



Norwegian  
Meteorological  
Institute

MET info

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Meteorology

# Verification of Experimental and Operational Weather Prediction Models June to August 2013

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Photo: Einar Egeland

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## 1 Models

The following models are verified in this report. All except EC are or have been running at MET.

EC	Global model (IFS) at the ECMWF. From 26 January 2010 resolution $T1279$ or approximately $16 \times 16 \text{ km}^2$ horizontally. Available resolution for verification at MET is $0.25^\circ$ latitude and longitude. Number of vertical levels increased from $L91$ to $L137$ 25 June 2013.
Hirlam12 (H12)	Version 7.1, horizontal resolution defined by a $12 \times 12 \text{ km}^2$ grid since 13 February 2008.
Hirlam8 (H8)	Version 7.1, horizontal resolution defined by a $8 \times 8 \text{ km}^2$ grid since 13 February 2008.
UM4	Unified Model (Met Office) run at a $4 \times 4 \text{ km}^2$ grid since June 2004.
Harmonie4	HARMONIE cycle 33h1/36h1.1 with ALARO physics run on a $4 \times 4 \text{ km}^2$ grid from August 2008 to 3 May 2011.
Harmonie5.5	HARMONIE cycle 36h1.3 with ALARO physics run on a $5.5 \times 5.5 \text{ km}^2$ grid from 4 May 2011 to 15 January 2013.
Harmonie2.5	HARMONIE cycle 36h1.3 with AROME physics run on a $2.5 \times 2.5 \text{ km}^2$ grid from 4 May 2011 to 26 February 2013.
AROME-Norway	HARMONIE cycle 37h1.1 with AROME physics run on a $2.5 \times 2.5 \text{ km}^2$ grid on a larger domain than Harmonie2.5; experimental since 25 October 2012, replacing Harmonie2.5 from 26 February 2013.

Analysis and lead times of forecasts are denoted by e.g. 00+30 UTC which indicates forecast generated at 00 UTC and valid 30 hours later.

## 2 HARMONIE and AROME-Norway

Experimental HARMONIE models have been run at MET Norway since August 2008, leading to AROME-Norway which on 1 October 2013 was introduced on yr.no. HARMONIE is the acronym for HIRLAM's meso-scale forecast system (Hirlam Aladin Regional/Meso-scale Operational NWP In Europe). The HARMONIE system includes several configuration options. This section presents some of the main components and setups that are or has been used at MET. More documentation is available on <http://hirlam.org/index.php/documentation/harmonie>.

## 2.1 ALARO-0 physics

ALARO-0 has physical parameterizations targeted for grey scale resolutions ( 4-10 km). It is a spin-off of the Météo-France physical parameterizations used in the globale ARPEGE, but with a separate radiation scheme, 3MT micro-physical frame work, and the Toucans turbulence scheme. Much of the development has been done by the RC LACE (Regional Cooperation for Limited Area modeling in Central Europe) community.

## 2.2 AROME physics

AROME (Applications of Research to Operations at MEsoscale) is targeted for horizontal resolution 2.5 km or finer. It uses physical parameterizations based on the French academia model Meso-NH and the external surface model SURFEX. AROME has been operational at Météo-France since 18 December 2008, with a horizontal resolution of 2.5 km.

## 2.3 SURFEX as surface model

SURFEX (Surface externalisée) is developed at Météo-France and academia for offline experiments and introduced in NWP models to ensure consistent treatment of processes related to surface. Météo-France is already using SURFEX for some of their configurations and is planning to use it for all their configurations. Surface modelling and assimilation benefits from the possibility to run offline experiments. SURFEX is also used for offline applications in e.g. hydrology, vegetation monitoring and snow avalanche forecasts.

SURFEX includes routines to simulate the exchange of energy and water between the atmosphere and 4 surface types (tiles); land, sea (ocean), lake (inland water) and town. The land or nature tile can be divided further into 12 vegetation types (patches). ISBA (Interaction between Soil Biosphere and Atmosphere) is used for modelling the land surface processes. There are 3 ISBA options; 2- and 3-layer force restore and a diffusive approach, where the first one is used in HIRLAM. Towns may be treated by a separate TEB (Town Energy Balance) module. Seas and lakes are also treated separately. The lake model, FLAKE (Freshwater LAKE), has recently been introduced in SURFEX. A global ECOCLIMAP database which combines land cover maps and satellite information gives information about surface properties on 1 km resolution. The orography is taken from gtopo30.

“SURFEX Scientific Documentation” and “User’s Guide” are available on <http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/surfex/>

## 2.4 Surface analysis

Surface analysis is performed by CANARI (Code d'Analyse Nécessaire à ARPEGE pour ses Rejets et son Initialisation) (Taillefer, 2002). The analysis method is Optimal Interpolation and only conventional synoptic observations are used. 2 meter temperature and relative humidity observations are used to update the surface and soil temperature and moisture. Surface analysis is performed at 00, 06, 12 and 18 UTC.

The snow analysis is also performed with CANARI in analogy with the HIRLAM snow analysis. Snow depth observations are used to update Snow Water Equivalent. The snow fields are analysed only at 06 UTC as there are very few snow depth observations at 00, 12 and 18.

The Sea Surface Temperature is not analysed, but taken from the boundaries. ECMWF uses the OSTIA (Operational Sea Surface Temperature and Sea Ice Analysis) product, including SST from UK Met Office and SIC from MET. The surface temperature over sea ice is taken from the boundary model and remains unchanged through the forecast.

## 2.5 Boundaries and initialization of upper air fields

Harmonie5.5 and Harmonie2.5 got their boundary values (3-hourly) from the ECMWF model at approximately 16 km resolution. The upper air fields were initialized from ECMWF forecasts each cycle. Harmonie5.5 had 60 vertical levels (ECMWF60 using the ECMWF definition). Harmonie2.5 had also 60 vertical levels (HIRLAM60 using the HIRLAM definition).

AROME-Norway gets its boundary values (1-hourly) from the ECMWF model at approximately 16 km resolution. The upper air fields are initialized from ECMWF forecasts each cycle. AROME-Norway has currently 65 vertical levels. None of the HARMONIE configurations at MET have applied digital filter initialization (DFI).

# 3 Verification measures

All model forecasts in this report are verified against observations by interpolating (nearest/bilinear) the grid based forecasts to the observational sites. As a consequence, it should be noted that it is the models' abilities to forecast the observations that is being quantified and assessed. Thus, there is no attempt in this report to verify area averaged precipitation for example.

Verification is carried out both for raw and categorized forecasts. In the following, let  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  denote the forecasts and  $o_1, \dots, o_n$  the corresponding observations.

### 3.1 Forecasts of continuous variables

The verification statistics applied to continuous variables are defined in the table below

Statistic	Acronym	Formula	Range	Optimal score
Mean Error	ME	$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (f_i - o_i)$	$-\infty$ to $\infty$	0
Mean Absolute Error	MAE	$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n  f_i - o_i $	0 to $\infty$	0
Standard Deviation of Error	SDE	$\left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (f_i - o_i - ME)^2 \right)^{1/2}$	0 to $\infty$	0
Root Mean Square Error	RMSE	$\left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (f_i - o_i)^2 \right)^{1/2}$	0 to $\infty$	0
Correlation	COR	$\frac{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (f_i - \bar{f})(o_i - \bar{o})}{SD(f)SD(o)}$	-1 to 1	1

In the formula for COR the following definitions are used

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{f} &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f_i, & \bar{o} &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n o_i \\ SD(f) &= \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (f_i - \bar{f})^2 \right)^{1/2}, & SD(o) &= \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (o_i - \bar{o})^2 \right)^{1/2}\end{aligned}$$

for the means and standard deviations of the forecasts and observations.

### 3.2 Forecasts of categorical variables

All variables in this report are continuous in raw form, but it is possible to categorize them and verify these. For example, wind speed above a given threshold could be of interest which would result in two possible outcomes (yes and no). The verification is then completely summarized by a contingency table as the one shown below

		event observed	
		yes	no
event forecasted	yes	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>
	no	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>

Verification statistics for such forecasts are listed in the following table

Statistic	Acronym	Formula	Range	Optimal score
Hit rate	HR	$\frac{a}{a+c}$	0 to 1	1
False alarm rate	F	$\frac{b}{b+d}$	0 to 1	0
False alarm ratio	FAR	$\frac{b}{a+b}$	0 to 1	0
Equitable threat score	ETS	$\frac{a - ar}{a + b + c - ar}$	-1/3 to 1	1 (0 = no skill)
Hanssen-Kuipers skill score	KSS	HR - F	-1 to 1	1 (0 = no skill)

In the formula for ETS  $ar = (a + b)(a + c)/n$ .

### 3.3 Observations

All observations come from Klimadatavarehuset at MET. Only synop stations are used, except for precipitation where all available stations are used for better spatial coverage. The model wind speed is verified against the mean wind FF observations. For post processed wind speed, the maximum 10 min mean wind speed last hour, FX, is used.

### 3.4 Long term forecast

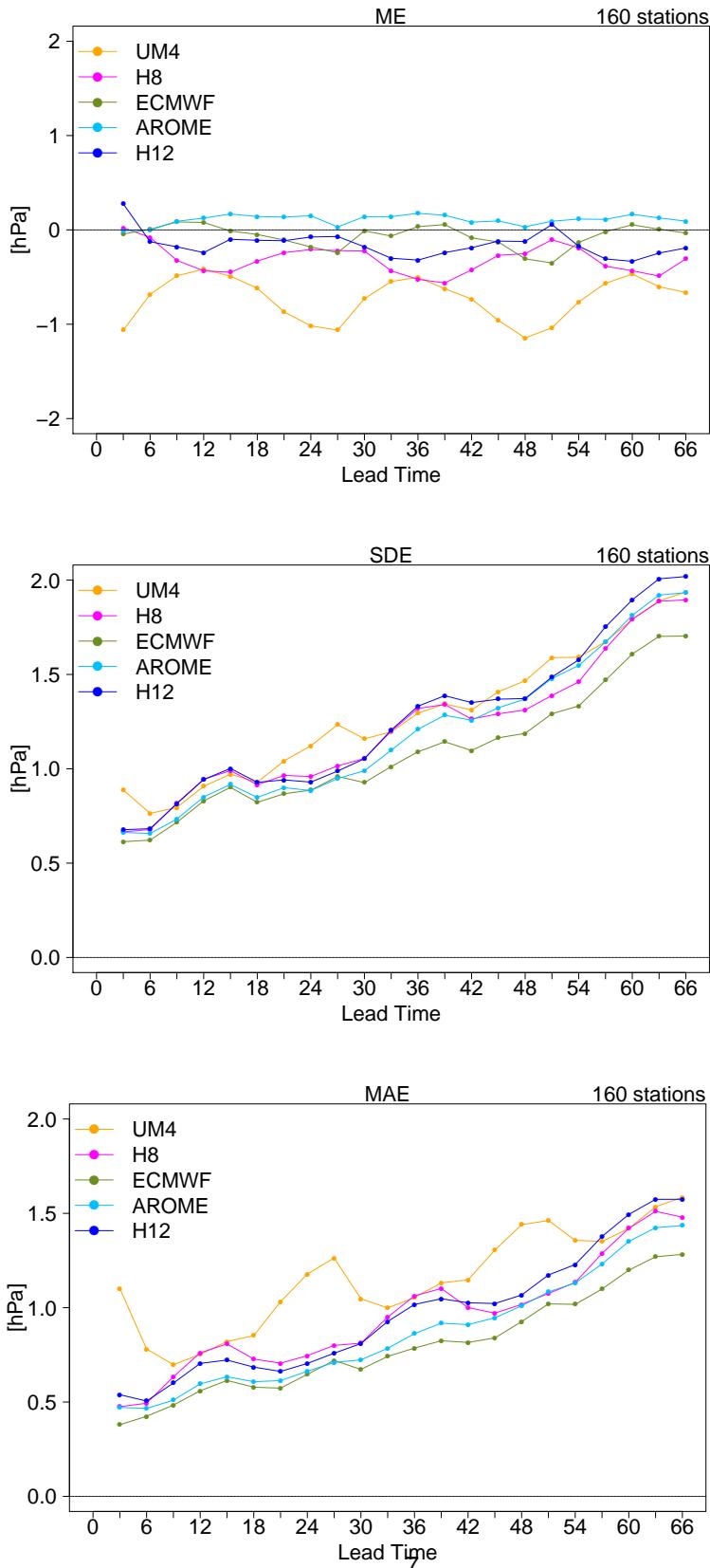
The long term forecast was updated with a new calibration on June 25, so the period of this verification goes from June 25 to August 31 (last verification time on September 9). The long term forecast is based on the 51 member ensemble prediction system from ECMWF. Calibrated and uncalibrated forecasts are shown in the figures with both median and consensus for each. The deterministic ECMWF forecast is also shown in the figures as a reference.

## 4 Comments to verification results

AROME-Norway has a negative bias in wind speed, mostly for low to moderate wind speeds. UM4 scores marginally better in wind speed compared to the rest of the models. AROME-Norway is somewhat too warm during the night, but have the lowest bias amongst the models during daytime. After post-processing, the temperature bias is almost gone. AROME-Norway scores best of the models during daytime on day 1 and 2, apart from that, ECMWF is the best. ECMWF scores best at the surface pressure. AROME-Norway has too many of the high values of precipitation, but has a better distribution of rain/no rain than ECMWF and H8. UM4 has also too many of the high values, but a slightly better rain/no rain distribution. ECMWF scores best on the moderate precipitation values.

## 5 Norway

### 5.1 Pressure and variables at pressure levels



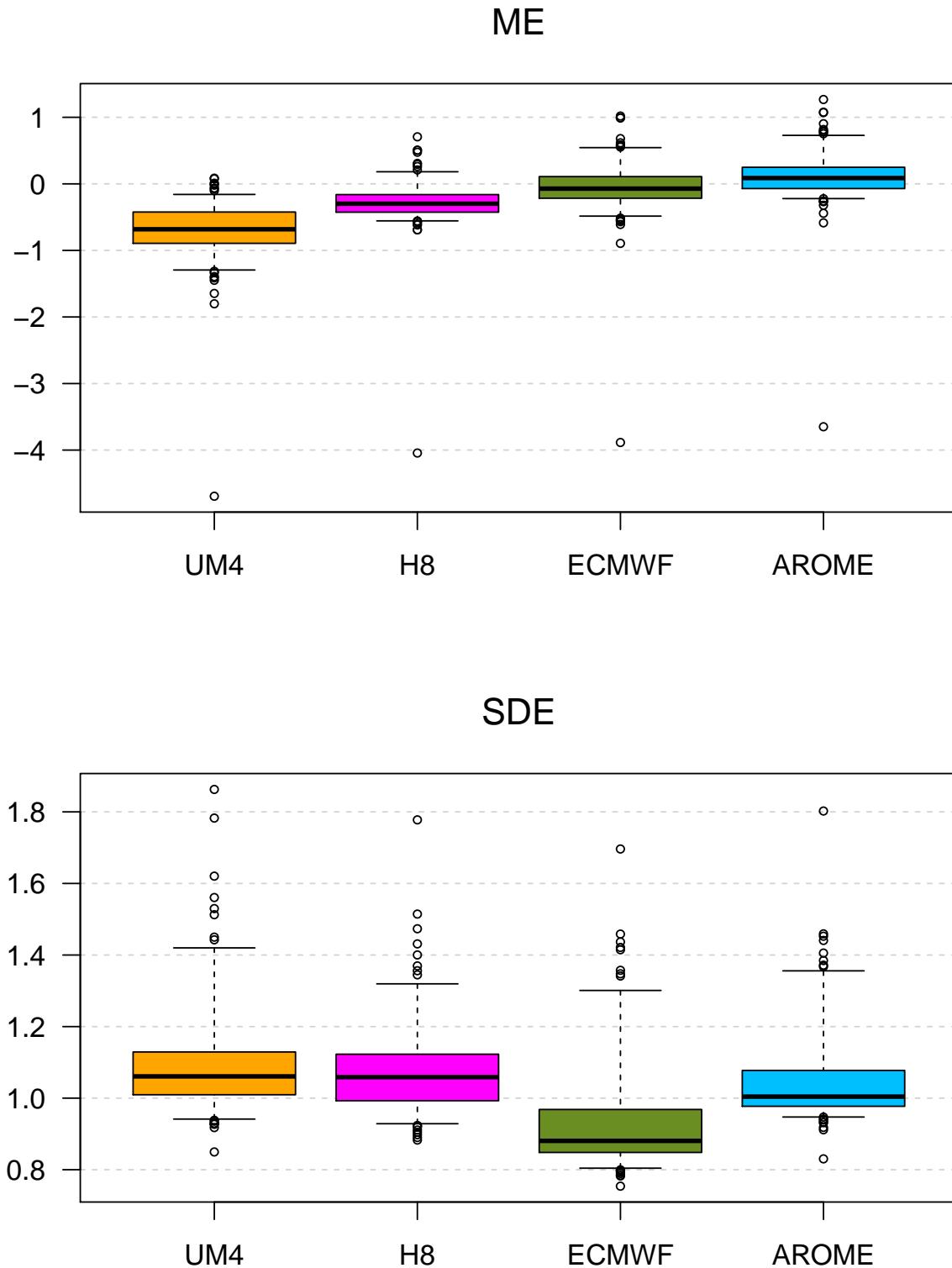
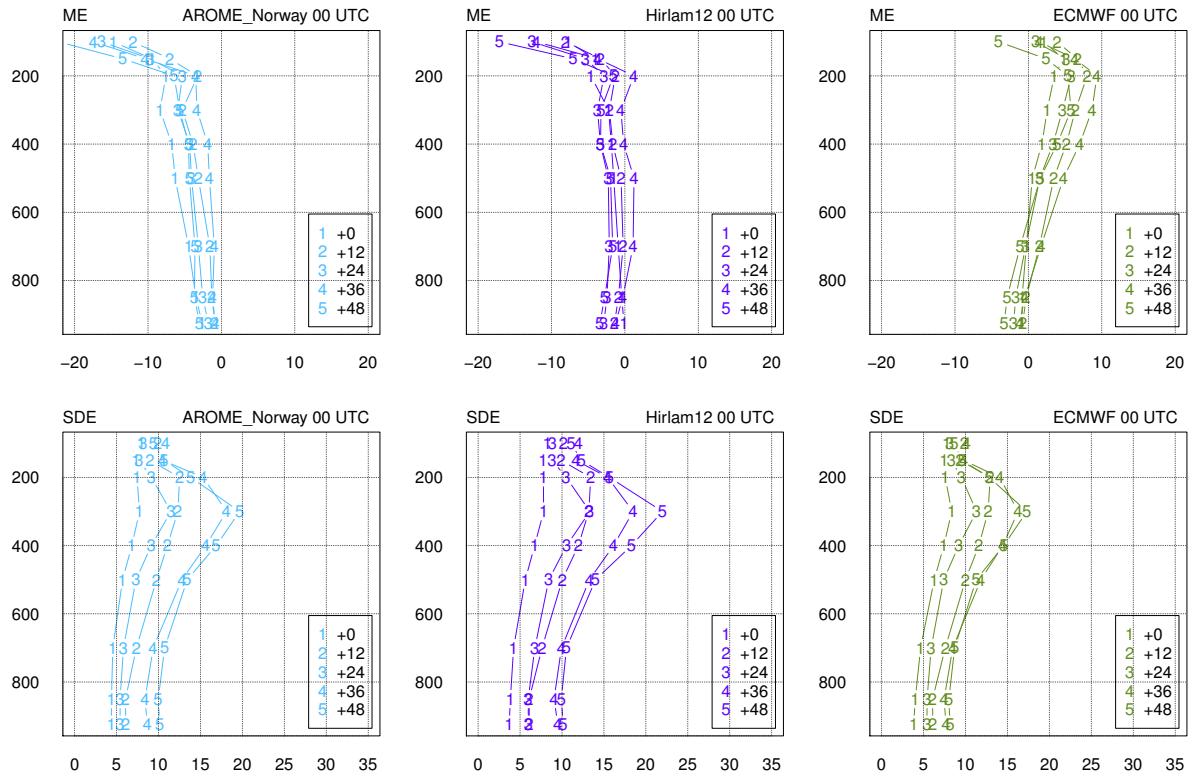


