



# The Italian data rescue projects by the AISAM Association



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# The AISAM association

Italian Association of Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology

From our statute...

- AISAM aims to promote the development of **atmospheric sciences and meteorology** through the creation of opportunities and tools for meetings, mutual knowledge, and collaboration among all subjects interested in meteorology.
- It also aims to:
  - highlight, at **international level**, the initiatives and results achieved by the national community
  - promote **international cooperation**
  - foster Italian participation in **international projects**, programs, and organizations in this sector.

# Overview

**Historical weather observations** are crucial for the science of climate



Old records are still **available only on paper** and hence hardly accessible and exposed to serious risks of damage or loss

**AISAM** launched 3 different projects in the recent years:

- 1) The project «**Cli-DaRe@School**» in spring 2022 which is a branch of the project «**Citizen Science for Italian Climate Data Rescue (Cli-DaRe)**», specifically meant to engage high school students in climate data rescue «dual training» activities.
- 2) The «**Dieci e Lode: Climate data of the Former Italian Colonies and their Digitalization**» Project in October 2023: rescuing climate data of former Italian colonies and thier digitalisation
- 3) The «**Cli-DaRe@Images**» in December 2024, once again it engages high school students in climate data rescue of old meteological volumes and books stored in the Franciscan monasteries of Trentino Region.



# Cli-DaRe@School Project (1)

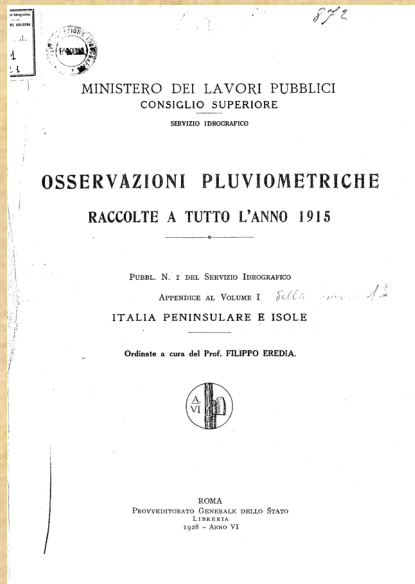


## DATA SOURCES

Four monographs published by the **Italian Hydrographic Service**:

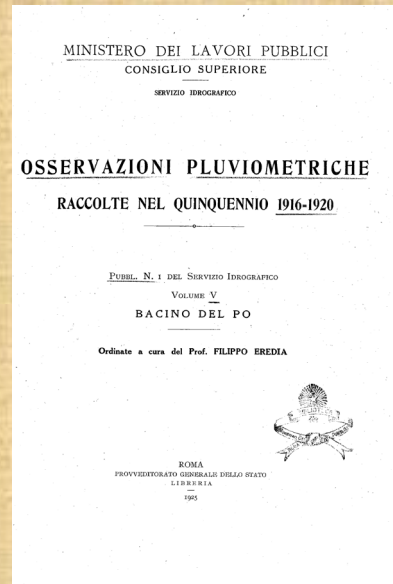
- Three contain **monthly precipitation records** covering the **years before 1916**, the **period 1916-1920** and the **period 1921-1950**;
- One contain **monthly temperature records** covering the **period 1926-1955**.

Period: before 1916



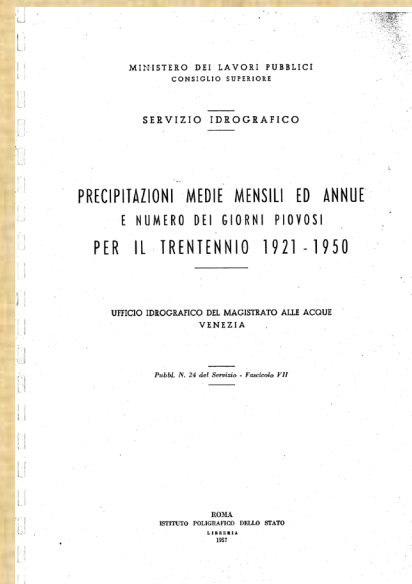
13 volumes

Period: 1916-1920



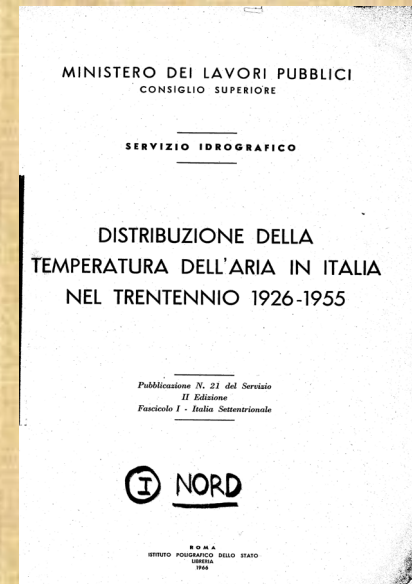
3 volumes

Period: 1921-1950



14 volumes

Period: 1926-1955



3 volumes



# Methodology for data keying

- All data sources were first scanned (<https://aisam.eu/progetti/cli-dare-at-school/#materiale>)
- The pages to be digitised were selected and distributed to the schools using the OneDrive directory together with the list of the pages to be processed;
- Each page were digitised only one time in order to maximise the quantity of recovered data, even if this does not allow a completely automatic check;
- The spreadsheet templates for data keying were prepared and distributed together with detailed instructions;
- All students were assisted in the digitisation work.

51 — Stazione CERIGNALE (Pn)

Lat. N. 44° 41'; Long. (Mer. Roma) 3° 6' W; m. s. m. 750

Bacino principale: TREBBIA

STATION NAME

CERIGNALE

PAGE NUMBER

63

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# Data extraction and quality check

A quality-checking procedure, using an R code, to control the files provided by the schools was prepared in order:

- To **verify if all the files expected** from each student **are present** and their **names are correctly coded**;
- To **check**, if the **spreadsheet has the correct format**;
- To **check the metadata (latitude, longitude and elevation)**;
- To **check the data** by comparing the calculated yearly sums/averages with the corresponding values entered by students. The same check is also performed for the monthly 10-year averages and for the averages over the entire considered period;

For each file **an output file is produced reporting if errors are present** and indicating which are the errors for each file.

**The procedure quickly requires opening each Excel file** due to the fact that each page has been digitised only one time in order to recover an high number of data:



- If no errors are reported, it only requires checking a few values;
- If the R code indicates one or more errors, it is necessary to evaluate whether the data must be **corrected** or if the error/errors are simply due to incorrect sums or averages in the original data tables.



# Learning activities proposed to the students

- ***Introductory lectures:*** two introductory lectures to each school participating in the project aiming at giving a **general presentation of the relevance of data rescue activities** and the **second focused on presenting the specific data rescue activities proposed within the project**;
- ***Tutorial on the importance of accurate station metadata:*** learning module aimed both to explain to students the relevance of correct georeferencing of stations and to provide them a methodology for checking the correctness of the station coordinates;
- ***Tutorial on errors and inhomogeneities in the data records:*** explain that any possible change in the environment around a station or any possible small displacement of it may cause relevant inhomogeneities in the data series. Other inhomogeneities may arise from changes in the instruments and instrument screens.
- ***Additional training activities: seven meetings*** on meteorology, climate and climate change to provide students with basic concepts to understand not only the importance and the goal of their activity in the frame of the Cli-DaRe@School project but also to make them more aware of the complexity of the climate system and the relevance of the climate change issue.
- A ***final online event*** was also organised to share the results of the first year of activities among the participants in the Cli-DaRe@School project.

