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The *SPECS-EUPORIAS Data Portal* does not intend to provide full access to the different seasonal forecasting datasets, but only to a reduced number of variables (typically at surface; e.g. precipitation and temperature) required by the different impact applications. **Thus, a key task for the development of the portal is identifying those variables relevant for the different activities, as well as the particular temporal frequencies (e.g. daily or monthly) and aggregation (e.g. instantaneous, daily means, daily maximum, etc.) needed.**

In order to identify the variables needed for both EUPORIAS and SPECS projects, several cross-sectional actions are being conducted in order to obtain the required feedback from end users (either by contacting the different work packages or by consulting project documents). Moreover, the precise definition and homogenization of these variables across different datasets is of utmost importance for the development of a truly user-friendly tool for end users.

The different activities under development towards an integrated, user-friendly framework for data access are summarized in the following sections:

Identification of the variables needed by impact applications: The following WPs of EUPORIAS and SPECS provide relevant feedback for the identification of the variables required by end user's:

- **EUPORIAS WP12** (*Assessment of users' needs*) is devoted to the assessment of users' needs. The recent Report on findings on S2D users' needs from workshop with meteorological organisations [?\(D12.2\)](#) presents a literature review whose aim is to provide an overall understanding of the current state of the use of S2D climate and climate impacts predictions across European sectors.
- **EUPORIAS WP22 Needs** (*Impact relevant climate information indices, CII*s). An initial set of CII and required meteorological variables was provided in Milestone 19. A note on the temporal aggregation of input variables for CII computation is given [here](#). This set is currently under revision by WP22 and it is expected to be updated by the end of February 2014, after the WP22 workshop, where the final list of CII will be defined.
- **EUPORIAS WP23 Needs** (*Impact models for impact predictions*). In order to identify user's requirements, information has been collected from the internal EUPORIAS wiki [?\(WP23 information on models and variables\)](#) and from the [?questionnaire](#) circulated by Predictia.
- **SPECS WP61 Needs** (*Pilot applications*). The main objective of this WP is to provide evidence of the increased usefulness of the climate predictions performed in SPECS's RT3 and RT4 and made available from RT5 by applying them to predicting agricultural yield and renewable energy generation and involving a set of relevant stakeholders.

Identification of the predictors needed for statistical downscaling tasks: The variables required (to be used as predictors) for the following WPs are being collected.

- **EUPORIAS WP21 Needs** (*Calibration and downscaling*). To develop and apply a set of bias-correction and downscaling methods for use with seasonal to decadal forecasts for a number of applications in Europe.
 - **SPECS WP52 Needs** (*Statistical downscaling*). To adapt and calibrate statistical methodologies for seasonal-to-decadal (s2d) downscaling.
1. **Data Homogenization:** The different nature of the various climate products, models and variables, and the idiosyncratic naming and storage conventions often applied by the modelling centres, makes necessary a previous homogenization across datasets in order to implement a truly user-friendly toolbox for data access. To this aim, the [R package for data access](#) has been developed. Data homogenization is achieved through the creation of a common vocabulary. The particular variables of each dataset are then translated -and transformed if necessary- into the common vocabulary by means of a *dictionary*. Both features -vocabulary and dictionary- are described [here?](#).