Figure 1: Lead time 00 +3,+6,...,+66

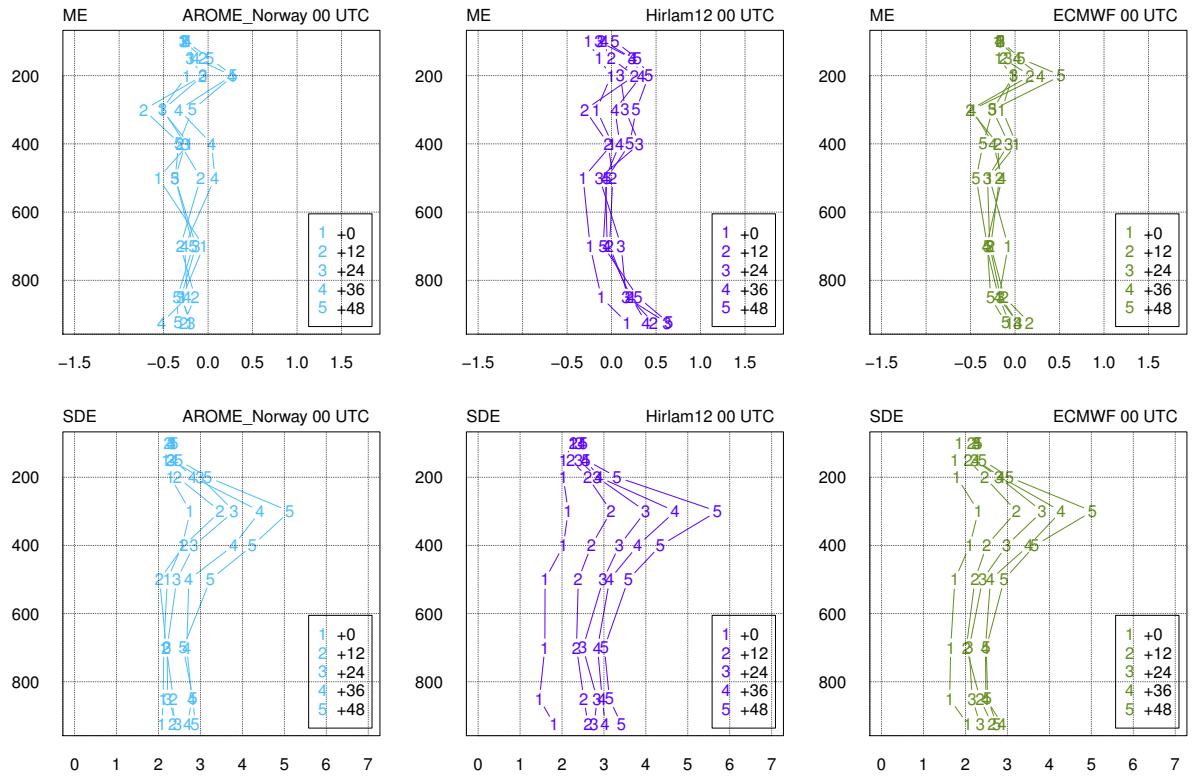
5 NORWAY

## 5.1 Pressure and variables at pressure levels

## Geopotential height at 4 Norwegian stations

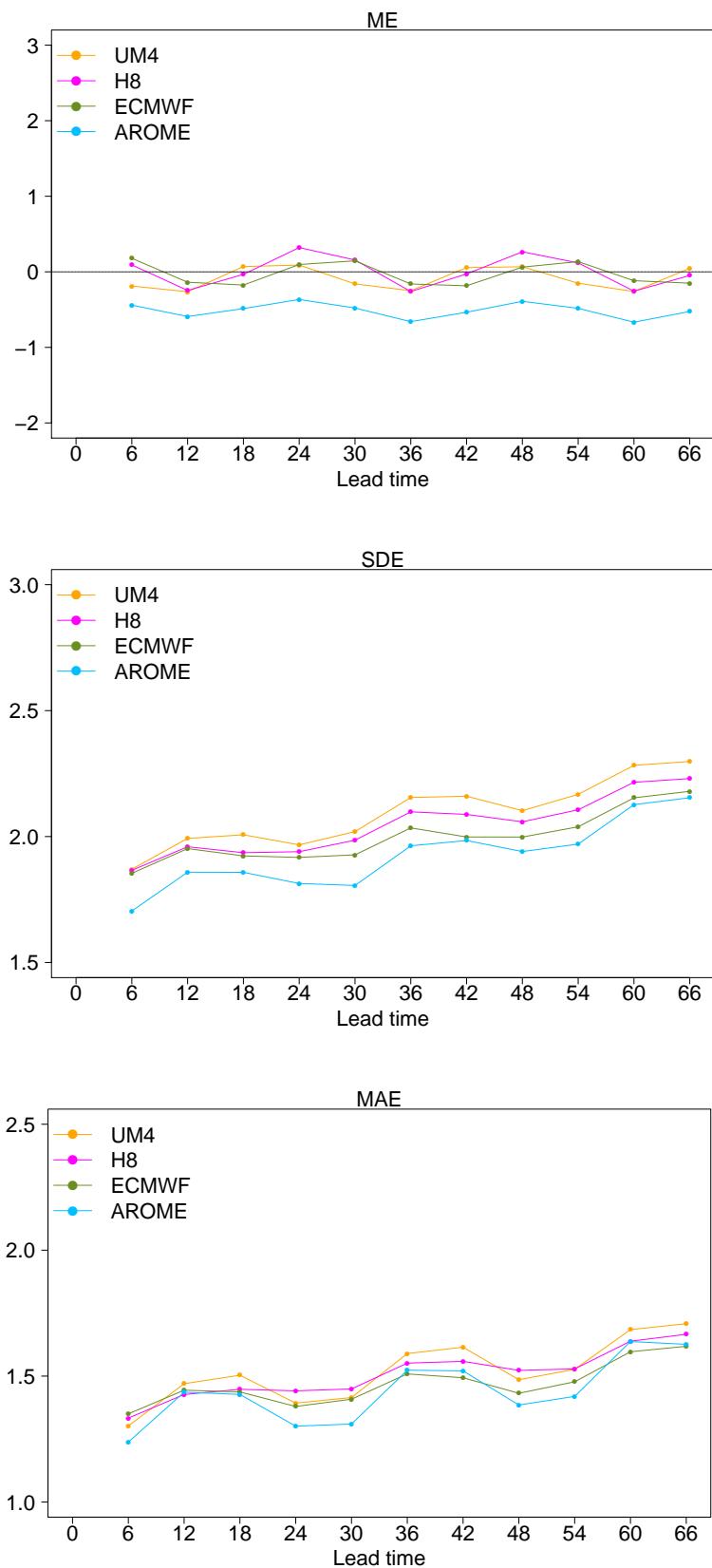


### Wind speed at 4 Norwegian stations





## 5.2 Wind Speed 10m



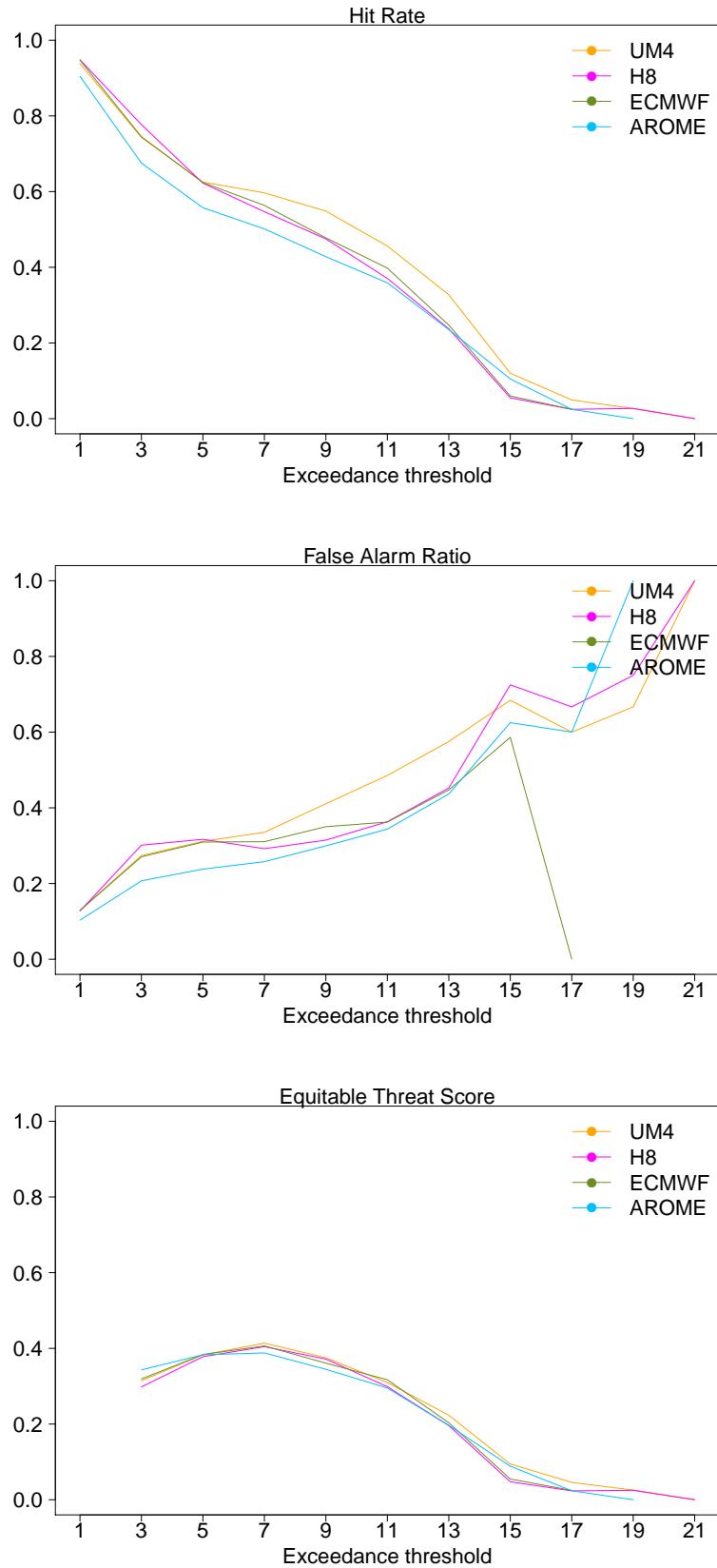


Figure 2: Lead time 00+12,+15,+18,+21,+24

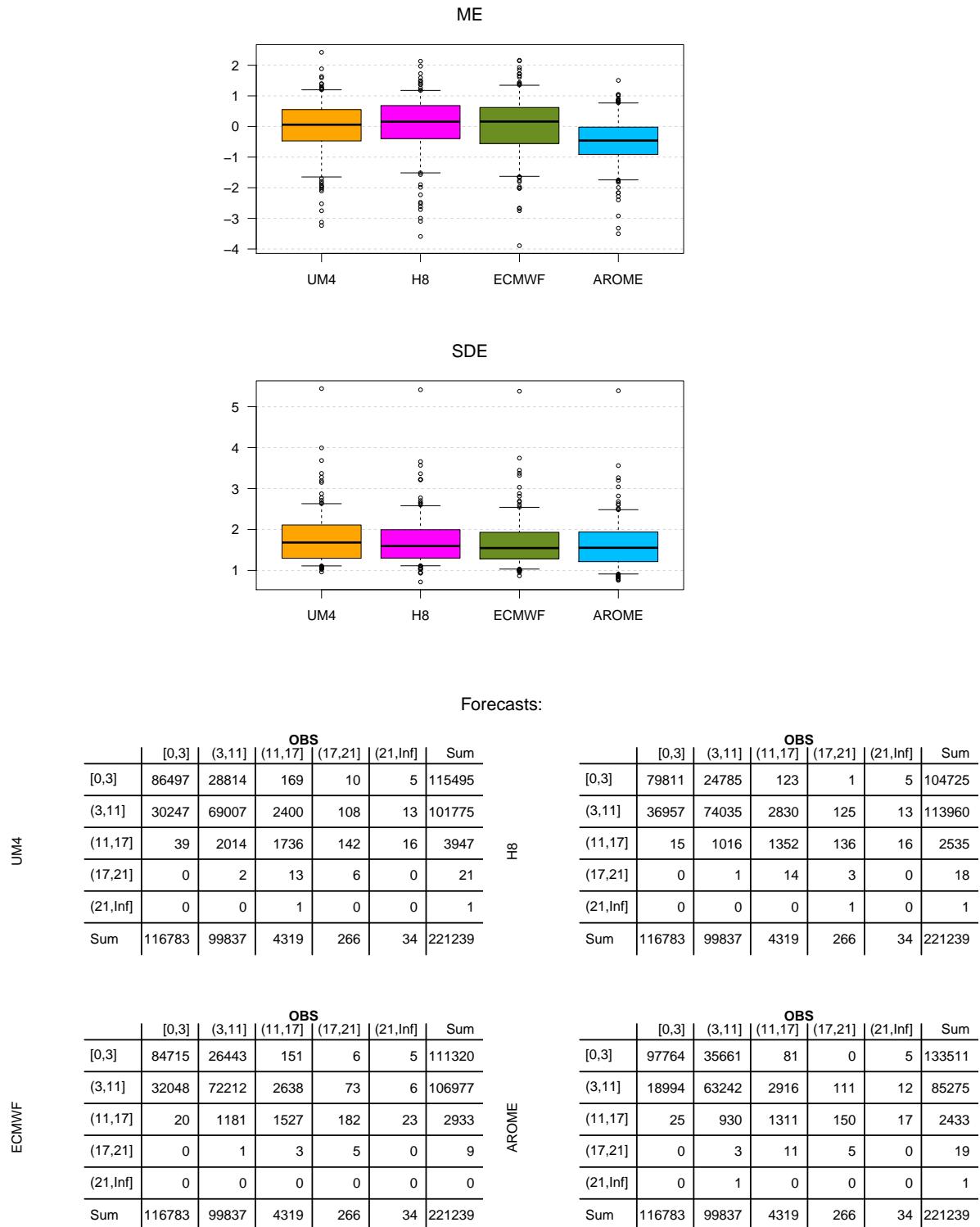
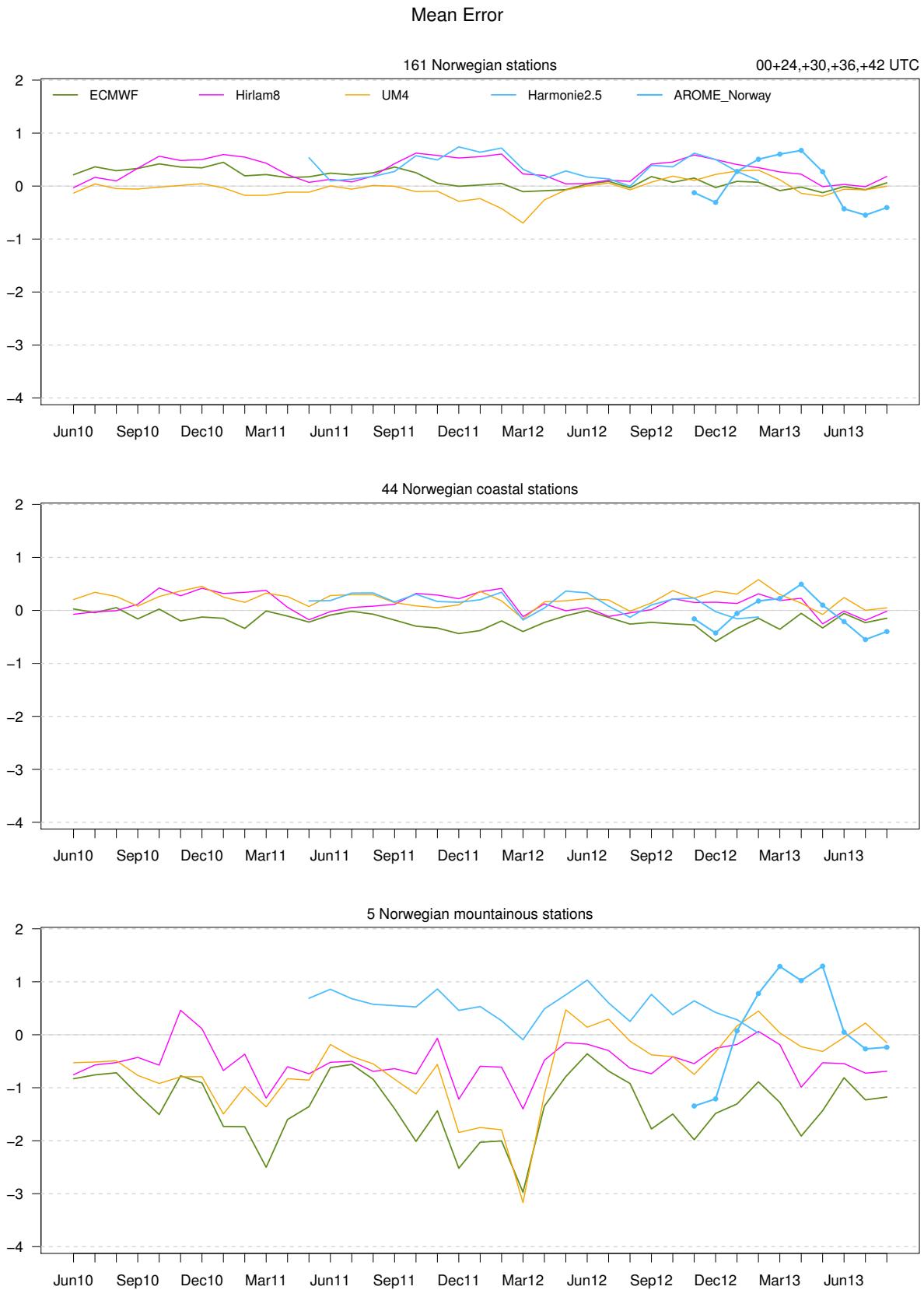
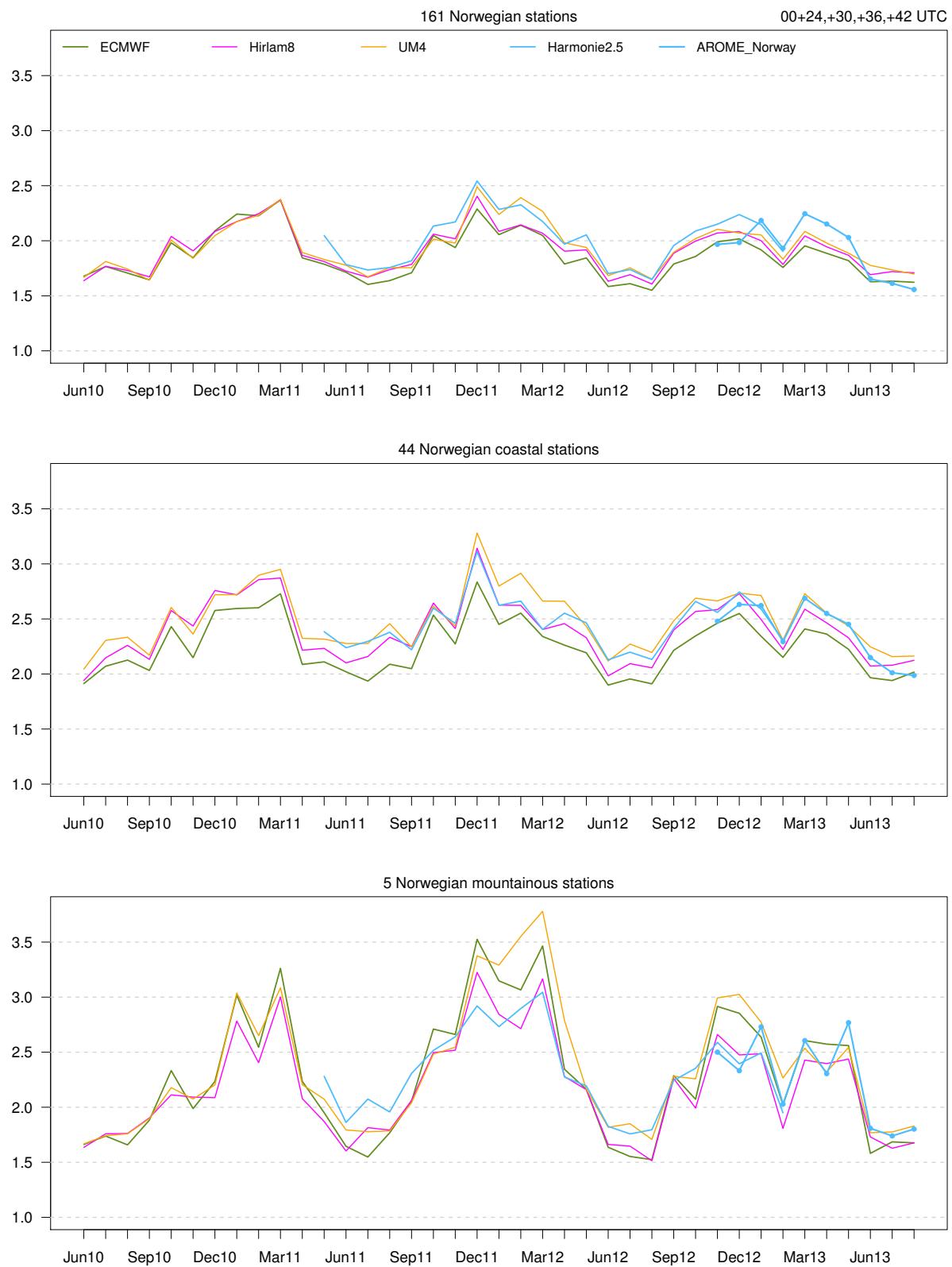


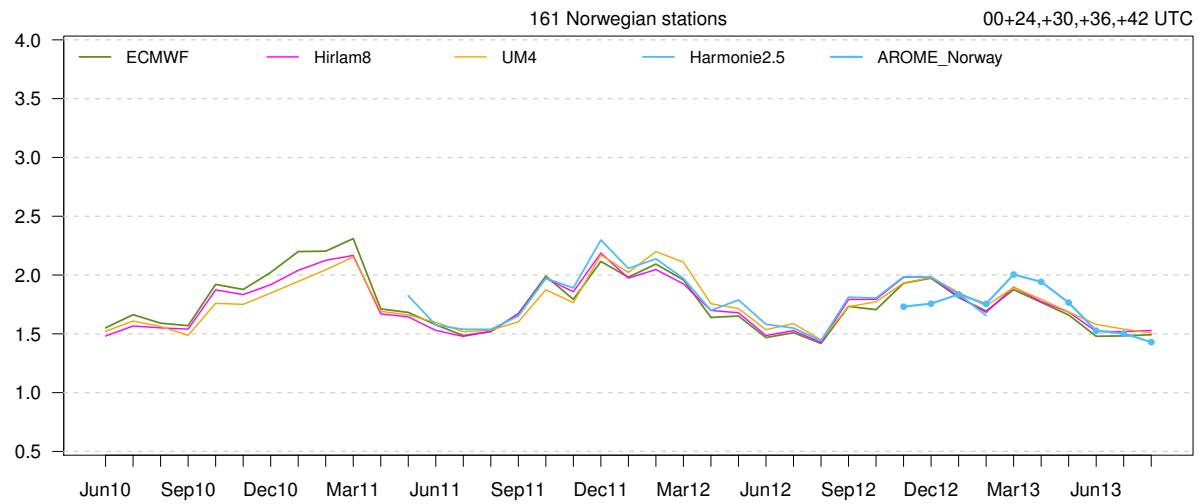
Figure 3: Lead time 00+3,+6,...,+66.



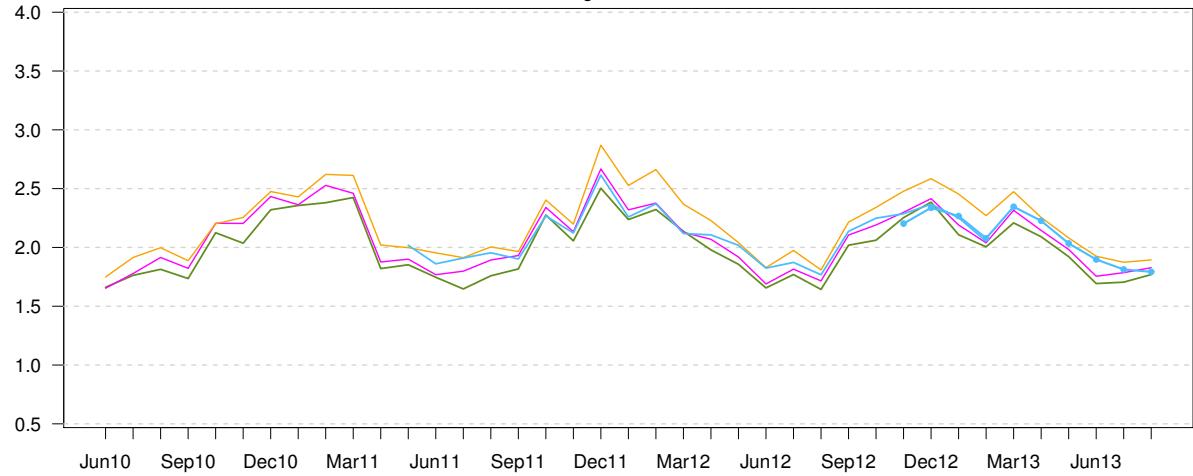
Standard Deviation of Error



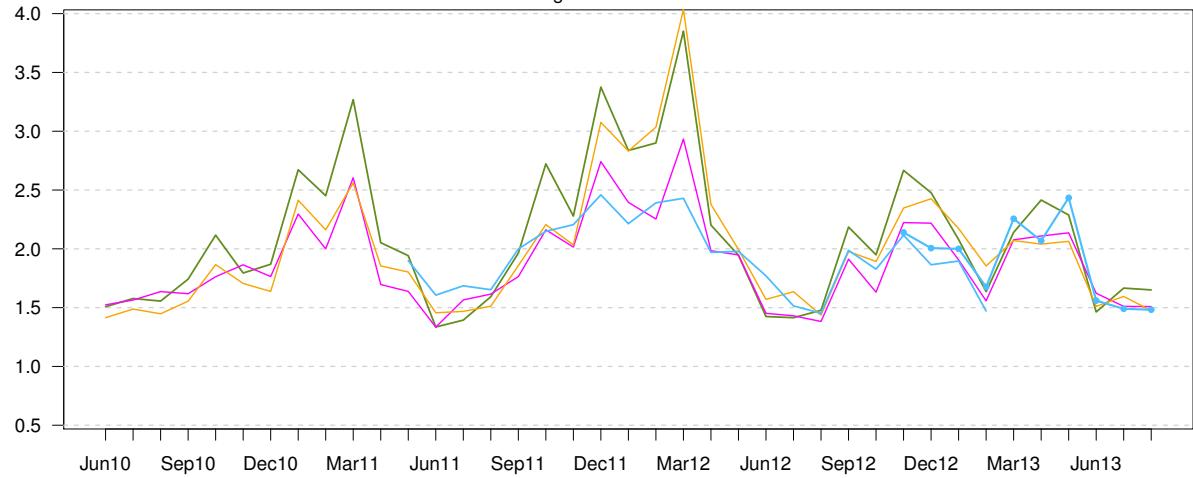
Mean Absolute Error



44 Norwegian coastal stations

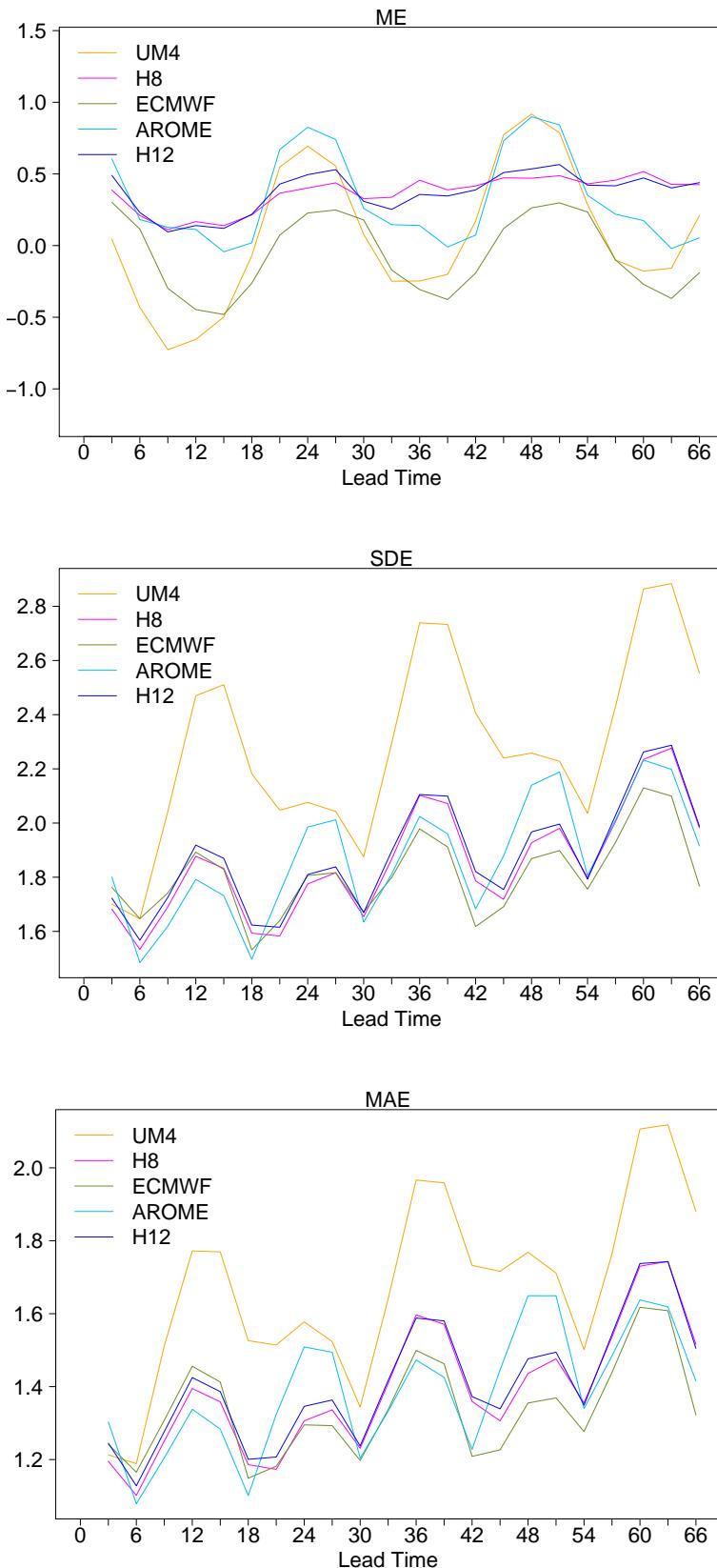


5 Norwegian mountainous stations





### 5.3 Temperature 2m



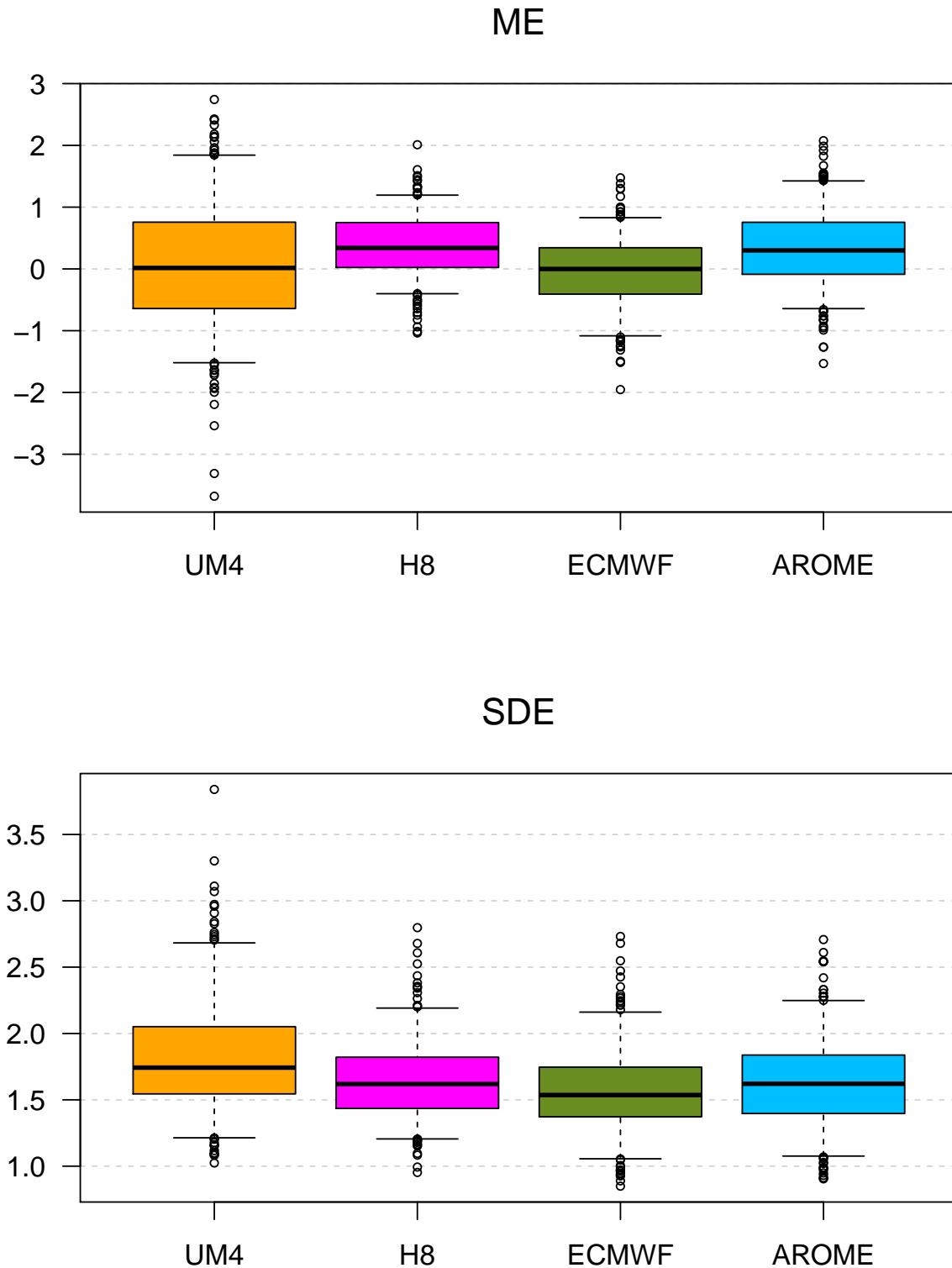
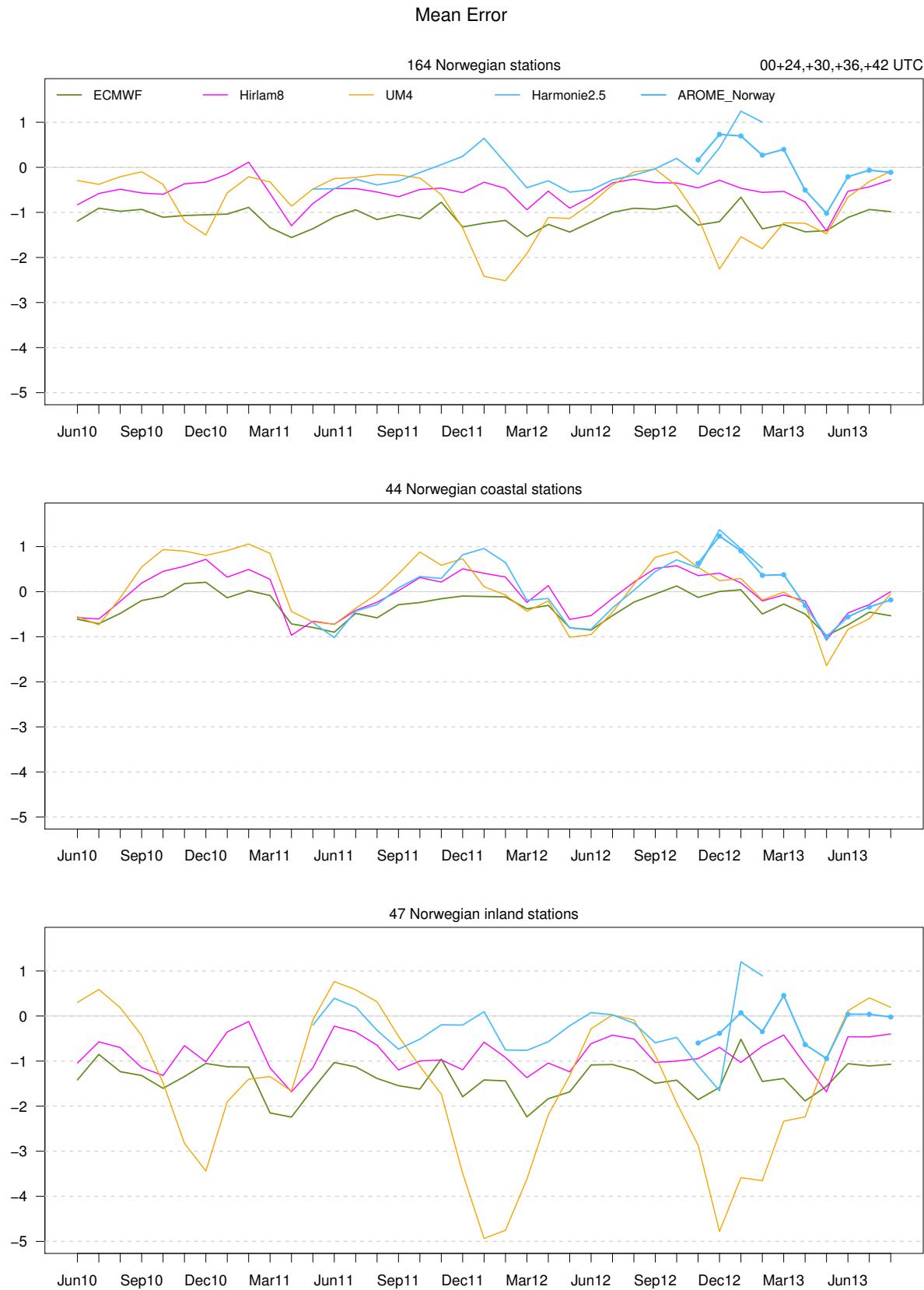
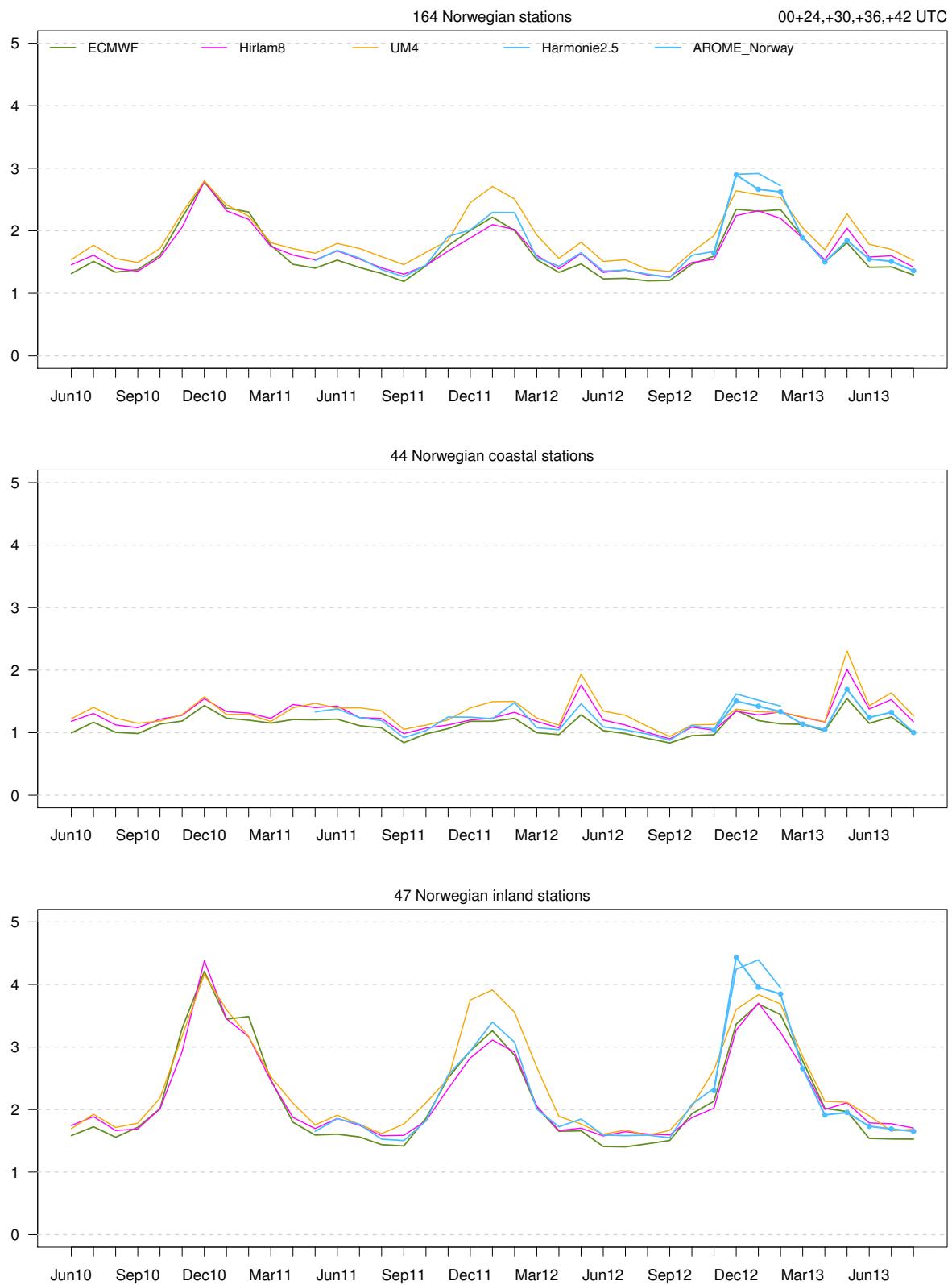


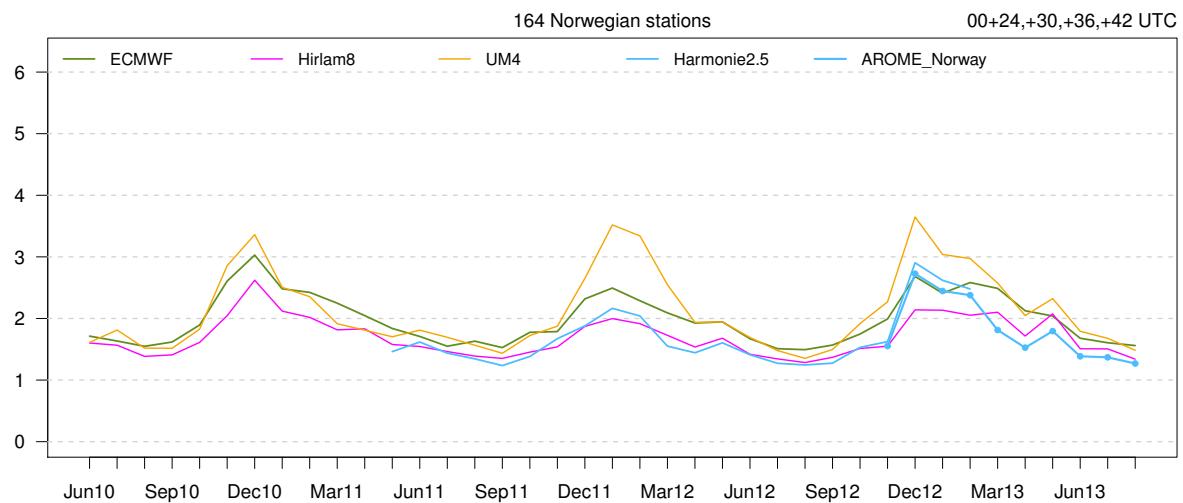
Figure 4: Lead time 00 +3,+6,...,+66



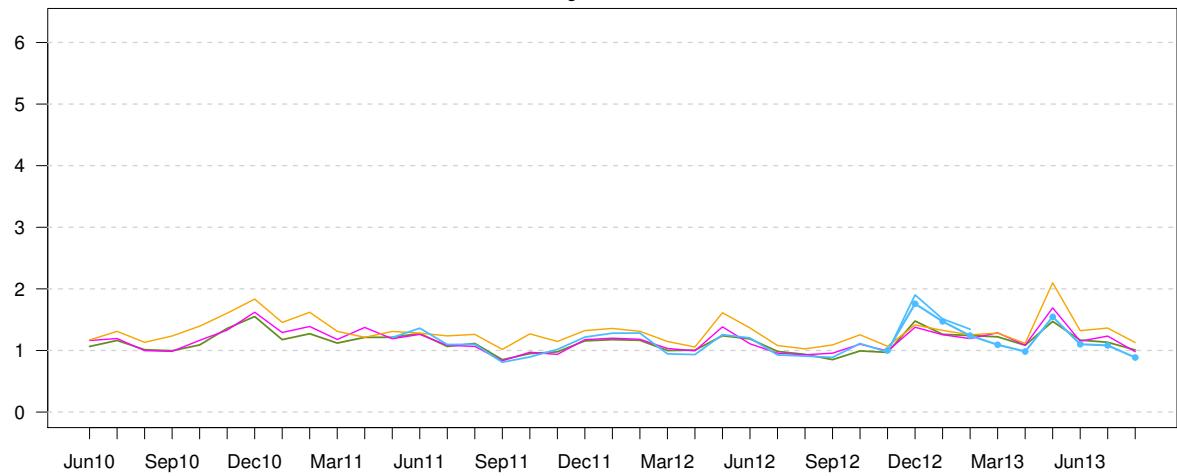
Standard Deviation of Error



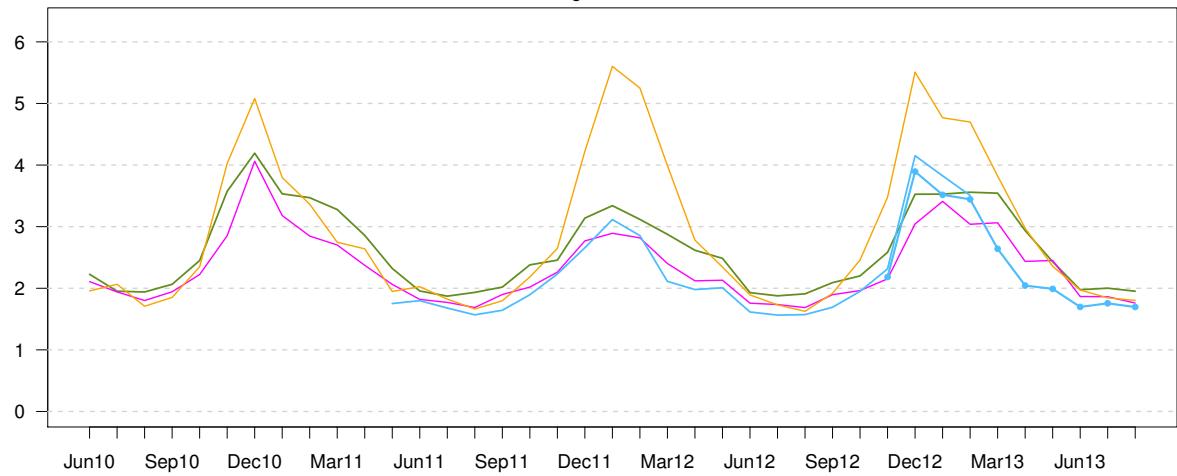
Mean Absolute Error



44 Norwegian coastal stations

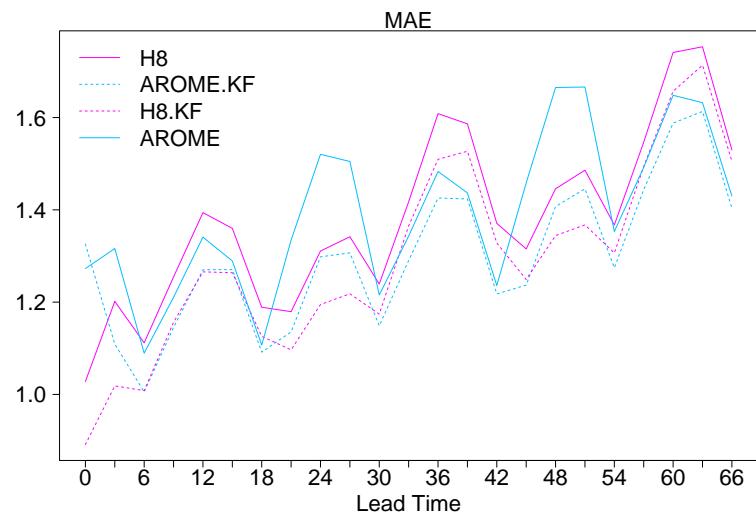
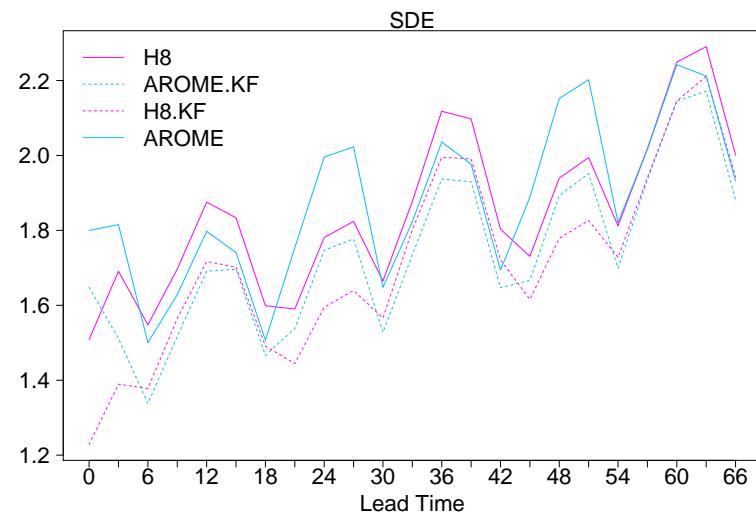
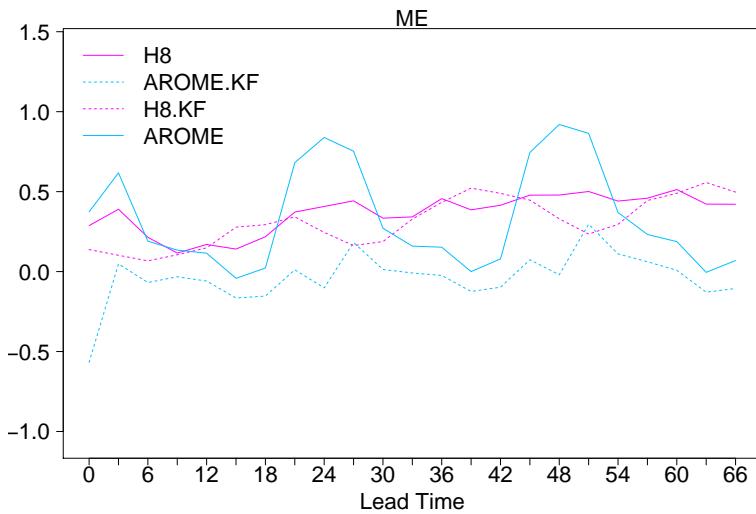