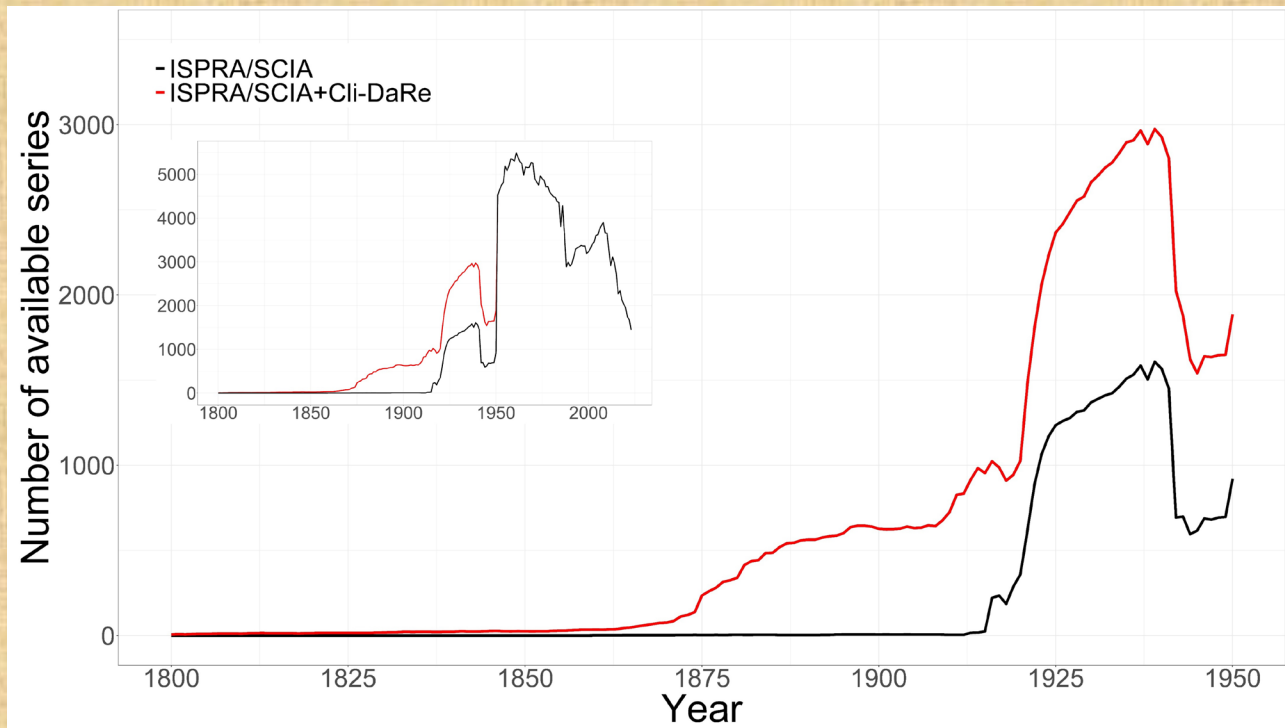


# Results

- The involved **students** were **more than 500 around Italy**;
- A total amount of **more than 6000 pages** of data were **digitised** corresponding to **7193 stations**;
- The **working time** for the digitisation of **one page** was **1 h** also taking into account the work time necessary for students to check the instructions and possible errors;
- **Metadata** turned out to be a **frequent** source of **errors**;
- The **fraction of pages with differences** between the calculated values and the corresponding ones turned out to be rather high (**about 30%**), even though about half of the cases did not depend on the digitisation work, but on errors in the original data source;
- A good fraction of students (**about 68%**) completed all their activities **without errors** in the digitised values while **less than 1%** of the students performed a **high number of errors**;
- The **procedure** to check the data **requires about 6 min** per digitised page, but it is rather small (**about 10% in terms of working hours**) when compared to that necessary for data digitisation.

# Results

- The **rescue activity improved the data availability from 1950 backward**. With the ISPRA-SCIA (<https://scia.isprambiente.it/>) dataset taken into account for the precipitation values, the data availability has more than doubled between the 1920s and 1940s;



- The **data control file is finished for precipitation for the 1921-1950 period** and they are **now freely available** (Manara et al., 2025 <https://zenodo.org/records/15084062>) and it is in progress for the other periods.

# Results: 1921-1950 Precipitation record

- The number of **digitised pages** was **1707**;
- The data digitisation performed within the Cli-DaRe@School project concerned about **half of the stations contained in this monograph** because, for the **other stations**, the data were **already available in computer-readable form** in several Italian archives of meteorological records;

Specifically, for each station in the monograph we selected:



- i) the closest station/stations;
- ii) the station/stations with the most similar name among those available in the SCIA and in the CNR-ISAC/UniMi archives;
- iii) we selected the station with the data most similar to those reported in the published data tables.

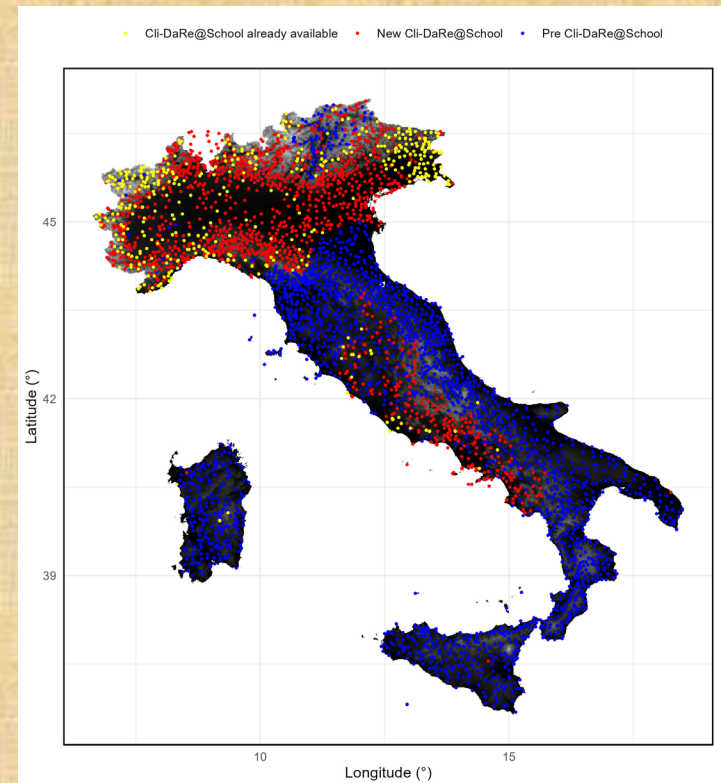
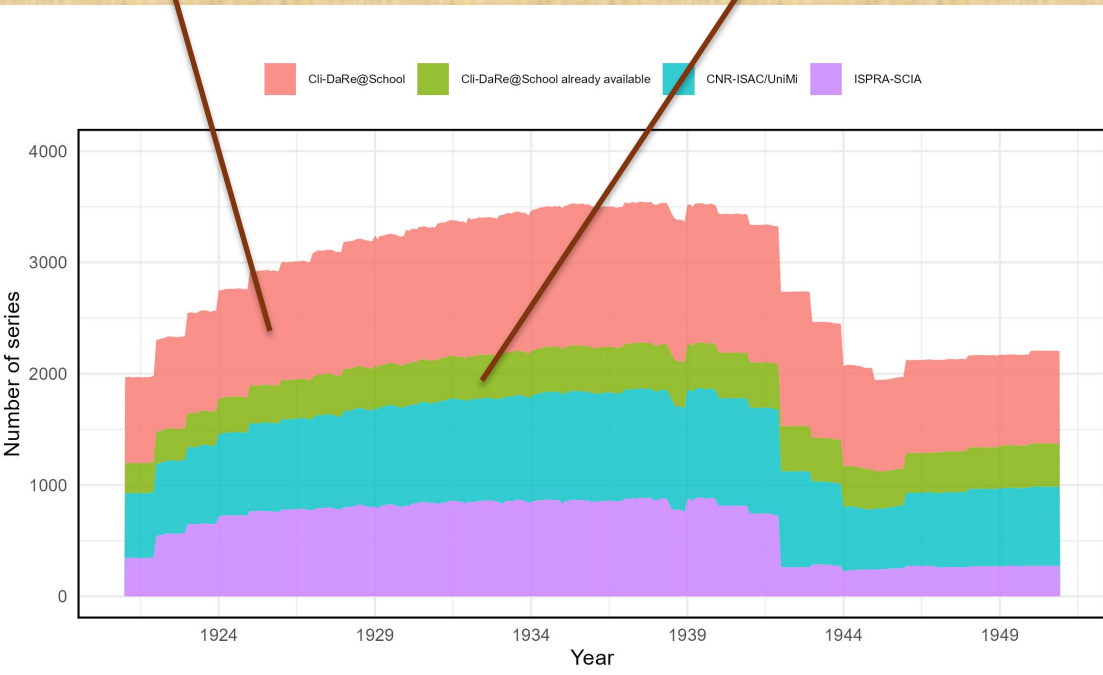
- Manually check of about 1900 data tables;
- The fraction of stations for which we found a correspondence turned out to be 99.2%, whereas the data tables of the few remaining stations were finally digitised by the Cli-DaRe@School research team.



