EUROSPEC-SPECNET meeting: International Networks cooperating to link spectral data and flux measurements around the world

MEETING CONCLUSIONS

The *Eurospec – SpecNet meeting: International Networks cooperating to link spectral data and flux measurements around the world* was held at the CCHS-CSIC (Madrid, Spain) 27 to 29 June 2012. 54 people from different countries of Europe, and also from United States of America, Canada and Australia took part in the meeting. Speakers from both European and North American scientific networks presented an overview of the current state of optical sampling activities in connection with flux measurements, covering issues related with proximal and remote sensors, field protocols and data management and exchange.

Discussions followed the different keynote lectures and also the last Eurospec Working Group 1 session that underlined the need to foster data sharing in order to better understand relationships between optical responses of vegetation and carbon cycle at a global scale. However, comparable data is still restricted by the lack of an appropriate data quality assessment and the use of different methodologies/instruments. Moreover, differences existing in the approaches adopted to acquire and manage data by different scientific communities difficult their integration, being necessary guarantying the interoperability of these databases. The definition of standard metadata for data management and best practices for data acquisition seems necessary in order to ensure such comparability and to make it possible to merge data from different sources. Common bases should be defined without restricting new approaches and innovation.

Specialized small groups should detail these bases, being possible integrating expertise of other international networks also focused on these matters. A database linking optical, remote sensing and flux data of a reduced number of sites will be developed to test and show the capabilities of this integrating approach to different scientific communities involved. Eurospec and Specnet networks will work together in this subject having as a reference existing experiences such as Specchio (http://www.specchio.ch) and Geo-Chronos (http://geochronos.org).

New actions will be explored to strength worldwide cooperation for linking optical and flux data. Among this actions are searching new funding sources for networking activities and the organization of a new joint meeting in 2013 that could bring together existing international flux and optical networks.