The Sandbox: How can we help forecasters to deal with uncertainties?

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Who are we?



A small interdisciplinary and cross-departmental team, established in 2016.

Working with topics related to communication between forecasters and end-users: podcast, use of social media, forecasters role / change to automation, etc.

Suggestions are delivered directly to the leadership who then decide what to follow up or not.

What have we done in the past?

Started as a team of 4. Team members have changed over the years.

Sometimes we work with a topic for only one meeting, other times for months.

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Værpodden: A podcast from MET Norway focusing on weather and outdoor life

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The Editorial Team: improving communication between meteorologists and the public

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This years project

A one-year project to help the forecasters use EPS-data, and communicate uncertainties.

This year we (as everyone else) work together online:

- Mainly using Google: documents, sheets, presentations, forms, and jamboards
- A mix of two-day meetings and monthly short follow-up meetings in between.
- Inspired by Google Design Sprint (idea, build, launch, learn)



How can we help the forecasters?

To narrow down, we selected one case:

Where and when will the rain fall?

A document with information, relevant when on duty, or for self-study.

- Help in difficult questions
- Avoid unnecessary uncertainty
- Easier to use EPS-data on duty

Case: Hvor og når treffer regnbygene?

Formål

- Gi hjelp/tips til meteorolog i vanskelige spørsmål og dialog med media
- Unngå unødvendig usikkerhet og forbehold i språket
- · Gjøre det lettere å ta i bruk eps-data på vakt

Innhold

Kommunikasjon: Tips og eksempler

Eksempelet vi tar utgangspunkt i: Du skal snakke om helgeværet. Det er fredag, regnbyger i din landsdel og oppholdsvær og sol ellers i landet. Lørdag er usikkel vet at bygene kan fortsette. Søndag er du ganske sikker på, med lettskyet og sol.

- Oppsummert: Ha en folkelig og personlig inngang, med god bruk av språklige b
 og et tydelig fokus på hva du vil si lytteren/leseren. Ta med detaljer og nyanser
 hvert, og vær da bevisst på hvorfor du tar de forbeholdene og ordvalgene du gjør
- Språkbruk tips til meteorologen/på vakt
- Konsentrer deg om ett tips om gangen (på en vakt, eller gjennom en uke)
 - Vær bevisst hvilke forbehold du tar
 - Det er ok å ta forbehold, si noe om usikkerhet, og nyansere vars Men tenk over hvorfor du tar forbehold i intervjuet du skal ha - er for å informere leser/lytter om været? Lære de opp? Advare om no -> Det er forskjell på om det er usikkerhet i prognosene hvor og

Five two-day meetings

Most of the work is done in the two-day meeting.

We work with a specific topic, decided in advance:

- January brainstorming session to agree about aim and plan of work for the year

 Between meetings survey to the forecasters, questions related to EPS and uncertainty
- March making an internal overview of EPS-data/products and educational material
 Between meetings questions to forecasters related to uncertainty and language
- May focusing on language issues (how to speak/write about uncertainties)

 Between meetings asking the forecasters to look at and give feedback on the document we work on (advices etc.)
- September focusing on graphics (how to make illustrations of uncertainties)
 Between meetings to be decided
- November to be decided

Focusing on language issues

For example, one two-day meeting focused on language issues:

- External guest speakers
 - Two journalists from relevant media (NTB, NRK)
 - One linguist from the University of Bergen
- Provided varied perspectives on the language used by forecasters today
- Basis for discussion in the group, and for developing ideas
- Worked online as a group as well as individual exercises
- Ended up with specific advises at the second day

Language advices

- -> advices for language for the document:
 - Deliberate use of words and expressions related to the uncertainty
 - Focus guide media to find the important message
 - Remember to tell what you are most certain about
 - You are allowed to be personal
 - Explain using figurative expressions (metaphors)

Det er håp om sol, men <u>ikke</u> legg vekk regnjakken helt ennå







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The case, the document

The document will contain various information:

- Language advices
- Advices how to make graphics
- Information related to internal tools
- Links to articles etc with good explanations
- Links to observations/record lists
- Self-study material

Collaboration and follow-up

During the year, the work has been shared with another group:

- Try to keep an overview of the current projects at MET related to EPS/uncertainty
- The EPS-group at MET focus on the data, education, verification
- The Sandbox focus on communication (language, graphics)

- Plan how the document can be maintained and developed after the project.
 - A repository of knowledge (a shared google disk)
 - Link to the document from various internal sources
 - Agreement who will own the document and disk after the project is over

Thank you for your attention!

Questions? Ideas?

Please contact us!

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