47 Norwegian inland stations





## 5.4 Post processed temperature 2m



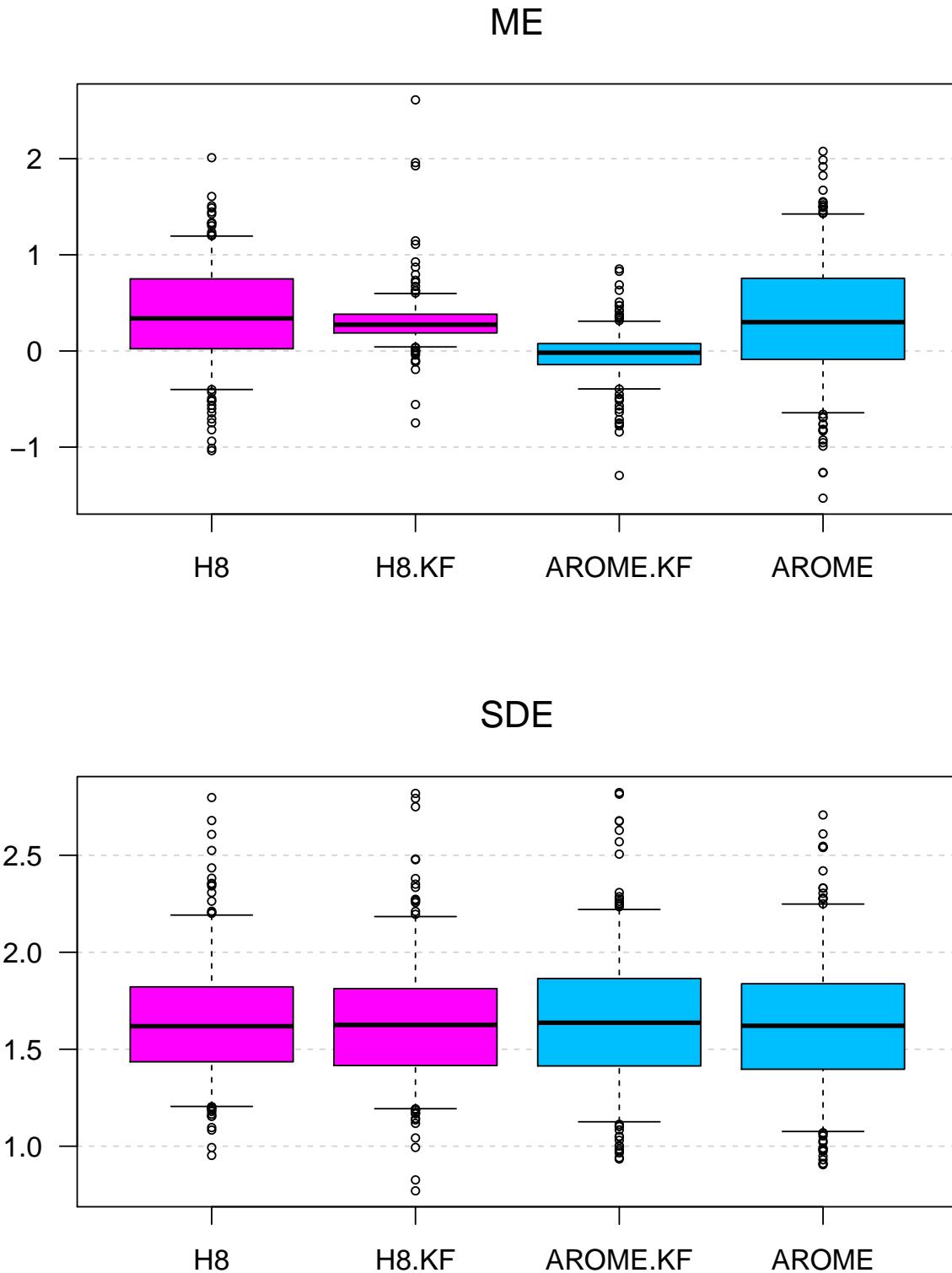
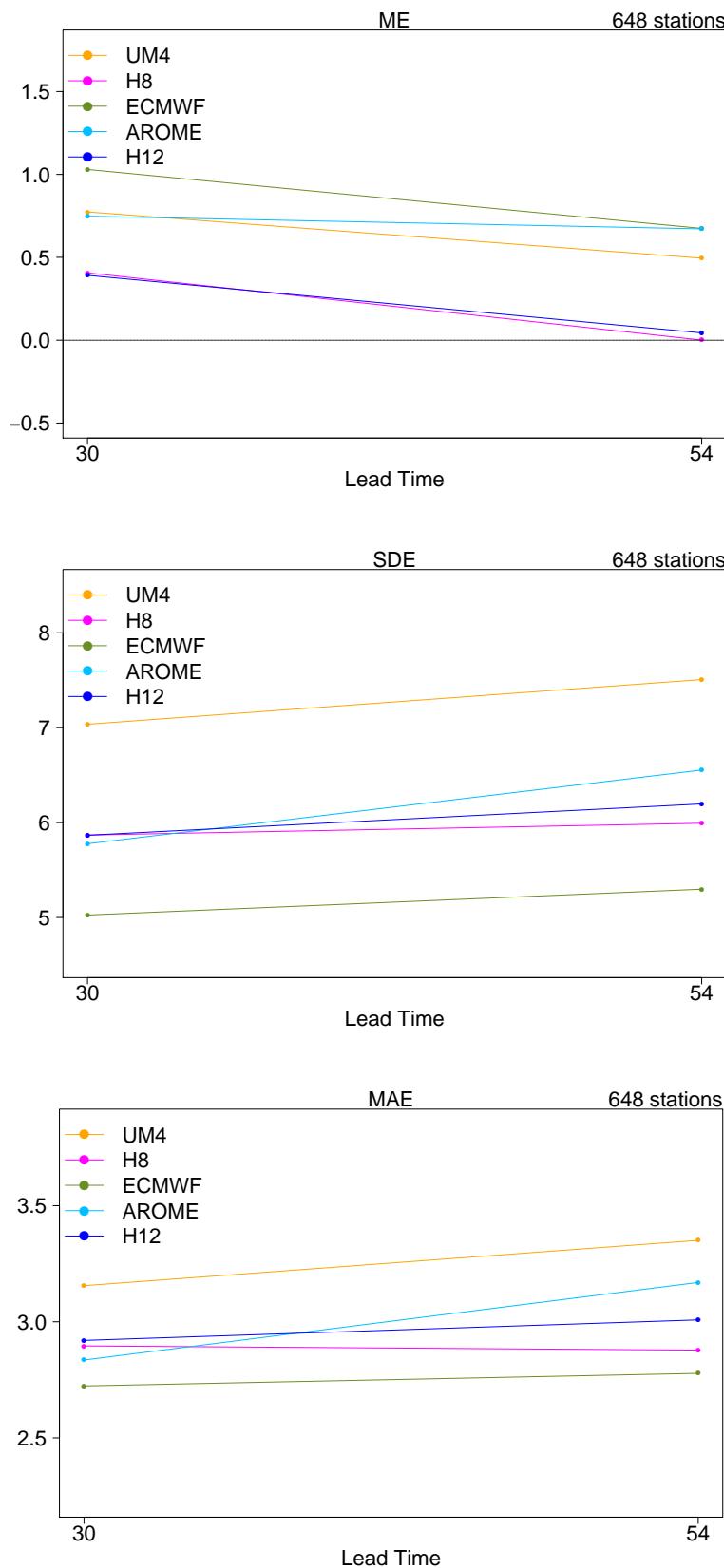


Figure 5: Lead time 00 +3,+6,...,+66



## 5.5 Daily precipitation



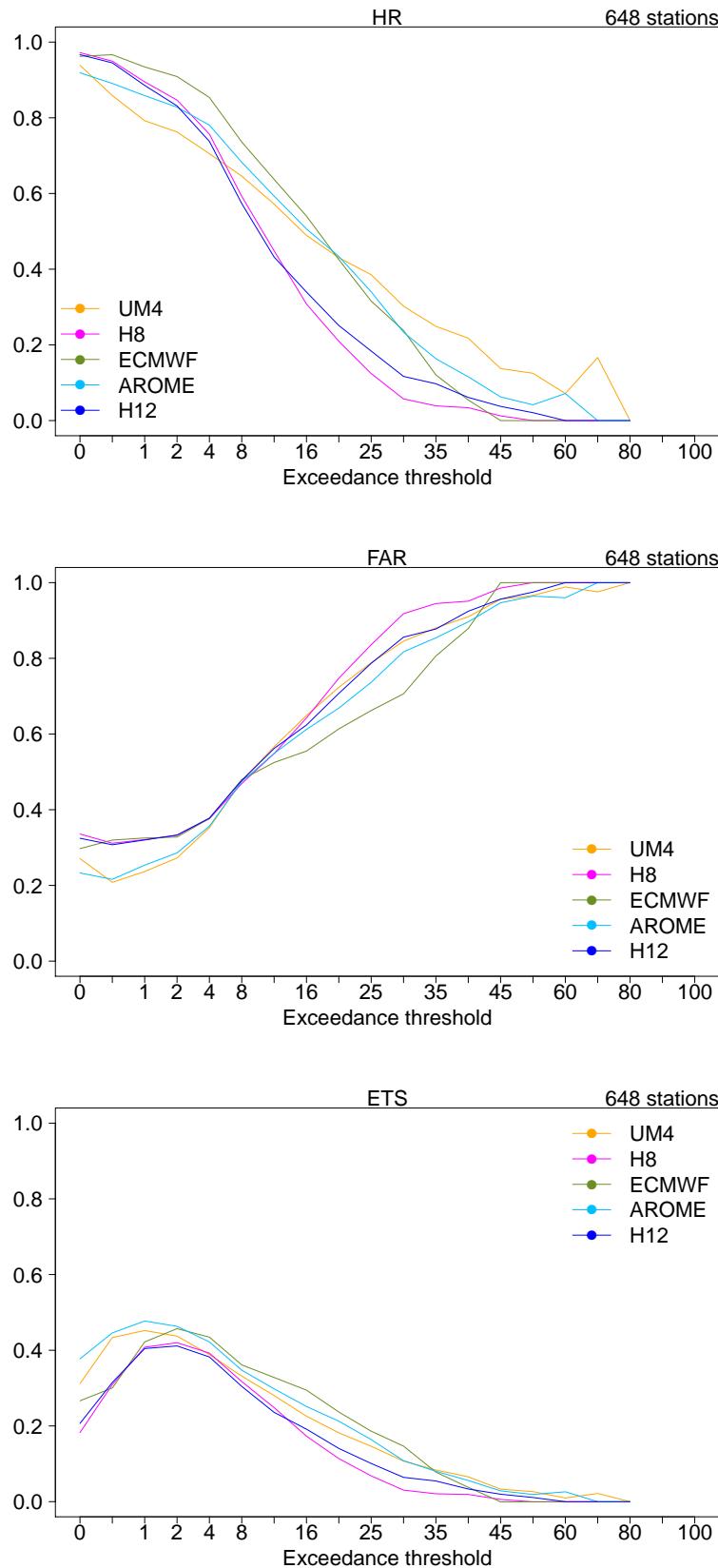


Figure 6: Lead time 00+30.

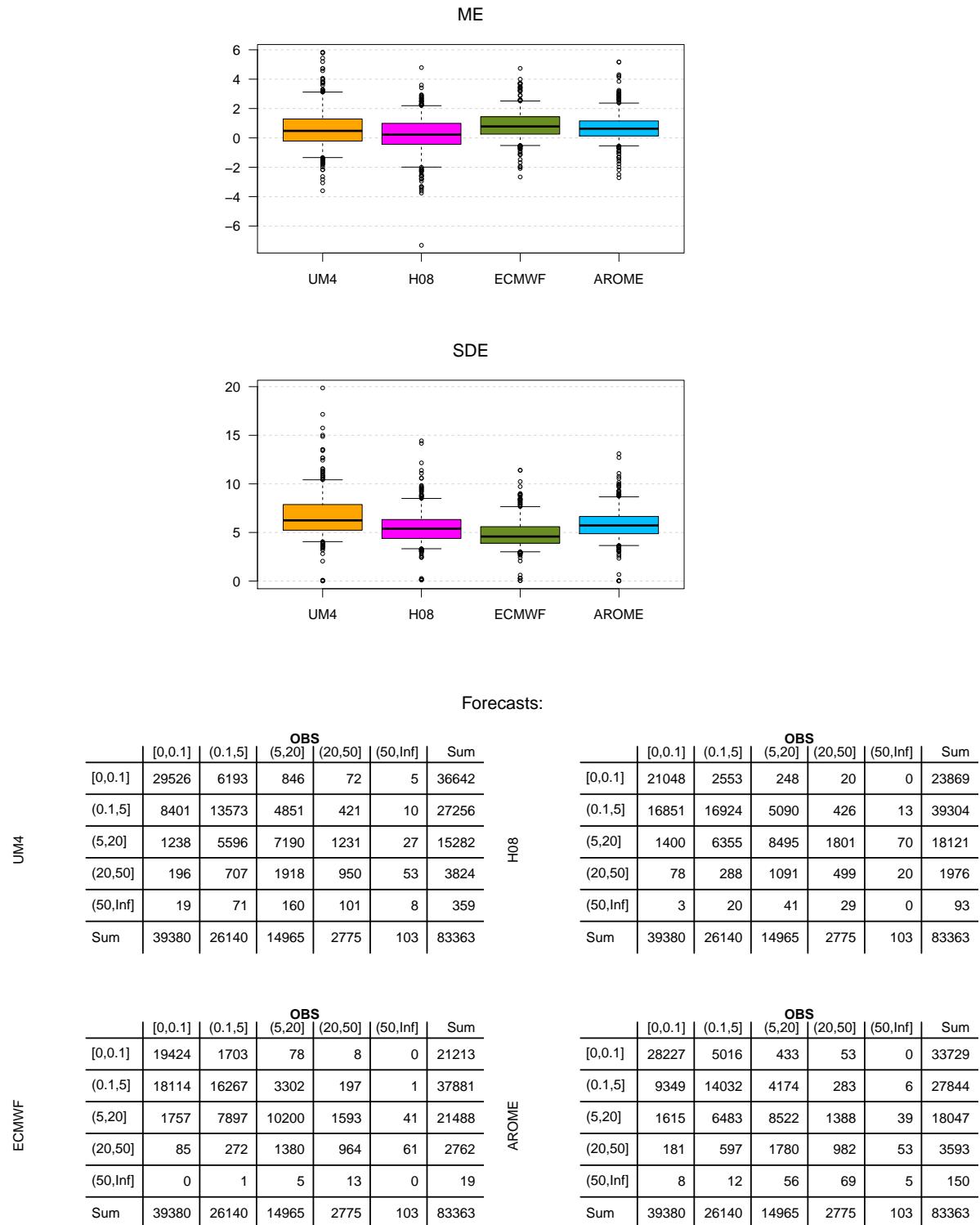
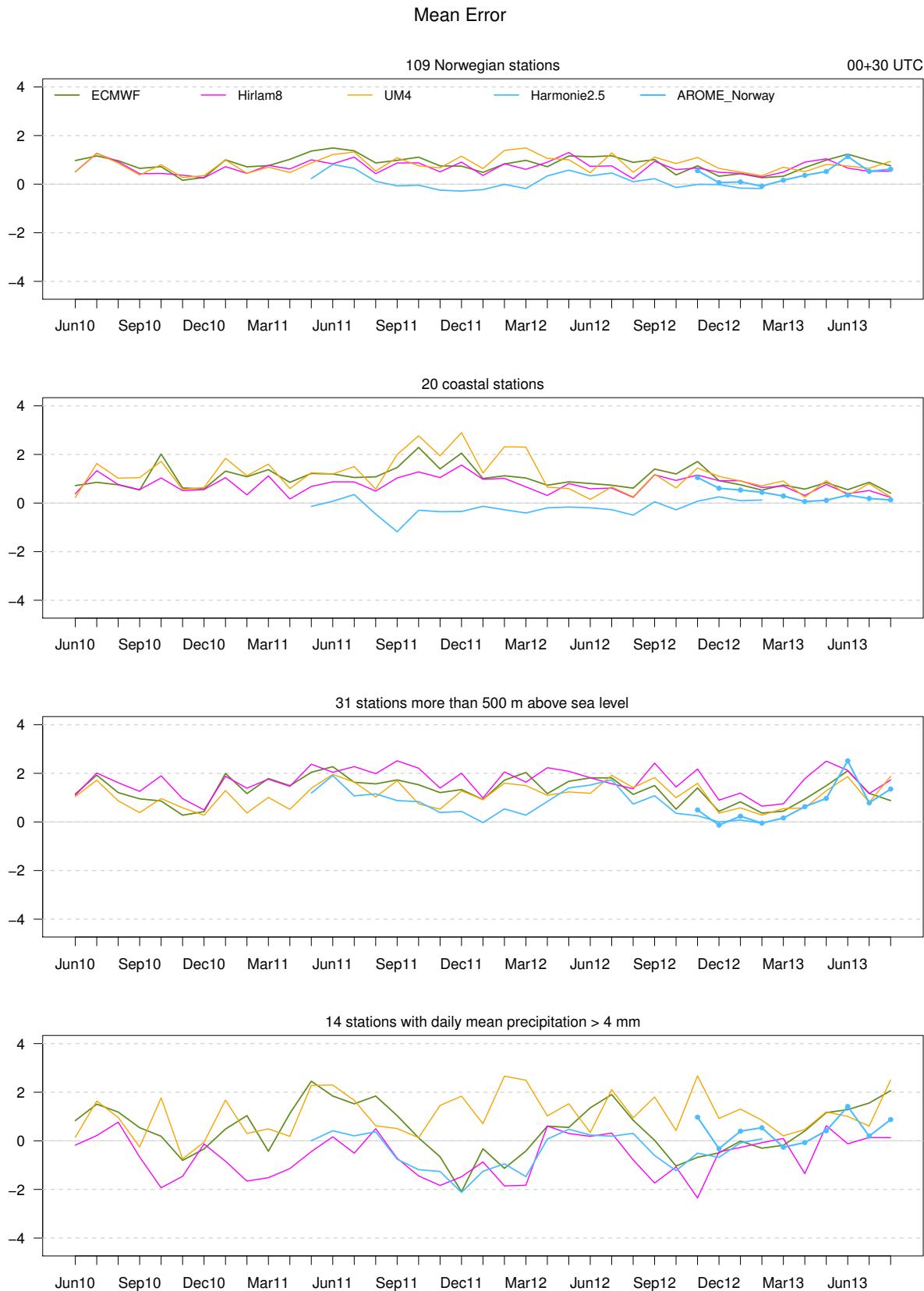
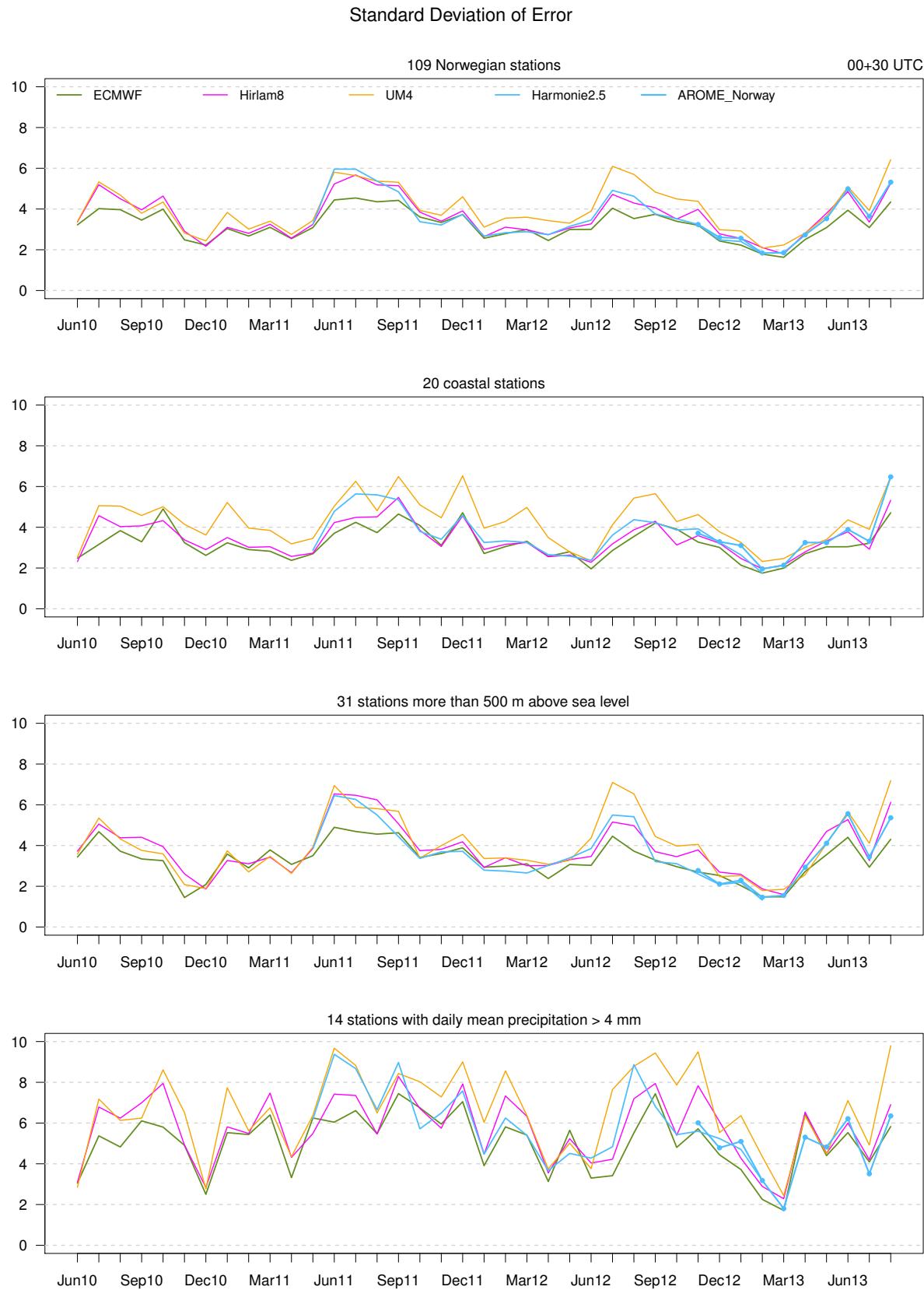
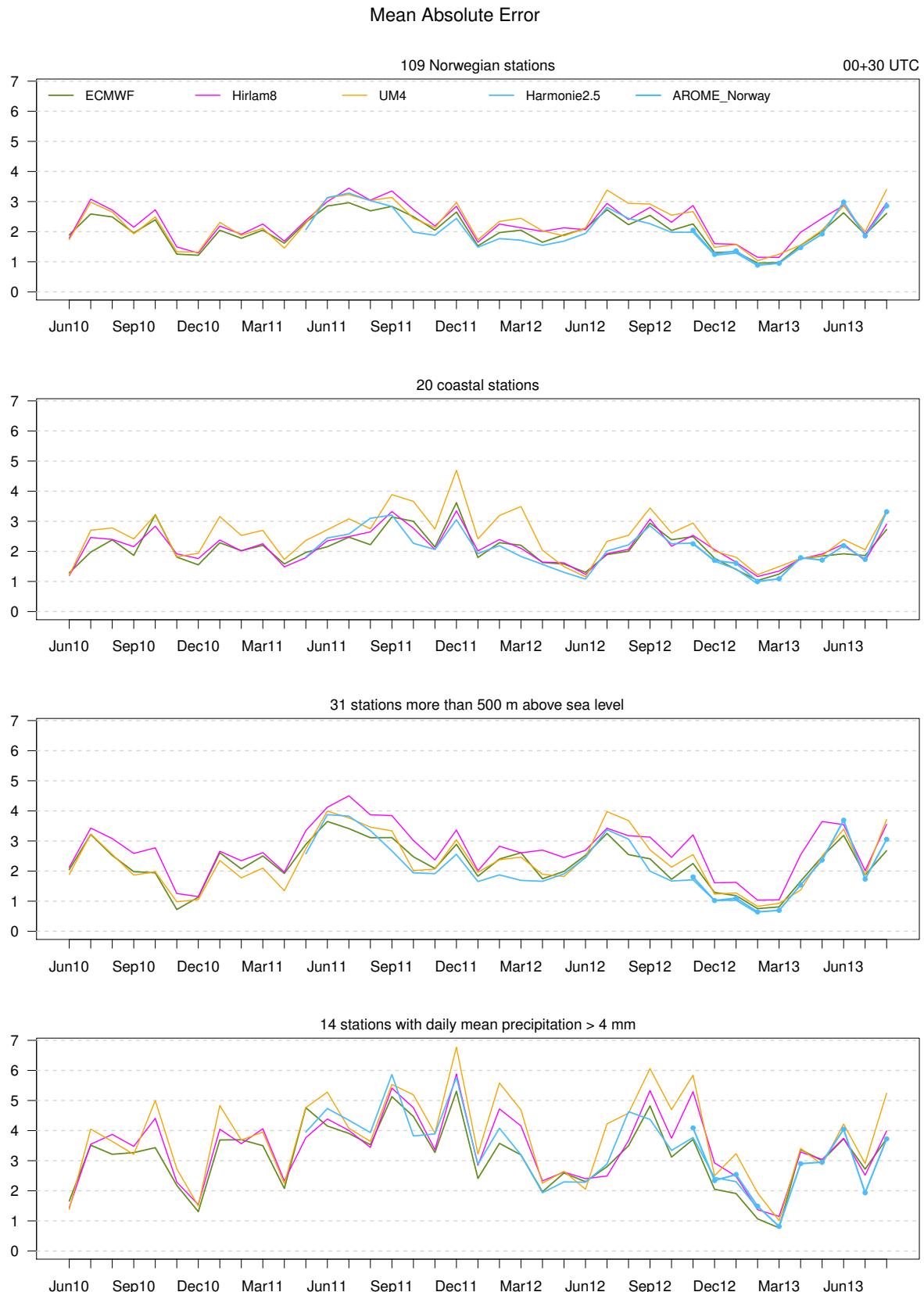


Figure 7: Lead time 00+30,+54



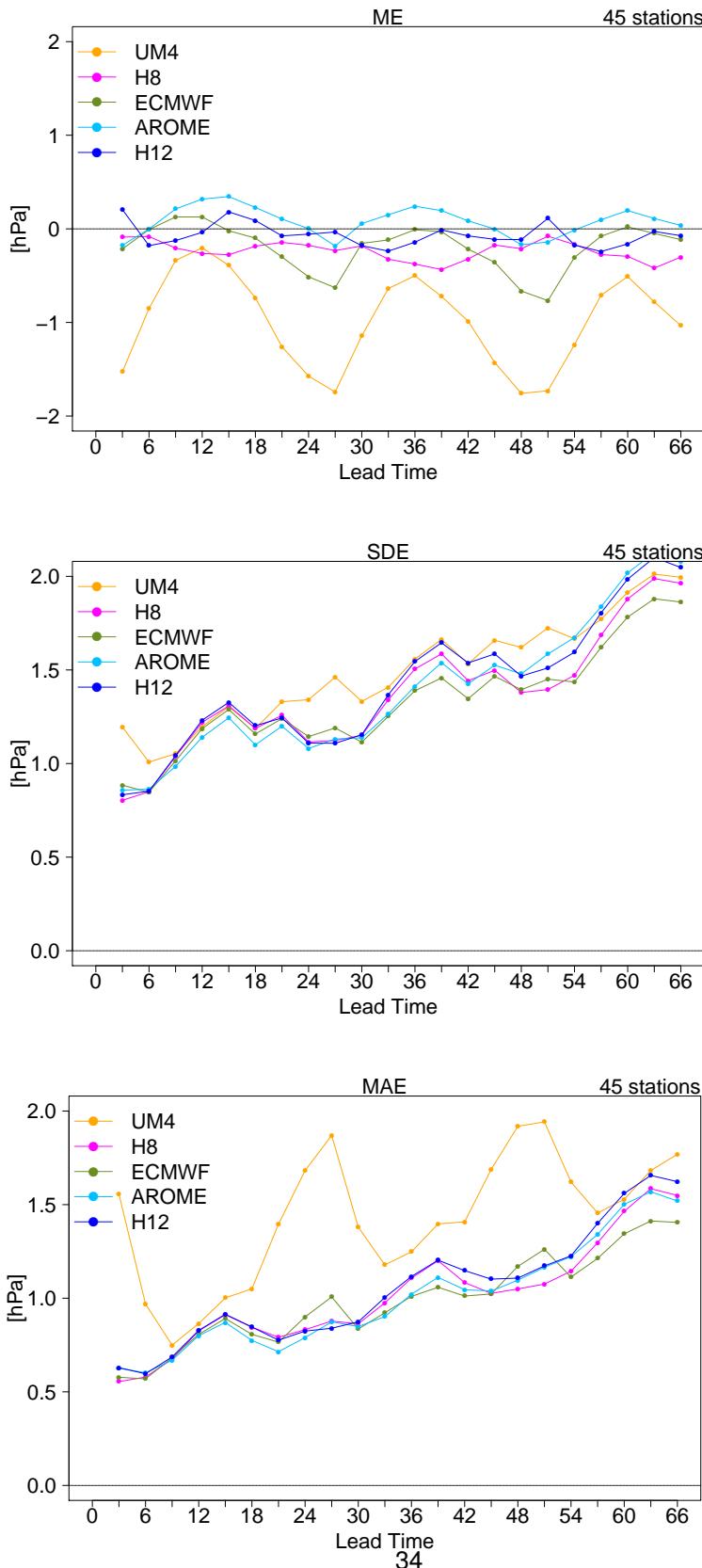






## 6 Eastern Norway

### 6.1 Pressure



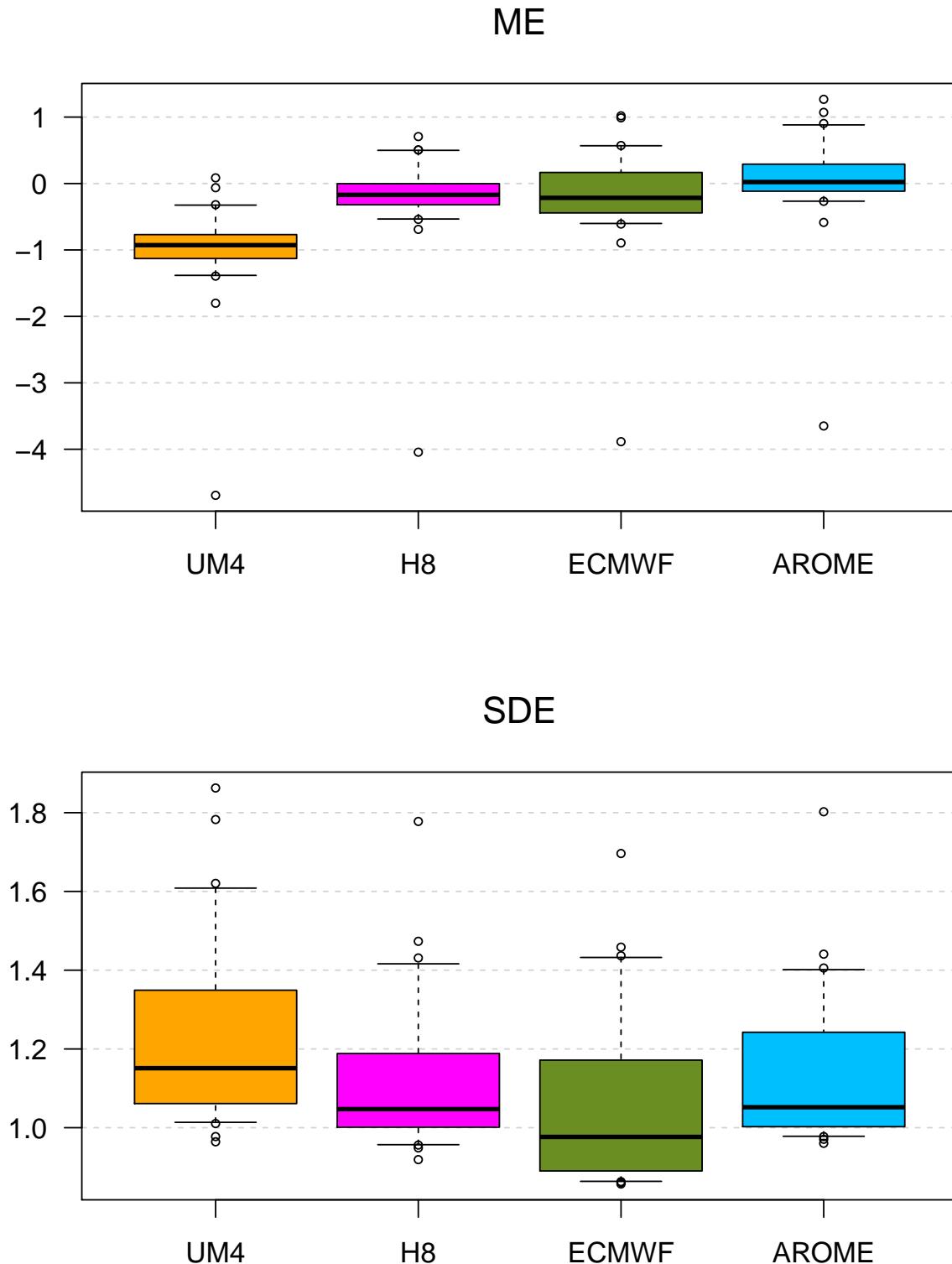
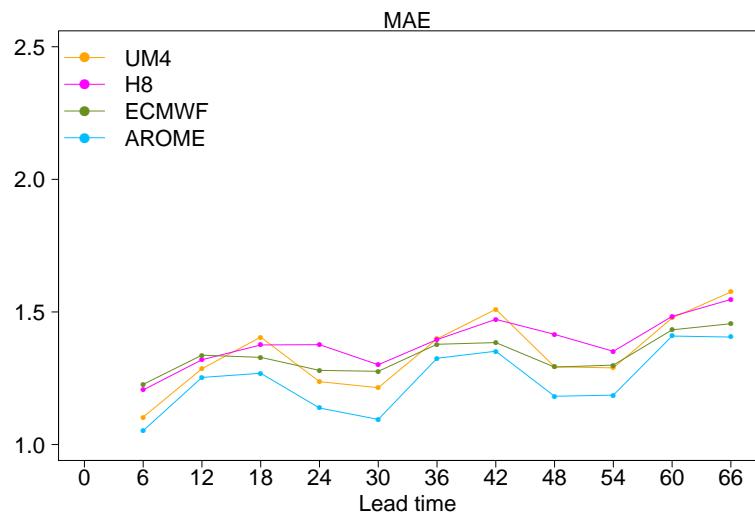
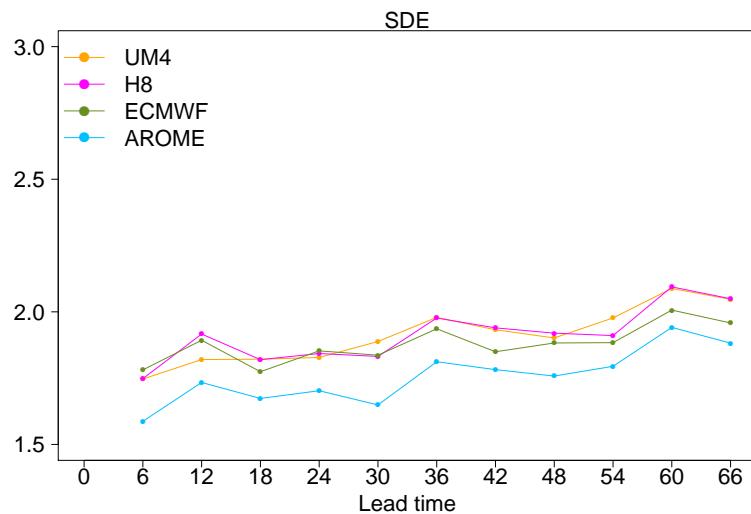
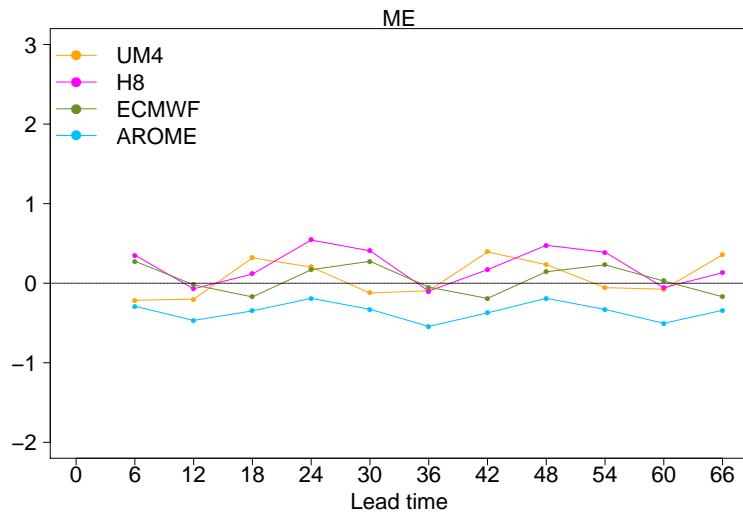


