



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

Data rescue of daily climate station-based observations across Europe

Joan Ramon Coll^{1,*}, Gerard van der Schrier², Enric Aguilar¹, Dubravka Rasol³, Roberto Coscarelli⁴ and Andrés Bishop¹

¹ Centre for Climate Change (C3), Rovira i Virgili University (URV), Vila-seca - 43480 Spain

² Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI), De Bilt – 3730 AE The Netherlands

³ Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service (DHMZ), Zagreb - 10000 Croatia

⁴ Consiglio Nazionale della Ricerche – Istituto di Ricerca per la Protezione Idrogeologica (CNR-IRPI), Rende - 87036 Italy

*Corresponding author: joanramon.coll@urv.cat

Gerard van der Schrier: schrier@knmi.nl

Enric Aguilar: enric.aguilar@urv.cat

Dubravka Rasol: rasol@cirus.dhz.hr

Roberto Coscarelli: r.coscarelli@irpi.cnr.it

Andrés Bishop: andres.bishop@gmail.com



23 **ABSTRACT**

24 In the framework of the project “*Integrated approach for the development across Europe of user oriented*
25 *climate indicators for GFCS high-priority sectors: agriculture, disaster risk reduction, energy, health,*
26 *water and tourism*” (INDECIS 2017-2020), around 610K climate station-based observations were
27 rescued over European regions for the main climate variables (maximum and minimum temperature,
28 rainfall, sunshine duration and snow depth) along the 20th century at daily scale. Rescued data will
29 constitute, together with other gathered regional datasets, the INDECIS-Raw-Dataset, which will expand
30 current European data coverage contained in the European Climate Assessment & Dataset (ECA&D).

31 An extensive examination of the ECA&D dataset was conducted to find spatial-temporal data gaps or
32 stations with low percentage of daily data as prior candidates for data recovery in European regions. This
33 exercise led us to focus our efforts on the Central European region and the Balkans. Digitizing was carried
34 out by using a rigorous “key as you see” method, meaning that the digitizers type the values provided by
35 data images, rather than using any coding system. Digitizers carefully cross-checked the typed values
36 against original sources for the 10th, 20th and 30th day of each month to make sure that no days were
37 skipped or repeated during the digitizing process. Monthly totals and statistical summaries were computed
38 from transcribed data and were compared with monthly totals and summaries provided by data sources
39 to check accuracy as preliminary quality control. The digitizing method and the quality control of the
40 digitizing process applied in this study ensured an accurate data transcription according to the obtained
41 statistics.

42 The daily dataset rescued in this study across Europe is available at:
43 <https://doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.896957>

44



45

46

1. INTRODUCTION

47

48 Meteorological observations in machine readable format are necessary to study observed climate
49 variability and change and for the design of climate products and services, such as regional and global
50 climate models, among others. Nowadays, the lack of climate data for particular regions or for specific
51 historical periods is still affecting negatively climate products increasing the associated uncertainties
52 (Brunet and Jones, 2011). For this reason, data rescue missions are still necessary, especially in
53 developing countries and for pre-mid-20th century data since data stored in log-books or meteorological
54 notebooks are at risk to be lost (WMO, 2016).

54

55 Several efforts in the last two decades included data rescue missions in order to enhance the quality and
56 longevity of climate series and achieve a more accurate climate analysis. The European co-funded project
57 entitled “Uncertainties in Ensembles of Regional ReAnalyses” (UERRA 2014-2017) is perhaps one of
58 the most current projects which allocated a great human and economic resources for data rescue purposes.
59 UERRA project allowed to recover around 8.8M of synoptic meteorological observations of the Essential
60 Climate Variables (ECVs) across Europe and some regions of the Mediterranean basin for the period
61 1877-2012 (Ashcroft et al., 2018). The new high-quality UERRA dataset was submitted to the main global
62 and regional climate data repositories (e.g. Meteorological Archival and Retrieval System - MARS
63 Archive, European Climate Assessment and Dataset -ECA&D, International Surface Pressure Databank
64 - ISPD -, among others) with the aim to improve model outputs of regional reanalysis and estimate more
65 accurately the associated uncertainties.

65

66 On the other hand, the initiative undertaken by the Atmospheric Circulation Reconstructions over the
67 Earth (ACRE, Allan et al., 2011) is in charge to coordinate data rescue activities at global scale. Main
68 tasks are related with major data recovery, imaging and digitization of historical weather observations.
69 The “Mediterranean Data Rescue” (MEDARE) initiative and the “Historical Instrumental Climatological
70 Surface Time Series of The Greater Alpine Region” (HISTALP) are projects focused at regional scale
71 (Auer et al., 2007; Brunet et al., 2014a, 2014b). MEDARE, coordinated by WMO, aims to develop,
72 consolidate and progress climate data and metadata rescue activities across the Greater Mediterranean
73 Region. In the HISTALP project, led by the Central Institute of Meteorology and Geodynamics in
74 Austria (ZAMG), a regional database of monthly homogenized temperature, pressure, precipitation,
75 sunshine and cloudiness records was developed from rescued historical climate records. Other initiatives
76 are also carrying out at national scale led by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
77 (NMHSs), such as in Germany (Kaspar et al., 2015).

77

78 The European co-funded project INDECIS (*Integrated approach for the development across Europe of*
79 *user oriented climate indicators for GFCS high-priority sectors: agriculture, disaster risk reduction,*
80 *energy, health, water and tourism*), led by the Rovira i Virgili University (Tarragona, Spain), will
develop user oriented climate indicators across Europe for the GFCS priority sectors (Water, Energy,



81 Health, Agriculture and Food Security, Disaster Risk Reduction) plus Tourism. The project includes
82 efforts in data rescue to expand current ECA&D dataset across the poorest climate data coverage over
83 some European regions. This paper presents this process. Station-based climate observations were rescued
84 over European sub-regions (mainly Central Europe and Balkans region) for the main climate variables
85 (maximum and minimum temperature, rainfall, sunshine duration and snow depth) along the 20th century
86 at daily scale. Rescued data will constitute, together with other gathered regional datasets, the newly
87 INDECIS-Raw-Dataset, which will expand current European data coverage included in the ECA&D
88 Dataset. INDECIS-Raw-Dataset will surely further improve the high quality climate products and
89 services across Europe.
90



91 **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

92

93 This section describes the resources and methodology used in this study to develop data rescue efforts
94 undertaken in the framework of the INDECIS Project. The first step consisted of identifying data gaps in
95 ECA&D dataset in order to flag the poorest covered regions across Europe. Once identified, the
96 undigitized existing data sources for these particular regions were located and classified. Then, a
97 digitization plan was designed by making an inventory of the priority meteorological stations/periods to
98 be rescued. Climate data was digitized and the metadata for each meteorological station was collected
99 and stored for future quality control and homogenization purposes. Finally, a preliminary assessment of
100 data rescued was undertaken to visualize the added value of DARE efforts by identifying climate extreme
101 events.

102

103 **2.1. Inspection of data gaps in ECA&D dataset**

104

105 Data rescue efforts were designed to improve spatial and temporal data coverage of the ECA&D dataset.
106 The variables of interest were maximum and minimum temperature (TX/TN), rainfall (RR), sunshine
107 duration (SS) and snow depth (SD) at daily scale.

108 An extensive examination of ECA&D dataset (<http://eca.knmi.nl/>) was conducted to find spatial and
109 temporal data gaps across Europe. This preliminary exercise provided us valuable information about
110 which European sub-regions presented lower density of stations (Fig. 1). Regions located in eastern
111 Europe showed the lowest spatial climate data coverage and larger temporal data gaps. In particular, the
112 Balkans region (Croatia, Republic of Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of
113 Macedonia) was identified as a key region for data rescue missions while other sub-regions from Central
114 Europe (mainly Czech and Slovak Republics), the Mediterranean basin (Italy, Greece and Turkey) also
115 showed a serious lack of climate data coverage. Otherwise, regions with highest density of climate series
116 were focused mainly in Germany, Slovenia, Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Switzerland, France and Great
117 Britain.