# Results: 1921-1950 Precipitation record

The new stations range between about 1000 and 1500.

About 300 stations were digitised even though their data were already available.



# **References**

## ***Papers***

Manara V., Brunetti M., Beltrano M.C., Bertoldi G., Brugnara Y., Cat Berro D., Ceppi A., Crespi A., Stefanini F.M., Sudati F., Zardi D., Maugeri M. (2025a), *Engaging high school students in rescuing and digitizing data from historical observations in Italy: The citizen science project Cli-DaRe@School*, Bull. Am. Meteor. Soc., 106, E509–E524, <https://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-24-0078.1>

Manara V., Arcuri B., Brunetti M., Beltrano M.C., Bertoldi G., Brugnara Y., Cat Berro D., Ceppi A., Crespi A., Melada J., Stefanini F.M., Sudati F., Zardi D., Maugeri M. (2025b), *A new dataset of Italian precipitation records for the period 1921-1950 from the Cli-DaRe@School citizen science project*, Bull. Atm. Sc. Tech., 6-25, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42865-025-00111-3>

## ***Dataset***

Manara V., Arcuri B., Beltrano M.C., Bertoldi G., Brugnara Y., Brunetti M., Cat Berro D., Ceppi A., Crespi A., Melada J., Stefanini F.M., Sudati F., Zardi D., Maugeri M. (2025c), *Italian precipitation records for the period 1921–1950 from the Citizen science project Cli-DaRe@School*, Zenodo, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15084062>

# Dieci e Lode Project (2)

<https://aisam.eu/progetti/10-e-lode-en/>



An Italian acronym for “**Climate data of the Former Italian Colonies and their Digitalization**”

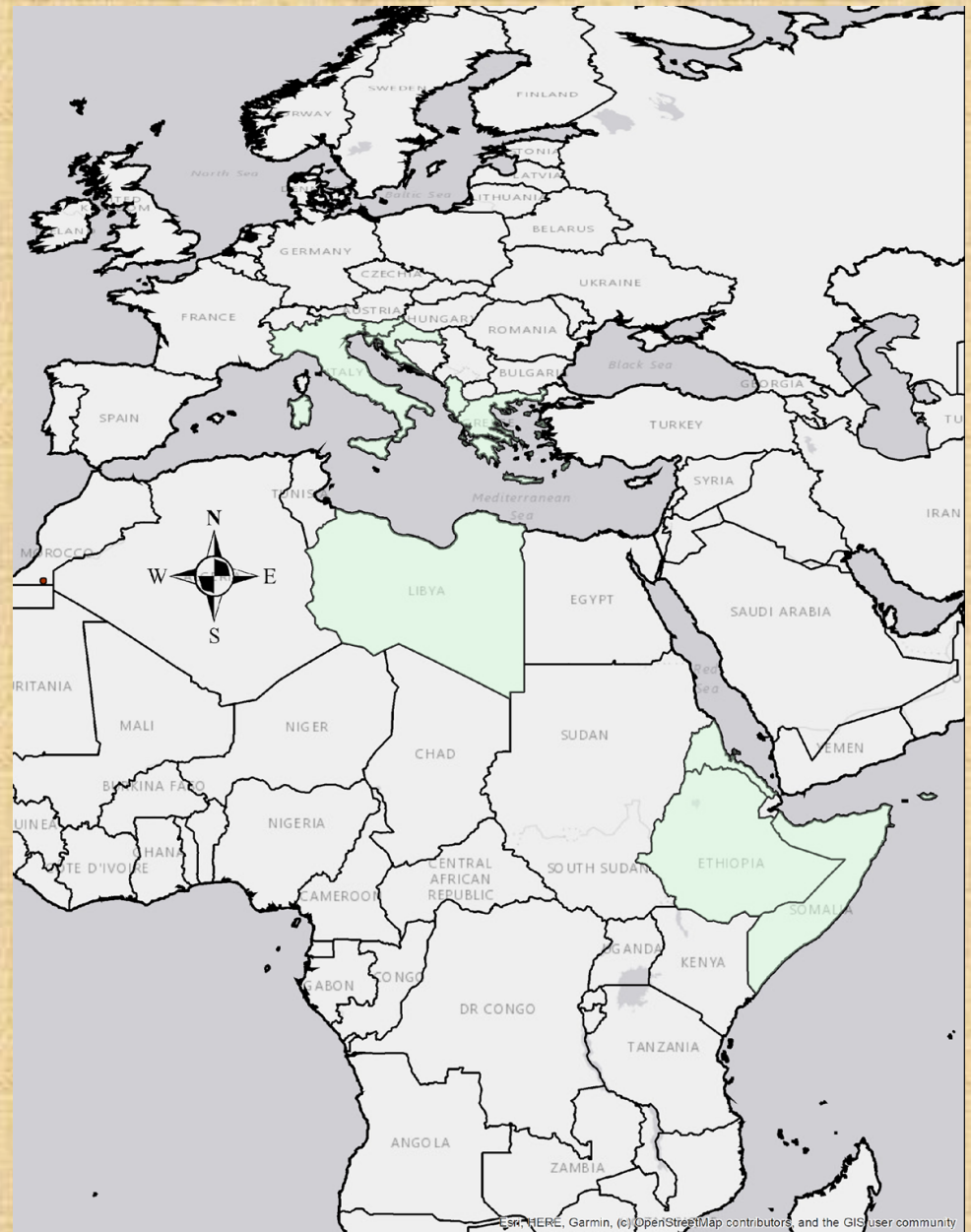
- Recover observations from former Italian colonies and territories that were for a period ruled by Italy
- Digitise and ensure open access to these data
- Contribute to filling the data gap in areas that are still suffering from being poorly covered by monitoring networks.



# Study area

Among the data to be recovered a significant part was collected in territories formerly ruled by Italy:

- **Eritrea**
- **Somalia**
- **Ethiopia**
- **Libya**
- **Dodecanese islands**
- **Albania**
- **Dalmatia**
- **Istria**



# Project funding

The Project is co-financed by public institutions:

- **the Italian Ministry of Culture**
- **the European Union – Next Generation EU**
- **the Italian National Agency of Meteorology and Climatology (ItaliaMeteo)**
- **private companies, such as** Hypermeteo, Radarmeteo, SIAP+Micros, CAE, Ecosearch, Lombard & Marozzini, Osservatorio Juris Silva





# Steps of the project (October 2023-April 2025)

- Phase #1: team building, official agreements with partners, and fundraising
- Phase #2: set up the inventory of available climatological datasets to be rescued
- Phase #3: scanning activities
- Phase #4: organization of the archive images, dissemination and publications

Kick-off meeting: Bologna on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024      Closing meeting: Rome on 10<sup>st</sup> April 2025



<https://aisam.eu/progetti/10-e-lode-kick-off-meeting-en>



<https://aisam.eu/10-e-lode-closing-meeting-en/>



## **Material and data: available digitized and scanned information**

To better understand which data only exist in hard copy and have to be recovered by scanning, the «Dieci e Lode» project has created:

- **A list containing all international datasets which are already available online**, such as :
  - Copernicus
  - GHCN (Global Historical Climatology Network)
  - ISPD (International Surface Pressure Databank).
- **A list of many original sources that have been already scanned throughout the years, **but not digitized****, such as:
  - Documents from Italian Air Force Service
  - Meteorological Bulletin of Cyrenaica (1931)
  - Climatological Contribution of Somalia
  - Meteorological bulletin of the Italian colonies for the years 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935-1936).

