMHSs. This will need to address a number of scientific, technical and practical issues in order to implement an operational system that works in a way comparable with the one that is in place at WMO for naming tropical cyclones. A regional approach is already developing organically (with the UK/Ireland, Denmark/Sweden, France/Spain/Portugal and Germany/central Europe), and preparatory work is needed to agree how they may work together, to share best practice and to define an operational solution.

This presentation will also describe one example of these - a 2 year regional pilot project between the Met Office and Met Éireann, that has been running since September 2015. The aims of this pilot are to provide a single authoritative naming system for the storms that affect the UK and Ireland and to raise awareness of severe weather before it hits. The naming scheme is linked to severe weather warnings, primarily for wind events that are expected to cause substantial impacts. Overall the pilot so far has been deemed a success, in that it is achieving both of its aims and has received great media and public engagement. Year on year improvements continue to be made, though the scheme is not without its challenges. We expect the scheme to continue for the 2017-2018 season in either an extended pilot or operational manner.