118

119 **2.2. Identification of undigitized data sources**

120

121 Once European sub-regions with lower availability of spatial and temporal climate data coverage were
122 located, the data sources of undigitized records were identified for these particular sub-regions.

123 The Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service (DHMZ located in Zagreb, Croatia) responded
124 positively to our request and provided pdf files containing meteorological records directly scanned from
125 original log-books.



126 In addition, other undigitized data sources were identified on-line thanks to the WMO MEDARE initiative
127 and the UERRA project through the United States of America's National Oceanic and Atmospheric
128 Administration/National Climatic Data Center (NOAA/NCDC) Climate Data Modernization Project
129 (CDMP: http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/rescue/data_rescue_home.html) for European eastern regions, the
130 Balkans and the Mediterranean basin (Ashcroft et al., 2018, Brunet et al., 2014a, 2014b). Synoptic station-
131 based observations of atmospheric pressure, air temperature, wind speed and wind direction were already
132 digitized at hourly scale under the UERRA project, but many other meteorological observations remained
133 undigitized at daily scale. The INDECIS project represented a great opportunity to rescue all this amount
134 of non-digitized daily data by using the same data sources already scanned.

135 Table 1 summarizes data sources obtained on-line through CDMP and also provided by the Croatian
136 Meteorological and Hydrological Service depending on each European sub-region and for different
137 periods along the 20th century and the first decade of the 21st century. All of these data sources were also
138 stored in a central server due to heavy size and to avoid data losses.

139 Most of data sources obtained on-line through CDMP were secondary. Unfortunately, secondary data
140 sources are more prominent to keep transcription errors than original data sources. Meteorological
141 observations were handwritten especially in early-20th century while they are typed since 1960s and 70s.
142 It is also worth to mention that the quality of scans was not always clear and readable and in some cases
143 the meteorological records were hard to read increasing the probability to make transcription errors when
144 digitizing.

145 Once data sources were thoroughly inspected, the digitization plan was designed taking into account the
146 spatial-temporal data gaps previously found in ECA&D dataset. Thus, an inventory of candidate climate
147 series to be rescued was created prioritizing those stations not included in ECA&D in order to increase
148 climate data spatial coverage across Europe. Those undigitized periods for the already existing stations at
149 ECA&D were also digitized to fill temporal data gaps, but not as a priority task.

150 A more detailed information about rescued climate series of the digitization plan can be found in Table
151 2, in which station metadata (e.g. station names, country, WMO code, latitude, longitude and altitude)
152 and type of variables digitised for each station are shown. Rescued periods were variable across time
153 covering the period 1949-2012 for the climate series located in the Balkans region and the period 1917-
154 1968 for climate series in Central Europe.

155

156 **2.3. Digitizing method**

157

158 Before starting with the digitizing procedure, a deep inspection of data sources was necessary to
159 familiarize with the general format, the structure of the data sheets and observations, the source language,
160 the measurement units and other additional notes which can provide valuable climate information



161 (metadata). This preliminary inspection of data sources is able to avoid gross digitizing errors derived
162 from some missing sheets for specific months, missing values or missing variables among others.
163 Figures 2, 3 and 4 show examples of the format and structure of scans obtained from various data sources.
164 In particular, Fig. 2, scanned from original log-books provided by the DHMZ, shows daily rainfall and
165 snow depth in Brodanci station (Croatia) due December 1983. It is a handwritten data source in which
166 meteorological records are combined with meteorological symbols and other notes for metadata storage
167 purposes. Figure 3, obtained on-line via CDMP, illustrates the structure of data sources for Central Europe
168 stations. The variables of interest were maximum and minimum temperature, rainfall and snow depth at
169 daily scale for Ceske Budejovice station (Czech Republic) due May 1960 in this case. Mainly typed values
170 are shown with some station identifiers as metadata. Figure 4, also obtained on-line via CDMP, shows
171 the structure and format of data sources for the Balkans region. The variables of interest were typed
172 maximum and minimum temperature, rainfall, snow depth and sunshine duration at daily scale for
173 Sarajevo station (Bosnia and Herzegovina) due July 1959.

174 Once all scans of data sources were thoroughly inspected, the digitizing process was set up. The digitizing
175 method used in this study consisted of applying a rigorous “key as you see” approach, meaning that each
176 digitizer was in charge to transcribe meteorological observations as were handwritten/typed in data
177 sources, without using any system code, following the recommendations given by WMO (2016).
178 Digitization was done over a spreadsheet designed for data insertion by following the format of each
179 variable in the hard copies. Half screen of the computer was used to read data from data sources and the
180 other half for typing meteorological records in the spreadsheet (Fig. 5). The digitizers used real-time
181 quality control strategies to minimize the instruction of erroneous values. They cross-checked the
182 digitized values against data sources every 10th, 20th and 30th for each month to check accuracy (to avoid
183 repeated or skipped values). Also compared monthly totals and averages of digitized values with the
184 monthly summaries provided in the hard copies, when they were available. Digitizing errors were reported
185 in a specific template (Fig. 6) while corrections were applied by using a copy of the first series to preserve
186 data traceability. The structure of the template used to document the preliminary quality control process
187 can be found in Fig. 6. This template informs us about some basic station metadata (e.g. country, name
188 of station and WMO/local code as identifier), the exact date and variable when a digitizing error was
189 produced (year, month, day and variable), the original value (erroneous) and the replacement value (the
190 correct one), the type of error (e.g. transcription error, source error, typing error...), the procedure applied
191 (corrected or set to missing) and any other comments for a better understanding of the type of error or the
192 final decision taken (e.g. hard to read, no sheet in data source, no station,...).

193 Obviously, this preliminary quality control was only applied to ensure that the digitizing procedure was
194 correctly carried out, but a second and more sophisticated layer of quality control routines must be run to
195 detect non-systematic errors hidden in climate data for future climate analysis (Aguilar et al., 2003;
196 Venema et al., 2012).



197

198

2.4. Metadata collection

199

200 Data gaps and potential unexpected variations in data sources were also recorded in a metadata
201 spreadsheet following the recommendations outlined by Aguilar et al. (2003).

202 Table 3 shows an example of a metadata template used for collecting additional notes for each station
203 divided in six basic sections.

204 The first section was designed to acquire metadata from data sources including the title of the source, the
205 period covered, the hosting, link (if any) to be found on-line and the variables. The second section was
206 related to station identifiers (stations name, country, WMO code, latitude, longitude and altitude (m))
207 while the third one contained valuable information about variables (variable name, units, period and
208 observing times). Section 4 was used to inform about special codes (e.g. code -99.9 for missing values,
209 or code -3 for rainfall < 0.1mm among others). Section 5 was used to describe the dates or periods with
210 missing values in data sources indicating the incident (e.g. no data for that station, hard to read values due
211 to poor quality of scans, or no sheet for any reason). Finally, section 6 was used to identify changes in
212 meteorological stations that could have an impact on observations, such as re-location of meteorological
213 station, instrumental changes, among others. This particular information is useful to understand
214 unexpected data behaviors or abrupt shifts for quality control and homogenization purposes.