# Material and data: the CREA's treasure

- The **heritage of meteorological observations** from these **territories** is mostly found in the **National Meteorological Archives of the Council for Research in Agricultural and the analysis of Agricultural Economy (CREA)**
- **Tmean, Tmin, Tmax, humidity, precipitation, wind, pressure and cloudiness** are the most common variables available in these data archives to be scanned.



## **Material and data: libraries**

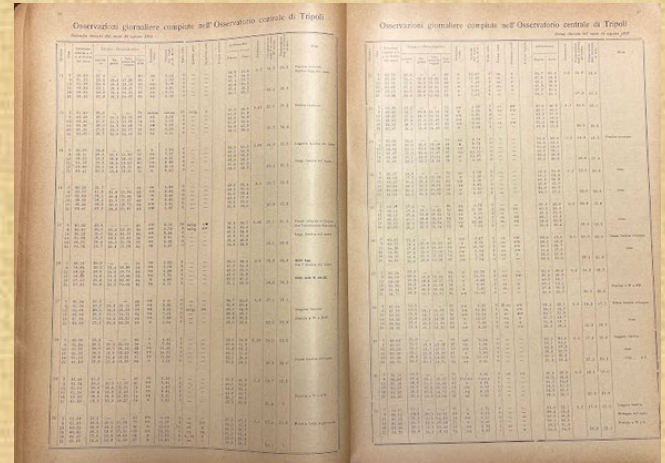
In addition, many books and datasheets containing meteorological data and climatological studies regarding former Italian colonies that have been scanned have been found in:

- **Library BSGU** (Biblioteca degli Studi Giuridici e Umanistici), of the University of Milan
- **Library “Ardito Desio”**, also belonging to the University of Milan
- **Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei** (Rome)
- **State library of Cremona**



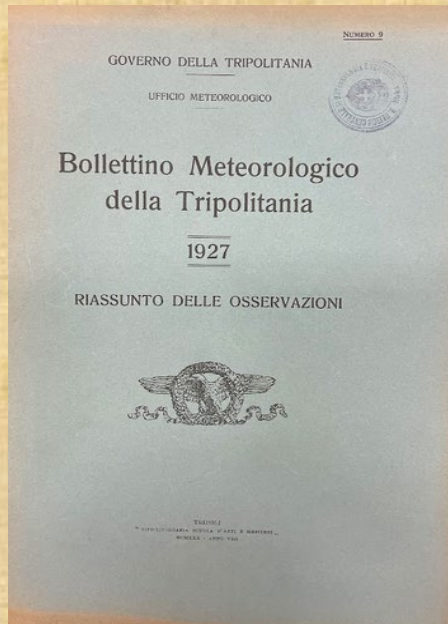
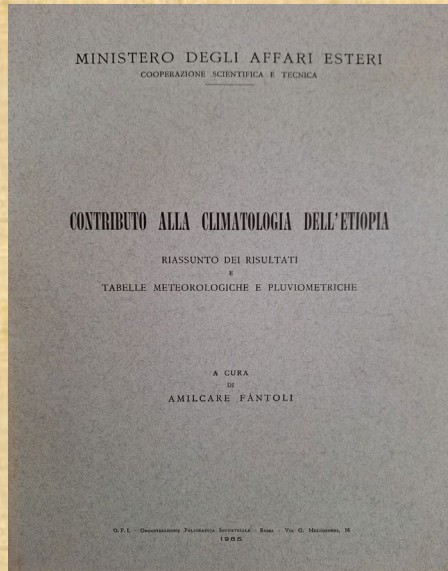
# Main activities

- Between August 2024 and February 2025, the material, previously been identified, has been scanned by **Ronca Editore** (publishing company).
- The result is a collection of **40,000** scanned pages, all collected into a database that from today will be available to everyone.



# Main scanned volumes

- Contribution to the climatology of **Ethiopia, Tripolitania, Cyrenaica**, the internal regions of **Libya**, the **Ethiopian Plateau** and **Eritrea**, "Meteorological observations made in **Tripoli** with the climograms of that period": 6 volumes in total, about 2800 pages.
- 34 Meteorological bulletins of **Tripolitania** (1919-1931), **Cyrenaica** (1921-1928) and **Eritrea** (1930-1933), **Italian Africa** (1935-1936), **Italian Colonies** (1932-1934), **Kingdom of Libya** (1956-1959)



Mod. A

OSSERVATORIO METEOROLOGICO DI *Bengasi*

Anno 1917

Mese di *gennaio*

Decade *I<sup>a</sup>*

Latitudine *32° 06' 42" N* Longitudine da Greenwich *20° 02' 51"* Altitudine del pozzetto del barometro sul livello del mare m.

GIORNI	BAROMETRO						Media pressione diurna	TERMOMETRO		TERMO-PSICROMETRO						MEDIA temp. diurna					
	0 h			15 h				21 h		a all'ombra	a all'ombra	0 h			15 h			21 h			
	Term. ambiente	Bar. annero, a 10 m. sopra il pozzetto	Bar. al pozzetto	Term. ambiente	Bar. annero, a 10 m. sopra il pozzetto	Bar. al pozzetto		Term. ambiente	Bar. annero, a 10 m. sopra il pozzetto			Bar. al pozzetto	Termometro selettore		Termometro selettore		Termometro selettore		Termometro selettore		
													Assoluto	Relativo	Assoluto		Relativo	Assoluto	Relativo	Assoluto	Relativo
1	18	764.4	763.2	20	764.3	762.9	18	764.5	762.3	17	20	19	15.8	70	18.6	15	58	17.5	13.8	64	
2	19	765.3	763.8	21	765.9	763.3	19	766.9	764.6	15	20.4	18.6	15	66	18.8	15.4	60	18	16	80	
3	17	766.5	764.4	20	765.5	762.9	19	765.3	762.9	16	21	18.4	16	68	20	16	64	18.6	15.6	68	
4	18	765.4	763.1	20	765.2	762.5	19	765.6	763.2	17	20.5	18.8	15.6	70	19	16.2	73	19	15.4	66	
5	16	766.6	764.6	23	766.1	763.8	19	766.8	764.4	14.5	20.2	19	16	72	19	15.6	63	15.6	13.8	73	
6	14	763.6	763.3	19	764.4	762.3	17	764.9	762.8	12.8	21	17.2	12.6	56	21	14.6	63	15.4	12.6	70	
7	15	763.6	761.2	21	762.5	760.2	17	763.5	761.4	13.6	20.8	17	12.5	56	21	14.6	63	15.4	12.6	71	
8	14	763.3	761.6	18	762.1	759.8	18	762.2	760.2	14.6	21.2	15	14.8	66	18	14.5	67	17	13	80	
9	16	765.6	764.6	20	764.1	761.6	17	765.3	763.2	12	19.5	14	15	39	18.4	14.2	60	14	12.4	82	
10	13	766.2	764.4	20	766.9	764.4	15	767.2	765.2	10.6	19.8	13.6	12	82	18	13.5	58	13	10.5	71	
Summa.			629.7			622.6		629.9		137.9	203.8			204			619			728	



## Main scanned volumes

- Archived paper sheets at CREA, with data from **82 stations** in different countries: Albania (1), Algeria (2), Croatia (10), Egypt (1), Eritrea (3), Ethiopia (1), Greece (14), Libya (37), Palestine (1), Slovenia (1) and Somalia (11). These data sheets are about 14.800 pages.
- 48 books and short publications containing meteorological data and climatological studies about former African colonies.

