



How can experience with users from various C3S contracts contribute to an all-embracing Climate Data Store

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One of the main objectives of the The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), implemented by ECMWF on behalf of the European Union is to provide added value to European climate data, by making it more usable and useful for various stakeholders, i.e. users of the data and derived products. With this aim, C3S would like to transform climate data into climate services. According to the Cambridge Dictionary's definition of added value*, many features available in the C3S Climate Data Store (CDS) are already providing it; the availability of different climate data sets (climate projections, reanalysis, satellite observations and seasonal forecasts) in a single site, or the Toolbox API enabling cloud processing of the data are good examples. Regardless of which data set or functionality we consider, the evaluation of the added value should come from external users of this service.

The C3S service development originates from smaller contracts that provided the elementary expert information with respect to a specific data or part of the service. Many of these contracts took into consideration user requirements for climate data. These user oriented tasks applied different participatory methods, such as surveys, demonstration sessions or workshops, to investigate how the users perceive the current service and how should it look and work once fully operational. These participatory approaches shifted from ex ante information collection to understand which user requirements the future service should address, over obtaining feedback from users to improve the service under development, to ex post evaluation of developed services (e.g. climate data platforms). While the previous contracts often applied to various degree some of these three aspects, the development of the CDS is trying to integrate all three aspects of understanding and integrating user requirements.

In this presentation, we describe how some C3S contracts have approached users and dealt with their requirements, how different users perceive the added value of C3S, and what common requirements (if any) one can deduce from the available information. Finally, we show what the latest developments of the CDS can learn from the previous initiatives and how this knowledge is integrated to support development of an all-embracing climate data store.

[* An increase in the value of a resource, product or service as the result of a particular process]