ACSG Status February 2014

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Sub-group Chair

WGCV-37
Frascati, 17-21 February, 2014

Sub-group status

Last sub-group meeting at ESA/ESRIN February 2010, ***but this is not perceived by sub-group members as a problem as numerous small topical meetings related to WGCV/ACSG continue to be held at regular interval***

Note, the planned Q3/Q4 2013 sub-group meeting (ESRIN) was again postponed due to the various budgetary and travel constraints with participating agencies

Sub-group highlights

Sub-group activities for 2013-2014:

- Implementation of ground-based air quality satellite validation network using specialised mini-spectrometers began (ESA project in close coordination with NASA/GSFC activities, started in Q3 2013)
- An ESA/SEOM project was K.O. in January 2014 addressing select cross-section needs of the AC and GHG communities (follow-on to a 2006/7 WGCV recommendation)
- AQ ground-based instrument/algorithm inter-comparison project (ESA activity in close cooperation with NDACC UV-Vis group) was extended. *Follow-on activity to extend UV-Vis work and to include ground-based FTIR GHG instrument/measurement inter-comparison is being planned for late 2014*

Sub-group highlights (ii)

- Continued funding of the harmonisation of atmospheric database tools and metadata requirements insured for the NASA/AVDC, ESA/EVDC and NDACC/DHF. *Note: archives to be searchable through CEOS CVP by end 2014*
- Co-organising the upcoming May 2014 GRUAN-GSICS-GNSSRO WMO Workshop on Upper-Air Observing System Integration and Application. *Special focus will be on how the GRUAN network is to support the satellite community, the definition of future measurement systems, as well as the associated measurement and Cal/Val protocols*
- Significant efforts invested in addressing the QA4EO showcase prior to the September 2013 CEOS SIT (A. von Bargen to report Thursday)

Future of the sub-group

Follow-on to WGCV-37 action regarding the future scope of the sub-group:

- Past and current members, as well as key players in Europe and US, have been contacted since Shanghai
- Consensus is that the sub-group should continue with:

  Focused topical issues such as ground-based inter-comparisons or instrument/algorithm round-robin activities

  Rely on specialised groups/teams, such as WMO/GRUAN for water vapour soundings or NDACC for AQ profiling developments

  Consider to restructure the SG into a "product" approach similar to the WGCV/LPV, i.e. AQ, stratospheric chemistry, etc.

The biggest concern expressed is the operationalization of atmospheric missions with their limited funding for Cal/Val, esp. w.r.t. the maintenance of fiducial datasets, making participation and (new) activities difficult