Figure 8: Lead time 00 +3,+6,...,+66



## 6.2 Wind Speed 10m



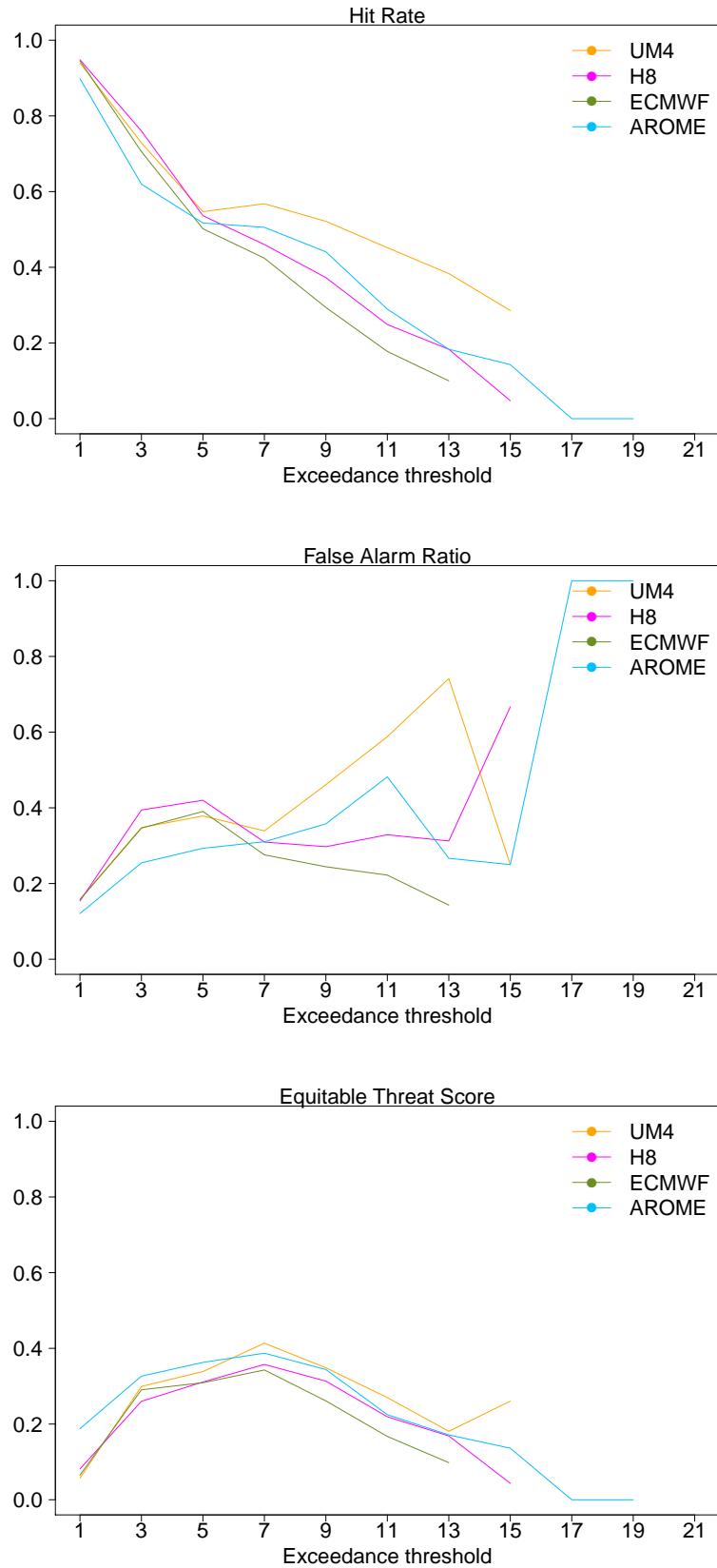


Figure 9: Lead time 00+12,+15,+18,+21,+24

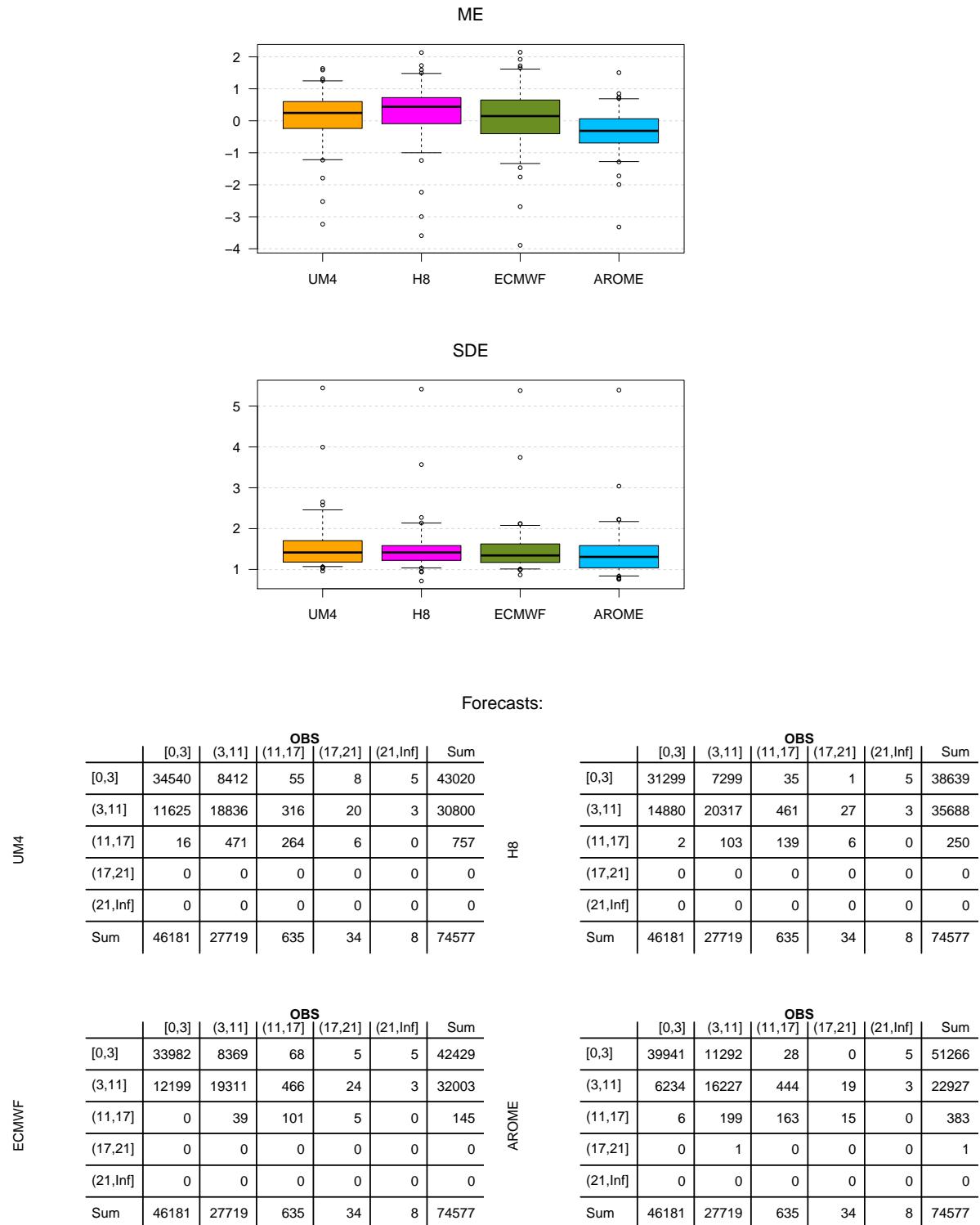
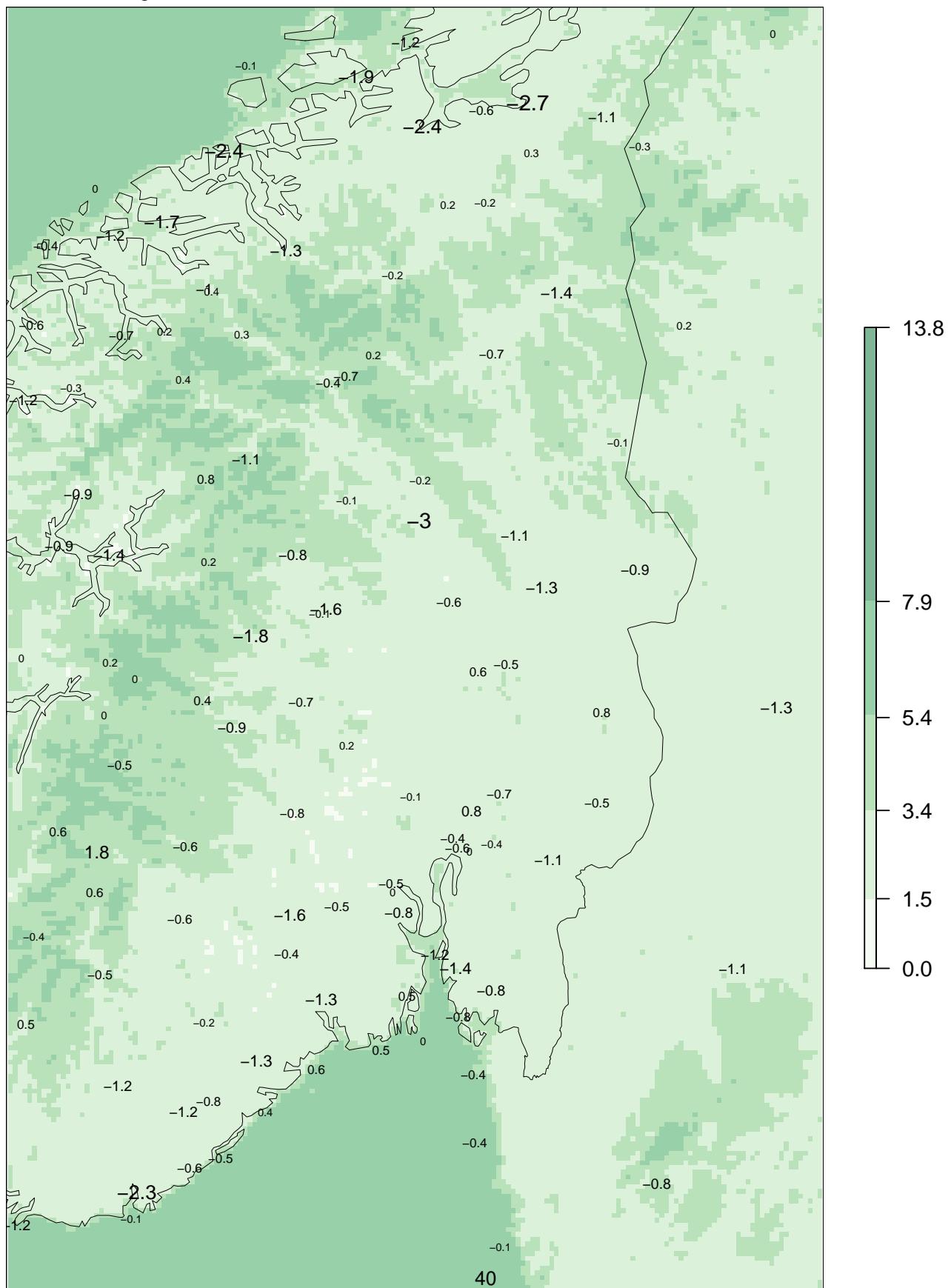


Figure 10: Lead time 00+3,+6,...,+66.

## AROME–Norway 00+12

ME at observing sites

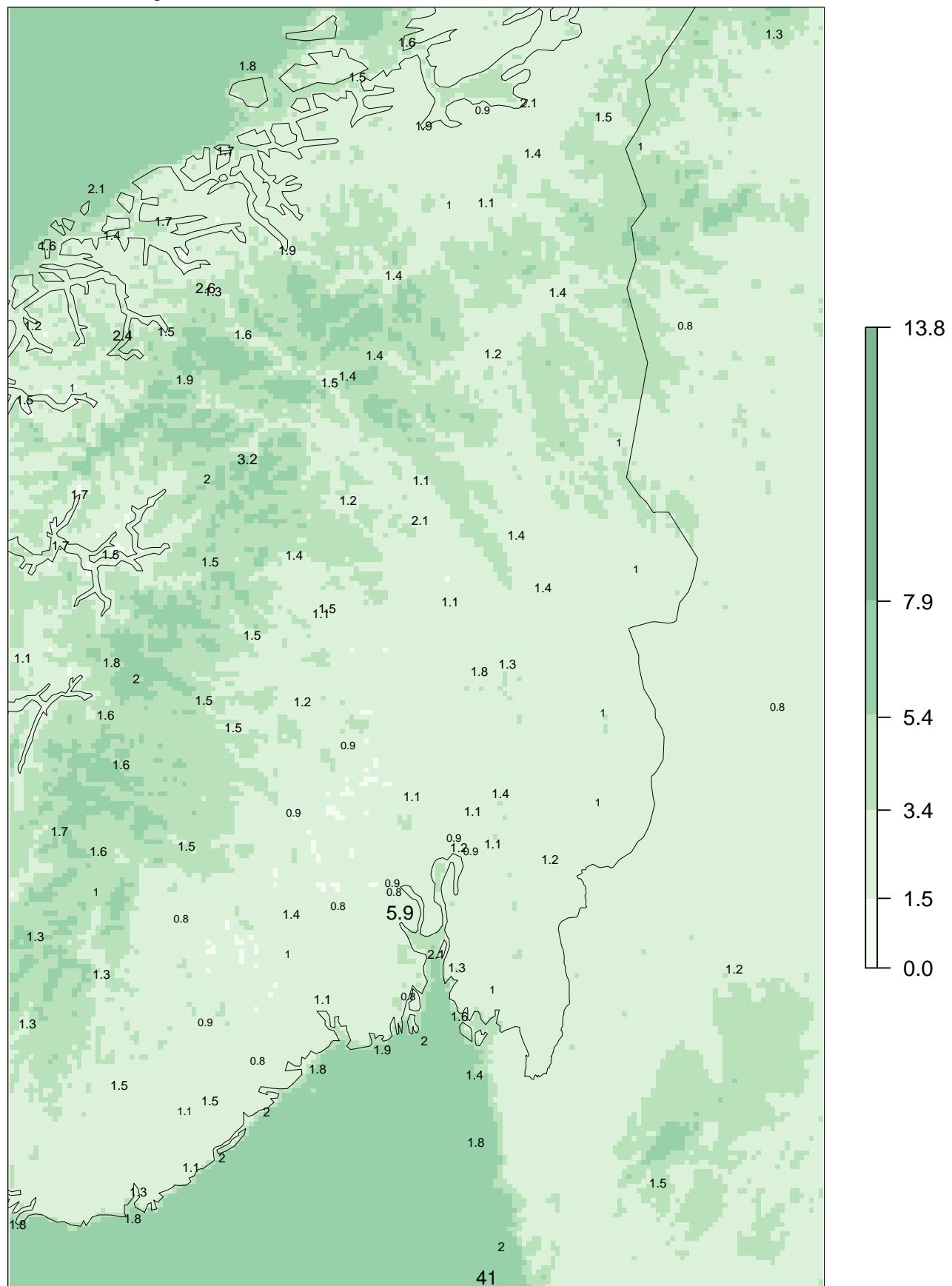
forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013



## AROME–Norway 00+12

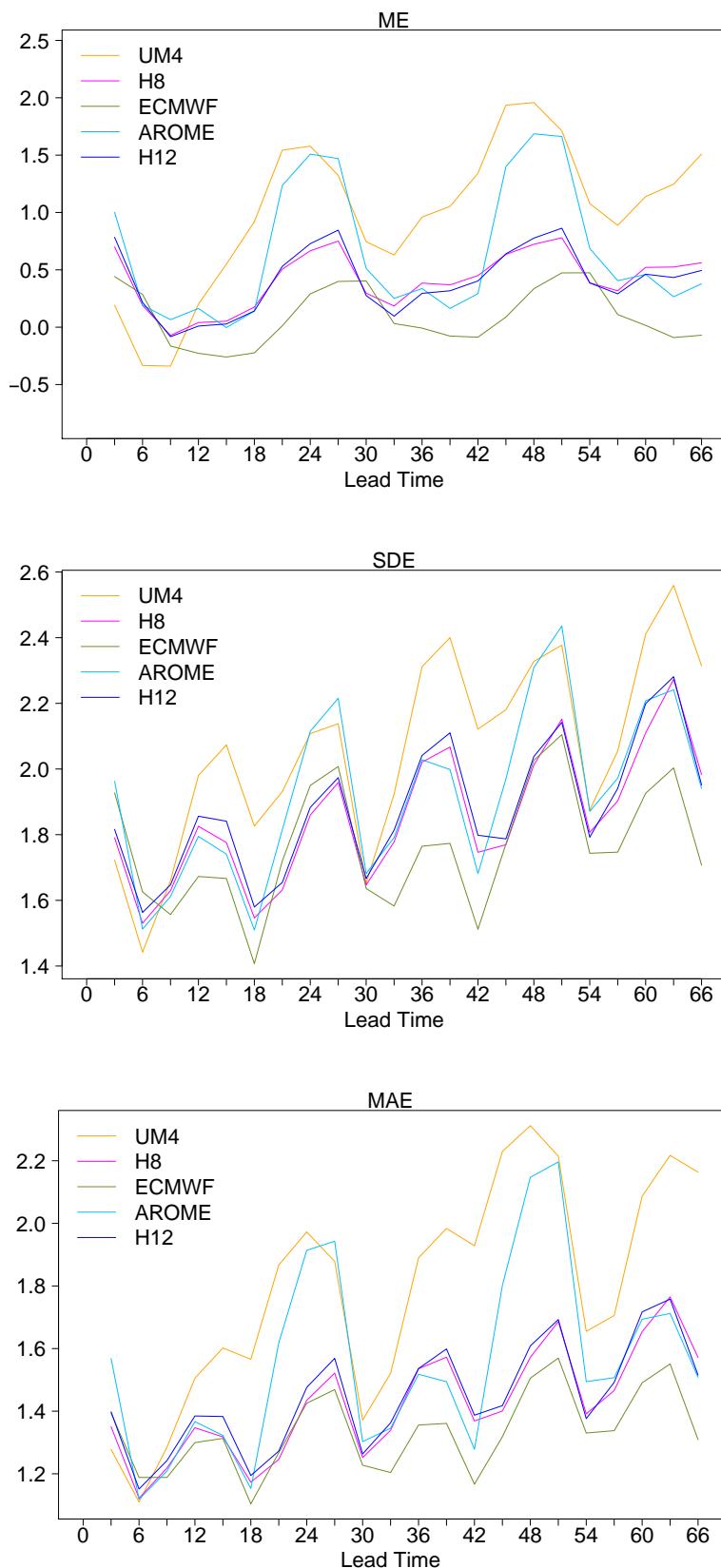
SDE at observing sites

forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013





### 6.3 Temperature 2m



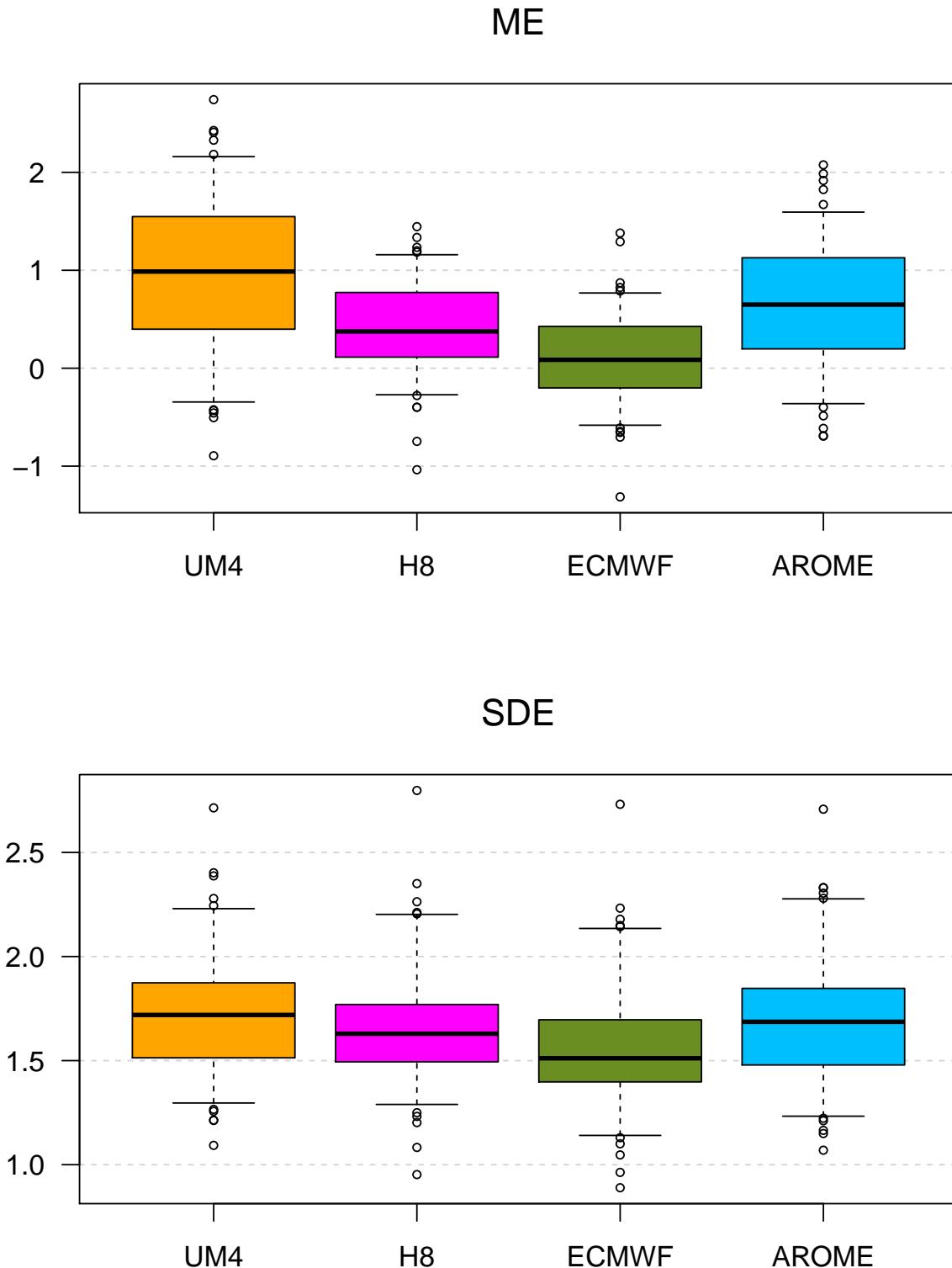
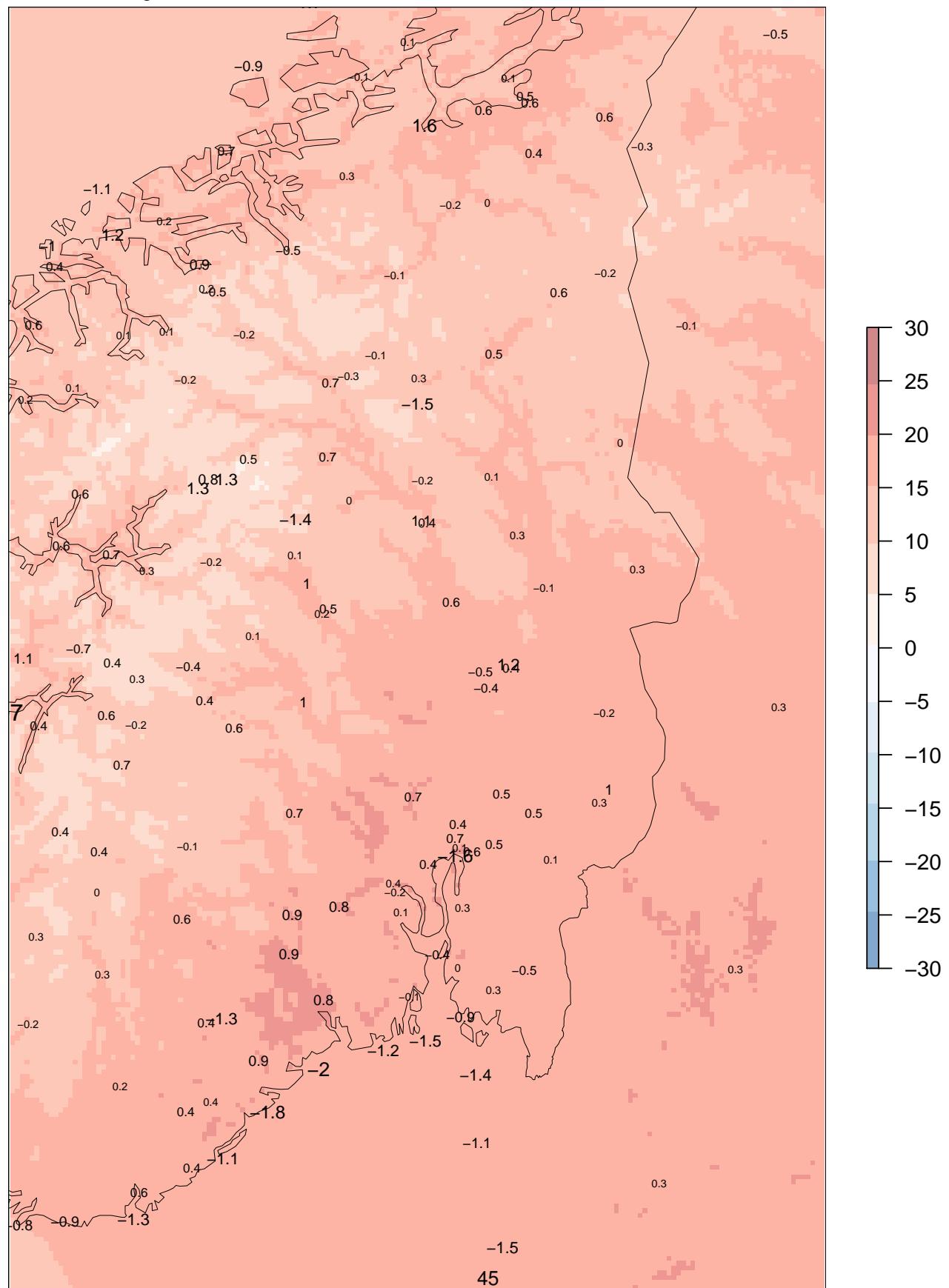


Figure 11: Lead time 00 +3,+6,...,+66

## AROME–Norway 00+12

ME at observing sites

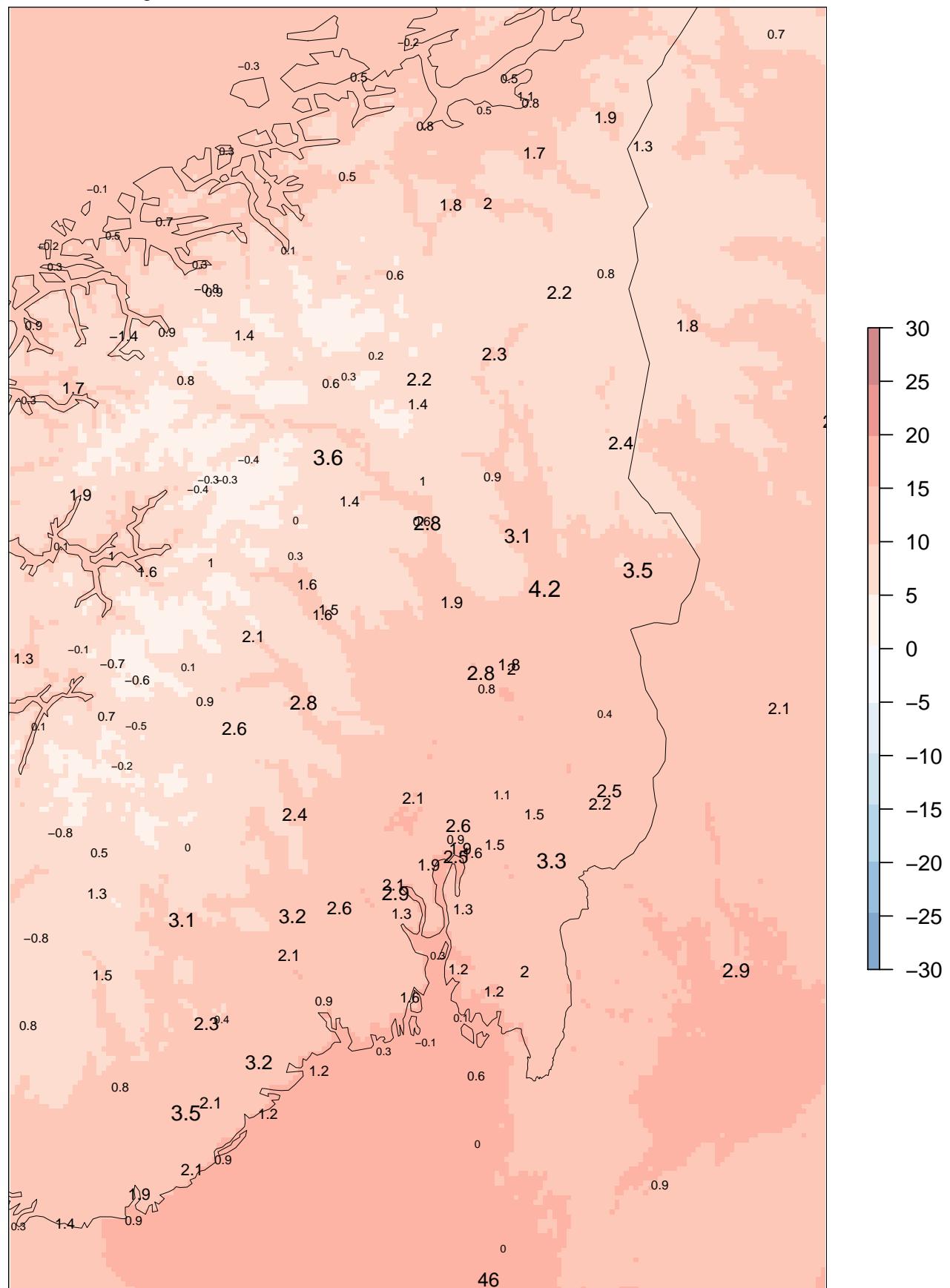
forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013



