



MoU with C3S

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V0.2	23/06/2022	Claire Gourcuff	Updated version of the letter integrating Euro-Argo suggestions
V1.0	06/07/2022	Carlo Buontempo and Claire Gourcuff	Final version of the letter



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This deliverable presents a letter of support from C3S to Euro-Argo, prepared within the Euro-Argo RISE project by C3S/ECMWF and the Euro-Argo ERIC. The aim of this letter of support is to formalize the ongoing collaboration between the two entities on key activities of benefits for both parties.

The context is presented in section 1, the letter of support is reproduced in section 2, and next steps are indicated in section 3.



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1 Context

Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) is one of the six thematic services of the Copernicus programme. Its main mission is to support adaptation and mitigation policies of the European Union by operationally providing consistent and authoritative information about past, present and future climate. C3S offers free and open access to climate data and tools based on the best available science. In terms of observations, the programme adopted the concept of essential climate variables developed by GCOS. The management of C3S has been entrusted by the European Commission to the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF).

C3S and ECMWF are fully supportive of the Euro-Argo initiative to clarify and improve their relation as these entities look very much forward to maintaining a solid collaboration in the future.

A MoU requires the involvement of legal office and needs to be escalated to the director general level. An alternative was proposed as a letter of support, containing information on how the entities are planning to work together in the future. This letter of support offers a more rapid way forward to kick-start C3S and Euro-Argo collaboration and can be signed directly by C3S Director Carlo Buontempo.

The letter of support signed is enclosed in the second section of this report.

2 Letter of support

ECMWF
Robert-Schuman-Platz 3,
53175, Bonn,
Germany

To whom it may concern,

Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) is one of the six thematic services of the Copernicus programme. Its main mission is to support adaptation and mitigation policies of the European Union by operationally providing consistent and authoritative information about past, present and future climate. C3S offers free and open access to climate data and tools based on the best available science. In terms of observations, the programme adopted the concept of essential climate variables developed by GCOS. The management of C3S has been entrusted by the European Commission to the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF).

Despite its importance in controlling climate variability and change, the ocean continues to be relatively under sampled. In that sense, improving our understanding of the climate and, consequently, our ability to model its changes, requires an improvement of our ocean-observing capabilities. Having an accurate description of the state of the global ocean at any given time plays a pivotal role in initialising seasonal and decadal predictions as well as short term weather forecasts. Hence, accurate ocean observations are crucial not only for climate forecasts and reanalysis, but also for shorter timescales.

Few initiatives have been as successful as the Argo programme at improving our understanding of the ocean. In order to strengthen the European climate services, the European contribution to the Argo programme, Euro-Argo, needs to be adequately funded. We at ECMWF are fully supportive of the European contribution to the Argo Programme and look forward to maintaining and expanding the close collaboration we already have with Euro-Argo ERIC, the infrastructure coordinating this contribution.

In particular, ECMWF plans to regularly exchange with Euro-Argo ERIC in order to:

- Provide recommendations on the quality and availability of Euro-Argo products and on future needs in terms of observations (spatial and temporal coverage) in order to enhance the range and quality of operational products and services offered by ECMWF for all timescales.
- Develop joint advocacy activities in order to secure sustainable and consolidated funding for the European contribution to the Argo programme.



In the long term, regular exchanges between key representatives of Euro-Argo ERIC and ECMWF will contribute to optimizing the value chain from in situ observations to end users' services, through improved ECMWF and C3S products.

With my kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carlo Buontempo'.

Carlo Buontempo,
Director, Copernicus Climate Change Service





3 Conclusion

This letter of support is a first step before a more formal MoU between C3S/ECMWF and Euro-Argo ERIC. Future meetings will be planned to continue the engagement of the entities to develop a stronger relationship.