215

216

2.5. Computation of climate extreme indices

217

218 Six of the 26 core climate extreme indices defined by the Expert Team on Climate Change Detection and
219 Indices (ETCCDI) (Peterson et al., 2001) plus two specific drought indices were selected to be computed
220 over Belgrade time-series for the whole period 1920-2017 to highlight, as example, the importance of
221 DARE efforts in terms of identifying climate extreme events. ETCCDI indices are based on daily
222 temperature values or daily precipitation amount. Some of them use fixed thresholds based on absolute
223 values meanwhile others use percentiles of the relevant data series to make comparisons between different
224 locations. The list of the 26 core ETCCDI indices and their definitions are available at:
225 http://etccdi.pacificclimate.org/list_27_indices.shtml. For this preliminary assessment six ETCCDI
226 indices were selected and computed at annual time scale to identify cold and dry years: TX10p, TN10p,
227 FD, CSDI, PRCPTOT and CDD. TX10p and TN10p indices shows the percentage of days when TX and
228 TN are lower than 10th percentile (cold days and cold nights) computed for the base-period 1961-1990.
229 FD index reports the number of frost days (TN < 0°C) per year meanwhile CSDI refers to the cold spell
230 duration index identifying the annual account of days with at least six consecutive days when TN < 10th
231 percentile. PRCPTOT index is the annual total precipitation in wet days and the CDD refers to the
232 maximum number of consecutive days with RR < 1 mm.



233 Two additional specific drought indices were also computed to identify major droughts in Belgrade series
234 for the period 1920-2017. The most widely used Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) (McKee et al.,
235 1993) driven only by precipitation, and the Standardized Precipitation-Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI)
236 (Vicente-Serrano et al., 2010), based on the difference between the precipitation and the reference
237 evapotranspiration. Both drought indices were computed at the 6-month time scale to identify
238 accumulated dry conditions across time. Reference evapotranspiration were calculated by using the
239 Hargreaves algorithm (Hargreaves and Samani, 1985), which needs maximum and minimum temperature
240 together with extraterrestrial solar radiation (performed from latitude and the day of the year). The
241 calibration period was the longest period available for the Belgrade series (1920-2017) to compute both
242 SPI and SPEI indices following the recommendations outlined by Beguería et al., (2014) and Trenberth
243 et al., (2014).
244
245



246

3. RESULTS

247

248 This section describes the results derived from data rescue activities under the INDECIS project. After
249 applying the digitizing method detailed in section 2.3, the results in terms of amount of digitized values
250 and their spatial-temporal distribution are explained in this section. Results derived from the applied
251 quality control of the digitizing procedure are described and a preliminary assessment of the rescued data
252 is also carried out.

253

254

3.1. Spatial-temporal distribution of rescued observations

255

256 A total of 610K daily observations were rescued in the INDECIS project for maximum and minimum
257 temperature (in °C), rainfall (in mm), sunshine duration (in hours) and snow depth (in cm) across Central
258 Europe and the Balkans region along really variable periods along the 20th century (Coll et al., 2019).
259 Figure 7 shows the spatial distribution of the 25 rescued climate series located in 7 European countries:
260 11 climate series in Czech Republic, 5 in Slovak Republic, 3 in Republic of Serbia, two in Bosnia and
261 Herzegovina, two more climate series in Republic of Macedonia, one in Croatia and the last one in
262 Montenegro (see also Table 4). The 25 climate series will be included in the INDECIS-Raw-Dataset
263 (together with gathered series obtained from other regionals datasets and not described in this study).

264

265 Table 4 shows a summary of number of rescued stations and total amount of digitised values for each
266 country. Rescued variables and periods are also described. Maximum and minimum temperature, rainfall
267 and snow depth were the rescued variables in Czech and Slovak Republic, while sunshine duration was
268 also included in the Balkans region (except in Croatia, where only rainfall and snow depth were digitized).
269 Digitizing periods were extended from 1917 to 1968 in Czech Republic and 1919-1968 in Slovak
270 Republic. In the Balkans region, digitizing periods focused on 1920-2012 in the Republic of Serbia, 1949-
271 1960 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1949-1984 in both Montenegro and Republic of Macedonia and, finally,
272 the period 1930-1990 was digitized in Croatia. Nevertheless, these common periods were really variable
273 among stations. More details about particular periods for each station can be found recovering Table 2.

273

274 Figures 8 and 9 show the total amount of digitized values for each country and for each variable,
275 respectively. The largest amount of digitized values corresponds to stations in the Czech Republic, which
276 nearly 250K values were rescued. Follow Slovak Republic with greater than 110K values, Republic of
277 Serbia with more than 85K values and Montenegro with nearly 65K values. Finally, the total amount of
278 digitized observations was lower in Croatia, Republic of Macedonia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina due
279 to the short length of digitizing periods, multiple data gaps and less variables to be digitized (e.g. in
280 Croatia).

280

281 A total of nearly 260K values were rescued in both maximum (TX) and minimum (TN) temperature (Fig.
282 9) meanwhile close to 160K values and greater than 150K values were rescued related to rainfall (RR)

281



282 and snow depth (SD), respectively. In less proportion, greater than 40K values were rescued related to
283 sunshine duration (SS). The main differences among the amount of digitized values for each variable
284 depended basically on the availability (or not) of such variables in the data sources.

285

286

3.2. Quality Control

287

288 The quality control of the digitizing process was applied to all climate series rescued in the INDECIS
289 Project. Monthly totals and sums provided by data sources (in most of the cases) were accurately cross-
290 checked with monthly totals and sums computed from digitized data. Results demonstrated that the errors
291 occurred during the digitizing process represented only the 0,6% of the total amount of digitized values,
292 which highlights the accuracy and high standards of the process and ensures the transmission of ready-
293 to-use data series. Most of errors occurred due to hard to read records (around 76% of errors; Fig. 10).
294 The main cause was the low quality of particular sheets in the scanned data sources. The second cause of
295 errors was variable confusion or, what means the same, column confusion in data sources (around 17%
296 of errors). In those cases, the digitizer did not realize that they were typing the wrong variable. This could
297 be solved by using templates that exactly match data sources with spreadsheets. Finally, the 7% of errors
298 were typing errors produced during the digitizing process (e.g. type 104,5 °C instead 10,5 °C). All errors
299 found in the preliminary quality control of the digitizing process were successfully corrected or were set
300 to missing in the cases that a new value could not be offered.

301 The 25 new climate series will be incorporated to the INDECIS-Raw-Dataset and submitted for addition
302 into the ECA&D Dataset. Thus, the spatial-temporal climate coverage will surely improve in Central
303 Europe and in the Balkans region. More exhaustive quality control routines are strongly recommended to
304 find non-systematic errors together with the application of some homogenization tests to ensure the high
305 quality of the new dataset to be used for future climate analysis.

306

307

3.3. Preliminary assessment of rescued data

308

309 In this section, we intend to visualize the effects of data rescue and explain the impact of data rescue over
310 climate series. No need to say that the solid climatological conclusions cannot be drawn from them, as
311 the data has not been assessed for homogeneity, but the benefits of data rescue are highlighted.

312 For example, Fig. 11 shows the evolution of daily maximum (TX) minimum (TN) temperature and
313 precipitation (RR) at Belgrade station (Republic of Serbia) for the period 1920-2017. Data rescue efforts
314 allowed to extend 15 years back to 1936 creating a long-term time series of almost 100 years of records.
315 Focusing on the rescued period (blue line), extreme cold temperatures can be identified in 1922, 1935,
316 but especially in 1929. In particular, February 1929 was extremely cold in Belgrade reaching temperatures
317 on record in both maximum and minimum temperature for the whole time series. Minimum temperature



318 reached $-25,5^{\circ}\text{C}$ and maximum temperature did not exceed $-18,5^{\circ}\text{C}$ in a particular day. The evolution of
319 precipitation (Fig. 11) for the rescued period 1920-1935 shows dry conditions in 1920-1921, 1923 and
320 1928 meanwhile wet conditions were predominant in 1924-1927 and 1931-1933.

321 Data rescue efforts extend climatological analysis to the past. Even though the Belgrade series shown in
322 Fig. 11 are neither quality controlled and homogenized, the calculation of some ETCCDI indices
323 (Peterson et al., 2001) plus two specific drought indices (SPI and SPEI) suggests some climate features
324 that could not be studied before this DARE effort. For example, in the cold 1929 year (Fig. 12) or the dry
325 event experienced in 1920-1921 in Belgrade (Fig. 13).

