

Draft minutes of the 4th plenary E-GVAP meeting, held June 20 2007 at INM in Barcelona.

These minutes are to be seen as a supplement to the presentations. The presentations from the meeting are available at the egvap homepage. (uid is egvap and pw gps2user).

Agenda:

- Welcome, practicalities
- Information about E-GVAP work and programme from the E-GVAP team.
- Information about the GPS meteorological status in each member country (by each member representative).
- Discussion of status and plans for next period
 - Setup of data transfer facility to serve EUREF
 - Arrangements with data providers for transfer facility (MoU annex 2)
 - User requirements, data formats, data exchange (ftp/BUFR/?)
 - Workshop.
 - EUCOS
 - Automated quality checking
- Next meeting(s)
- Other matters

Present: Siebren de Haan, Pierre Jeannet, Jonathan Jones, Michel Mauprivez, Enric Terradellas, Martin Ridal , Henrik Vedel.

First of all, many thanks to Enric for organising all practical matters associated with the meeting. INM in Barcelona benefits from at fantastic location right out to a popular beach, surely everybody now envies Enric his working place.

Secondly. Apparently there has been a problem with the email system for the distribution of the call of the meeting. The calling mail was sent to everybody, but seemingly not everybody got it. In the future a reply to the invitation mail will be mandatory to avoid such problems.

Spain: INM has decided to set up processing of ground based GNSS data at INM. We decided that Jonathan or Siebren could provide expert information and training to that person, depending on the type of processing chosen by INM. However, the person to do the processing has yet to be selected at INM. The offer of to process in the meantime Spanish data at the UK MetOffice remains.

NGAA processing: Martin reported that Norwegian and Finnish data are still missing. And that delay of the NGAA data to appear at E-GVAP was due to a late arrival of some of the Danish data. We agreed that the Nordic processing centre should not await arrival of the Danish data, but rather turn to a “normal” processing mode. Martin is to request that. Henrik is to contact the Danish data suppliers to make available in proper time the GPS data. Henrik reported that Finnish data are likely to become available soon (based on information from the PB-OBS meeting the previous week) Norwegian data access is unclear, requires response from Sofus.

Michel reported on the expansion of the French network and the closer collaboration with IGN: It was decided that an IGN representative should be invited to join the E-GVAP working group on data processing. An invitation to join the WG has been sent to Thierry Duquesnoy.

The MoU between EUREF and E-GVAP/EUMETNET has been approved and signed by both sides. Henrik informed that mails will be sent, asking every EUMETNET member (and guest member) to sign Annex 2 of the MoU. Annex 2 allows E-GVAP to exchange "additional" SYNOP data with EUREF. All E-GVAP members are requested to guide their superiors on this issue (except Sofus, as all SYNOP data from met.no are declared as "essential"). An IMPORTANT MESSAGE here is that we DO NOT want access to "additional data" that we do not get today. The problem is that we cannot at present discriminate between "additional" and "essential" data in our databases (the essential/additional flag is lost when encoding into the observational databases. Simple and idiotic, but true. To find out which data are "additional" will require a very substantial amount of work. We much prefer that members sign or declare via email acceptance of Annex 2. NOTICE: We will not ask for additional data from any EUMETNET partner due to this, we are just trying to make become formally allowed to include "additional" that we get today in the data exchange to simplify the exchange procedure.

We decided to go ahead with the idea of enabling EUREF access to met data by means of an ftp-server with institute specific password restricted access, as it is currently for the E-GVAP ftp-server for both upload and download. Henrik, Jonathan and Siebren are to investigate the possibility of running such a facility at their respective institutes. Main issues are to find out whether there is sufficient disk space and how cumbersome it is to add/remove users. Further Henrik is to contact EUCOS on the possibility of using a EUCOS facility. (It was recommended at the recent PB-OBS meeting to centralise such things, to save costs. E-GVAP is not under EUCOS yet, but as the plan is to implement the gb GPS observing system into EUCOS when E-GVAP expires, this could be a starting point of such an implementation.)

It was found that theoretically automatic quality checking was not complicated. The newly introduced super-sites will be central in this work. Finding out how to set it up we decided to leave to the E-GVAP team.

We discussed the problem that in non E-GVAP countries we can neither indirectly (through the local met institute) or directly aid economically processing centres. This was brought up because GOPE data was missing for a period, due to a broken pc. The downtime could have been much lower with a small amount of aid, in fact one should realise that only due to our long term very close collaboration with Jan Dousa did the GOPE data appear again. No decisions were made.

It was noted that there is a current build up of a GPS network in Eastern Europe suitable for use in GPS meteorology, the so-called EUPOS reference stations. As it progresses in countries important to EUMETNET members our ability to include such sites in the processing becomes important.

Next plenary meeting to be held January 17 2008. If possible at Météo-France in Toulouse, if not at DMI on the same date. Everybody mark your calendar and watch the location!

Compiled by Henrik Vedel.