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PRESS RELEASE

3-DAY INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN BUDAPEST

The Hungarian Meteorological Service (OMSZ) organized an international workshop on climate change between 6 and 8 June 2016. The event revealed the co-operation possibilities on this field in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Norway in order to prepare for future calls of the European Commission. Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) was also represented on the workshop. Topics of the conference covered the monitoring and estimation of climate change, the adaptation to the climate change impacts, the education and trainings for the users and decision makers.

The scientific programme has been preceded by a briefing event for the media and the stakeholders on 6 June. The event supported by the European Economic Area (EEA) was motivated by multiplied objectives, which were shortly introduced by the head of the local organizing committee, *Gabriella Szépszó*. In the last few years, plenty of international projects had been realized in the framework of the EEA-funded Programme entitled *Adaptation to Climate Change in Hungary*. Their outcomes were presented in the following 3 days with the aim to promote their extension and further development possibilities. Experts of the Copernicus C3S gave an overview of the European tender calls focussing on climate change and adaptation. First step of preparing a successful project proposal is always to establish a strong consortium and raise awareness about partner motivations. Norway is the primary donor country of the EEA Grants, and an essential objective of the European Economic Area is to strengthen the bilateral co-operations. At the same time, the workshop left room to build not only bi-, but also multi-lateral partnerships on climate change, considering the number of attendants from Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

In his opening speech, *Arild Moberg Sande*, representative of Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Hungary, emphasised that even though Norway is not member of the European Union, through the EEA and Norway Grants his country has considerable contribution to the climate change and climate adaptation initiatives of the European Commission. *Zsuzsanna Iványi,* representative of Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) concisely introduced the main pillars of the Adaptation to Climate Change Programme: the National Adaptation Geo-information System providing solid basis for the climate impact assessments in Hungary, and the local capacity building and trainings of the programme. REC has offices in 16 countries from Central and Eastern Europe, therefore, they strongly encourage co-operations in the region. The president of the Hungarian Meteorological Service, *Kornélia Radics*, stressed the active contribution of OMSZ to the Programme: two large projects (RCMGiS dealing with the development of new climate scenarios and CRIGiS focussing on the impact assessments on critical infrastructure and tourism) were accomplished under the leadership of OMSZ, moreover, they provided meteorological expertise in several further research studies within the programme.

The opening talks were followed by the presentation of *Jean-Noël Thépaut,* head of the Copernicus Climate Change Service. Main objective of the Copernicus programme financed by the European Commission is monitoring the Earth system with collecting in-situ and satellite observational data, and development of related data services. One segment of this enormous system is dedicated to climate change services coordinated by the European Centre for Medium-Range Forecasts (ECMWF). The past climate conditions are assessed by atmospheric, surface and ocean measurements and re-analyses; monitoring the atmospheric composition is an

essential part of the current Earth observation system; for the near- and far-future a probabilistic forecasting system is under development based on seasonal predictions and decadal-centennial climate projections. This publicly accessible meteorological information system is going to support the European climate change adaptation in different sectors (e.g., energy sector, agriculture, water management, urban planning), however, it can be applied in local scale decision making only with limitations. ECMWF is continuously publishing tenders for the member states to achieve the necessary developments. Jean-Noël Thépaut drew the attention to the fact that recent consortia are mainly formed by institutes from Western and Northern Europe. Therefore, he attributed high relevance to present the goals and tasks of the Copernicus programme in the workshop, which could help to increase the tendering activity in Central and Eastern Europe.

More information about the workshop is available on the webpage of ccworkshop.met.hu.