326 According to these indices (Fig. 12) 1929 is identified as a cold year, with a high percentage ($> 20\%$) of
327 cold days (TX10p) and nights (TN10p), over 100 frost days (FD) and 55 days singled out as part of a cold
328 spell (CSDI). The mentioned cold spell occurred in February 1929 and was general over most of Europe
329 being the coldest month on record in Poland (Sirocko et al., 2012). The Rhine river was frozen in Germany
330 taking into account that only occurred it six times during the 20th century and the canals were also frozen
331 in Venice according to the Meteorological Magazine published for the UK Meteorological Office in
332 March 1929.

333 Figure 13 shows the PRCPTOT, SPI 6-month, SPEI 6-month and CDD indices computed over the
334 Belgrade rescued time series for the period 1920-2017. These specific extreme indices were selected to
335 identify the dry event occurred in 1920-1921. Annual precipitation amount (PRCPTOT index) was low
336 in 1920 compared with other years of the time series (< 500 mm) and the consecutive dry days index
337 (CDD) shows that there was a period with more than 40 days with precipitation less than 1 mm. The
338 computation of additional drought indices such as SPI 6-month and SPEI 6-month allowed to identify the
339 driest event of the whole Belgrade series reaching maximum severity in 1921. This drought event not
340 only affected a particular European region, but most of European countries suffered severe dry conditions
341 during several months between years 1920 and 1923 (Hanel et al., 2018). In fact, West Europe was in
342 serious drought during 1920 and 1921, which was reported by the “Townsville Daily Bulletin” in July
343 1921. High pressure systems from the Azores remained stuck for almost the entire year, leading to clear
344 skies and dire shortages of rain. Most rivers in France were below the lowest records in 50 years, the
345 mountain torrents in Switzerland were not a third of their usual volume and the dry sequence lasted 86
346 consecutive days for most of Britain.

347

348 **4. DATA AVAILABILITY**

349

350 The daily dataset rescued in this study across Europe is available at the PANGAEA repository:

351 <https://doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.896957>

352

353



354 5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

355

356 In the framework of the INDECIS Project, some human and economic resources were allocated for data
357 rescue activities across Europe in order to enhance the quality in the already existing climate products
358 and services. This study deeply describes all the process carried out: from the identification of data gaps
359 in ECA&D dataset and the inspection of undigitized data sources to the digitizing process together with
360 the accurate documentation of data and metadata, including also the corrections derived from digitizing
361 errors.

362 The process of identifying data gaps, the inspection of data sources to be rescued and the preparation of
363 aforementioned data sources was actually a time consuming task (Brönninmann, 2006). In particular,
364 several hours of work and human resources were needed during the manual-keying digitizing process.
365 For this reason, it was crucial to design and implement an effective and reliable digitizing method to
366 obtain the final high-quality climate dataset avoiding extra-costs.

367 Some recommendations are available to guide experts involved in data rescue projects or initiatives. In
368 this line, Brönninmann (2006) designed a digitizing guide for climate data describing the use of
369 technologies based on optical character recognition (OCR) technologies or based on speech recognition
370 techniques to be faster in the digitizing procedure. Nevertheless, the study demonstrated that the manual-
371 keying digitizing process was the most efficient method in terms of agility, reduction of transcription
372 errors and post-process time consuming. The World Meteorological Organization supported this
373 statement (WMO, 2016) recommending the use of OCRs only in a certain data sources, since human eye
374 is still more effective transcribing handwritten data sources.

375 Nowadays, the most effective method of digitization is double or triple-keying data by using templates
376 that match with format of original data sources (WMO, 2016). Despite this, the final economic cost is
377 remarkably higher and most of projects cannot assume this extra cost. Simple manual-keying with an
378 effective quality control during and at the end of the digitization process resulted the better balance
379 between costs and data quality of rescued datasets knowing that some issues to solve already exist
380 (Ashcroft et al., 2018).

381 In summary, a total of 25 climate series (610K daily observations) were rescued in this study for 7
382 countries of the Central Europe and the Balkans region along the 20th century by using the manual-keying
383 digitizing method together with a preliminary quality control of the digitizing procedure (Coll et al.,
384 2019). Climate variables of interest were maximum and minimum temperature, rainfall, sunshine duration
385 and snow depth. The aforementioned rescued climate series will be included in the newly INDECIS-Raw-
386 Dataset, which will be automatically ingested by the ECA&D Dataset to fill the spatial-temporal data
387 gaps previously identified across Europe.

388 Rescued dataset will be submitted to more rigorous quality control routines to detect non-systematic errors
389 (Aguilar et al., 2003) together with some homogenisation tests (Venema et al., 2012) to ensure a high-



390 quality and homogeneous data to be used by the international research community to design and
391 implement new climate products and services.
392 Future European climate analysis will be benefited of DARE efforts undertaken in this study such as
393 increasing the reliability of long-term climate trends or identifying historical climate extremes among
394 others.

395

396 6. AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

397

398 **Joan Ramon Coll:** Searcher of undigitised data sources, developer of data inventories, in charge of the
399 manual digitization process (typing), extreme indices computation and analysis and manuscript
400 preparation.

401 **Gerard van der Schrier:** Everything related to ECA&D management: Inventory of digitised
402 stations/periods, provider of digitised data and ECA&D data gaps inspection).

403 **Enric Aguilar:** Designer of the digitization plan, supervisor of the digitization process and quality control
404 and paper structure designer.

405 **Dubravka Rasol:** Scanning and providing undigitized data for the Balkan region.

406 **Roberto Coscarelli:** Supervisor of the extreme indices analysis and detection of extreme events and also
407 paper reviewer.

408 **Andrés Bishop:** In charge of quality control process of digitization.

409

410 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

411

412 The Project INDECIS is part of ERA4CS, an ERA-NET initiated by JPI Climate, and funded by
413 FORMAS (SE), DLR (DE), BMWFW (AT), IFD (DK), MINECO (ES), ANR (FR) with co-funding by
414 the European Union (Grant 690462).

415

416 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.



417

418

REFERENCES

419

420 Aguilar, E., Auer, I., Brunet, M., Peterson, T. C. and Wieringa, J. (2003). Guidelines on Climate Metadata
421 and Homogenization, World Meteorological Organisation, (1186), 55.

422

423 Allan, R., Brohan, P., Compo, G. P., Stone, R., Luterbacher, J., Brönnimann, S., Allan, R., Brohan, P.,
424 Compo, G. P., Stone, R., Luterbacher, J. and Brönnimann, S. (2011). The International Atmospheric
425 Circulation Reconstructions over the Earth (ACRE) Initiative, Bulletin of American Meteorological
426 Society, 92(11), 1421–1425, doi:10.1175/2011BAMS3218.1.

427

428 Ashcroft L., Coll J.R., Gilabert A., Domonkos P., Aguilar E., Sigró J., Castellà M., Unden P., Harris I.,
429 Jones P., Brunet M. (2018). A rescued dataset of sub-daily meteorological observations for Europe and
430 the Mediterranean region, 1877–2012. Earth System Science Data, 10, 1613–1635,
431 <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-10-1613-2018>, 2018.

432

433 Auer, I., Böhm, R., Jurkovic, A., Lipa, W., Orlik, A., Potzmann, R., Schöner, W., Ungersböck, M.,
434 Matulla, C., Briffa, K., Jones, P., Efthymiadis, D., Brunetti, M., Nanni, T., Maugeri, M., Mercalli, L.,
435 Mestre, O., Moisselin, J.-M., Begert, M., Müller-Westermeier, G., Kveton, V., Bochnicek, O., Stastny,
436 P., Lapin, M., Szalai, S., Szentimrey, T., Cegnar, T., Dolinar, M., Gajic-Capka, M., Zaninovic, K.,
437 Majstorovic, Z. and Nieplova, E. (2007). HISTALP—historical instrumental climatological surface time
438 series of the Greater Alpine Region, International Journal of Climatology, 27(1), 17–46,
439 doi:10.1002/joc.1377.