## AROME–Norway 00+24

ME at observing sites

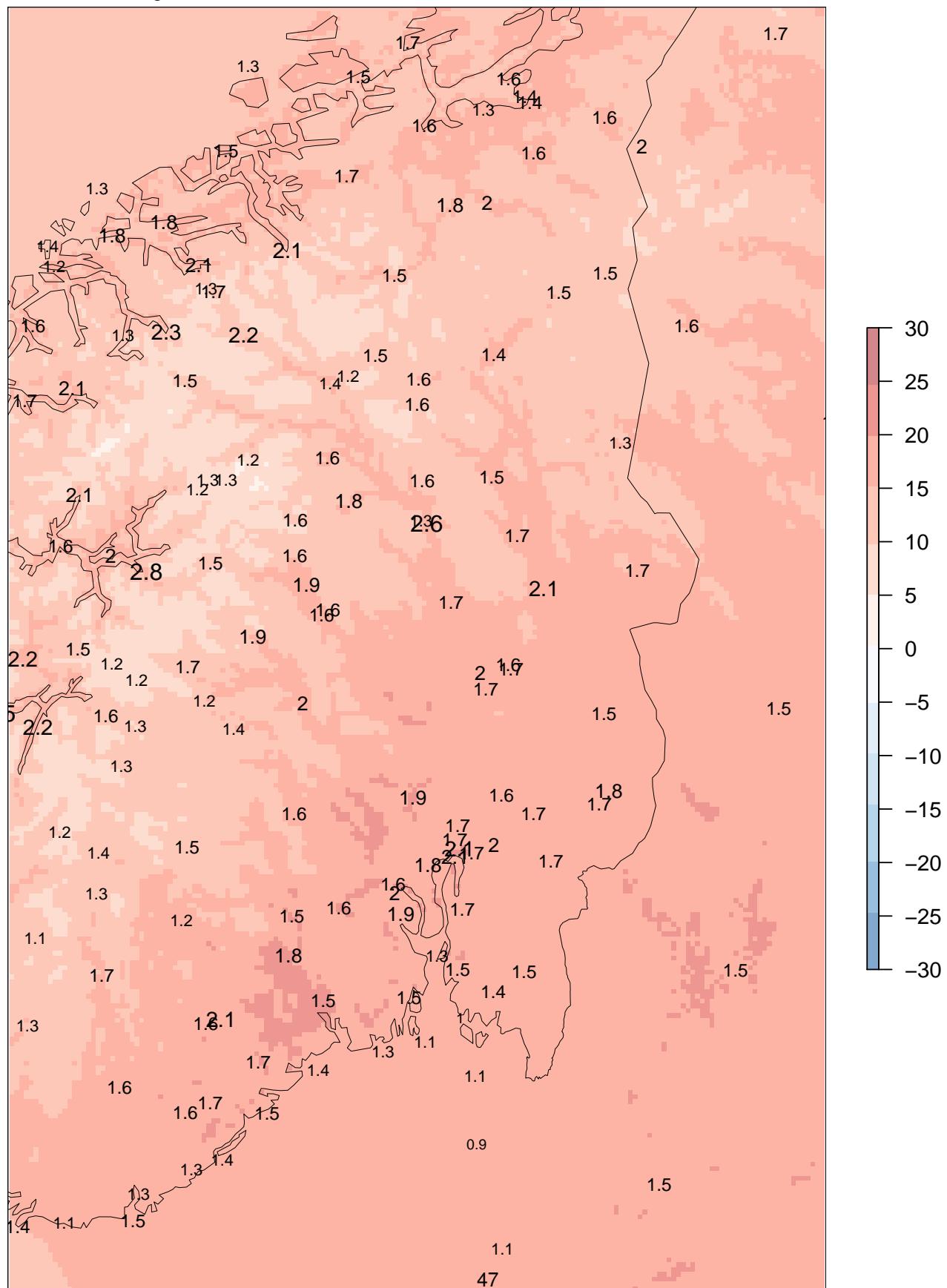
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AROME–Norway 00+12

## SDE at observing sites

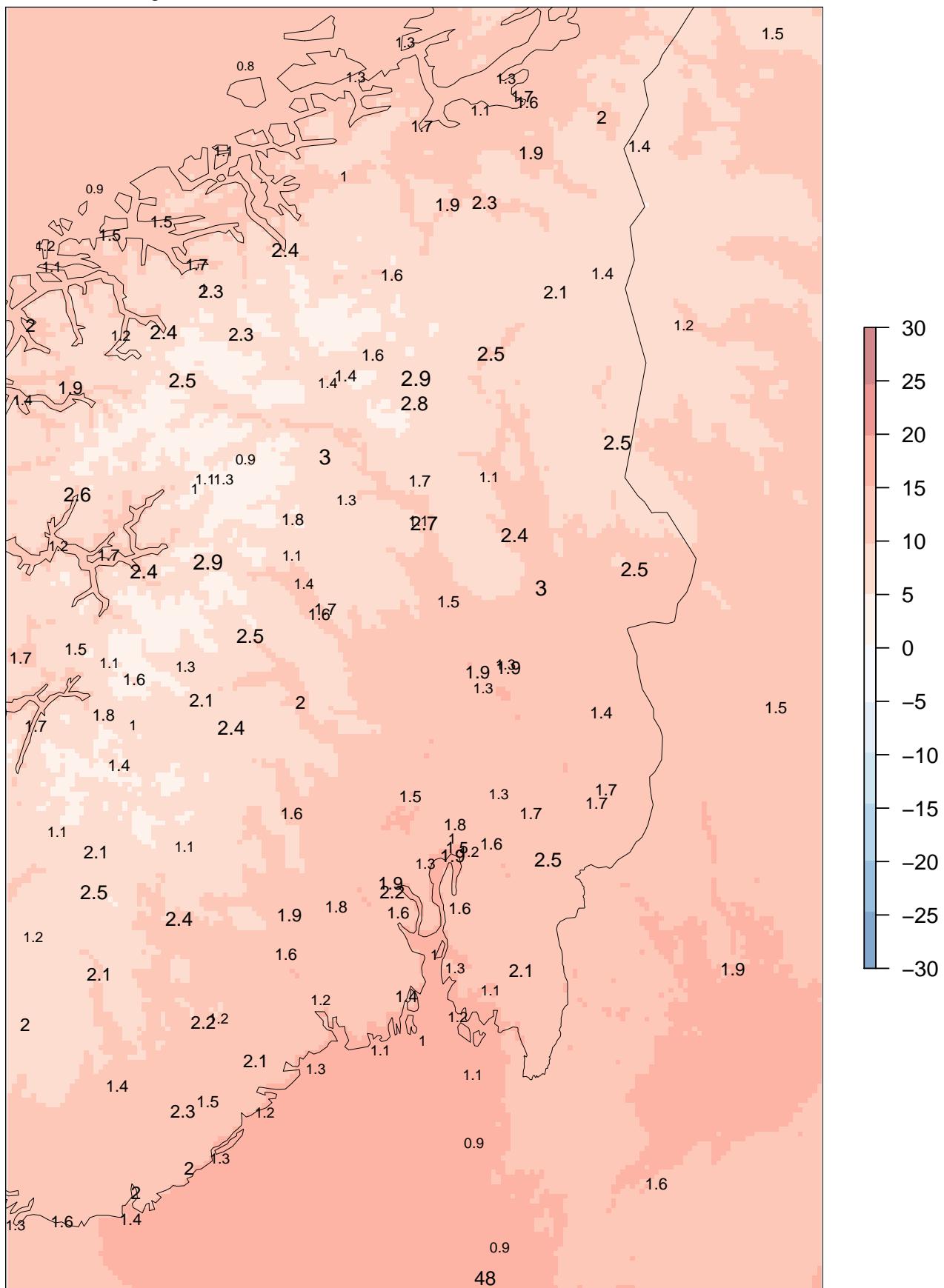
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AROME–Norway 00+24

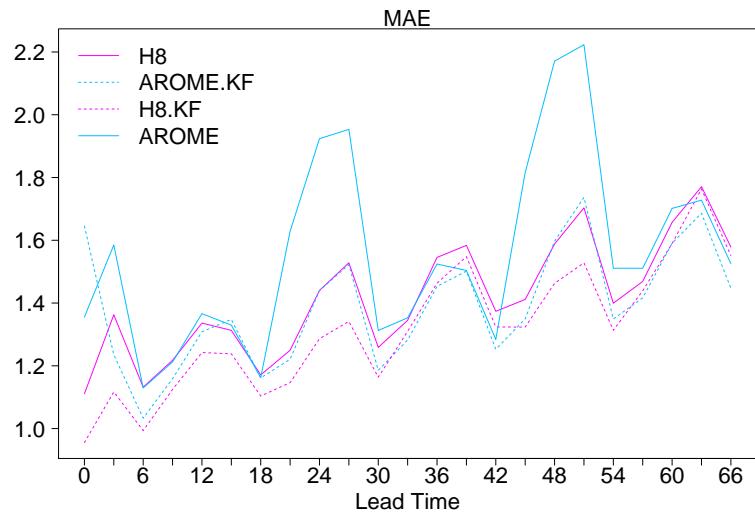
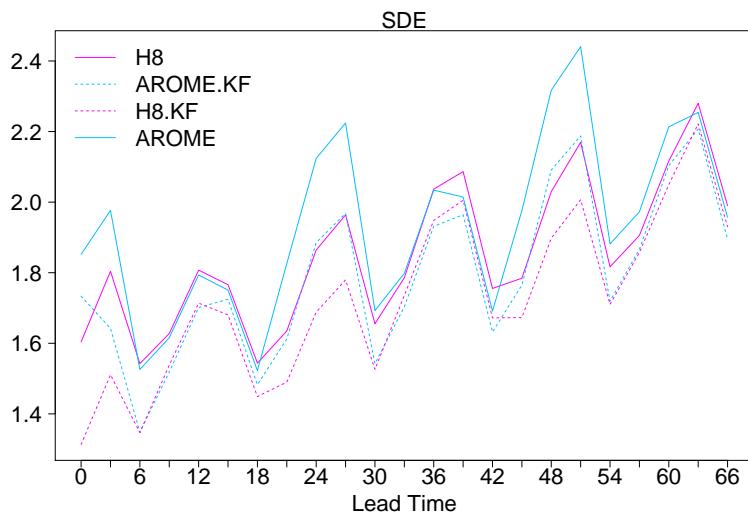
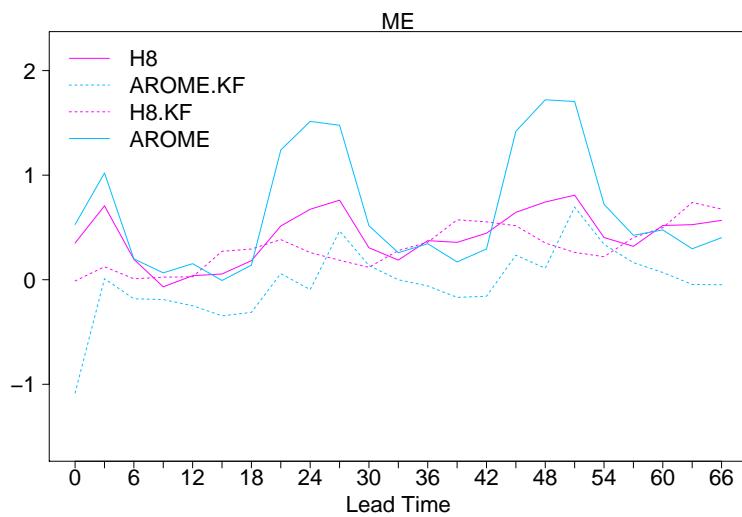
## SDE at observing sites

forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013





## 6.4 Post processed temperature 2m



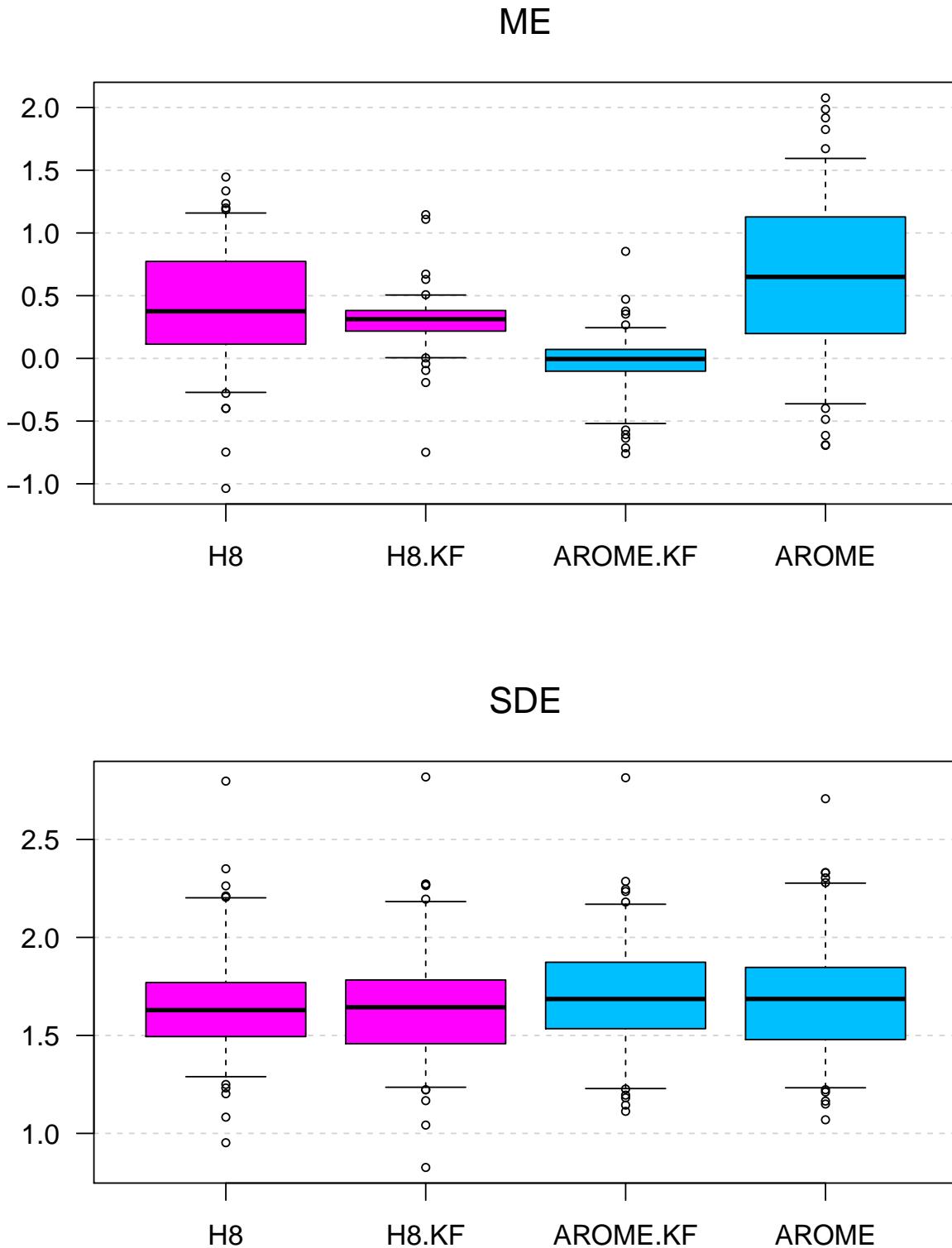
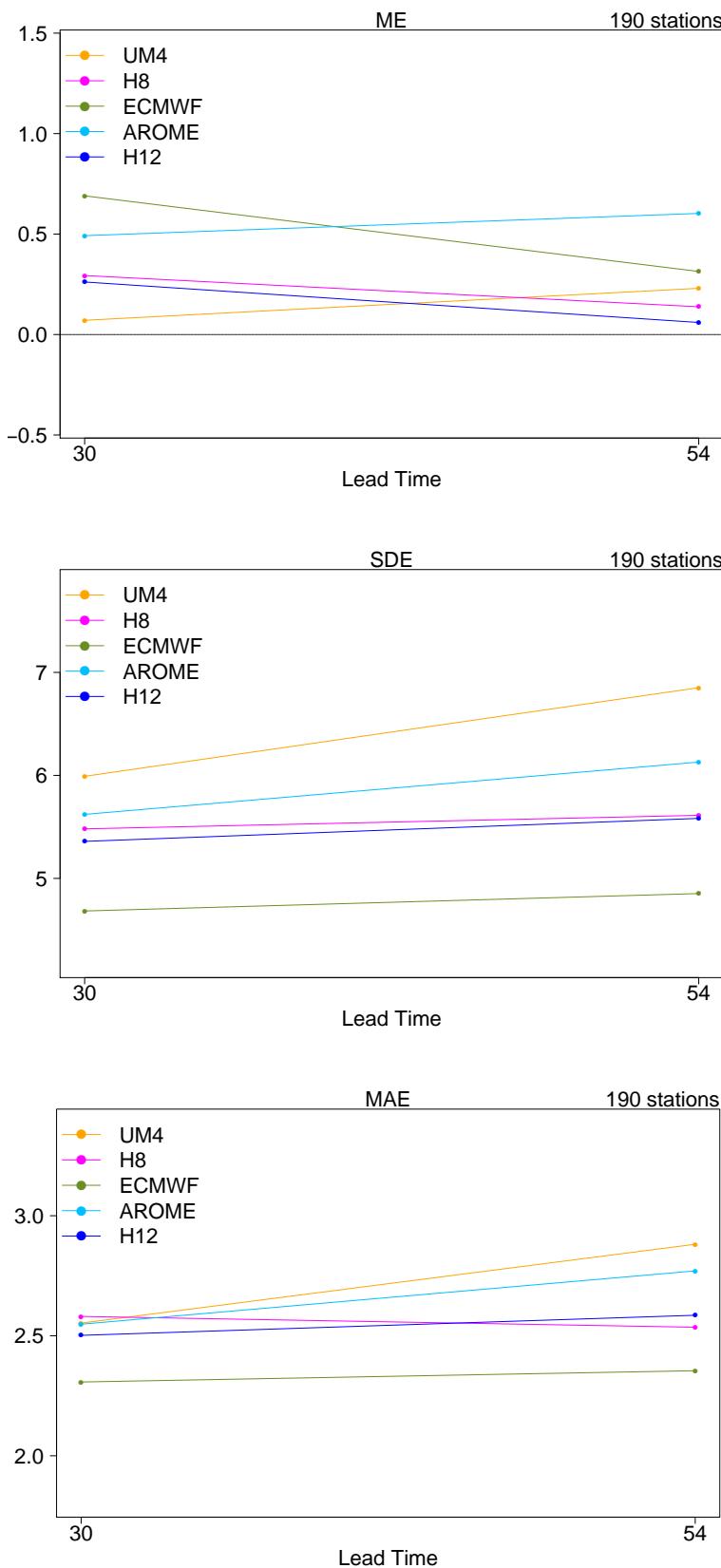


Figure 12: Lead time 00 +3,+6,...,+66



## 6.5 Daily precipitation



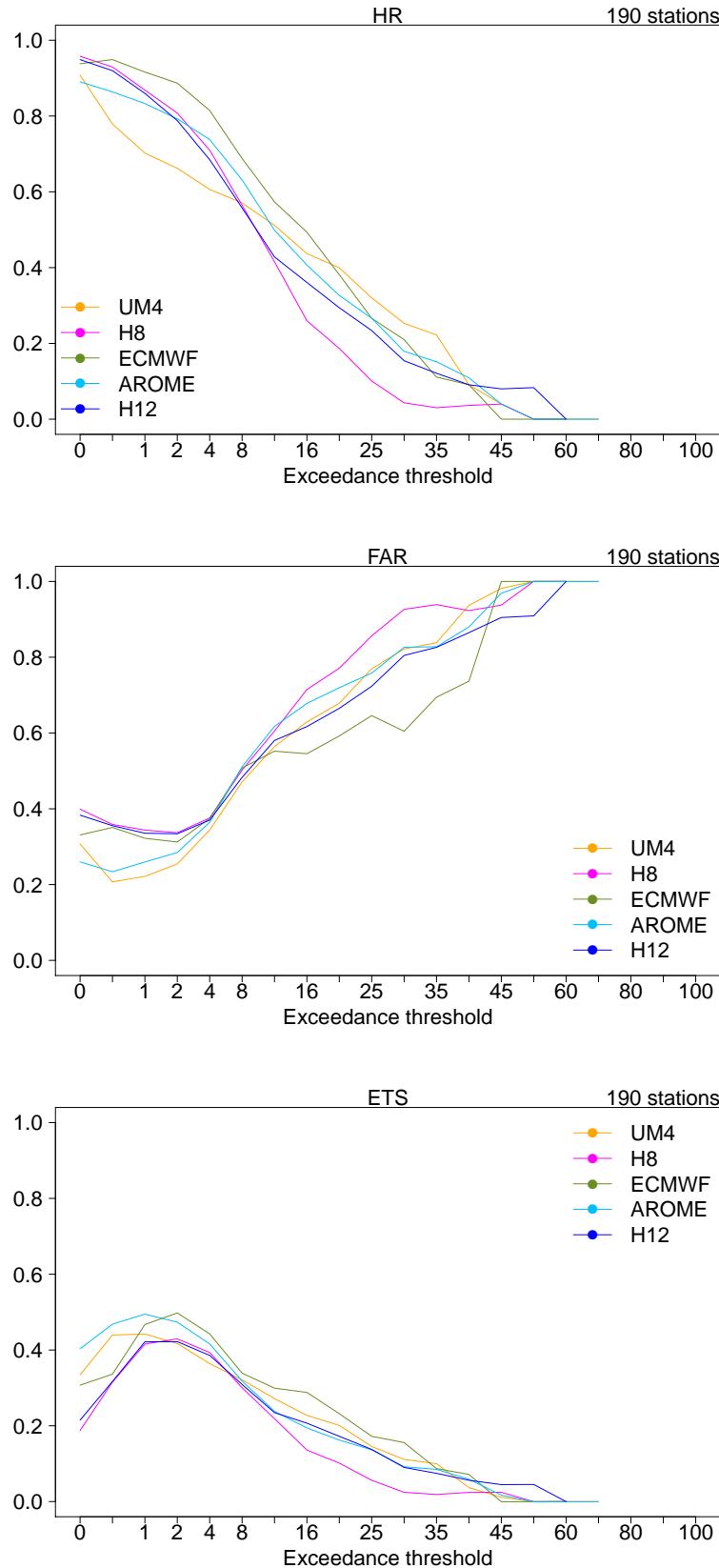


Figure 13: Lead time 00+30.

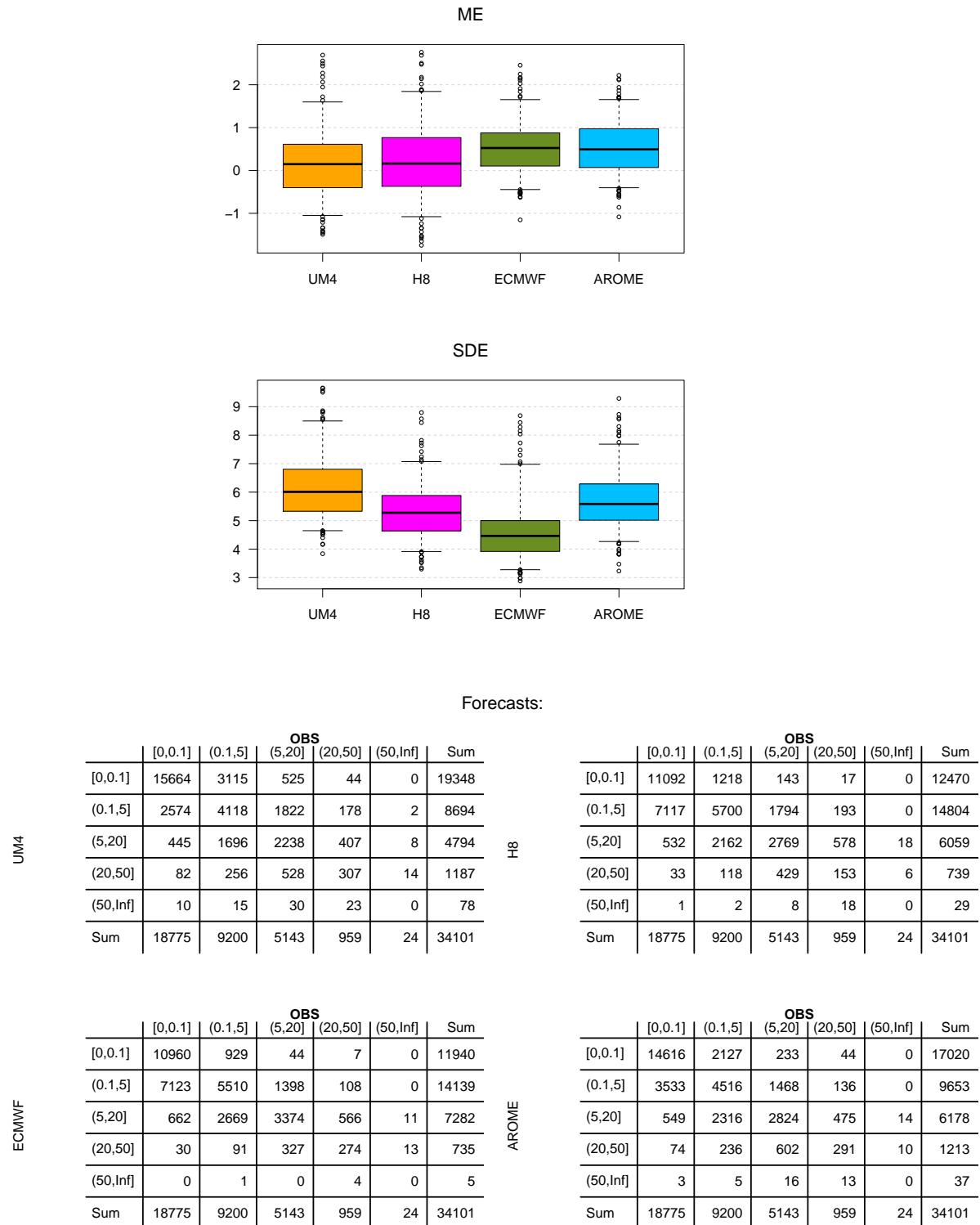
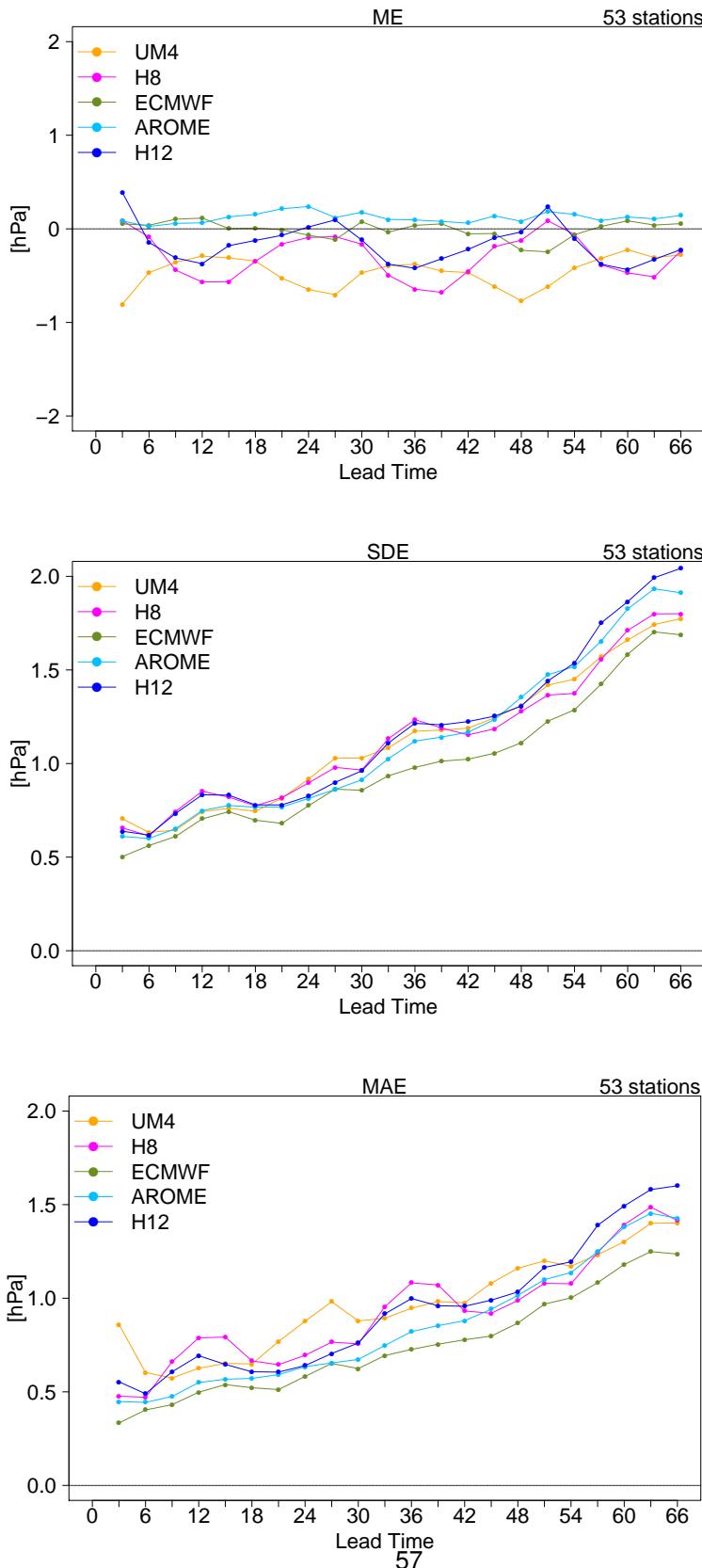


Figure 14: Lead time 00+30,+54.



## 7 Western Norway

### 7.1 Pressure



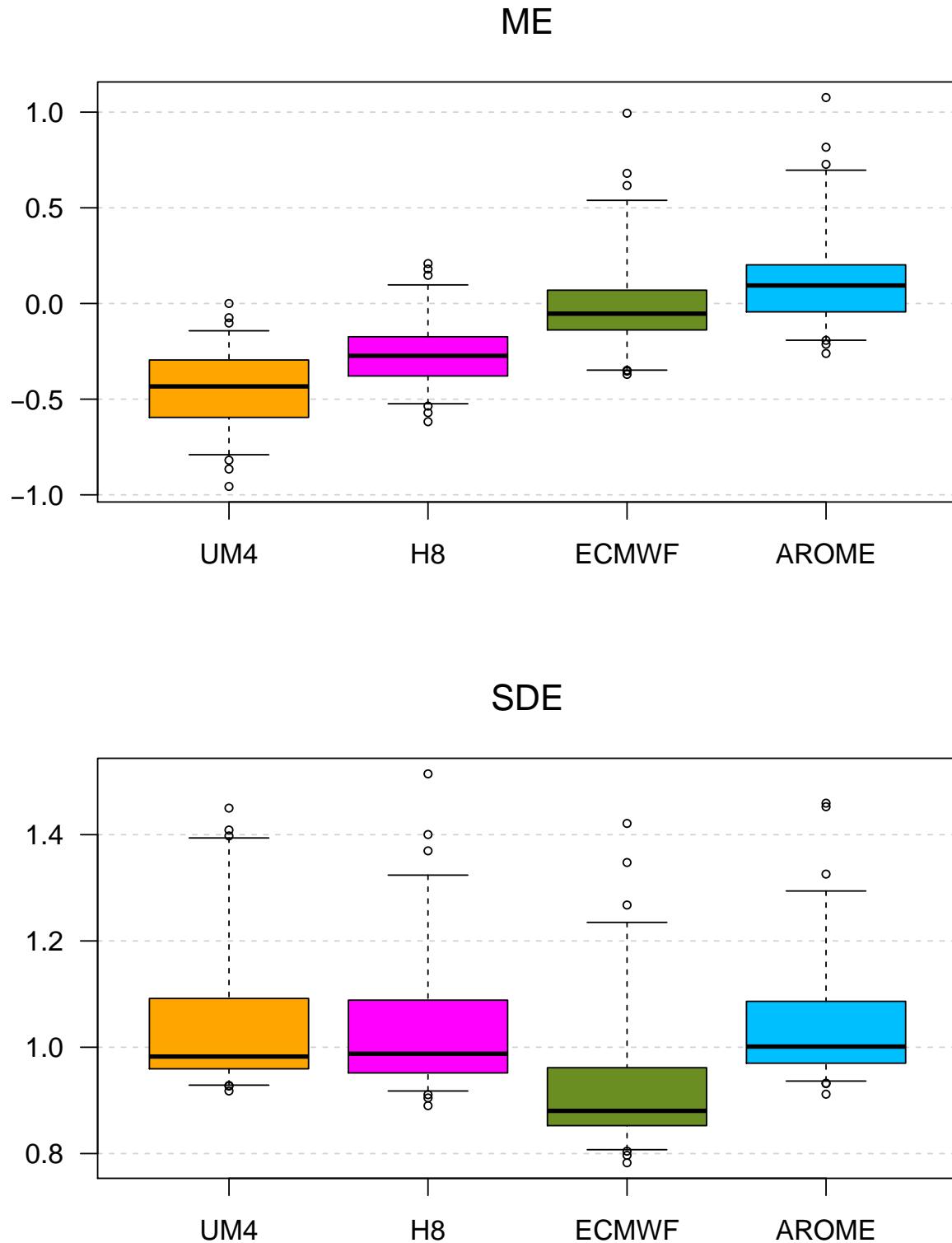
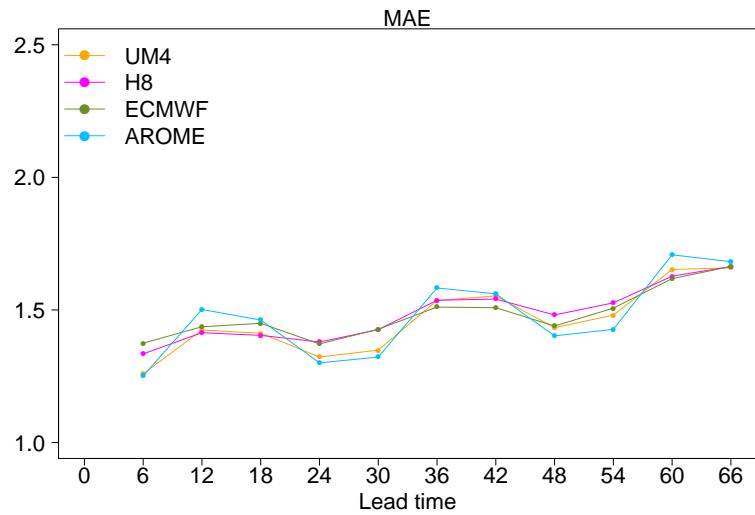
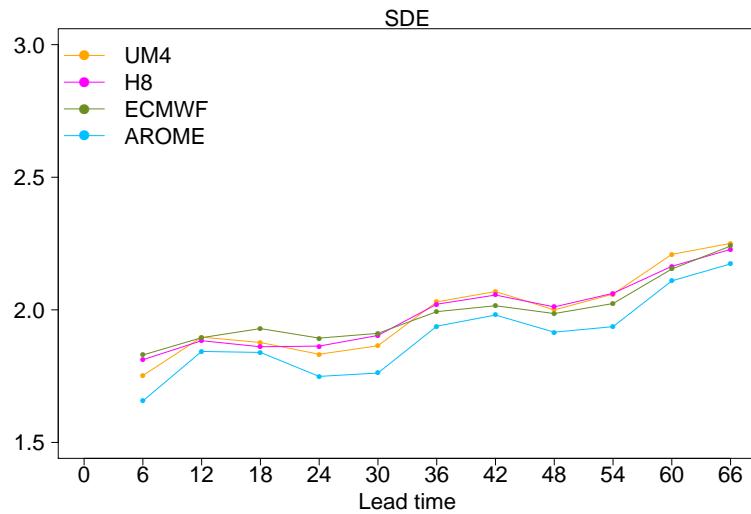
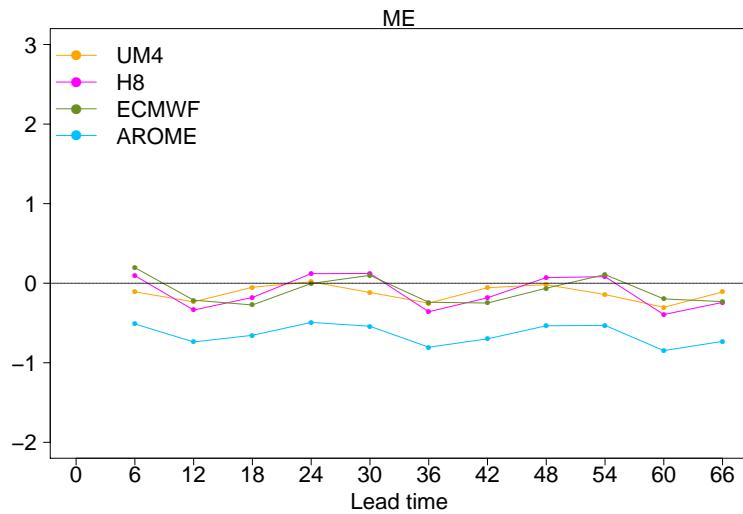


