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Large-scale circulation patterns, identified objectively, and the relevance of their identification region

A. Spekat (1), F. Kreienkamp (1) and W. Enke (1)

(1) CEC-Potsdam GmbH (arne.spekat@cec-potsdam.de)

Within the framework of the COST-Action 733 the central goal is to compare and evaluate methods which are used for circulation pattern or, in the Action's terminology, weather type, identification in Europe. These weather types form relatively homogeneous subsets of the entire circulation situations pool. The paper will focus on identification strategies as well as the significance of selecting sub-regions, such as the Icelandic area, the Iberian Peninsula, the Alpine region, the Baltic Sea or Central Eastern Europe for the set of identified patterns. They will be furthermore compared with an identification that takes the whole Atlantic-European sector into account. It should be mentioned that discerning the patterns is considered an important prerequisite for studies of the interaction of the large scale circulation with local and meso scales.