440

441 Beguería S, Vicente-Serrano SM, Reig F, Latorre B (2014) Standardized precipitation
442 evapotranspiration index (SPEI) revisited: parameter fitting, evapotranspiration models, tools, datasets
443 and drought monitoring. Int J Climatol 34:3001–3023. doi: 10.1002/joc.3887.

444

445 Brönnimann, S., Annis, J., Dann, W., Ewen, T., Grant, A. N., Griesser, T., Krähenmann, S., Mohr, C.,
446 Scherer, M. and Vogler, C. (2006). A guide for digitising manuscript climate data, Climate of the Past,
447 2(3), 191–207, doi:10.5194/cpd-2-191-2006.

448

449 Brunet, M. and Jones, P. (2011). Data rescue initiatives: bringing historical climate data into the 21st
450 century, Climate Research, 47(1), 29–40, doi:10.3354/cr00960.

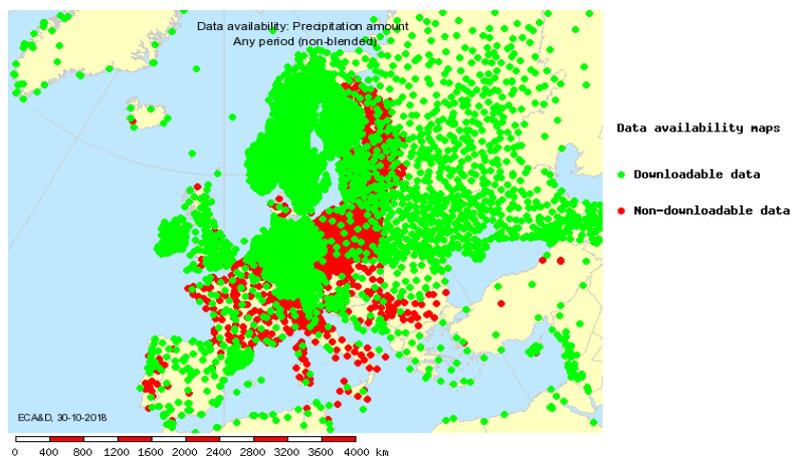
451



- 452 Brunet, M., Gilabert, A., Jones, P. and Efthymiadis, D. (2014a). A historical surface climate dataset from
453 station observations in Mediterranean North Africa and Middle East areas. *Geoscience Data Journal*, 1(2),
454 121–128, doi:10.1002/gdj3.12.
- 455
- 456 Brunet, M., Jones, P. D., Jourdain, S., Efthymiadis, D., Kerrouche, M. and Boroneant, C. (2014b). Data
457 sources for rescuing the rich heritage of Mediterranean historical surface climate data, *Geoscience Data*
458 *Journal*, 1(1), 61–73, doi:10.1002/gdj3.4.
- 459 Coll, J.R., van der Schrier, G., Aguilar, E., Rasol, D., Coscarelli, R., Bishop, A. (2019): Daily rescued
460 meteorological observations across Europe (1917-1990). PANGAEA,
461 <https://doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.896957>.
- 462
- 463 Hanel M., Rakovec O., Markonis Y., Máca P., Samaniego L., Kysely J and Kumar R. (2018). Revisiting
464 the recent European droughts from a long-term perspective. *Nature Scientific Reports* 8, Article number:
465 9499 (2018).
- 466
- 467 Hargreaves, G.L., Samani, Z.A. 1985. Reference crop evapotranspiration from temperature. *Applied*
468 *Engineering and Agriculture* 1, 96-99.
- 469
- 470 Kaspar, F., Tinz, B., Mächel, H. and Gates, L. (2015). Data rescue of national and international
471 meteorological observations at Deutscher Wetterdienst, *Advances on Science Research*, 12, 57–61,
472 doi:10.5194/asr-12-57-2015.
- 473
- 474 Kendall MG (1970) *Rank Correlation Methods* (4th ed). Griffin and Co. Ltd
- 475
- 476 McKee TBN, Doesken J, and Kleist J, (1993) The relationship of drought frequency and duration to
477 time scales. *Eight Conf. On Applied Climatology*. Anaheim, CA, Amer. Meteor. Soc. 179–184
- 478 Peterson, T.C., and Coauthors. (2001). *Report on the Activities of the Working Group on Climate Change*
479 *Detection and Related Rapporteurs 1998-2001*. WMO, Rep. WCDMP-47, WMO-TD 1071, Geneva,
480 Switzerland, 143pp.
- 481 Sirocko F., Brunck H. and Pfahl S. (2012). Solar influence on winter severity in Central Europe.
482 *Geophysical research Letters*, Vol. 39, L16704, doi: 10.1029/2012GL052412.
- 483 Trenberth KE, Dai A, van der Schrier G, Jones PD, Barichivich J, Briffa KR, Sheffield J (2014) Global
484 warming and changes in drought. *Nat Clim Chang* 4:17–22. doi: 10.1038/nclimate2067



- 485 Venema, V. K. C., Mestre, O., Aguilar, E., Auer, I., Guijarro, J. A., Domonkos, P., Vertacnik, G.,
486 Szentimrey, T., Stepanek, P., Zahradnicek, P., Viarre, J., Müller-Westermeier, G., Lakatos, M., Williams,
487 C. N., Menne, M. J., Lindau, R., Rasol, D., Rustemeier, E., Kolokythas, K., Marinova, T., Andresen, L.,
488 Acquotta, F., Fratianni, S., Cheval, S., Klancar, M., Brunetti, M., Gruber, C., Prohom Duran, M., Likso,
489 T., Esteban, P. and Brandsma, T. (2012). Benchmarking homogenization algorithms for monthly data,
490 *Climate of the Past*, 8(1), 89–115, doi:10.5194/cp-8-89-2012.
491
492 Vicente-Serrano SM, Beguería S, López-Moreno JI (2010) A multi-scalar drought index sensitive to
493 global warming: the standardized precipitation evapotranspiration index. *J Clim* 23:1696–1718.
494 doi: 10.1175/2009JCLI2909.1
495
496 Wang XL, Swail VR (2001) Changes of extreme wave height in northern hemisphere oceans and related
497 atmospheric circulation regimes. *Journal of Climate* Volume 14:12–45
498
499 World Meteorological Organization (2016). *Guidelines on Best Practices for Climate Data Rescue 2016*.
500



501
502
503
504

Fig. 1: Spatial distribution of meteorological stations in ECA&D (precipitation as example) across Europe in 2018. Downloadable stations are in green and non-downloadable stations in red.



Broj stanice		Mjesec		Godina		REPUBLICKI HIDROMETEOROLOŠKI ZAVOD SR HEVATSKE ZAGREB - GRIC 3 MJESEČNI IZVJEŠTAJ KIŠOMJERNE STANICE		Stаница																																			
1 2		Dobruće		83		BRODANCI		Sliv																																			
Dan	Kantitativne u mm		Broj dana s kišom		OBORINE I ODABRANE ATMOSFERESKE POJAVE (slike i vrste)						Slike pojave																																
	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	jačina (0 = slabije, 1 = umjereno, 2 = jaka), vrijeme trajanja (od - do sati)						12-13	14-15																															
01	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	L 10 ^h - 11 ^h 20 ^h - 11 ^h - 12 ^h apr.						2	2																															
02	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
03	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
04	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
05	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
06	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
07	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						2	0																															
08	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
09	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
10	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
Zbroj	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						2	2																															
11	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
12	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
13	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
14	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
15	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
16	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						2	0																															
17	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
18	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
20	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
Zbroj	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						2	0																															
21	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
22	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
23	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
25	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
26	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
27	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
28	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
29	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
30	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
31	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
Zbroj	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						0	0																															
Mjes (broj)	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X 0 ^h 10 ^h - 14 ^h apr.						2	0																															
<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="4">Broj dana s oborinom</th> <th colspan="4">Oborine</th> <th colspan="3">Broj dana s vjetrovima</th> </tr> <tr> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>											Broj dana s oborinom				Oborine				Broj dana s vjetrovima			0.1	0.2	0.5	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Broj dana s oborinom				Oborine				Broj dana s vjetrovima																																			
0.1	0.2	0.5	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.5																																	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																																	
<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2">Dane</th> <th colspan="2">Broj dana s oborinom</th> <th colspan="2">Broj dana</th> <th colspan="2">Snjež. pokr. po stup. 10 - 20</th> <th colspan="2">Svičajne obradbe i projekcije</th> </tr> <tr> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>											Dane		Broj dana s oborinom		Broj dana		Snjež. pokr. po stup. 10 - 20		Svičajne obradbe i projekcije		0.1	0.2	0.5	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.0	0.1	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Dane		Broj dana s oborinom		Broj dana		Snjež. pokr. po stup. 10 - 20		Svičajne obradbe i projekcije																																			
0.1	0.2	0.5	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.0	0.1	0.2																																		
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																																		
Matritelj: <u>Zemljopisni Zavod</u> Zamenik: _____ MOC-2A (1988) BB																																											