Figure 15: Lead time 00 +3,+6,...,+66



## 7.2 Wind Speed 10m



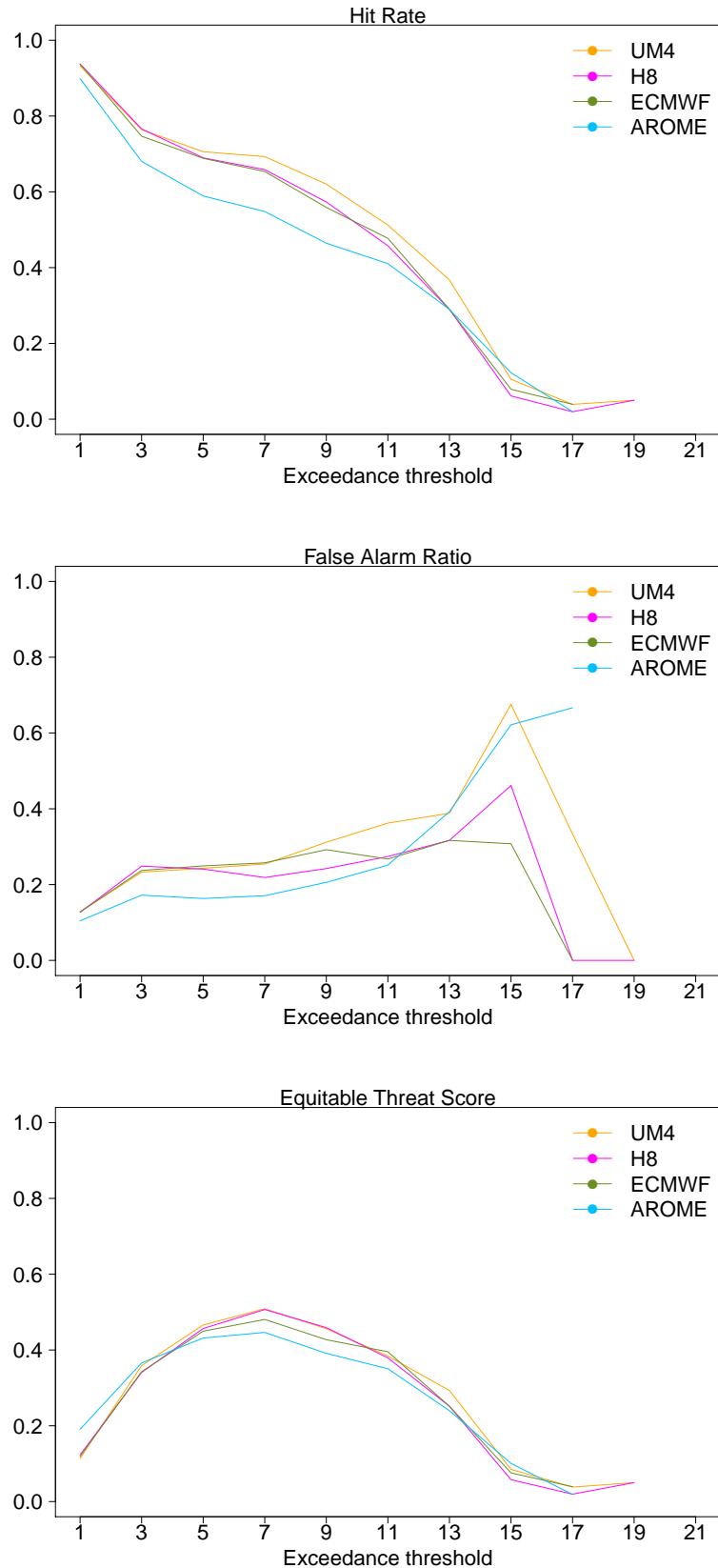


Figure 16: Lead time 00+12,+15,+18,+21,+24

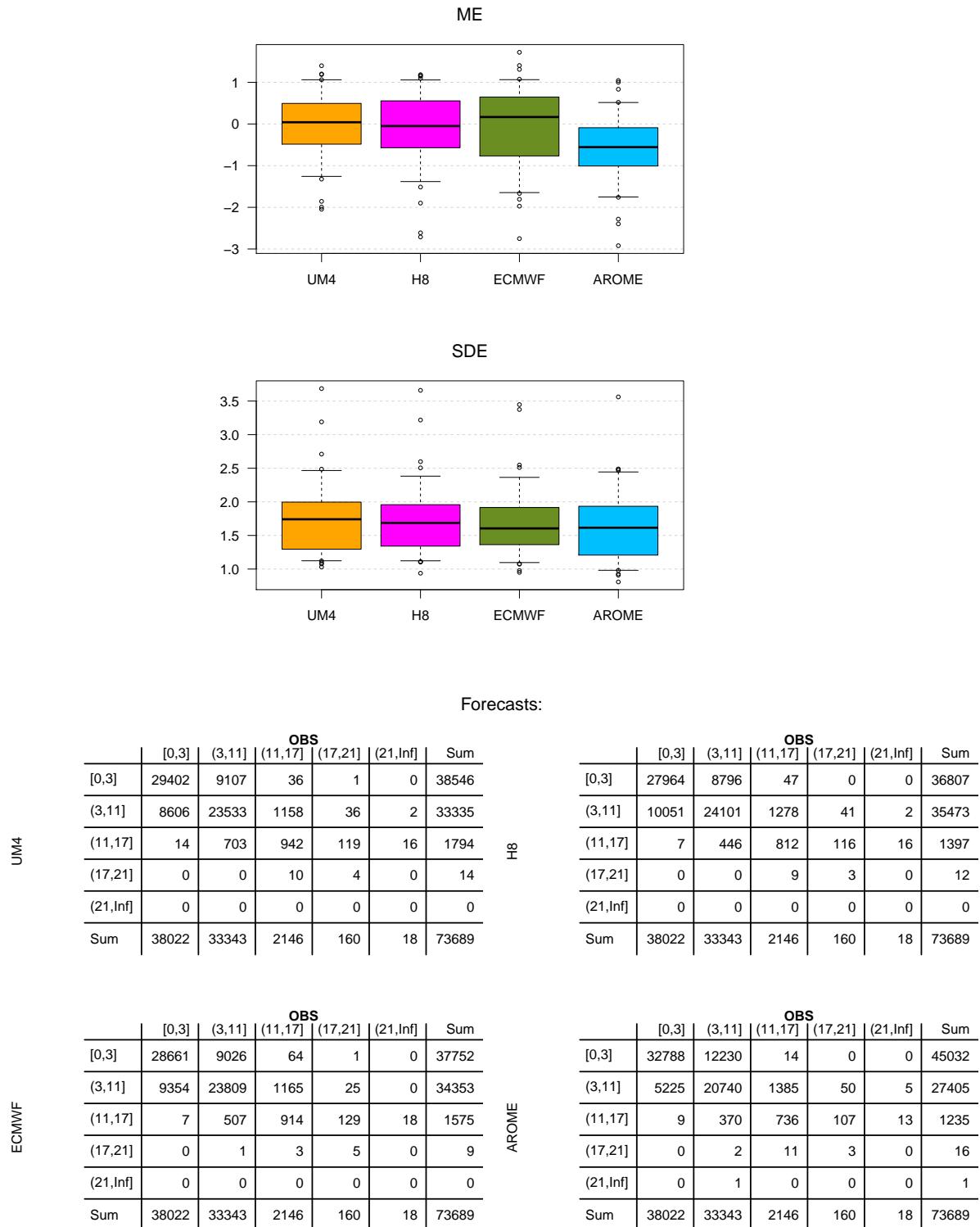
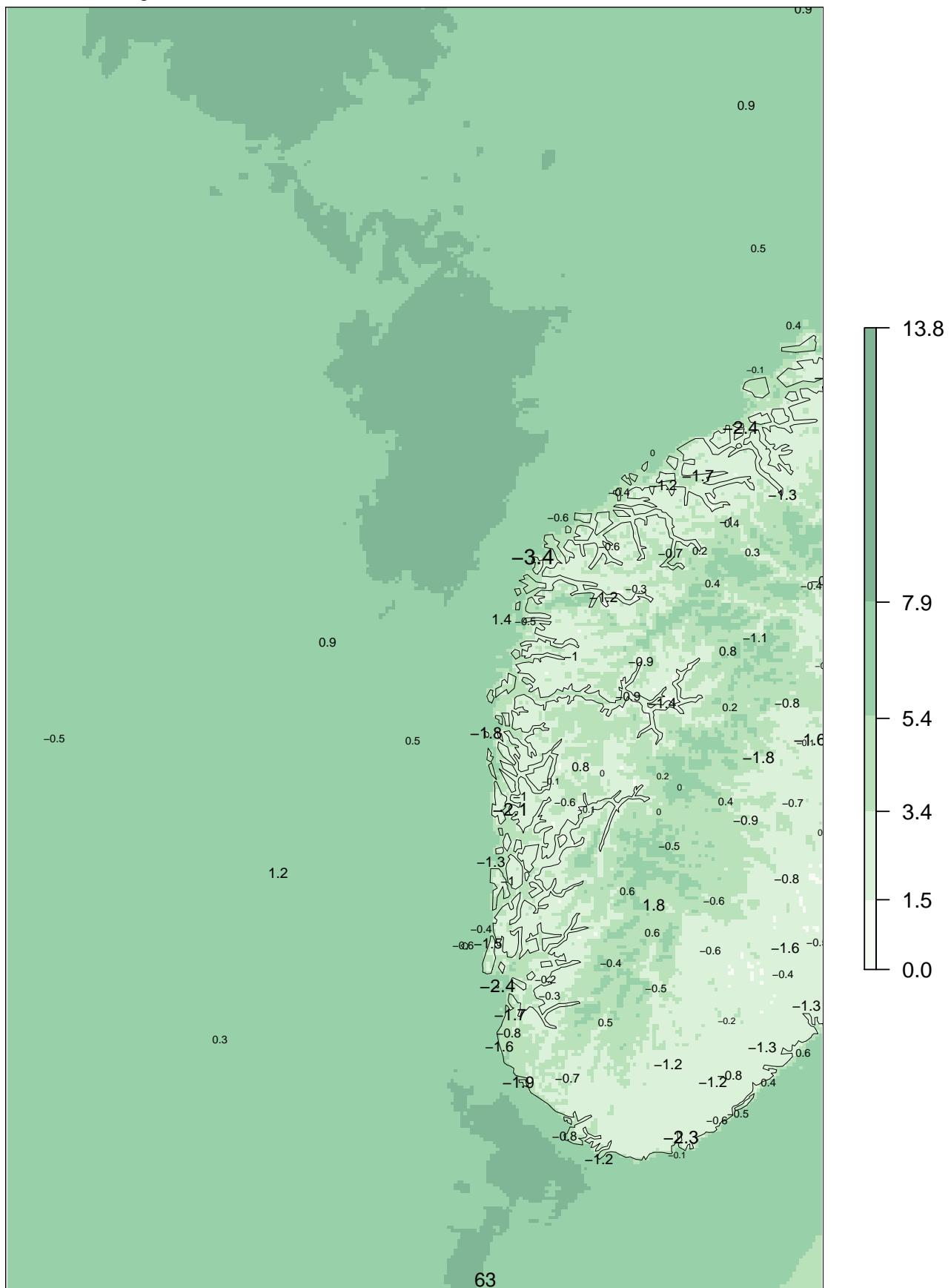


Figure 17: Lead time 00+3,+6,...,+66.

AROME–Norway 00+12

## ME at observing sites

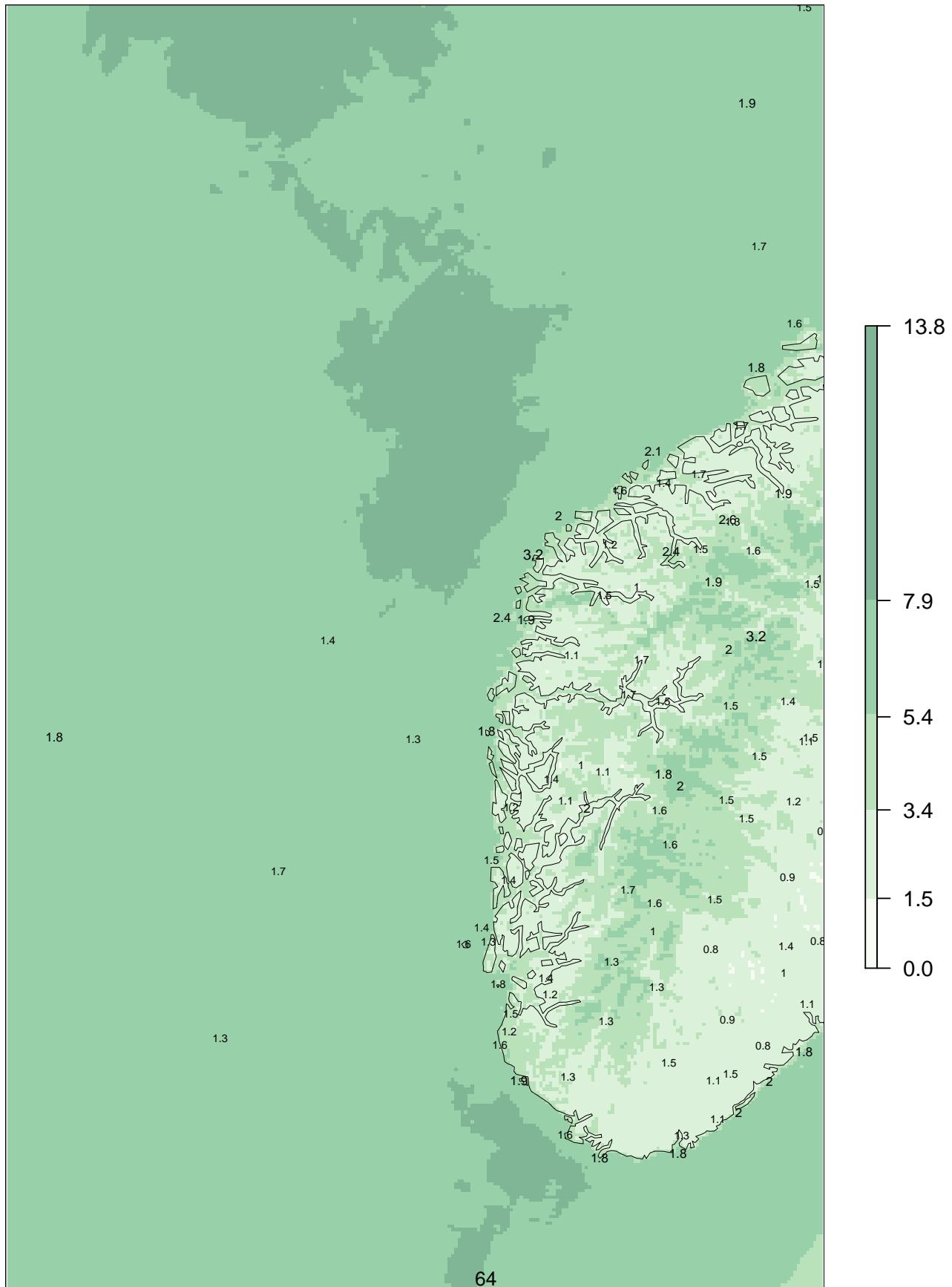
forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013



## AROME–Norway 00+12

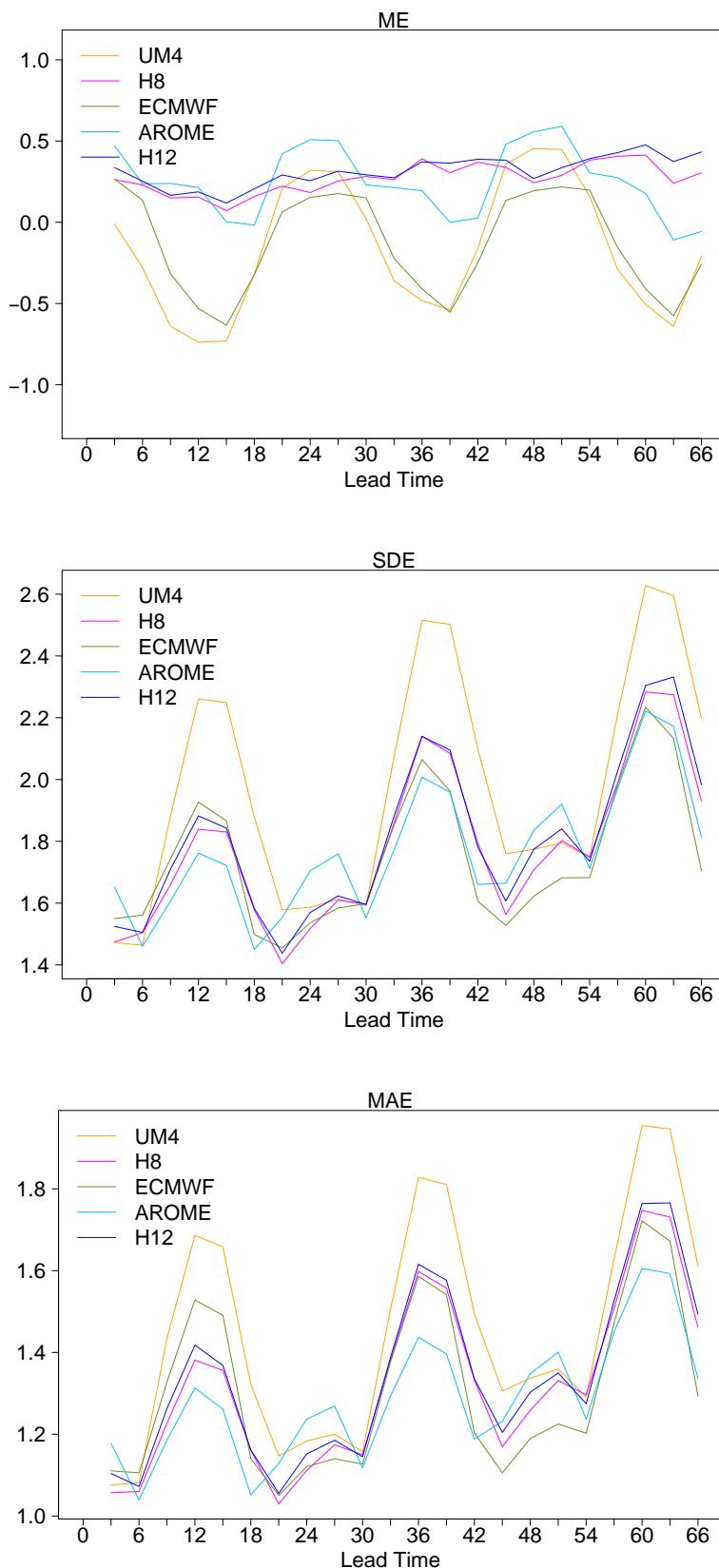
SDE at observing sites

forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013





### 7.3 Temperature 2m



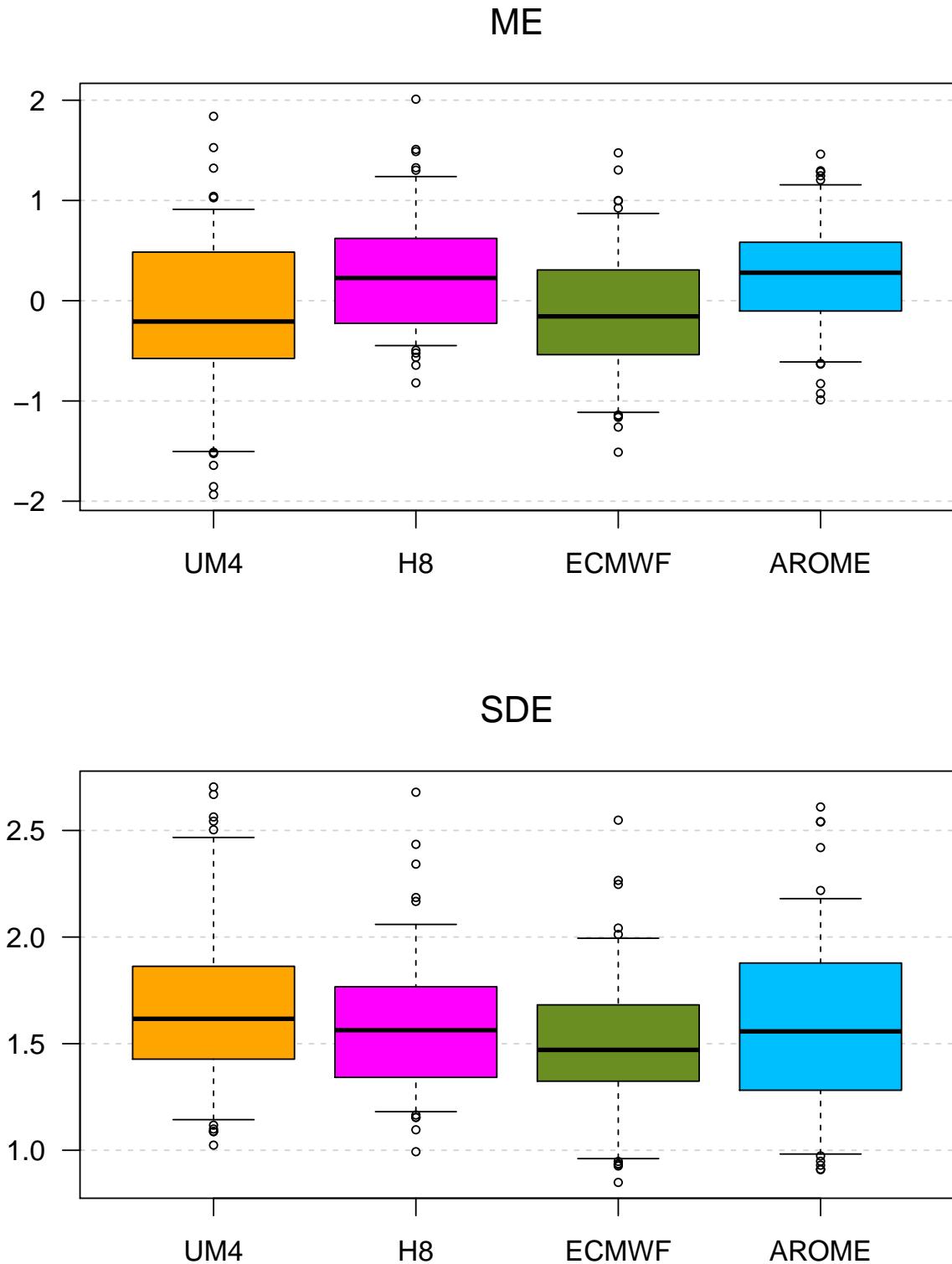
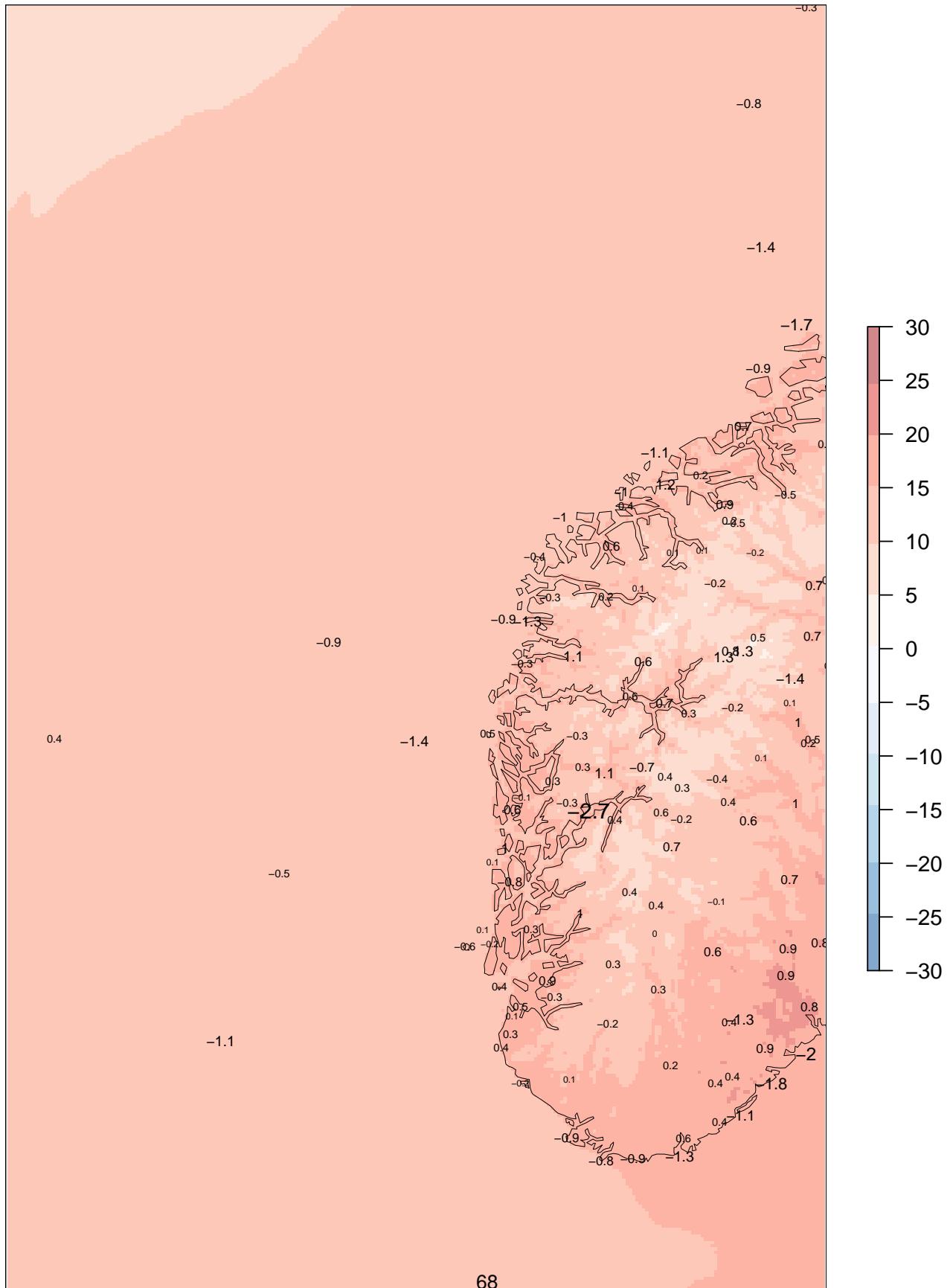


Figure 18: Lead time 00 +3,+6,...,+66

## AROME–Norway 00+12

ME at observing sites

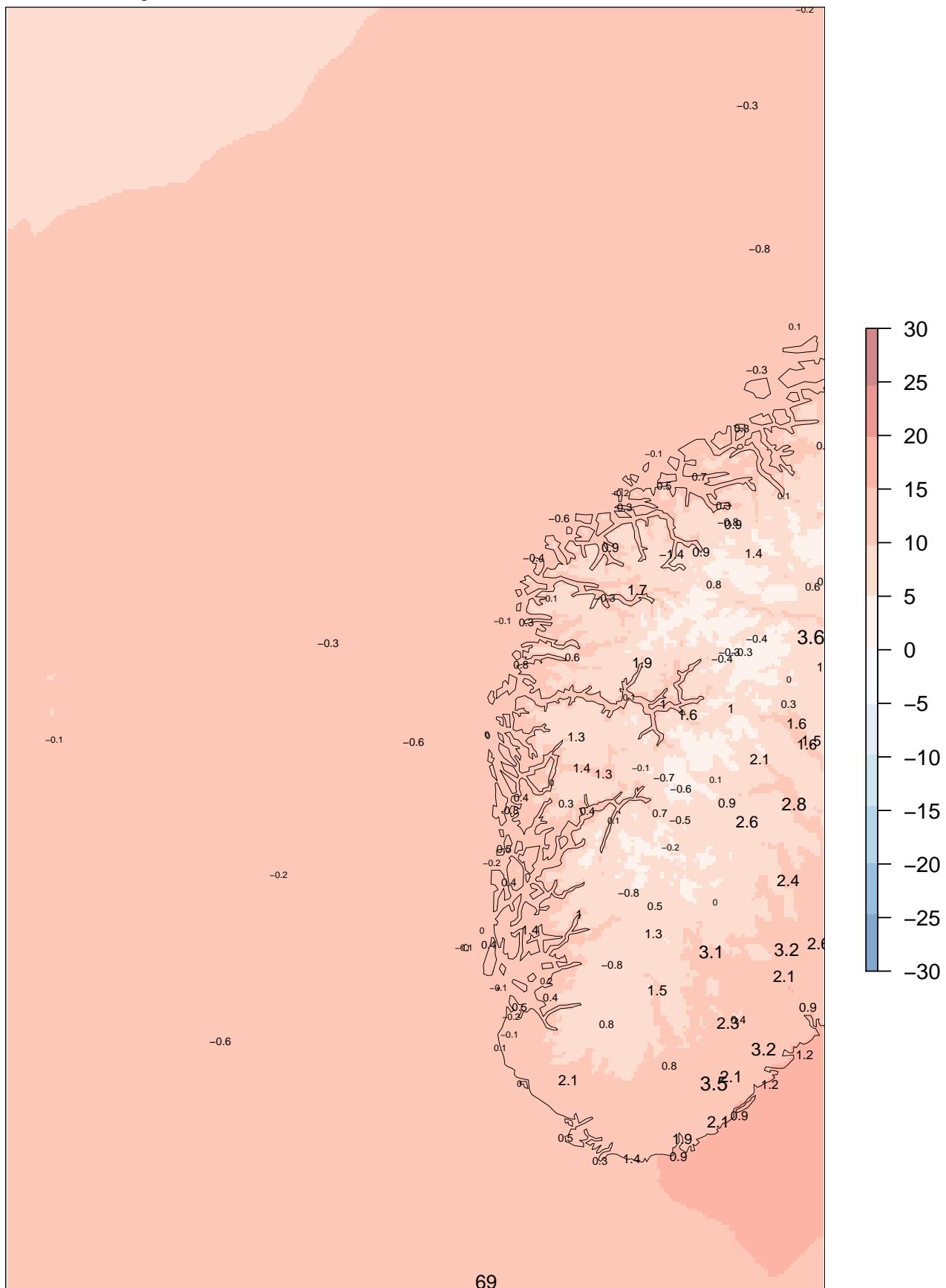
forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013



AROME–Norway 00+24

## ME at observing sites

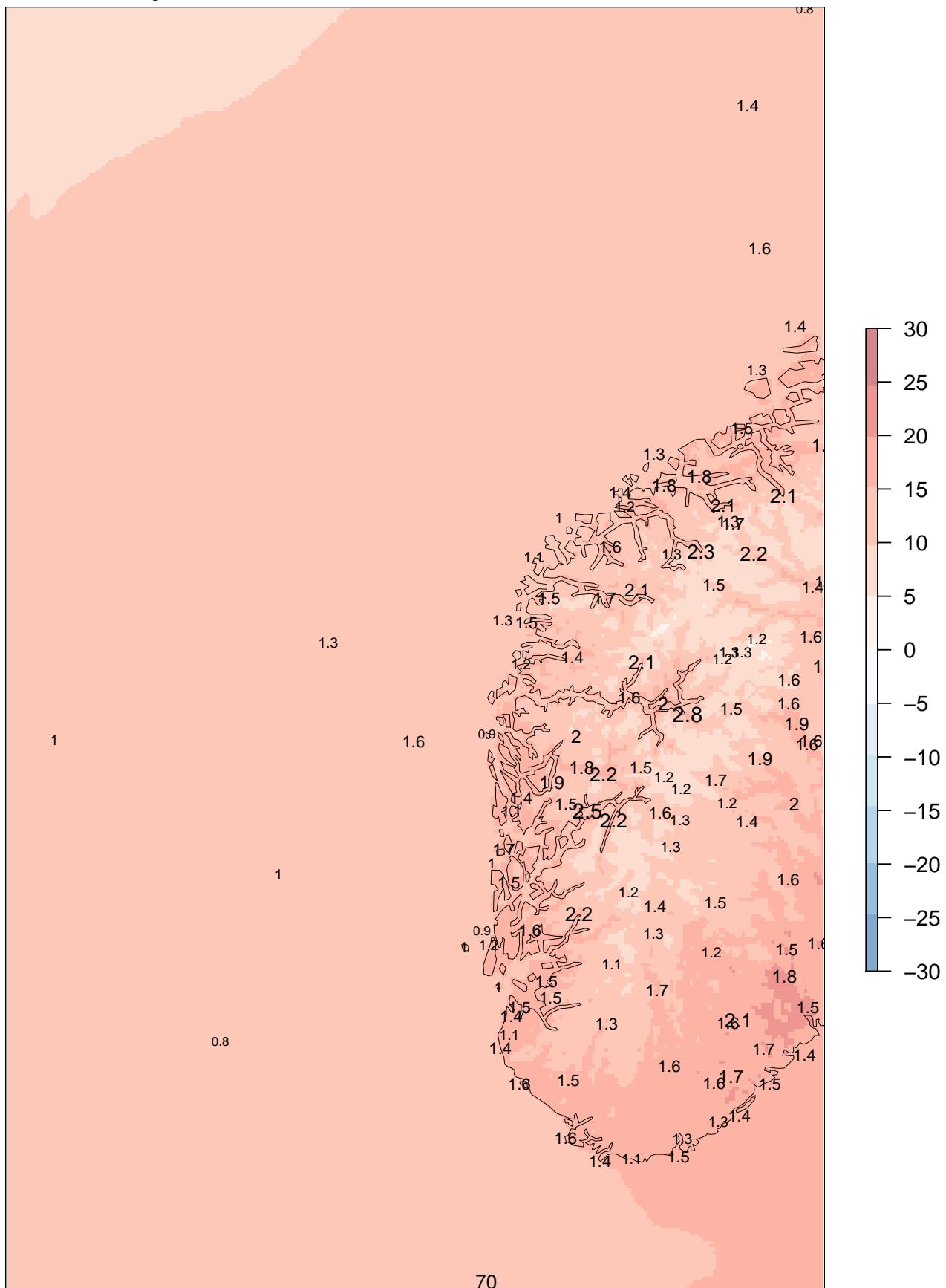
forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013