[illegible]

41

# Stazione di Azizia

Umidità

Nebulosità

Giora	G.	F.	M.	A.	M.	G.	A.	S.	O.	N.	D.	G.	F.	M.	A.	M.	G.	A.	S.	O.	N.	D.				
1	61	37	59	72	22	15	5	40	1	36	37	38	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
2	63	58	73	61	65	9	35	35	19	39	38	3	2,5	5,8	10,0	5,5	8,5	8,0	6,0	3,9	7	3,0	2,5	2,5		
3	63	59	7	59	38	39	19	35	47	58	62	3	0	2,0	10,0	5,5	8,5	7,0	0,0	0,5	7	3,0	4,0	1,8		
4	47	45	67	69	21	17	48	37	1	67	57	70	3	0	6,0	0,0	0,0	1,5	8,9	0,0	1,8	7	2,0	1,0	10,0	
5	57	54	84	60	50	25	34	21	1	66	65	69	2	0	4,0	0,0	0,0	6,5	8,5	6,0	2	2,0	1,0	6,0		
6	60	62	50	48	18	23	23	1	32	48	72	7	10	3,0	0,0	0,0	9,0	1,0	0,0	0	7	1,5	1,0	9,0		
7	28	79	7	67	58	47	18	29	1	55	34	60	6	6,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	0,0	0,0	0	7	1,0	9,5	0,5	
8	45	55	60	57	37	28	12	30	1	47	35	37	5	1,5	6,0	4,0	8,0	1,5	6,0	0	7	2,0	5,5	2,0		
9	49	65	66	66	17	8	30	1	40	32	30	5	10	6,0	3,0	0,0	1,0	3,0	0,0	1,5	6	2	2,0	9,0	6,3	
10	54	62	66	48	31	19	29	19	1	41	38	48	4	3,0	4,0	9,5	6,0	1,0	6,0	0,0	0	7	1,0	1,5	0	
11	45	57	5	59	46	25	20	29	1	47	48	60	4	2,2	3,5	2,5	1,2	4,3	3,0	0,1	1,3	7	3,1	21	4,5	
12	34	7	84	30	32	13	65	31	42	37	45	60	5	5,0	4,5	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0	6	4,5	4,0	0,0	
13	35	67	53	34	17	4	48	59	19	35	48	19	30	4,0	4,5	0,5	0,0	0,0	4,5	4,0	0	6	7,5	4,5	9,0	
14	32	72	46	49	40	32	30	23	71	44	25	0	0	0	2,0	0,0	6,0	5,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	5,0	3,0	5,0	0	
15	61	55	73	47	63	7	69	29	49	44	19	25	5,5	5,0	6,0	7,5	1,0	6,0	2,0	0	6	6,0	2,5	1,0	6,0	
16	39	61	37	62	6	4	16	38	31	32	58	41	0,5	3,0	0,0	0,0	1,5	6,0	6,0	0	6	7,0	4,0	5,0		
17	49	57	60	66	35	2	7	42	10	36	37	46	0	0	0	2,5	4,0	1,0	1,5	0	6	5,5	5,5	5,5	5,5	
18	32	35	66	18	37	11	14	21	35	29	35	39	5	5,0	6,0	3,5	4,5	16,0	8,0	1,0	4	6	1,5	10,0	10,0	
19	43	68	66	61	29	35	43	23	45	68	42	40	5	0	0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	7,5	1,5	6	5,5	16,0	3,0	6,0
20	40	74	74	32	34	80	25	36	37	47	29	41	1	1,0	1,5	0	0	0	5,5	0,0	0	6	5,5	2,5	9,5	6,0
21																										
22	40	58	66	54	17	26	29	26	47	50	43	1,8	3,2	2,8	4,6	3,3	3,3	0,9	0,9	1,6	6,9	6,6	2,2			
23	63	42	67	65	17	33	31	46	42	55	29	49	1,5	5,2	7,6	8,8	1,0	4,0	6,5	5,5	1,5	3,0	4,0	2,5		
24	49	71	69	32	17	48	41	15	92	20	56	4	4,8	6,2	11,5	6,0	8,0	1,0	4,5	4,0	2,5	1,5	3,0	2,0		
25	49	68	76	32	30	61	35	37	37	44	28	39	0,9	0,0	1,5	7,5	7,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	9,5	1,5	7,5	9,0	
26	30	65	69	46	29	22	20	35	30	22	28	27	0,9	0,0	4,5	4,5	7,5	6,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	6,0		
27	51	61	52	58	19	17	16	15	33	34	7	3	7,5	0,0	5,5	0,0	4,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,0	9,0	9,0	2,5	
28	54	57	67	22	12	13	31	45	16	57	34	29	8,5	0,0	0,0	0,0	6,0	5,0	9,0	4,5	0	9,0	1,9	7,5	1,0	2,0
29	44	69	60	25	8	1	34	40	16	59	29	17	8,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	7,5	6,0	4,0	2,0	2,5	2,5	1,0	7,5		
30	42	67	84	31	8	4	49	60	60	82	2	6,5	6,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	6,0		
31	39	62	—	66	58	52	15	25	39	33	58	35	6,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	0	9,5	7,5	9,5	9,5	
32	49	64	—	56	30	16	15	42	32	44	52	36	32	6,0	0,5	0,0	8,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	2	9,5	7,5	4,5	1,0	3,0
33	41	60	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	0,5	0,5	0,5	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	
34	46	62	66	38	25	20	38	40	33	52	38	33	3,4	0,8	2,4	1,8	4,1	0,9	1,9	1,5	2,4	3,8	4,8	2,9		
35																										
36	44	59	7	49	37	24	28	33	7	49	45	45	3,1	2,5	2,6	2,5	3,9	2,4	2,1	1,1	4	4,6	4,4	3,2		
37																										

M. Ann. 9.

M. Ann. 1.

S. E. — Meteo- e climat. annali e verificazioni più note.



# Scanned data

## Libya

- Period of Italian government: 1912-1943
- Stations in the digitized inventory: 67
- Stations in the scanned inventory: 70
- Stations in the scanned material: more than 80



## **Ethiopia**

- Period of Italian government: 1935-1941
- Stations in the digitized inventory: 190
- Stations in the scanned inventory: 24
- Stations in the scanned material: 47



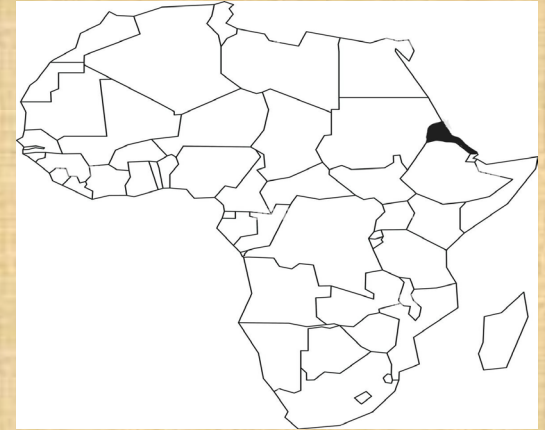
## **Somalia**

- Period of Italian government: 1908-1941
- Stations in the digitized inventory: 13
- Stations in the scanned inventory: 90
- Stations in scanned material: 45