505
506
507
508

Fig. 2: Structure of original log-books (scans) provided by the Croatian Meteorological Service; Brodanci station (Croatia), December 1983.



Datum - Date	Tlak vzduchu (°C-mm)		Teplota vzduchu (°C)						Vlhkost poměrná (relativní) %						Směr a síla větru (Direction et force du vent)				Oblačnost (Nébulosité)				Číslo pozorování (Observation number)																																																																																									
	P		T						U						DF				N																																																																																													
	7 ^h	14 ^h	7 ^h	14 ^h	21 ^h	Sred.	Max.	Min.	7 ^h	14 ^h	21 ^h	Sred.	7 ^h	14 ^h	21 ^h	14 ^h	7 ^h	14 ^h	21 ^h	14 ^h	7 ^h	14 ^h		21 ^h	7 ^h																																																																																							
1	724,7	722,8	725,7	4,4	6,3	4,9	5,5	10,5	3,4	60	66	92	79	W	1	100	1	0	16	8 ^h	9 ^h	10 ^h	11 ^h	12 ^h	13 ^h	14 ^h	15 ^h	16 ^h	17 ^h	18 ^h	19 ^h	20 ^h	21 ^h	22 ^h	23 ^h	24 ^h	25 ^h	26 ^h	27 ^h	28 ^h	29 ^h	30 ^h	31 ^h	32 ^h	33 ^h	34 ^h	35 ^h	36 ^h	37 ^h	38 ^h	39 ^h	40 ^h	41 ^h	42 ^h	43 ^h	44 ^h	45 ^h	46 ^h	47 ^h	48 ^h	49 ^h	50 ^h	51 ^h	52 ^h	53 ^h	54 ^h	55 ^h	56 ^h	57 ^h	58 ^h	59 ^h	60 ^h	61 ^h	62 ^h	63 ^h	64 ^h	65 ^h	66 ^h	67 ^h	68 ^h	69 ^h	70 ^h	71 ^h	72 ^h	73 ^h	74 ^h	75 ^h	76 ^h	77 ^h	78 ^h	79 ^h	80 ^h	81 ^h	82 ^h	83 ^h	84 ^h	85 ^h	86 ^h	87 ^h	88 ^h	89 ^h	90 ^h	91 ^h	92 ^h	93 ^h	94 ^h	95 ^h	96 ^h	97 ^h	98 ^h	99 ^h	100 ^h

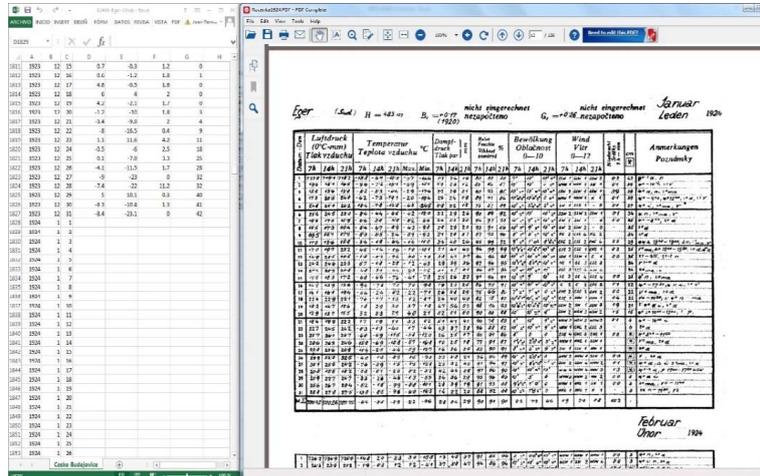
509
510
511

Fig. 3: Structure of data sources (scans) for Central Europe stations: Ceske Budejovice station (Czech Republic), May 1960.

Dan	Vazdušni pritisak P mm			Temperatura vazduha T °C							Pritisak vodene pare e m				Relativna vlaznost %				Pravac i jačina vetra D, F (0-12)																																																																																																										
	7	14	21	7	14	21	Sred.	Max.	Min.	7	14	21	7	14	21	Sred.	7	14	21	7	14	21	7	14	21																																																																																																				
	7	14	21	7	14	21	Sred.	Max.	Min.	7	14	21	7	14	21	Sred.	7	14	21	7	14	21	7	14	21																																																																																																				
1	705,8	708,1	709,4	12,1	12,2	11,6	11,9	15,0	10,5	10,6	8,9	9,9	2,7	85	83	85	84	W	1	SW	1	WSW	1	1	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

512
513
514
515

Fig. 4: Structure of data sources (scans) for the Balkans region: Sarajevo station (Bosnia & Herzegovina), July 1959.



516
517
518
519

Fig. 5: Example of the manual-keying data transcription method used during the digitization process; from scanned data sources (right) to digital spreadsheets (left).

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	country	station name	code	Year	Month	Day	Element	Original value	Replacement value	Detection test	Type of error	Procedure	Comments	
2	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1931	2	27	RR	0		0,2	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
3	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1931	2	28	RR	0		4,6	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
4	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1931	10	21	RR	0		4,9	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
5	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1931	10	27	RR	3		3,9	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
6	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1931	12	10	RR	1		0,9	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
7	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1933	1	25	RR	3,4		3,7	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
8	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1933	2	23	RR	5,9		5,1	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
9	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1933	3	7	RR	0,2		0,6	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
10	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1933	6	29	RR	2,5		2,8	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
11	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1933	8	2	RR	1,5		1,6	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
12	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1933	10	14	RR	0,9		6,9	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
13	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1934	6	12	RR	4		4,9	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
14	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1936	5	27	RR	2,2		12,2	Visual checking	Source error corrected	Typing error	
15	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1936	7	4	RR	37,3		37,1	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
16	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1936	10	2	RR	10,8		10,3	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
17	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1937	2	18	RR	0,8		0,07	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
18	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1938	11	1	RR	3		3,3	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
19	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1939	6	28	RR	19,8		19,3	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
20	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1939	9	22	RR	2,6		9,2	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Typing error	
21	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1939	10	28	RR	2,5		2,8	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	
22	Croatia	Brodanci	5080	1940	2	1	RR	2,8		2,9	Visual checking	Transcription corrected	Difficulties to be read	

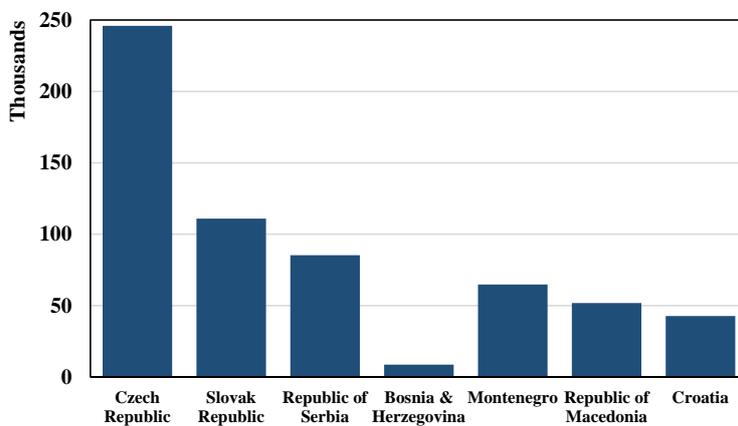
520
521
522

Fig. 6: Template used to report the quality control of the digitization process.



