

Rationale:

Long-term, high-quality and reliable instrumental time series are vital for the undertaking of robust and consistent climate assessments which will aid our ability to understand, detect, predict and respond to global climatic variability and change.

The Mediterranean region has a very long and rich history in monitoring the atmosphere, going back in time to the 19th century.

However, despite the efforts undertaken by some National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), scientists and specialists in Data Rescue (DARE) activities aimed at transferring historical long-term climate records from fragile media (paper forms) to new electronic media, accessible digital climate data is still mostly restricted to the second half of the 20th century. Thus, most of the results from existing DARE efforts are very limited, and are not able to be used for more accurate long-term assessments of climate variability and change and its adverse impacts on the socio-ecosystem of the Mediterranean Basin.

To address these issues and promote climate data, rescue, discovery and exchange, the Mediterranean Data Rescue (MEDARE) initiative was launched under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) during the International Workshop on Rescue and Digitization of Climate Records in the Mediterranean Basin, Tarragona, Spain, 28-30 November 2007 (<http://www.omm.urv.cat/medare-tarragona/>). Several institutions in the Greater Mediterranean Region (GMR) and elsewhere including NMHSs, universities, international centers and institutions are collaborating in the implementation of MEDARE.

Long-term Goal:

To develop a high quality instrumental climate dataset for the Greater Mediterranean Region (GMR).

MEDARE community & Working groups:

The MEDARE Community is initially composed of scientists coming from most of the GMR NMHSs, universities and other scientific institutions.

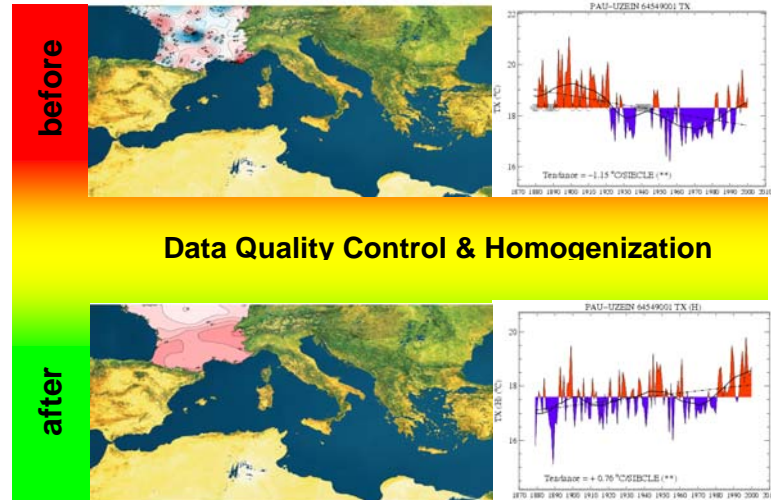


Working Groups on:

- WG1: Inventorying/assessing/approaching old material sources and holders
- WG2: DARE techniques and procedures (including digitization)
- WG3: Approaches on best practices for quality controlling and homogenizing specific climate variables
- WG4: Promotional activities, bringing MEDARE to the wider scientific and other communities

Target:

Locate, recover, digitize, quality control and homogenize the longest GMR instrumental climate series for the most important Global Climate Observing System Essential Climate Variables (GCOS/ECVs).



Ongoing and planned activities:

- Development of the MEDARE Initiative Web Portal (<http://www.omm.urv.cat/MEDARE/index-medare-initiative.html#atitol>)
- Development of a Data Inventory for the longest GMR records
- Publication of a proceedings book dealing with the current state-of-art on DARE needs, techniques and procedures, and a comprehensive overview on current climate data availability and potential over each GMR country is being produced
- Undertaking DARE activities at the national, regional and international scale
- Research and training activities (i.e. workshops on DARE techniques and procedures, homogeneity and quality control, data accessibility...)
- Raising awareness on the key role of developing high-quality climate data
- Capacity building on DARE procedures through demonstration and training
- Establishing durable links and synergies with other related projects and initiatives

The MEDARE initiative is an open enterprise to all interested individuals, groups and organizations
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