## **Eritrea**

- Period of Italian government: 1890-1947
- Stations in the digitized inventory: 13
- Stations in the scanned inventory: 22
- Stations in the scanned material: 56



## **Dalmatia and Istria**

- Period of Italian government: 1941-1943
- Stations in the digitized inventory: 67
- Stations in the scanned inventory: 0
- Stations in the scanned material: 11





## **Albania**

- Period of Italian government : 1918-1920, 1939-1943
- Stations in the digitized inventory: 13
- Stations in the scanned inventory: 0
- Stations in the scanned material: 1 (Babizza Piccola)



## **Dodecanese islands and Rhodes**

- Period of Italian government : 1912-1943
- Stations in the digitized inventory: 0
- Stations in the scanned inventory: 2
- Stations in the scanned material: 15



# Final Database



AISAM - Drive > Cli-DaRe > DIECI\_E\_LODE

Tipo Persone Data modifica Sorgente

Nome	Ultima modifica	Dimensioni f
AM	8 apr 2025 lo	—

BOOKS

- CREA\_UCM
- GSM\_RCO
- WEATHER BULLETINS
- DATABASE ORGANISATION.xlsx

... > DIECI\_E\_LODE > CREA\_UCM

Tipo Persone Data modifica Sorgente

Nome	Ultima modifica	Dimensioni f
ALBANIA	8 apr 2025 lo	—
ALGERIA	8 apr 2025 lo	—
CROATIA		
EGYPT		
ERITREA		
ETHIOPIA		
GREECE		
LIBYA		
PALESTINE		
SLOVENIA		
SOMALIA		

... > CREA\_UCM > LIBYA

Tipo Persone Data modifica Sorgente

Nome	Ultima modifica	Dimensioni f
Agedabia	8 apr 2025 lo	—
Azizia	8 apr 2025 lo	—
Bengasi	8 apr 2025 lo	—
Beni Ulid	8 apr 2025 lo	—
Bu Kamez	8 apr 2025 lo	—
Cirene	8 apr 2025 lo	—
Derna	8 apr 2025 lo	—
El Uotia		
Er Regena		
Fetela		
Feuhlat		
Forte a Mare		
Gadames		
Garian		
Gasr Garabulli		

... > LIBYA > Azizia

Tipo Persone Data modifica Sorgente

Nome	Ultima modifica	Dimensioni f
1919	8 apr 2025 lo	—
1920	8 apr 2025 lo	—
1923	8 apr 2025 lo	—
1924	8 apr 2025 lo	—
1925	8 apr 2025 lo	—

# Next step

**New Project (September 2025 – April 2028): involved in the WG1**




## **C3S2 311 BisRescue, Collection and Processing of in-situ Observations**

A project coordinated by Maynooth University (Ireland) under the “Tender Copernicus Procurement” call, funded by the European Union and implemented by ECMWF.

Implemented by ECMWF as part of The Copernicus Programme

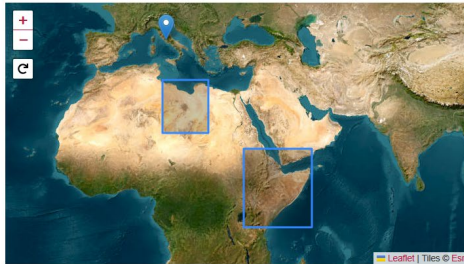
English

Home About Tools Science Inventories Data sharing News

### Dieci e Lode: Climatological data of the Former Italian Colonies and their Digitalization

Project information



Features

Contact information (email address)	diecielode@aisam.eu
Rescue Status	90%
Rescue Status Date	Tue, 03/25/2025 - 12:00
Need assistance	No
Country	Italy





# CliDaRe@Images Project (3)

Citizen Science for Italian Climate Data Rescue with Images, funded by CARITRO

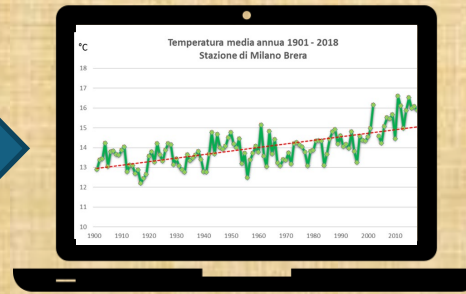
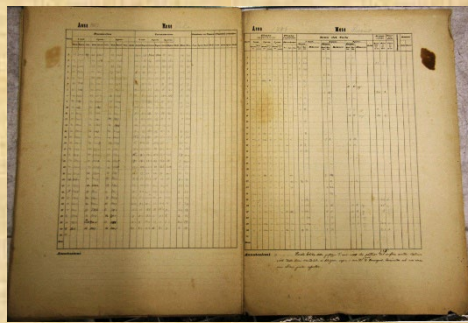
December 2024-May2026



## Aim of the project

- Educate and raise awareness among high school students about climate change in the Trentino Region through the recovery of historical climate data.
- Specifically, it aims to digitalise the data stored at the **San Bernardino Library** in Trento city.
- After photographing the records, the data will be transcribed into a spreadsheet, recovering and making available a priceless scientific heritage.
- The project aims to operate from a **Citizen Science** perspective, shifting from a science narrative in which students are passive learners to one in which they become active participants. The goal is to have the students involved experience the process of digitally retrieving historical meteorological data from historical paper records and processing the data themselves.

# Methods



The project raises students' awareness of climate change by putting them in direct contact with historical data series for their preservation and valorisation. In this way:

- 1) By processing historical data, they directly observe the reality of ongoing climate change;
- 2) They acquire technical and IT skills related to numerical data management that can be used broadly in the future.

# Partners

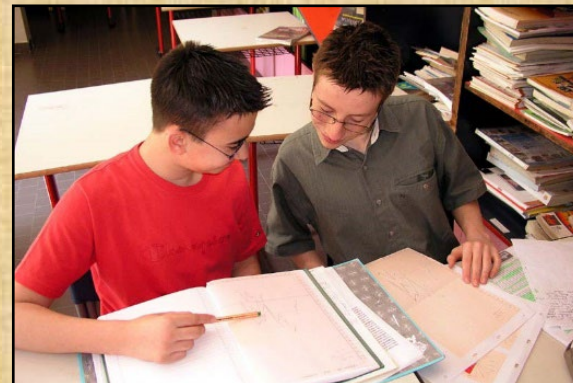
- The San Bernardino Library in Trento preserves and makes available the data collection to be digitized, the spaces where the project will be carried out, the photographic survey equipment, and the staff's expertise in protecting and enhancing the archival heritage.
- Galileo Galilei high school (Trento)
- Collegio Arcivescovile Endrici high school (Trento)
- Meteorological Association of Trentino and South Tyrol





# Activities

1. Students will be offered a **series of seminars** to present the historical evolution of meteorological observation networks, to raise awareness of the importance of data and its retrieval, and to understand how the climate has changed over time.
2. With the involvement of a **professional photographer**, they will be trained to independently **create images** of the annals' pages and will be guided in the creation of a digital archive to be transcribed into a spreadsheet.
3. **Students will experience the entire process**, often unknown to non-experts, that **scientific research follows to achieve its final result: knowledge**. They will be shown what scientific research entails, from archival consultation to data retrieval, through data validation and quality control, until they obtain a solid foundation for the rigorous analyses that lead to scientific learning about climate change.





# Conclusions

The imposing task of scanning that AISAM has developed allows to:

- **preserve a heritage** of inestimable value and consult a significant series of past information, actually on paper only: all the scanned copies are online and freely available.
- The Cli-DaRe@School project demonstrates that **high school students can make a great contribution to rescue** the huge amount of **past meteorological data** that are available in image or hardcopy formats only.
- The benefit of engaging students is of **great educational value**, offering them an easy help on experience with climate data and making them conscious of the hard work required to set up the datasets necessary to document climatic trends. This will be the main goal also for Cli-DaRe@Images project.
- The weather observations in the former colonies (**Dieci e Lode** project) will give significant contribution to international climatological research of the past, particularly over ungauged countries.
- The project also allowed a high number of **university students** working on these projects records for their final **dissertation or for internships** on climatic data. These students had a key role for the quality checks and for the organisation of the dataset.