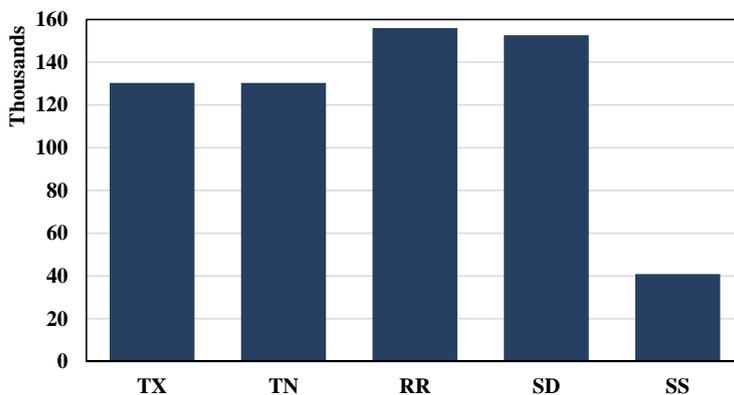
523
524
525

Fig. 7: Spatial distribution of rescued stations



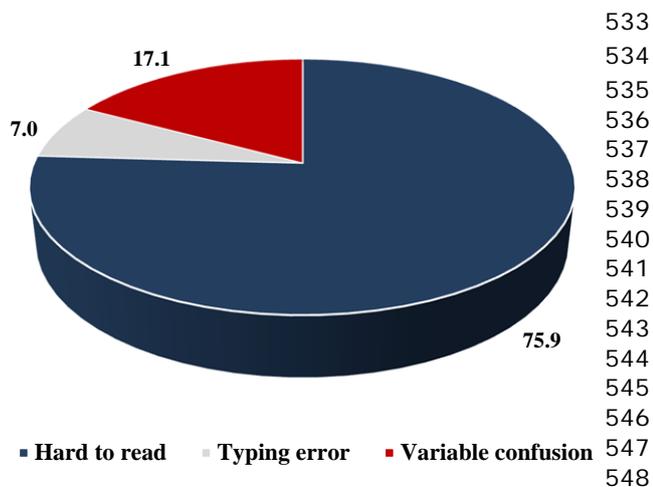
526
527

Fig. 8: Total amount of digitized values (in thousands) by countries



528
529
530
531
532

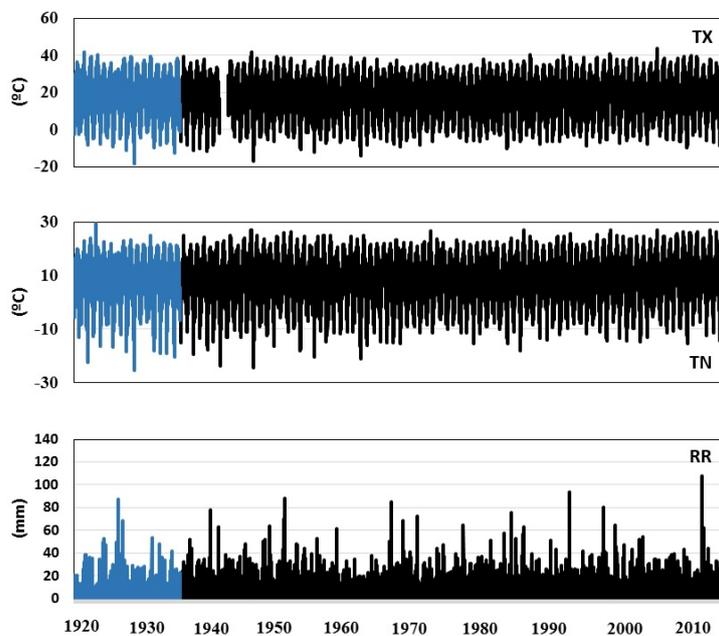
Fig. 9: Total amount of digitized values (in thousands) by variables



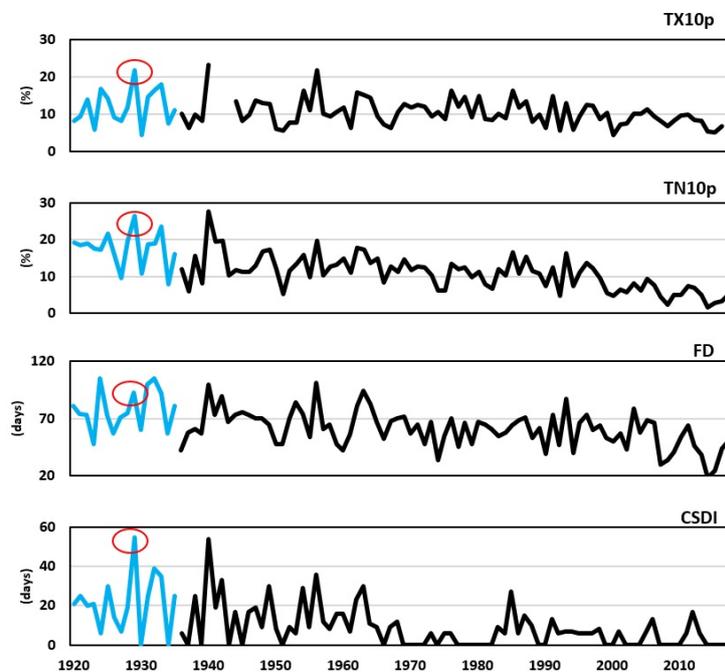
533
534
535
536
537
538
539
540
541
542
543
544
545
546
547
548

549
550

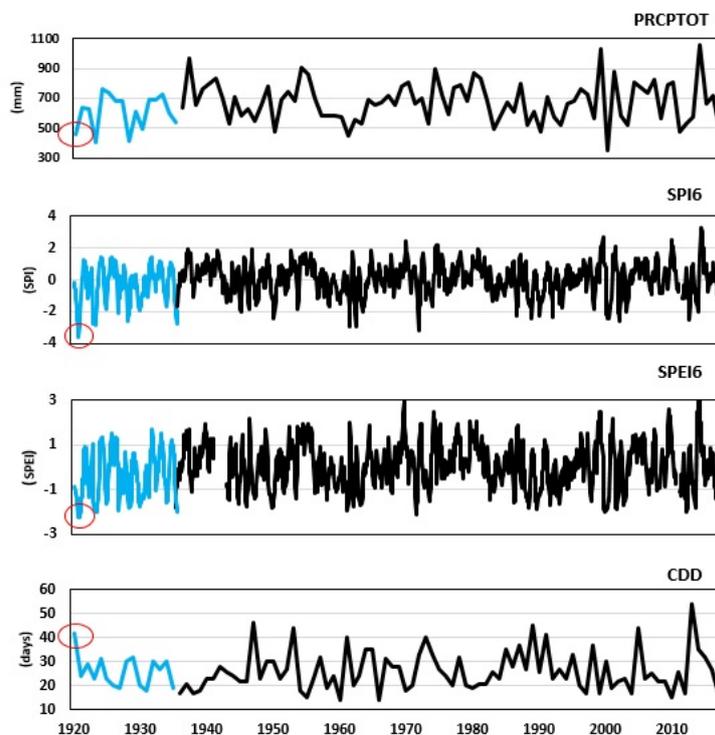
Figure 10: Percentage of type of errors found after the quality control of the digitizing procedure.