AROME–Norway 00+12

## SDE at observing sites

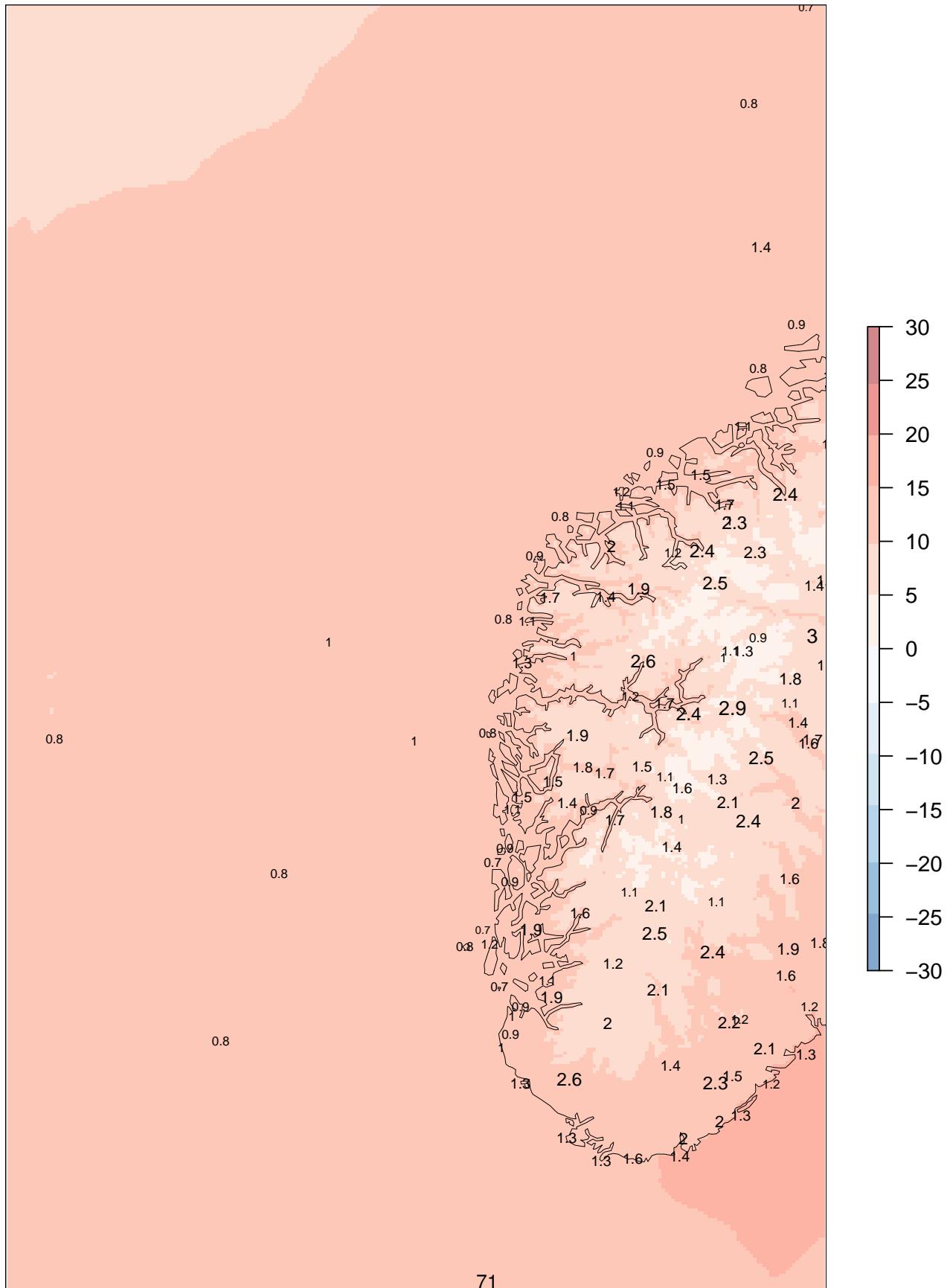
forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013



## AROME–Norway 00+24

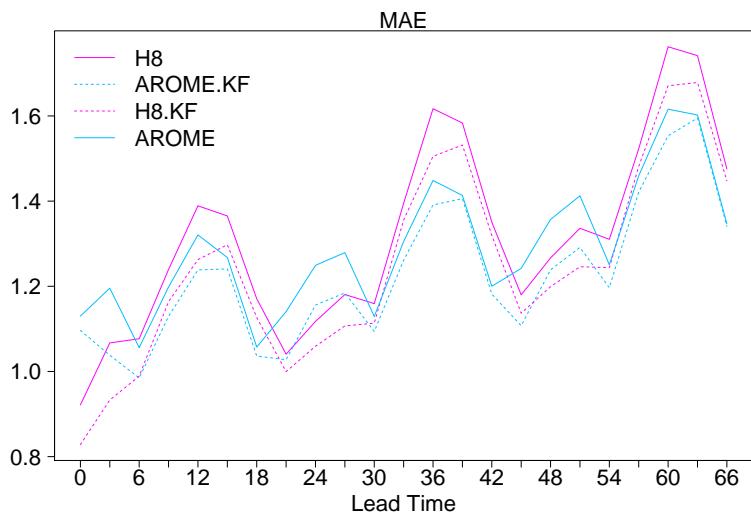
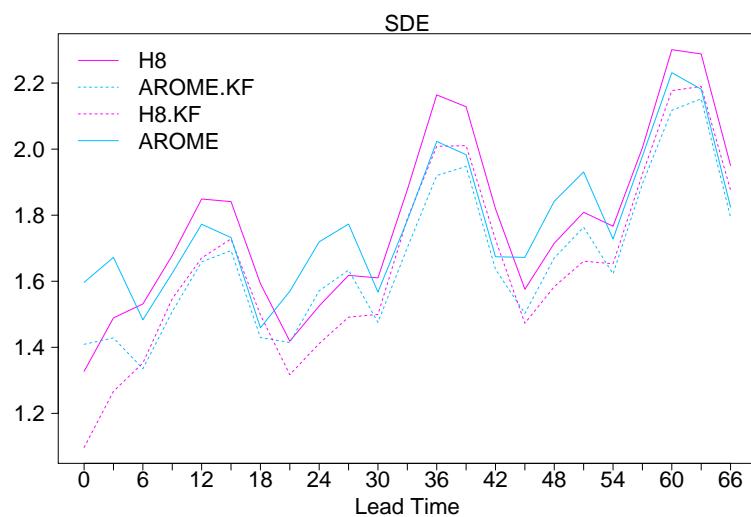
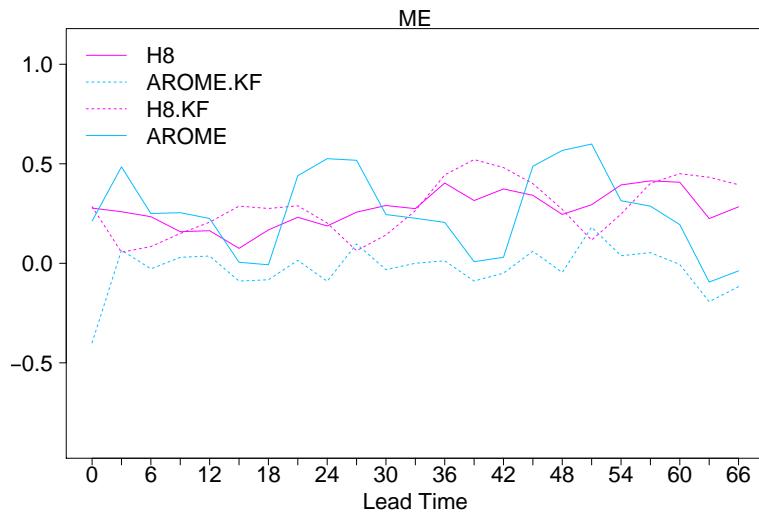
SDE at observing sites

forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013





## 7.4 Post processed temperature 2m



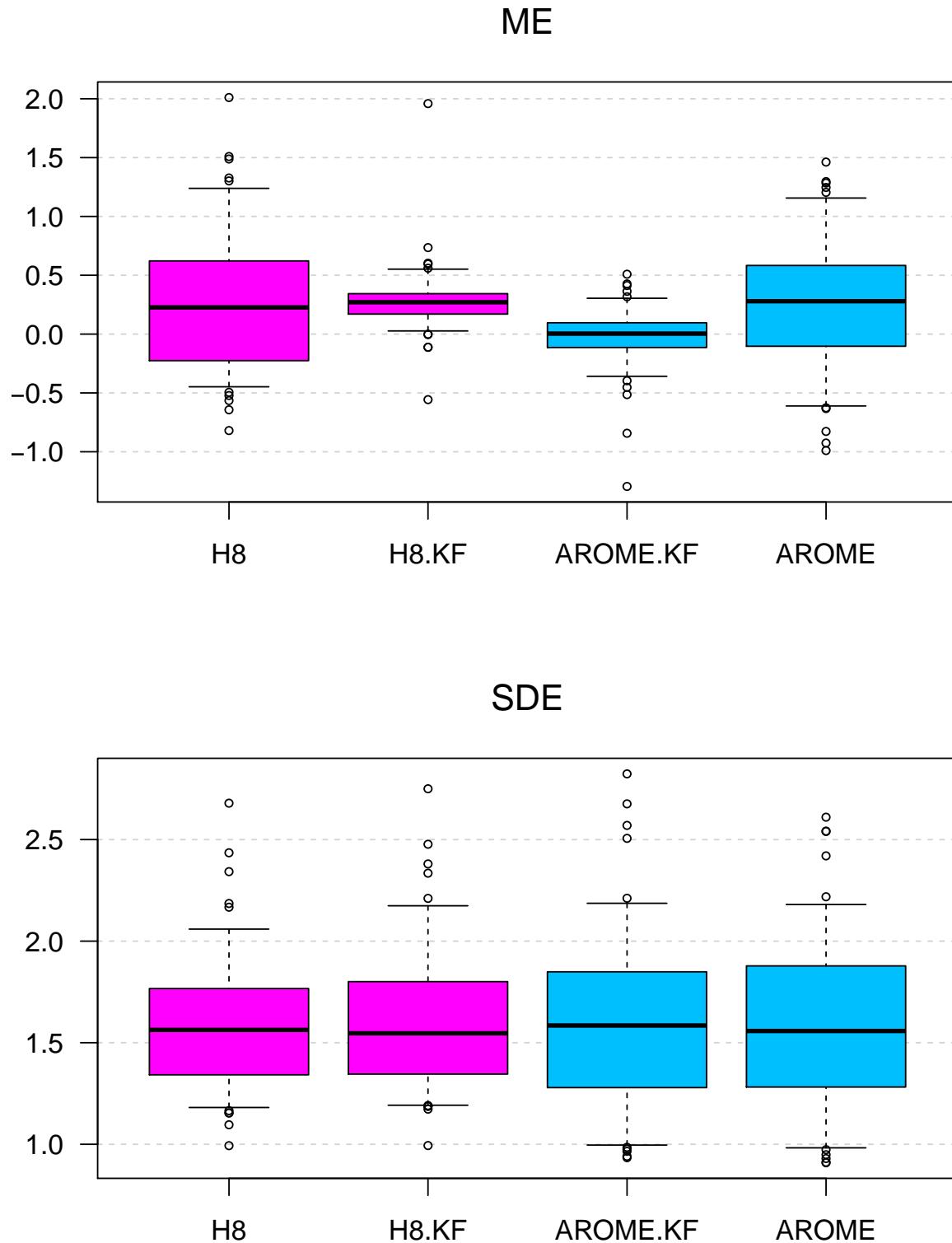
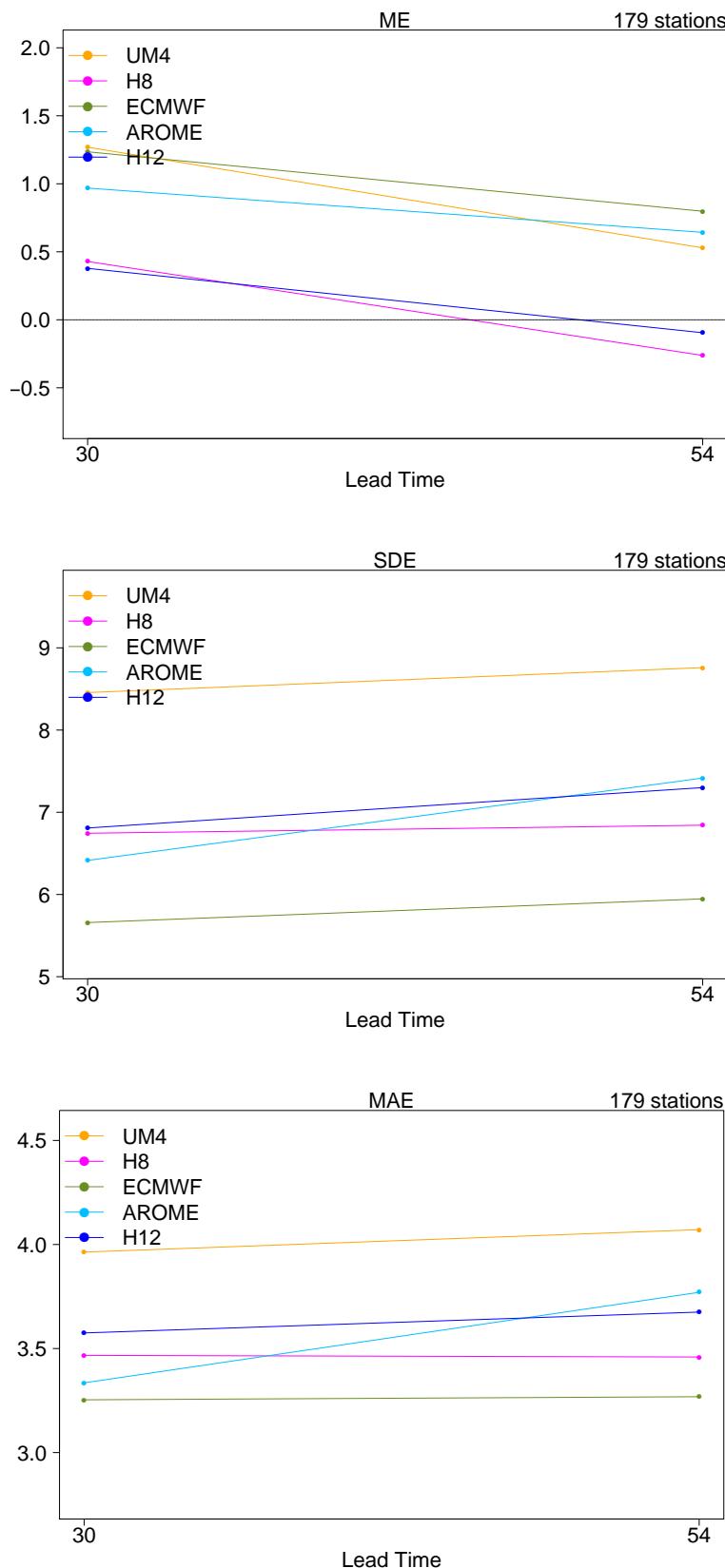


Figure 19: Lead time 00 +3,+6,...,+66



## 7.5 Daily precipitation



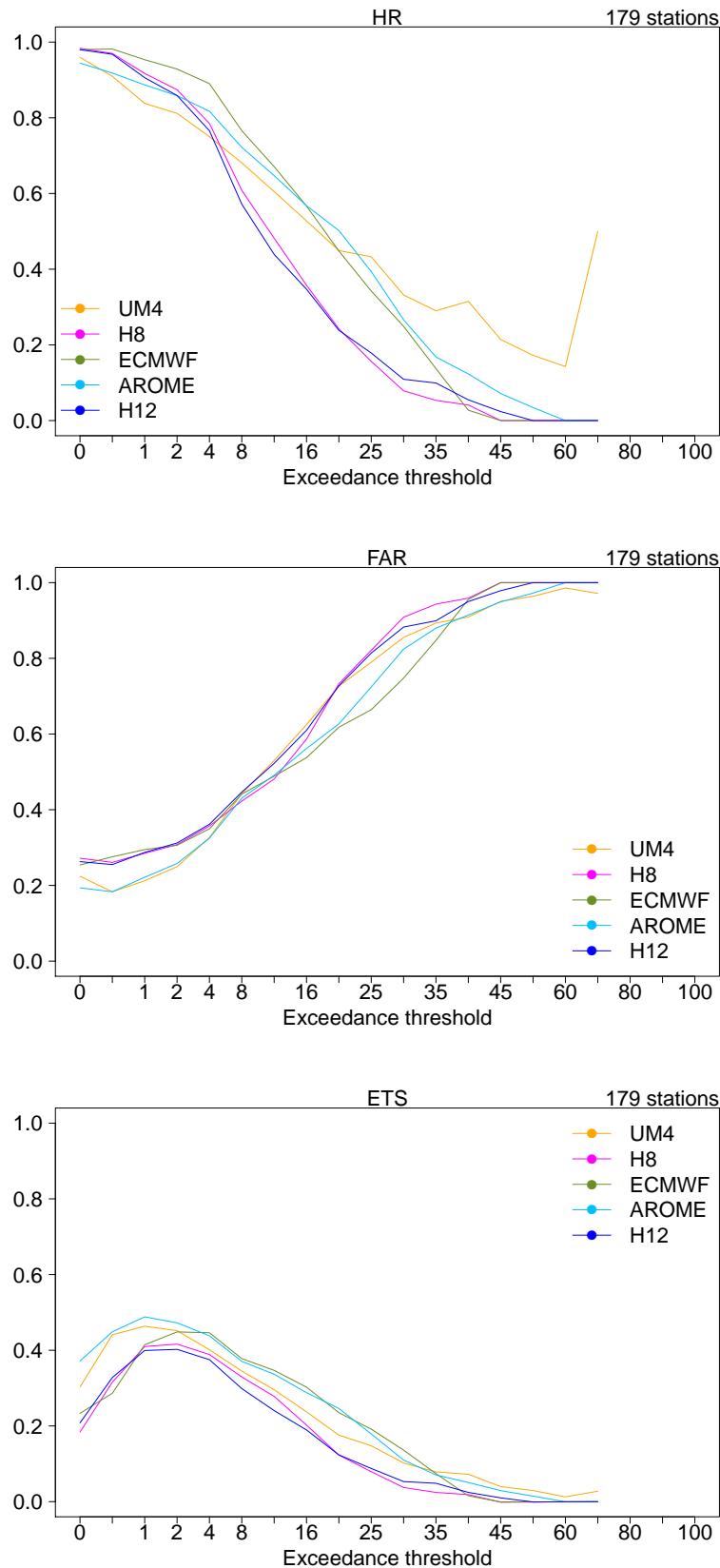


Figure 20: Lead time 00+30.

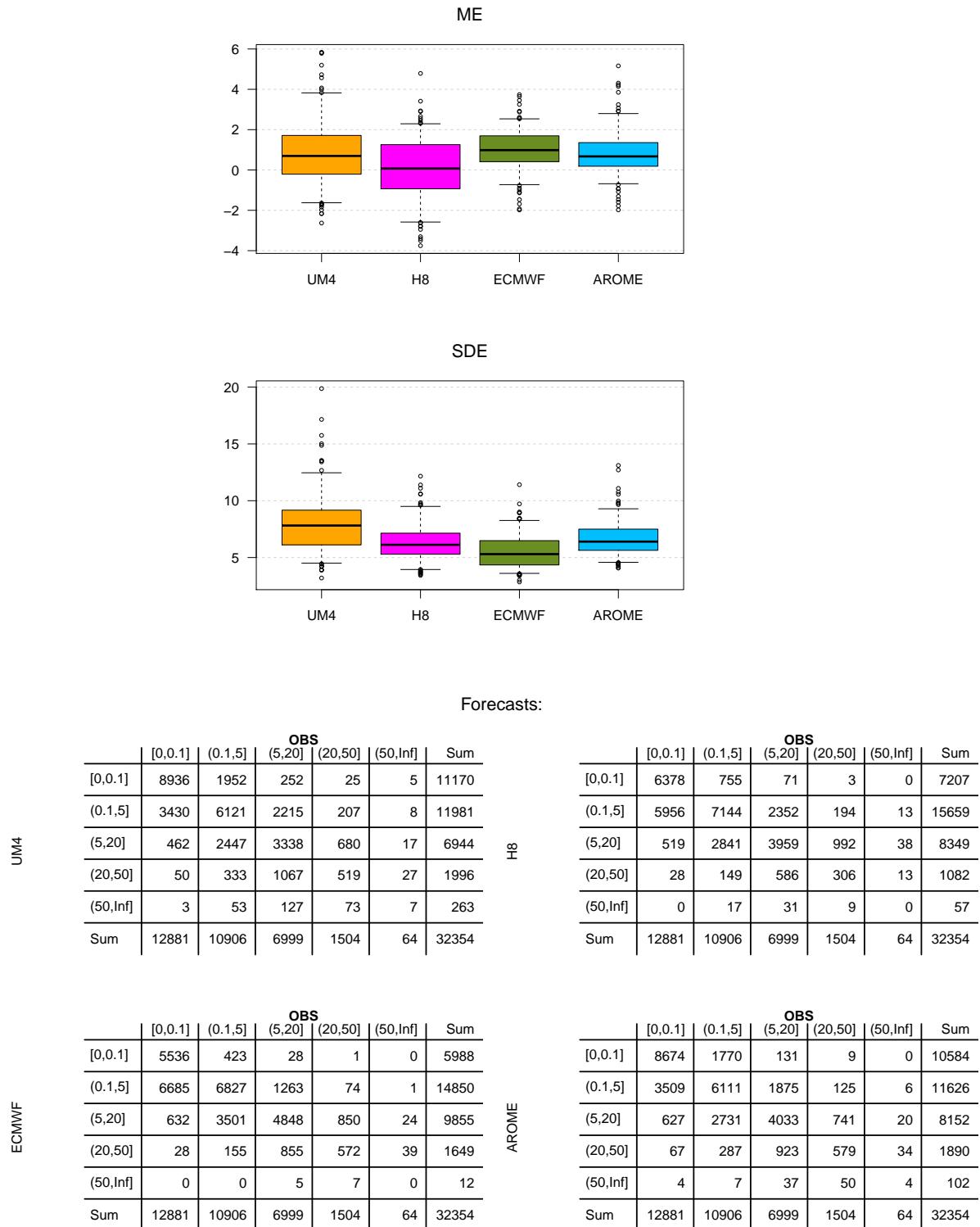
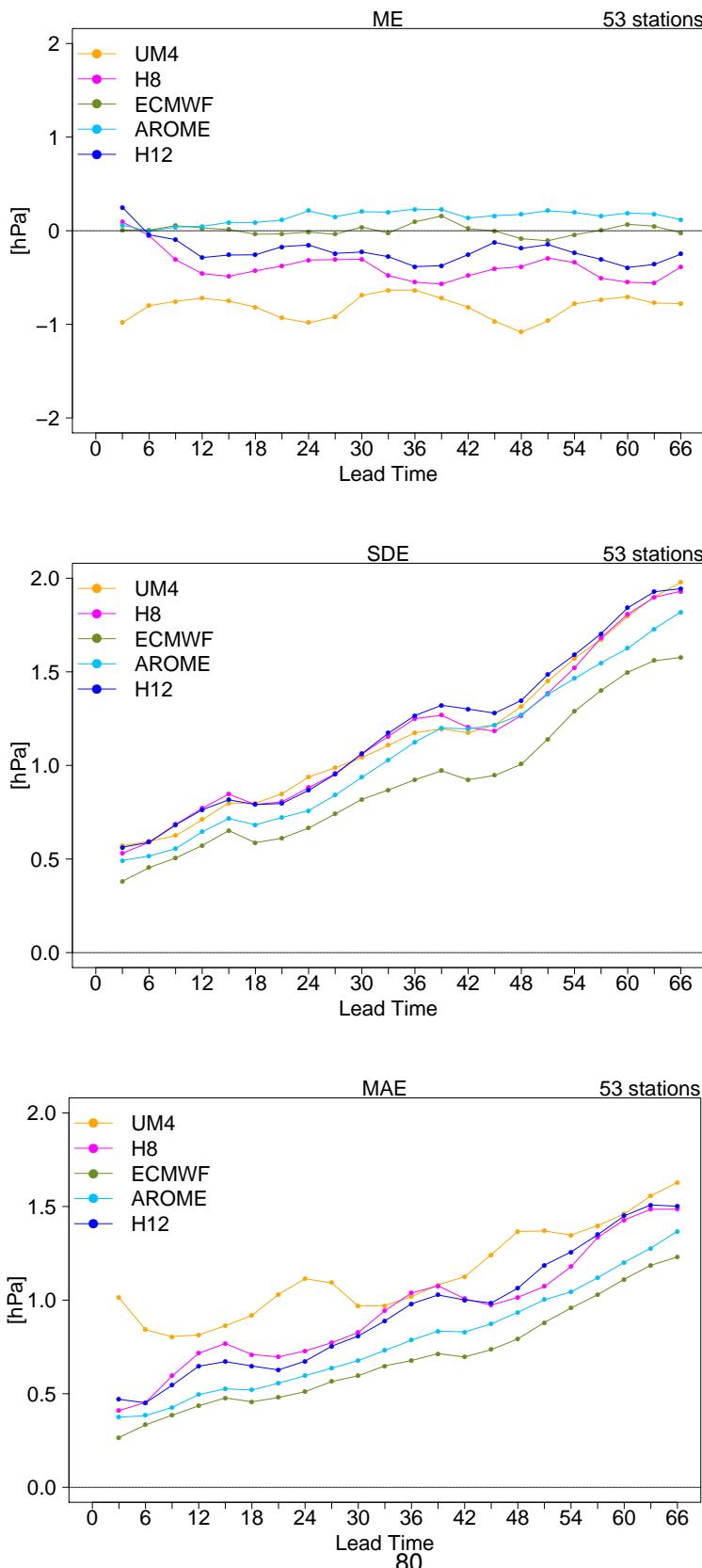


Figure 21: Lead time 00+30,+54.



## 8 Northern Norway

### 8.1 Pressure



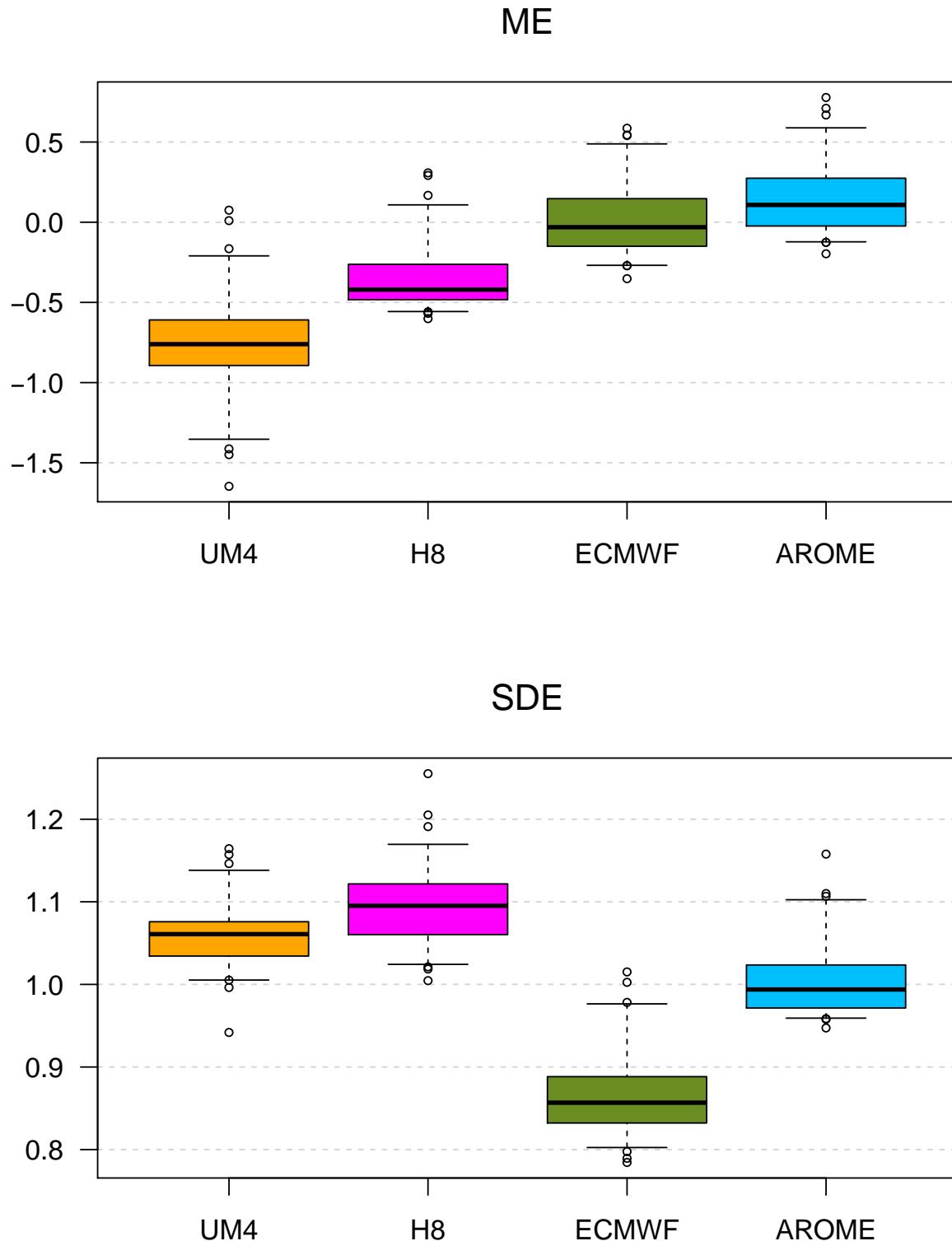
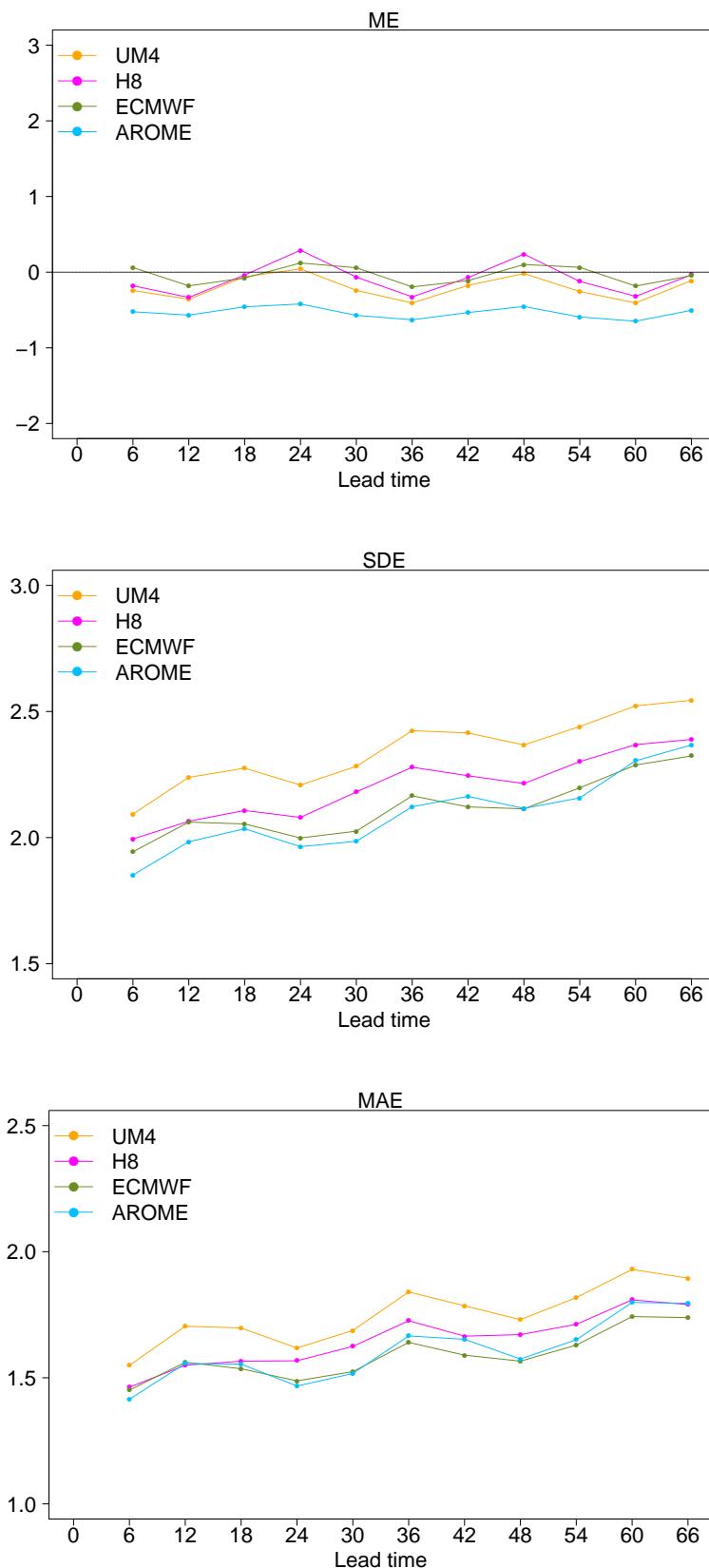


Figure 22: Lead time 00 +3,+6,...,+66.



