

rossby centre news

SMHI

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE ROSSBY CENTRE

Welcome to our October 2012 Newsletter

In this newsletter you will find details of new projects, recent activities, and new staff at the Rossby Centre.

In addition to a number of ongoing European Union Framework Programme 7 projects we are also part of three successful proposals for new FP7 projects. The three upcoming projects, involving Rossby Centre scientists, are:

- SPECS (Seasonal-to-decadal climate Prediction for the improvement of European Climate Services);
- EUPORIAS (EUropean Provision Of Region Impact Assessment on a Seasonal-to-decadal Timescale); and
- IS-ENES2 (InfraStructure for the European Network for Earth System modelling –Phase 2)

SPECS and EUPORIAS are closely aligned and there will be a joint kick off meeting for the two projects 6th-9th November 2012 in Barcelona. IS-ENES2 is expected to start in early 2013.

If you would like to learn more about these, and other Rossby Centre activities, we look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Colin Jones
Head of Rossby Centre

[Click here to read more about the new FP7 projects](#)



Record sea ice minimum in reality and climate models

A new record minimum of Arctic sea ice cover was observed in late August 2012. The event is a consequence of a downward trend in sea ice thickness and area. Since the start of the satellite era in 1979, we have most likely lost about two thirds of the Arctic sea ice volume.

[Read more about the record sea ice minimum](#)



Decadal predictions for the Arctic with EC-EARTH

Decadal predictions are more skillful in some regions and less so elsewhere. SMHI has performed a set of decadal predictions with the EC-EARTH model as part of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project - Phase 5 (CMIP5). The question is how much skill do decadal predictions have in the Arctic?

[Read more about decadal prediction for the Arctic with EC-Earth](#)



Upcoming EC-Earth 3 release

A new release of the coupled climate model EC-Earth will soon be available. The model is being developed by a European consortium of climate research units and the Rossby Centre has played a vital role during the engineering of the most recent instance, EC-Earth 3. The upcoming release includes many new aspects, with upgraded component models and a focus on user friendliness.



[Read more about the release of EC-Earth 3](#)

Evaluation of the near-surface wind field in RCA4

Daniel Kunne recently completed a four month internship at the Rossby Centre as part of his MSc studies at Wageningen University. During this time he studied the representation of the offshore wind field at multiple locations across the North Sea, in which three runs of the RCA4 model are compared against station observations.



[Click here to read Daniel's report from his time at SMHI](#)

An ensemble of CORDEX-Africa climate projections simulated by RCA4

Within the CORDEX-Africa initiative a large ensemble of regional climate simulations over Africa has been produced at the Rossby Centre by dynamical downscaling of a subset of GCMs from the CMIP5 project.



[Read more on the CORDEX-Africa simulations](#)

FP7 EMBRACE Update

The FP7 EMBRACE project, coordinated by the Rossby Centre, held its first General Assembly at the Universite de Pierre et Marie Curie (UPMC) 11th-13th June 2012. Exciting progress has been made and this meeting gave partners the chance to discuss ongoing and future work. Next year's General Assembly will be kindly hosted by the Met Office in Exeter, UK.



EMBRACE also recently published a public information leaflet highlighting the aims of the project with reference to the Rio 20+ conference. The leaflet can be downloaded in English, German or Swedish from the recently relaunched project website at the following link:

[Click here for FP7 EMBRACE website](#)

Events of Interest: CORDEX meetings

CORDEX: A COordinated Regional climate Downscaling EXperiment is part of the World Climate Research Programme (WRCP). Its aim is to improve coordination of international efforts in Regional Climate Downscaling (RCD) research.



Upcoming CORDEX events include:

- CORDEX South Asia Training Workshop 17th-29th October 2012 - Pune, India
- The 2nd International Workshop on CORDEX-East Asia 6th-8th November 2012

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Bode Gbobaniyi

Bode started at the Rossby Centre on the 7th August for one year as a visiting scientist to work on the analysis of SMHI and Africa-CORDEX simulations. Bode joins us from his position as Assistant Chief Scientific Officer at the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education, Obafemi Awolowo University Campus, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. He has also recently spent time as a visiting scientist at NCAR, Boulder and also within the Earth Systems Physics Group at ICTP in Trieste.



Eleanor O'Rourke

Eleanor joined the Rossby Centre in April 2012 as Science Coordinator. A major aspect of her role is the day to day management of the FP7 EMBRACE project, coordinated by SMHI, including dissemination and communication of the project's aims and outcomes. She will also be assisting with the number of other EU FP7 projects the Rossby Centre are also involved in.



ABOUT THE ROSSBY CENTRE

The Rossby Centre pursues research on climate processes and the behaviour of the climate system. The principal tools are the global and regional climate models developed within the research unit.

[Rossby Centre at www.smhi.se](http://www.smhi.se)

CONTACT AND DATA REQUEST

[Climate scenario data](#) from the Rossby Centre is available via a web application or as netCDF-files for download. The Rossby Centre can be reached via rossby.data@smhi.se, where requests for data and other material can be made.