551
552 **Figure 11:** Evolution of daily maximum (TX) minimum (TN) temperature and precipitation (RR) at
553 Belgrade station (Republic of Serbia) for the period 1920-2017. The period 1920-1935 was rescued in
554 this study (blue line) meanwhile the period 1936-2017 was obtained from ECA&D Dataset (dark line).
555
556



557
558 **Figure 12:** Time series of TX10p, TN10p, FD and CSDI extreme indices at Belgrade station (Republic
559 of Serbia) for the period 1920-2017. The period 1920-1935 was rescued in this study (blue line)
560 meanwhile the period 1936-2017 was obtained from ECA&D Dataset (dark line). Red circle shows a
561 climatic extreme (cold year) identified in 1929.
562
563



564
565
566
567
568
569

Figure 13: Time series of PRCPTOT, SPI 6-month, SPEI 6-month and CDD extreme indices at Belgrade station (Republic of Serbia) for the period 1920-2017. The period 1920-1935 was rescued in this study (blue line) meanwhile the period 1936-2017 was obtained from ECA&D Dataset (dark line). Red circle shows a climatic extreme (dry years) identified in 1920-1921.



570

571 **Table 1:** Documental data sources used for data rescue purposes.

Region	Documental Source	Period
Central Europe	Rocenska povetnostnih posoro vani site statniho ustavu meteorologickeho.	1916-1946
	Rocenska povetnostnih pozorovani meteorologickeho stanie Republiky Ceskoslovenshe.	1948-1968
	Rocenska povetnostnych pozorovani observatoria na Lomnickom Stite.	1940-1974
Balkans Region	Izvestaj meteoroloske opservatorije u Beogradu.	1920-1945
	Resultati osmatranija u Beogradu.	1946-1950
	Meteoroloski godisnjak. I.	1949-2012
	Scans from original log-books provided by the Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service (DHMZ)	1930-1990

572

573



574 **Table 2:** Rescued data included in the INDECIS-Raw-Dataset. Specific metadata such as country, WMO
 575 code, station name, latitude, longitude, altitude and digitizing period are also shown. Digitized variables
 576 are maximum (TX) and minimum (TN) temperature, rainfall (RR), snow depth (SD) and sunshine
 577 duration (SS).

Country	WMO code	Station Name	Lat. N	Lon. E	Alt. (m)	Variables	Digitizing period
Czech Republic	11542	Ceske Budejovice	48°58'00"	14°28'00"	389	TX/TN/RR/SD	1917-1938
	11748	Prerov	49°28'00"	17°27'00"	214	TX/TN/RR/SD	1917-1952
	11406	Eger/Cheb	50°05'00"	12°24'00"	483	TX/TN/RR/SD	1919-1936
	11763	Troppau/Opava	49°56'00"	17°53'00"	268	TX/TN/RR/SD	1917-1937
	11461	Teplitz-Schönau	50°39'00"	13°48'00"	229	TX/TN/RR/SD	1917-1936
	11446	Pízen	49°44'00"	13°80'00"	357	TX/TN/RR/SD	1948-1953
	99999	Turnov	50°36'00"	15°10'00"	280	TX/TN/RR/SD	1948-1951
	11721	Brno-Kvetna	49°12'00"	16°34'00"	233	TX/TN/RR/SD	1948-1968
	11735	Praded	50°05'00"	17°14'00"	1490	TX/TN/RR/SD	1948-1957
	11622	Caslav-Filipor	49°54'00"	15°24'00"	252	TX/TN/RR/SD	1946-1960
Slovak Republic	99999	O.-Gyalla/Stara Dala	47°53'00"	18°12'00"	120	TX/TN/RR/SD	1919-1937
	99999	St. Smokovec	49°08'00"	20°13'00"	1018	TX/TN/RR/SD	1921-1937
	11814	Bratislava-Trnavka	48°10'00"	17°08'00"	139	TX/TN/RR/SD	1946-1968
	11931	Skalnate Pleso	49°12'00"	20°55'00"	1778	TX/TN/RR/SD	1946-1960
	11968	Kosice	48°42'00"	21°16'00"	206	TX/TN/RR/SD	1946-1950
Republic of Serbia	13274	Belgrade	44°48'00"	20°28'00"	132	TX/TN/RR	1920-1935
	13367	Zlatibor	43°44'00"	19°43'00"	1028	TX/TN/RR/SD/SS	1992-2012
	13489	Vranje	42°33'00"	21°55'00"	432	TX/TN/RR/SD/SS	1999-2012
Bosnia & Herzegovina	13353	Sarajevo	43°52'00"	18°26'00"	630	SD/SS	1949-1960
	13352	Bjelasnica	43°43'00"	18°16'00"	2067	SD/SS	1953-1960
Montenegro	13462	Titograd/Podgorica	42°26'00"	19°17'00"	52	TX/TN/RR/SD/SS	1949-1984
Republic of Macedonia	13491	Skopje	41°59'00"	21°28'00"	240	TX/TN/RR/SD/SS	1949-1972
	13586	Skopje (Petrovac)	41°58'00"	21°39'00"	238	RR/SD/SS	1974-1984
Croatia	5080	Brodanci	45°32'33"	18°27'26"	92	RR/SD	1930-1990

578

579

580

581

582

583



584 **Table 3:** Metadata collection by using specific templates

Metadata on data sources			
<i>Title of the source:</i> Meteoroloski godisnjak. I			
<i>Period covered by the source:</i> 1949-1978			
<i>Available at:</i> CDMP-NOAA: http://library.noaa.gov/Collections/Digital-Documents/Foreign-Climate-Data-Home			
<i>Variables included:</i> Maximum and minimum temperature, rainfall and snow depth			
Station Identifiers			
<i>Station Name:</i>	Ceske Budejovice	<i>WMO code:</i>	11542
<i>Country:</i>	Czech Republic	<i>Altitude (m):</i>	389
<i>Latitude:</i>	48°58'00"	<i>Longitude:</i>	14°28'00"
Variables Metadata			
<i>Variable</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Observing times</i>
Max. Temperature (TX)	(°C)	1917-1938	Daily
Min. Temperature (TN)	(°C)	1917-1938	Daily
Rainfall (RR)	(mm)	1917-1938	7am
Snow depth (SD)	(cm)	1917-1938	7am
Special Codes			
<i>Variable</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	
TX/TN/RR/SD	-99,9	Missing value	
Rainfall	-3	Rainfall < 0.1mm	
Rainfall	-4	Cumulative precipitation	
Snow depth	0,1	Snow traces on the soil	
Missing values and/or periods			
<i>Dates/Periods</i>		<i>Incident</i>	
from 01/01/1919 to 31/07/1919		No data	
from 16/02/1921 to 31/05/1921		Hard to read	
from 25/03/1928 to 31/03/1928		Hard to read	
from 01/02/1931 to 31/03/1931		No data	
Station Metadata (if available)			
<i>Period of the incidence</i>		<i>Type of incidence</i>	
December 1929		Instrument changes: Thermometer	

585
 586



587 **Table 4:** Summary of number of rescued stations and total amount of digitized values for each country
588 and period. Variables are maximum (TX) and minimum (TN) temperature, rainfall (RR), snow depth
589 (SD) and sunshine duration (SS).

Country	Nº stations	Variables	Period	Total digitized	%
Czech Republic	11	TX/TN/RR/SD	1917-1968	245935	40,3
Slovak Republic	5	TX/TN/RR/SD	1919-1968	110873	18,2
Republic of Serbia	4	TX/TN/RR/SD/SS	1920-2012	85343	14,0
Bosnia & Herzegovina	1	TX/TN/RR/SD/SS	1949-1960	8642	1,4
Montenegro	1	TX/TN/RR/SD/SS	1949-1984	64816	10,6
Republic of Macedonia	2	TX/TN/RR/SD/SS	1949-1984	51836	8,5
Croatia	1	RR/SD	1930-1990	42709	7,0

590

591