**Annex**

**Country: Bulgaria**

**Institute:NIMH**

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**Assessment of the seasonal forecast for the winter season**

**DJF 2013-14**

1. **MedCOF-1 Climate outlook for the 2013-14 winter season:**

The MedCOF-1 consensus statement indicated for the region of Bulgaria the following:

Temperature: no signal (or normal); all categories (below, near, above normal) are equally likely.

Precipitation: no signal (or normal); all categories (below, near, above normal) are equally likely.

1. **Analysis of the 2013-14 winter season:**

The mean seasonal temperature in average for the country is 1.84ºC above normal (reference period 1961-1990). By station it is near or above normal against reference period 1980-2009.

The seasonal amount of precipitation in average for the country is 56.4% of normal (reference period 1961-1990). By station it is near or below normal against reference period 1980-2009.

See attached file for details (The seasonal forecast for winter 2013/14 in Bulgaria)

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1. **High Impacts Events:**

See attached file for details (The seasonal forecast for winter 2013/14 in Bulgaria)

1. **Verification of the MedCOF-1 climate outlook for the 2013-14 winter season:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Country | Seasonal temperature (DJF) | Seasonal precipitation (DJF) |
| Observed | MedCOF-1 climate outlook for temperature | Observed | MedCOF-1 climate outlook for precipitation |
| Bulgaria | Near or above normal (reference period 1980-2009) | No signal (or normal) | Near or below normal (reference period 1980-2009) | No signal (or normal) |

1. **Users’ perceptions of the MedCOF-1 outlook**

The seasonal forecast is published on the website of the national weather service together with some information regarding its skill. The policy of the institute is to keep low profile of the seasonal forecast which is to reflect the high level of uncertainty still associated with the seasonal forecasting for our region.

It is well known however that the seasonal forecast is used unofficially by many agencies or other public entities or private enterprises. Unfortunately there is no feedback. The primary communication between the institute and any “end” users is with the media at the time of the issue of the forecast prior to the season. The aftermath is usually not interesting for the media.

See the attached document for details of the quantitative assessment of the last winter seasonal forecast for Bulgaria.