# EGU General Assembly 2026 | Session CL2.7

## Historical Weather Data Rescue and Methodologies Focusing on Data-sparse Regions

Convener: Praveen Teleti

Co-conveners: Alessandro Ceppi, Veronica Manara

Vienna, Austria & Online | 3–8 May 2026

### Overview

Join us for an engaging session dedicated to uncovering the untold stories hidden in historical weather records. We invite contributions exploring new data sources, innovative extraction methods, and applications of rescued datasets to improve our understanding of past climates, extremes, and risks.

This session particularly welcomes:


- Automated AI/ML workflows for weather data extraction
- Citizen science initiatives and collaborative projects
- Best practices for digitization and integration
- Case studies applying historical data to reconstruct floods, droughts, and extremes

### Key Topics

- ✓ Discovering new sources of historical weather observations
- ✓ Data rescue, digitization, and quality control methodologies
- ✓ Applying rescued data to climate and hazard reconstruction
- ✓ Collaborative data-rescue efforts: successes & lessons learned
- ✓ Leveraging AI & machine learning to unlock archives

### Session Information

 Abstract submission deadline: 15 January 2026, 13:00 CET

 Financial support deadline: 1 December 2025, 13:00 CET

**Be part of the global effort to rescue our weather heritage!**

**Submit your abstract now:**

**<https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU26/session/57107>**



8ª EDIZIONE  
festival  
meteorologia

Comunicazione  
Formazione  
Professione

TEMPO

ROVERETO  
16.17.18  
NOVEMBRE 2023

**Thank you for your  
attention!**

[alessandro.ceppi@polimi.it](mailto:alessandro.ceppi@polimi.it)

[segreteria@aisam.eu](mailto:segreteria@aisam.eu)







# The Team

## Principal Investigator



Alessandro Ceppi  
(Politecnico di Milano)

## Staff Members



Michele Brunetti  
(CNR-ISAC)



Dino Zardi  
(University of Trento)



Sergio Pisani  
**(President of AISAM)**



Maurizio Maugeri  
(University of Milan)



Luigi Iafrate  
(CREA)



Francesco Sudati  
(Air Force Service)



Maria Carmen Beltrano  
(AISAM)



Veronica Manara  
(University of Milan)



Marina Baldi  
(CNR-IBE)



Samuele Giampietro  
(AISAM)



Federico Stefanini  
(University of Milan)



Fabio Leali  
(University of Trento)



Eva De Vecchis  
(AISAM)



Alessia Tadiello  
(University of Milan)

# Affiliations

The team members are affiliated with various Italian institutions:

- University of Milan, Department of Environmental Science and Policy
- CNR - Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate (ISAC)
- CNR - Institute of Bioeconomy (IBE)
- Politecnico di Milano, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (DICA)
- University of Trento, Department of Civil, Environmental and Mechanical Engineering (DICAM)
- Italian Air Force Service (AM)
- Council for research in agriculture and the analysis of agricultural economy (CREA)





## **Database organisation**

- Into the database it can be found: a file describing both its structure (mostly the data are clustered per nation, then per station and sometimes per year) and the meaning of the images' names.
- Regarding the single images, their name always contain an acronym indicating their source (the volume it comes from or the archive), the nation about their data refer to, the station, and when it is possible the year of the measurements, with the time subdivision (semiannual, monthly, decadal) or the variables contained, where present.

# Database organisation

The database is divided into 5 main sources:

## **Aeronautica Militare:**

Data sheets already scanned before the project and provided by the Italian Air Force. They cover data from various nations from the end of the nineteenth century until the 1960's.

*Osservatorio Principale di Asmara.*  
*Anemometro contatore - Mese di Ottobre 1938 XVII.*

<i>Gorni</i>	<i>h 8</i>	<i>h 11</i>	<i>h 14</i>	<i>h 19</i>
1	83.3800	87.2800	89.5900	92.7200
2	67.400	13.7100	212.700	26.5200
3	28.1400	302.400	856.200	48.2400
4	47.6900	52.7700	618.400	664.300
5	684.400	74.5200	836.900	88.8900
6	89.3700	92.8500	97.2.300	13.700
7	35.300	52.900	132.700	14.8700
8	153.900	18.2100	202.700	21.7900
9	27.4700	331.800	37.1.400	38.4900
10	39.8700	416.200	442.100	42.2.100
11	54.0600	57.7700	592.900	627.100
12	694.400	736.900	81.2.000	86.7.800
13	92.7700	97.3900	102.9.600	12.6.000
14	146.200	18.9100	217.300	30.2300
15	32.2200	34.5400	412.300	49.4600
16	57.1800	593.500	651.400	742.500

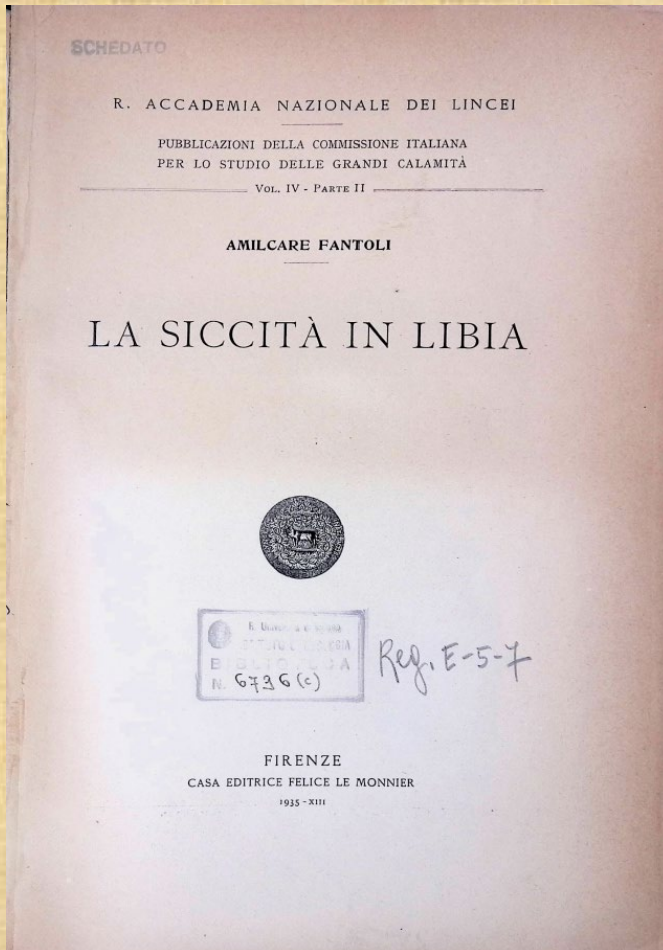


# Database organisation

## BOOKS:

Books both scanned during the project and obtained through internet, containing both meteorological data and climatological studies; they are all available as pdf files, and furthermore for some of them (mainly the contributes to the climatology), the single pages have been divided per nations, stations and year.

An inventory list is available containing the books' titles, their author, publishing year and a short description of the content.





## Database organisation

# CREA-UCM:

The datasheets that were contained into the CREA archive, including meteorological data from the first half of the 20th century.

## WEATHER BULLETINS:

Weather bulletins from Cyrenaica, Tripolitania, Internal regions of Libya, and Eritrea, both already available on internet or scanned during the project.

