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THE COPERNICUS CLIMATE CHANGE SERVICE (C3S): From a Proof-of-Concept to a Fully Operational Service

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The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), one of the six core Services of the Copernicus programme, enters its fourth year of development. 2018 is a critical year for C3S as it corresponds to a transition between a prototyping phase into a full operational Service. Although C3S is still not fully operational at the time of writing, a wide variety of products is routinely made available and accessed by a number of users. A unique and strong point of C3S is to focus on delivering operationally "authoritative" data, via its climate data store. A prime user of the Service is the European Commission itself, and C3S strives to support the policy makers and public authorities at European level and beyond, by providing the environmental information they need to inform their policies and legislation, etc. which becomes critically important in view of following up the Paris Agreement, and supporting the UNFCCC Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, etc. In addition, by providing access not only to high quality data but also tools, guidance and compute facilities to handle and transform these data, C3S ambitions to be an enabler for downstream climate service applications tailored to various local and sectoral needs.

This presentation will provide an overview of the State-of-Play of C3S and its main components. It will emphasise the elements of the Service which are already operational, from ECV (Essential Climate Variable) products, global reanalyses, seasonal forecasts, climate scenarios to sectoral climate impact indicators, as well as the processes put in place for the quality assurance of these elements. Last but not least, the presentation will cover the foreseen evolution of the Service until and beyond 2020.