

## CLIVAR-SPAIN national committee: Summary of recent activities

The CLIVAR-SPAIN national committee was created in 2004 with the goal of promoting and coordinating climate research in Spain related to CLIVAR objectives, increasing the international visibility of Spanish research and encouraging the participation of Spanish researchers in the international scientific arena (conferences, projects, committees, etc).

Our activities in the last two years have centered on generating a regional climate assessment report entitled "Climate in Spain: Past, Present and Future", which (in a modest way) aims at complementing the IPCC reports by assessing the scientific knowledge of climate variability and change in the Iberian Peninsula (IP). The report thus documents and discusses the observed physical changes (past and present) in the climate of Iberia and examines our understanding of the physical processes that are responsible for natural climate variability on all time scales. It also reviews the projections from regional climate models and compares recent observed trends with these model projections. The report is structured in five chapters, ranging from past climates to current climate changes to future climate projections, and includes two chapters dealing with climate variability in the IP.

The resulting document (published in 2010 and available both in Spanish and English) is the result of a collaborative effort between the Spanish CLIVAR community (with more than 120 contributors); it was internally revised by all contributing authors as well as externally reviewed by Spanish scientists working abroad. Particular effort was paid to analyzing and critically comparing the results from different studies, going above and beyond a simple compilation of findings, in order to be able to provide specific and rigorous conclusions. The report is intended both for scientists who wish to acquire a comprehensive picture of the state of the art of climate research in Spain and for political leaders who need accurate information on climate changes recorded in the IP.

The kick off for the development of the report was a 2-day seminar held in Madrid in February 2009, which brought together the Spanish scientific community working in the field of climate (it was attended by more than a hundred Spanish researchers) as well as a few invited international speakers, and during which the plans for the report were laid out.

For the current year, we are organizing a cluster of posters to the WCRP OSC conference, entitled "CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND CHANGE IN SOUTHWESTERN EUROPE (CLIVAR-SPAIN CONTRIBUTIONS) ", within session C4 ("Meeting the Needs for Integrated Climate Science, Information and Capacity Building with Regard to Climate Variability and Change in Europe"). We have received over 25 abstracts and thus hope to vastly increase the Spanish participation to this international WCRP conference compared to past similar events. We have also offered 10 small travel grants to young Spanish researchers. We believe both initiatives accomplish our goals of

increasing the international visibility of Spanish researchers, encouraging their participation in international conferences and promoting excellence of research in Spain.

In order to support our activities we receive some funding from the Spanish Ministry of Science (about 10000 EUR a year), even though we have been nominated by the Spanish Meteorological Office, which in turn depends on support from the Ministry of Environment. As there is currently also a national WCRP-SPAIN committee, which depends from the Ministry of Science but which encompasses largely the same scientific community (projects CLIC, SPARC and GEWEX being under-represented in Spain), we are currently trying to persuade the two Ministries to restructure/merge the two committees into one. We believe this would result in a more efficient use of financial resources and in a more effective implementation of both CLIVAR and WCRP objectives in our country.

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The CLIVAR-SPAIN committee