[illegible]

# Database organisation

## GSM-RCO:

Global summaries of the month and Records of Climatological Observations regarding the climate of Libya, already scanned before the project

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

Current Location: Elev: 2037 ft. Lat: 31.8700° N Lon: 10.9800° E

Station: NALUT, LY LYE00147740

Global Summary of the Month for 1932

Generated on 06/22/2024

National Centers for Environmental Information

151 Patton Avenue

Asheville, North Carolina 28801

Date		Temperature (F)												Precipitation (Inches)										Observed Weather	
Elem ->	TAVG	TMAX	TMIN	HTDD	CLDD	EMXT		EMNT		DX90	DX32	DT32	DT00	PRCP	EMXP		SNOW	EMSD		DP01	DP10	DP1X	DYHF	DYTS	
Month	Mean	Mean Max.	Mean Min.	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days	Highest	High Date	Lowest	Low Date	Number of Days				Total	Greatest Observed	Date	Snow, Sleet			Number of Days					
										Max >= 90	Max <= 32	Min <= 32	Min <= 0		Amount		Total Fall	Max Depth	Max Date	>= 01	>= 10	>= 1.0	FG+	TS	
Jan	M	M	37.7	M	M	M	M	27	02	M	M	2	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	
Feb	M	M	41.4	M	M	M	M	37	06	M	M	0	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	
May	M	M	57.1	M	M	M	M	46	04	M	M	0	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	
Jun	78.9	92.8	65.0	0	393	107	21	53	10	16	0	0	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	

Notes

M Data element not reported or missing.

X Monthly means or totals based on incomplete time series.

+ Occurred on one or more previous dates during the month. The date in the Date field is the last day of occurrence.

A Accumulated amount.

T Trace Amount.

FG+ Heavy Fog

TS Thunderstorms



# Conclusions

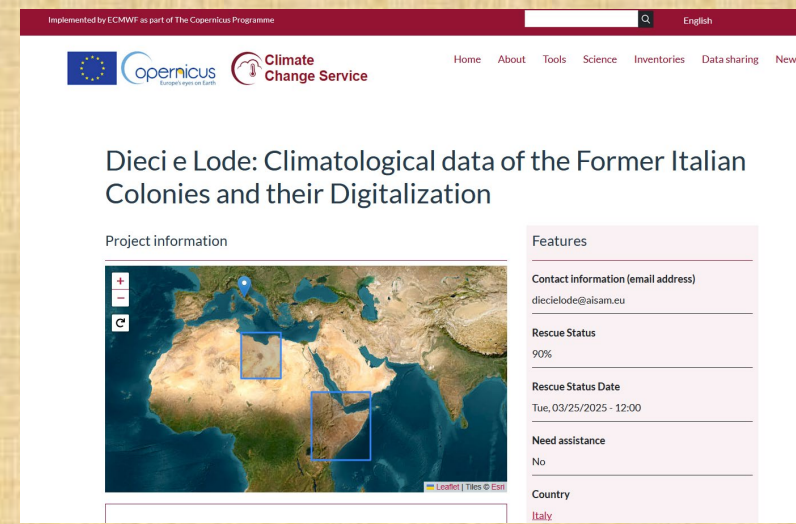
The weather observations in the former colonies will give significant contribution to international climatological research.

The imposing task of scanning that AISAM has developed allows to:

- preserve a heritage of inestimable value.
- consult a significant series of past information, actually on paper only: all the scanned copies are online and freely available.
- obtain an international visibility thanks to Copernicus EU, which added our project to its Data Rescue Database, and to all the dissemination activities provided by the team members.
- what's next?

**C3S2 311 Bis**

**Rescue, Collection and Processing of in-situ  
Observations**





## **Database organisation**

- Into the database it can be found: a file describing both its structure (mostly the data are clustered per nation, then per station and sometimes per year) and the meaning of the images' names.
- Regarding the single images, their name always contain an acronym indicating their source (the volume it comes from or the archive), the nation about their data refer to, the station, and when it is possible the year of the measurements, with the time subdivision (semiannual, monthly, decadal) or the variables contained, where present.

# Database organisation

The database is divided into 5 main sources:

## **Aeronautica Militare:**

Data sheets already scanned before the project and provided by the Italian Air Force. They cover data from various nations from the end of the nineteenth century until the 1960's.

*Osservatorio Principale di Asmara.*  
*Anemometro contatore - Mese di Ottobre 1938 XVII.*

<i>Gorni</i>	<i>h 8</i>	<i>h 11</i>	<i>h 14</i>	<i>h 19</i>
1	83.3800	87.2800	89.5900	92.7200
2	67.400	13.7100	212.700	26.5200
3	28.1400	302.400	856.200	48.2400
4	47.6900	52.7700	618.400	664.300
5	684.400	74.5200	836.900	88.8900
6	89.3700	92.8500	97.2.300	1.5700
7	35.300	52.900	132.700	14.8700
8	153.900	18.2100	202.700	21.7900
9	27.4700	331.800	37.1.400	38.4900
10	39.8700	416.200	442.100	422.100
11	54.0600	57.7700	592.900	627.100
12	694.400	736.900	81.2.000	86.7.800
13	92.7700	97.3900	102.9.600	12.6.000
14	146.200	18.9100	217.300	30.2300
15	32.2200	34.5400	412.300	49.4600
16	57.1800	593.500	651.400	742.500

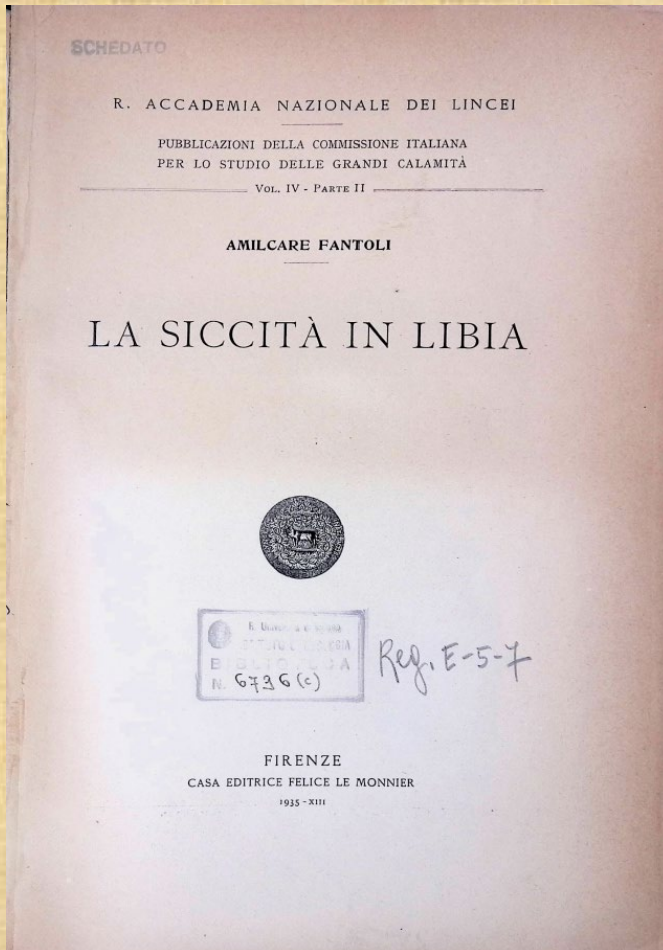


# Database organisation

## BOOKS:

Books both scanned during the project and obtained through internet, containing both meteorological data and climatological studies; they are all available as pdf files, and furthermore for some of them (mainly the contributes to the climatology), the single pages have been divided per nations, stations and year.

An inventory list is available containing the books' titles, their author, publishing year and a short description of the content.





## Database organisation

# CREA-UCM:

The datasheets that were contained into the CREA archive, including meteorological data from the first half of the 20th century.

## WEATHER BULLETINS:

Weather bulletins from Cyrenaica, Tripolitania, Internal regions of Libya, and Eritrea, both already available on internet or scanned during the project.

[illegible]

