



MET Norway's new User Interface for observational data

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The Norwegian Meteorological institute (MET Norway) is creating a new user interface (UI) to access weather and climate data distributed by the institute. The interface allows the user to browse data from all present and past weather stations that MET Norway handles. The goal is to give all users easy access to the data itself as well as visualizations of the data.

MET Norway has distributed data through the service eklima.met.no since 2004 (open data policy since 2006), a portal that is now overdue for modernization. The new UI will be more user-friendly than [eklima](http://eklima.met.no), and erase the current distinction between solutions for internal users at MET Norway and external users. The UI will be part of the web portal for the Norwegian Centre for Climate Services (klimaservicesenter.no).

The main users of this portal are intended to be planners, engineers, consulting companies and others who work with dimensioning, securing and operating infrastructure. Other user groups include road administration, police, insurance companies, appraisers and similar. The media is another important user group who we are in frequent contact with, and we hope this UI can help them fetch climate data easier by themselves. Scientists, both geoscientists and social scientists, are another user group we bear in mind designing the new UI. The general public can also be a user, but is not a prioritized user group for this portal. In Norway, yr.no covers most of the needs of the general public.

An important principle in the design of the interface is lowering the threshold for new users to get started accessing our data. The UI should be effective and user-friendly for the majority of users, but also relevant to experts or users with special requirements. Intuitive and understandable navigation for users without geoscientific expertise is important. The system is planned to be in full operation next year, and a beta version is planned available before summer 2019.