## 8.2 Wind Speed 10m



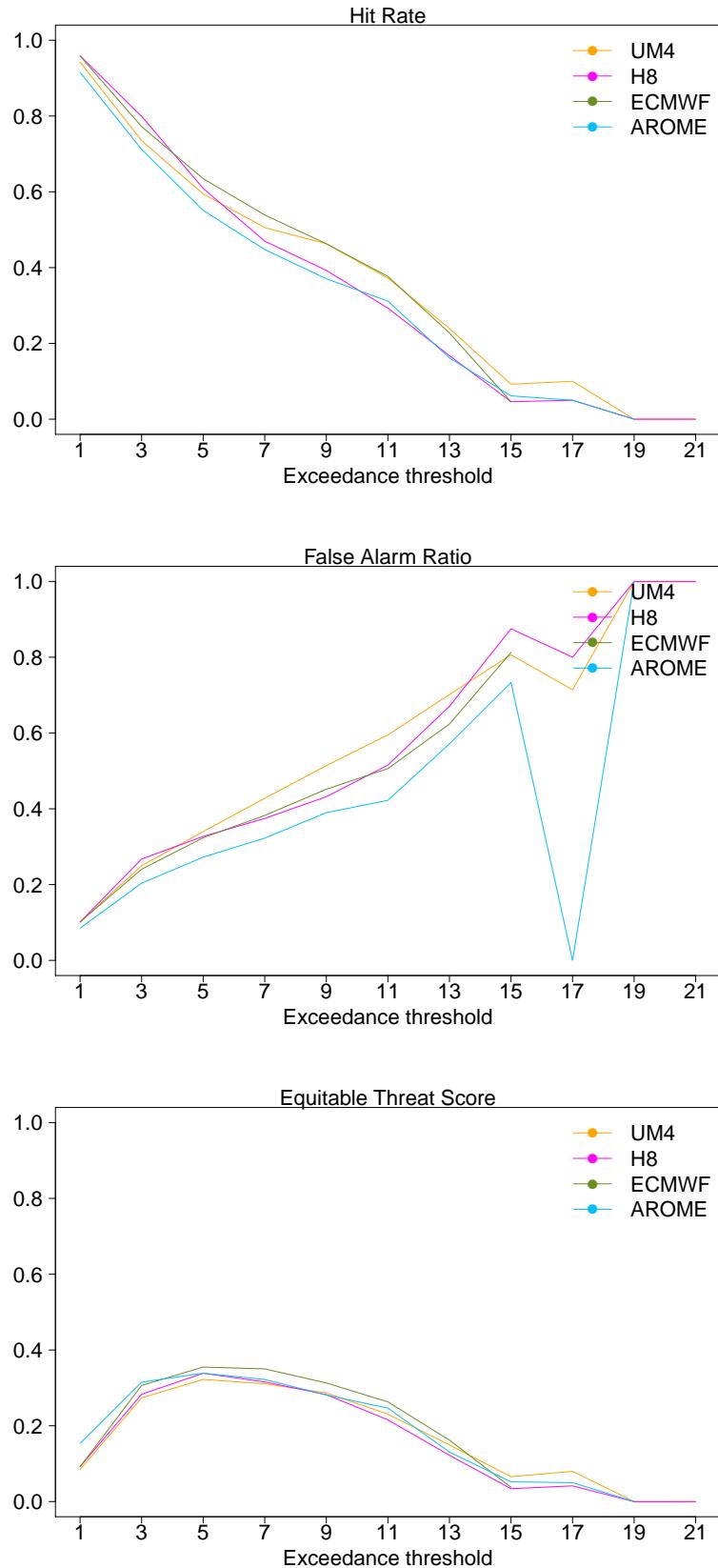


Figure 23: Lead time 00+12,+15,+18,+21,+24

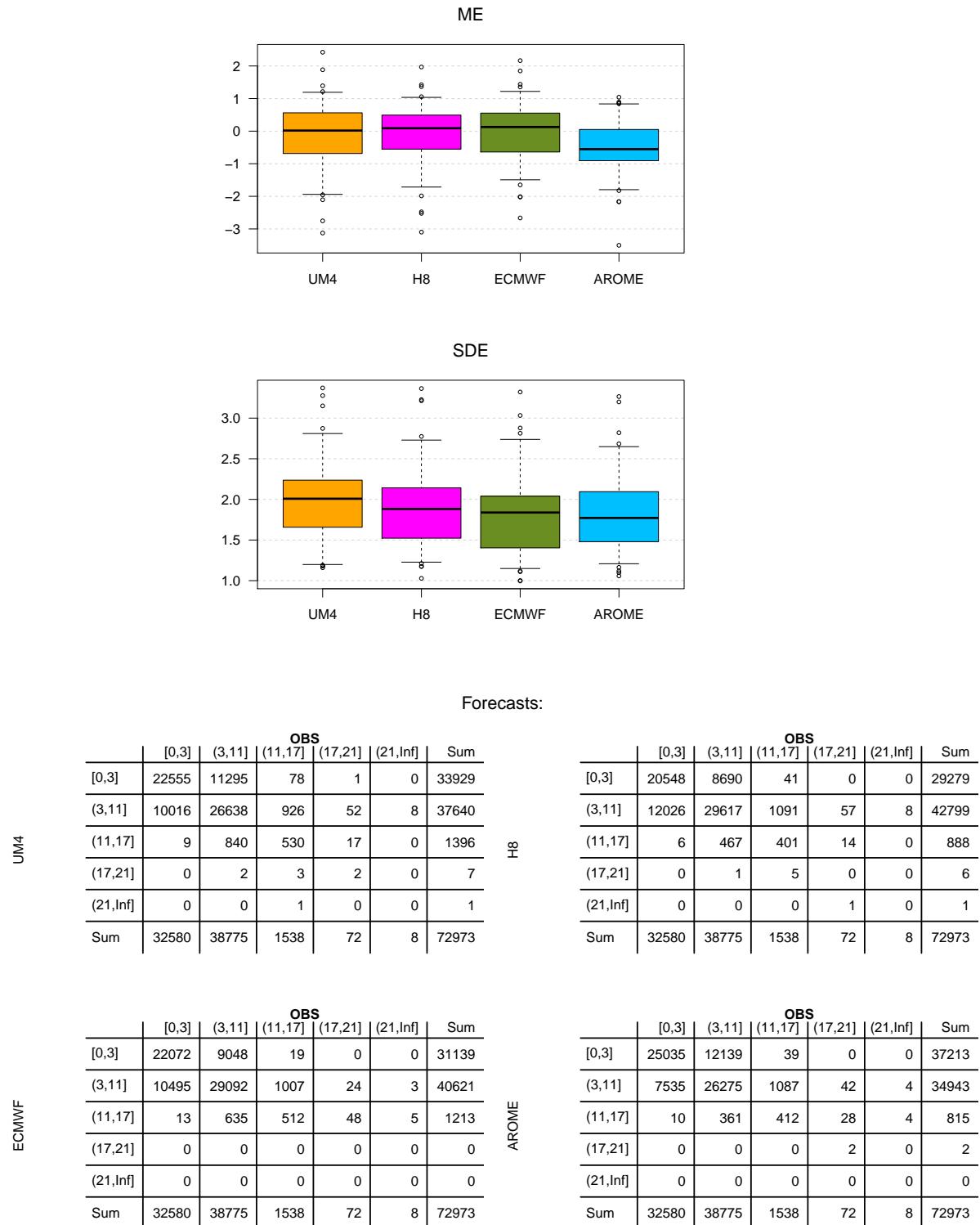
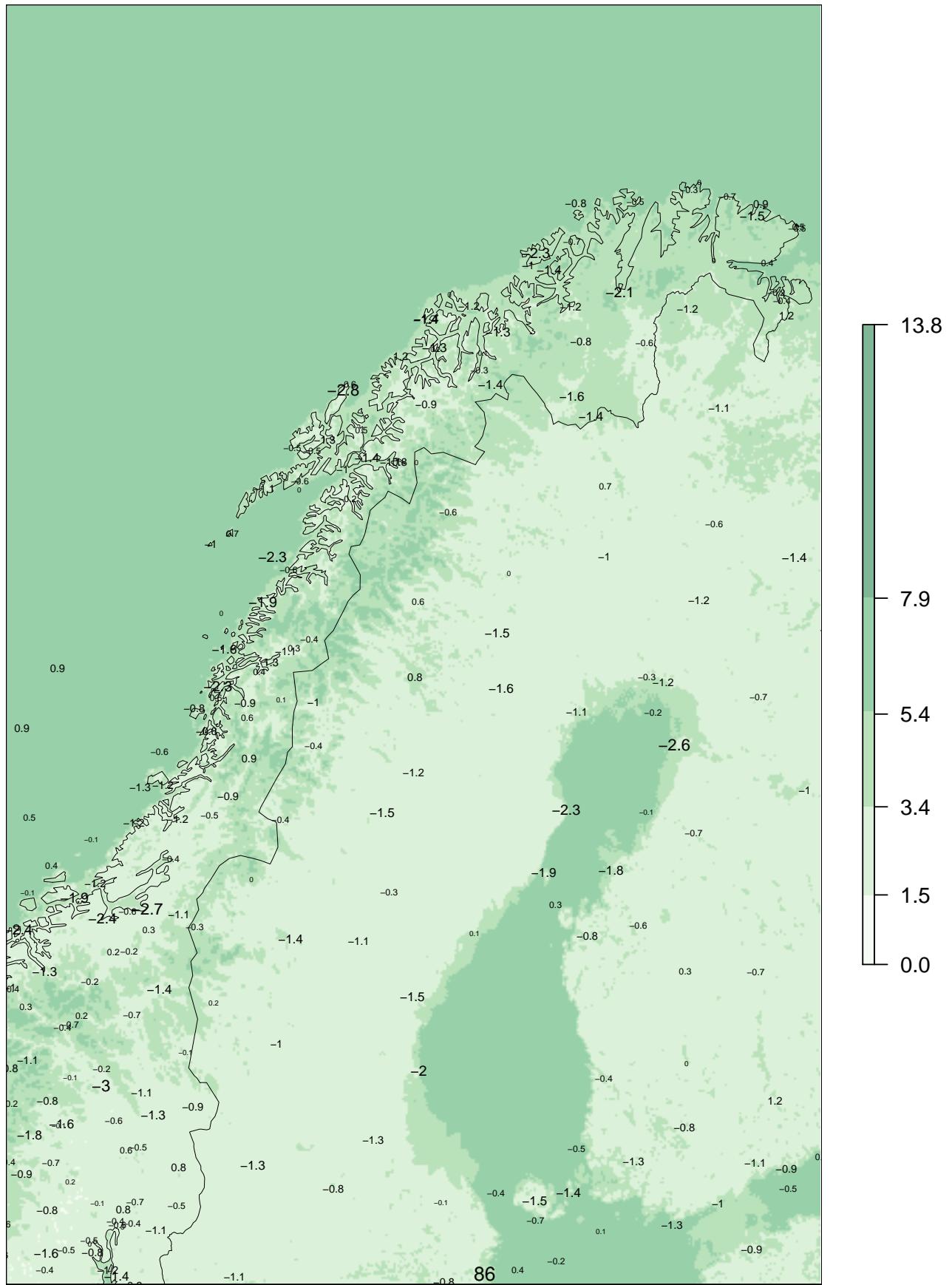


Figure 24: Lead time 00+3,+6,...,+66.

## AROME–Norway 00+12

ME at observing sites

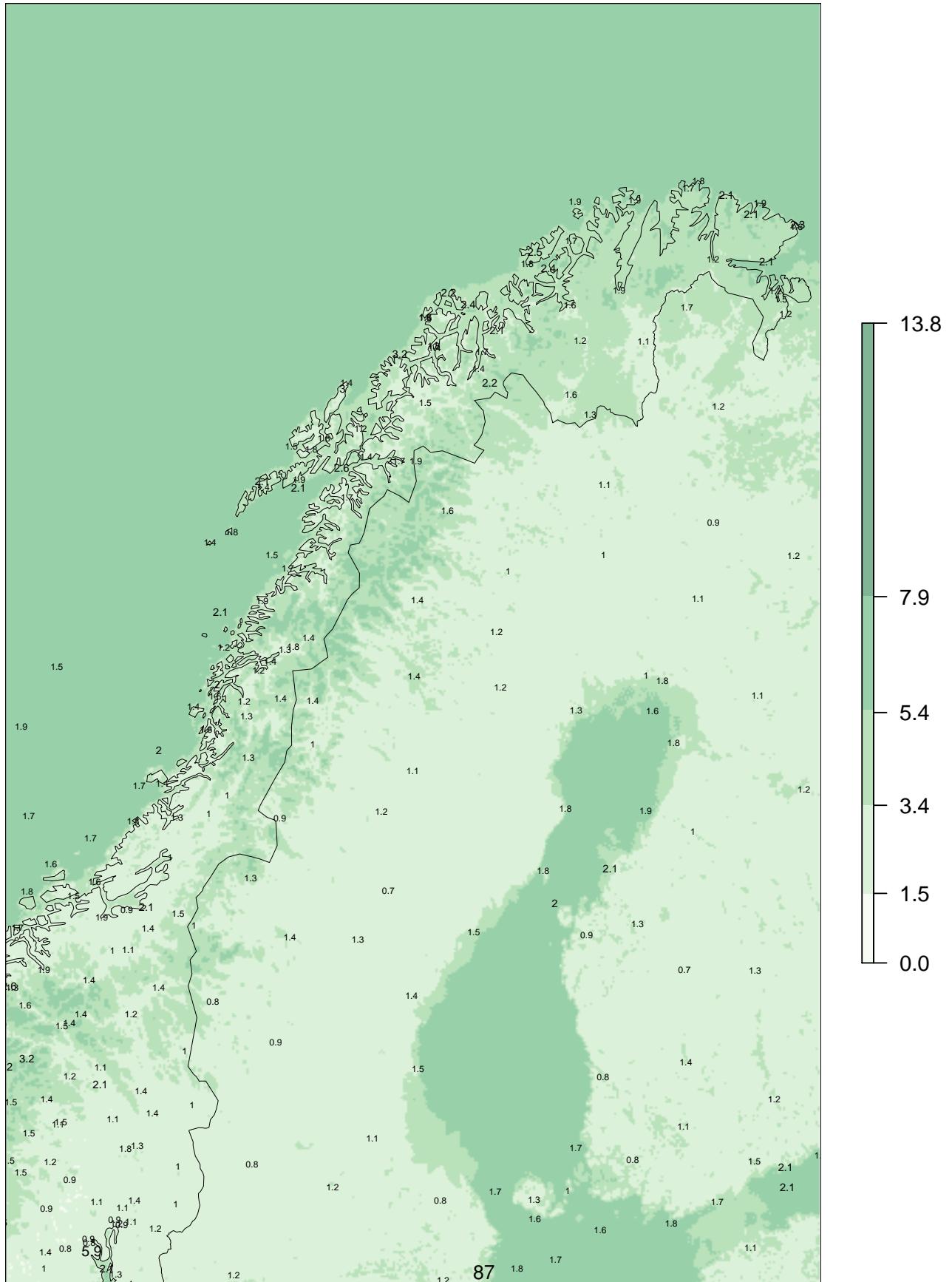
forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013



## AROME–Norway 00+12

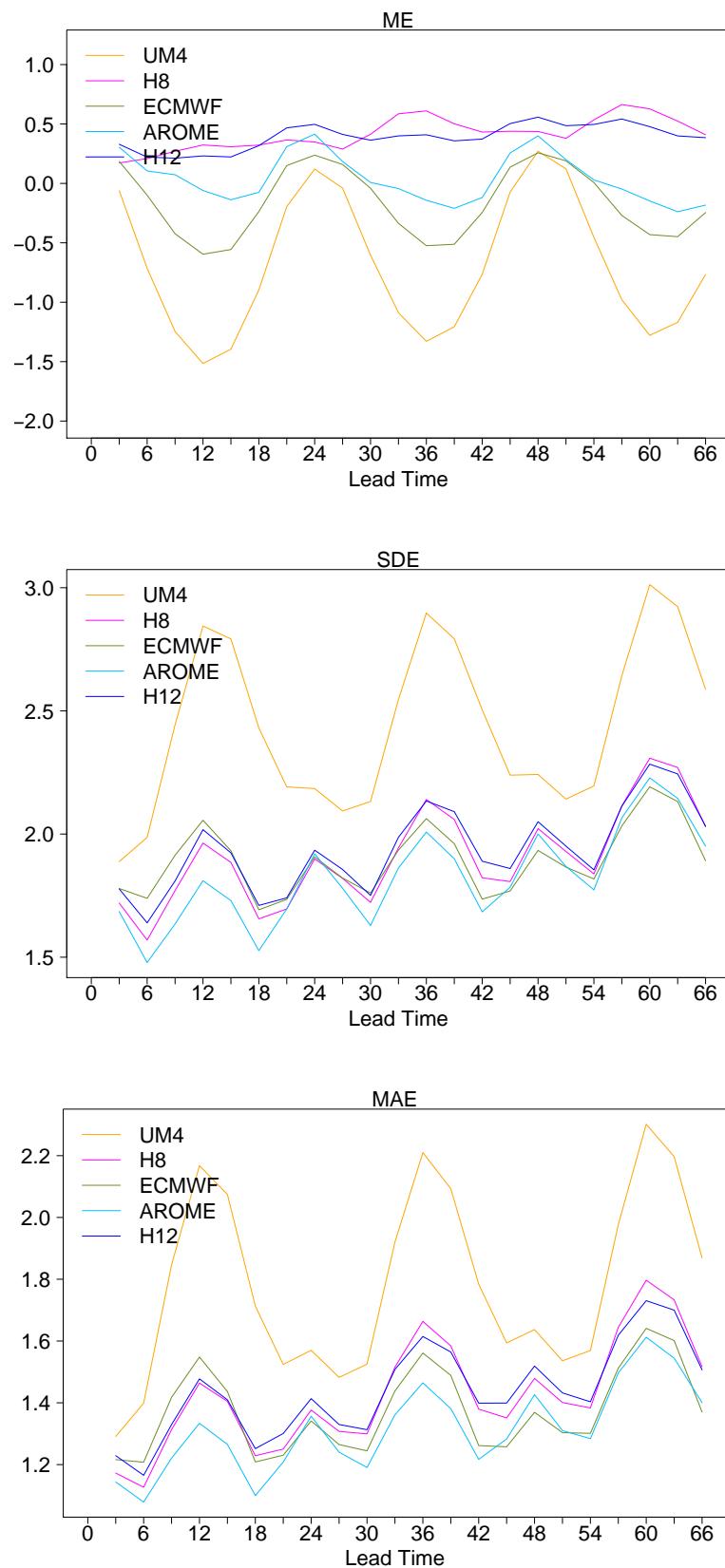
SDE at observing sites

forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013





### 8.3 Temperature 2m



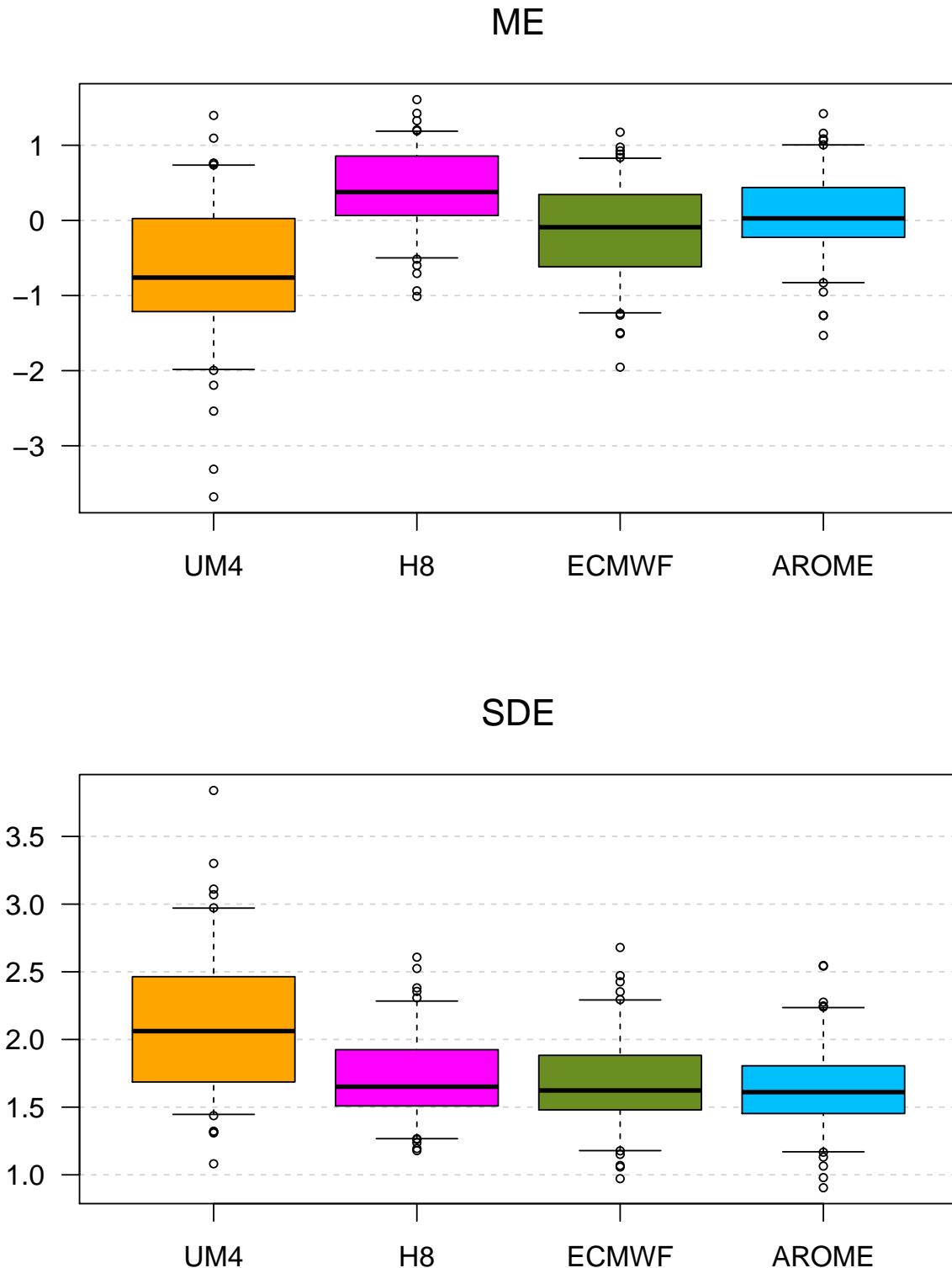
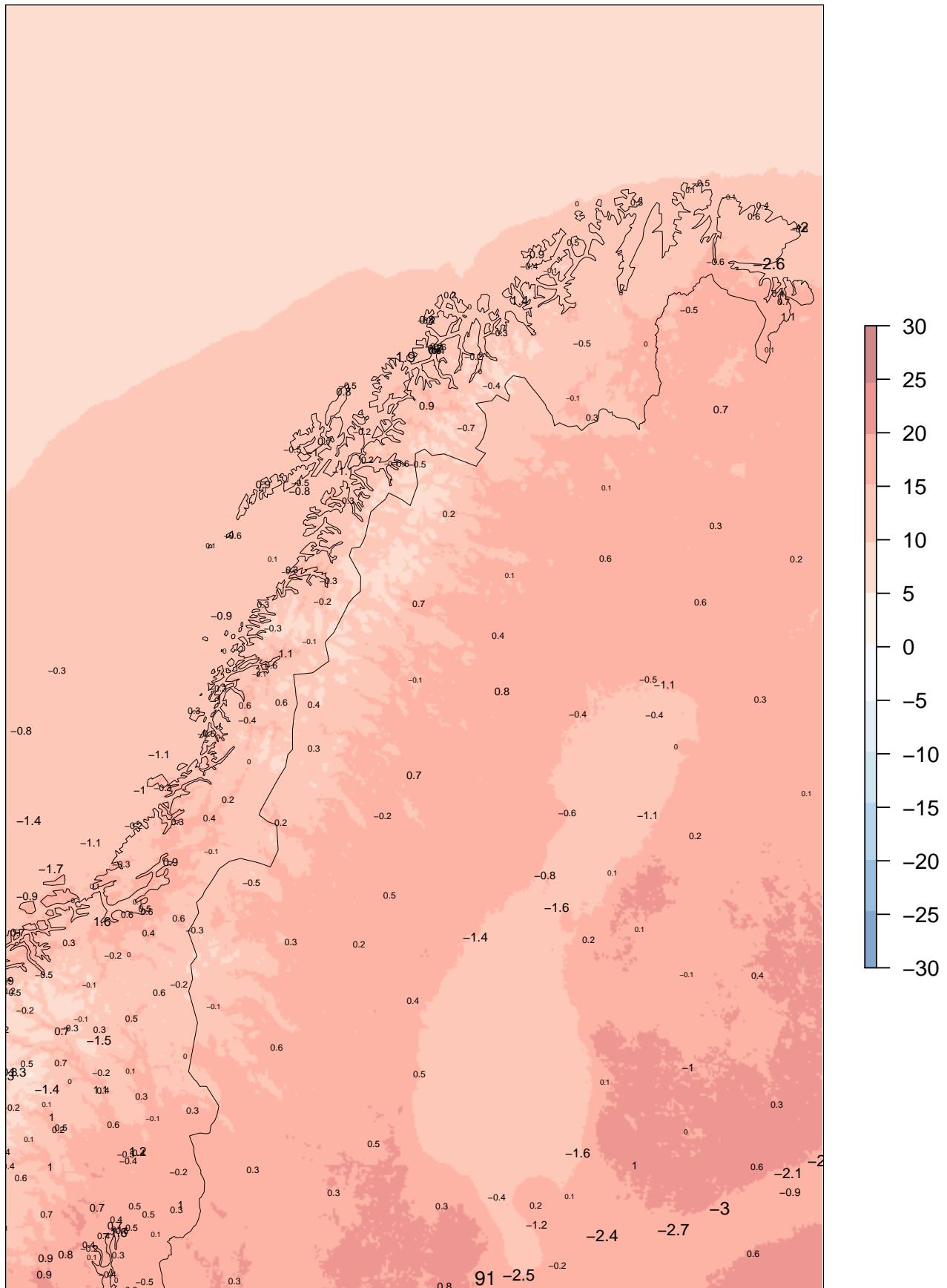


Figure 25: Lead time 00 +3,+6,...,+66

## AROME–Norway 00+12

ME at observing sites

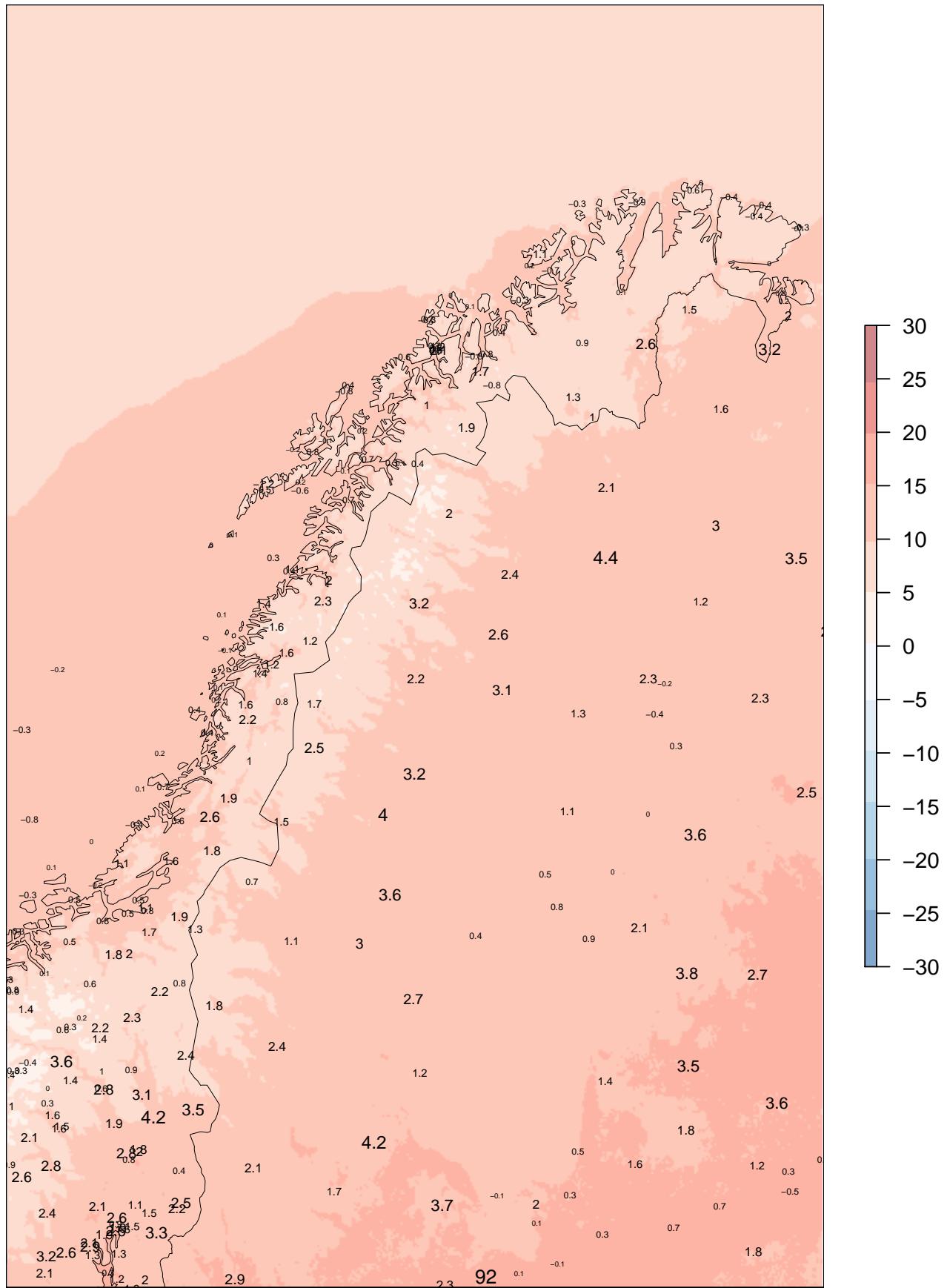
forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013



## AROME–Norway 00+24

ME at observing sites

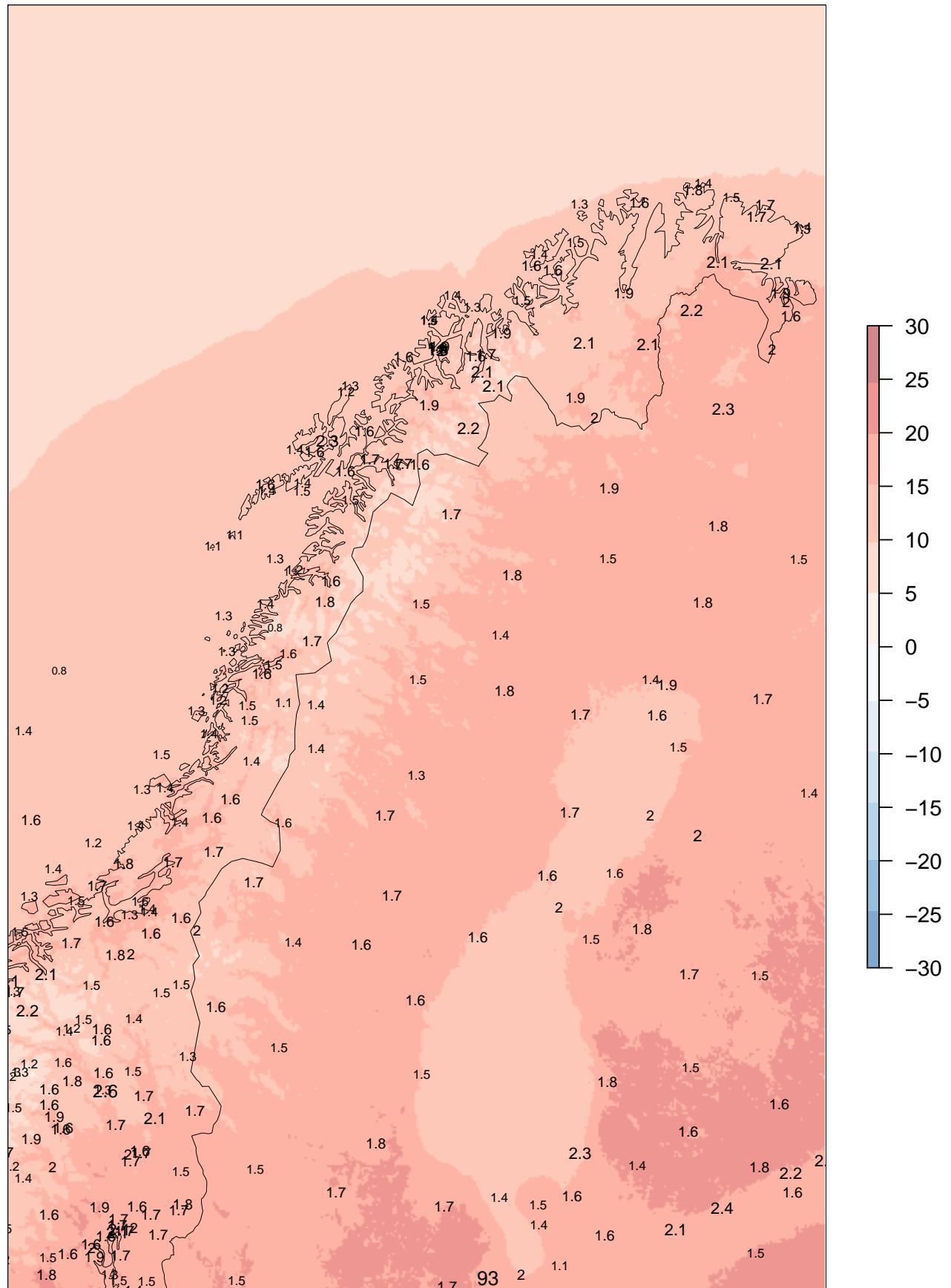
forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013



## AROME–Norway 00+12

SDE at observing sites

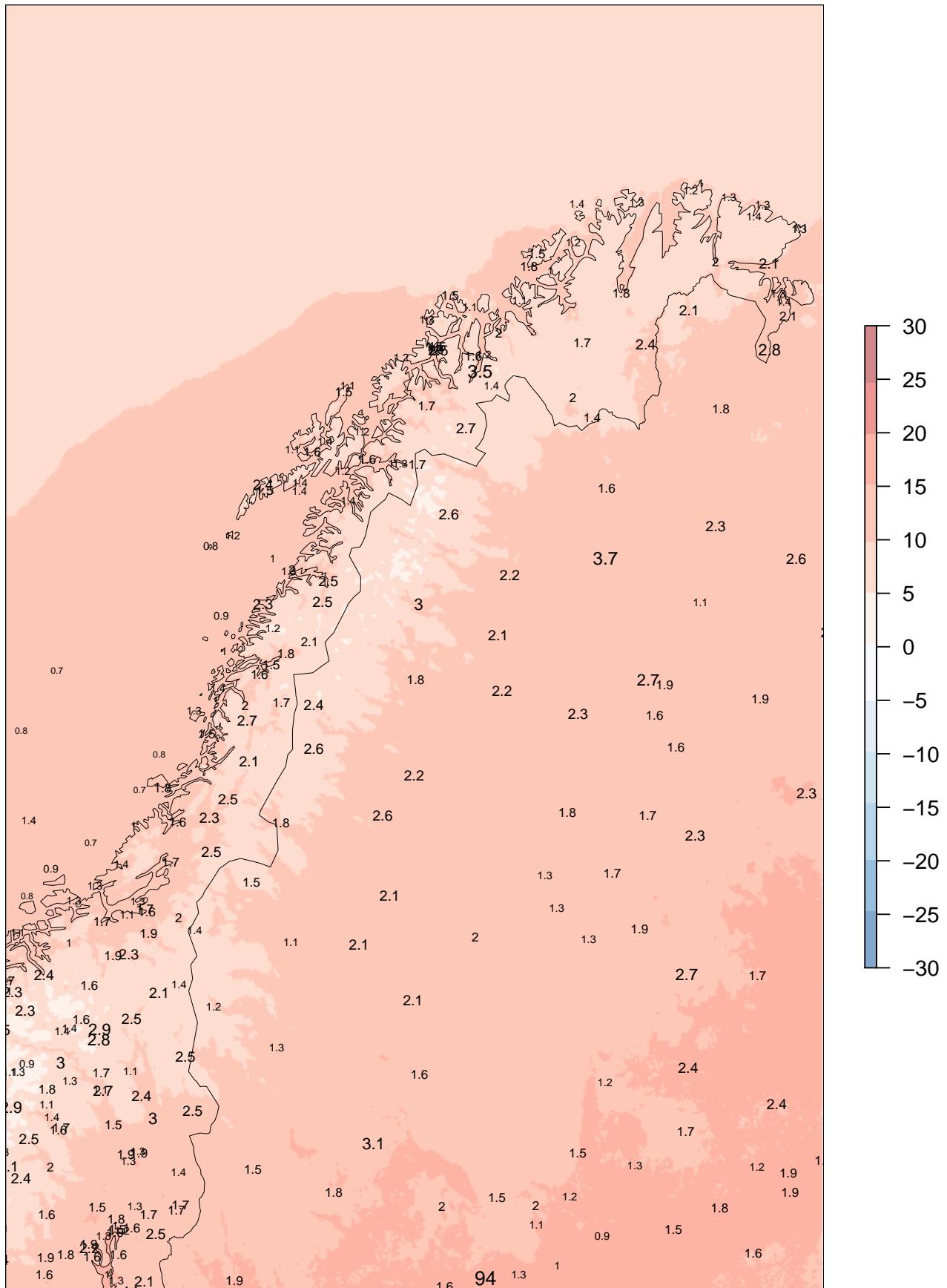
forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013



## AROME–Norway 00+24

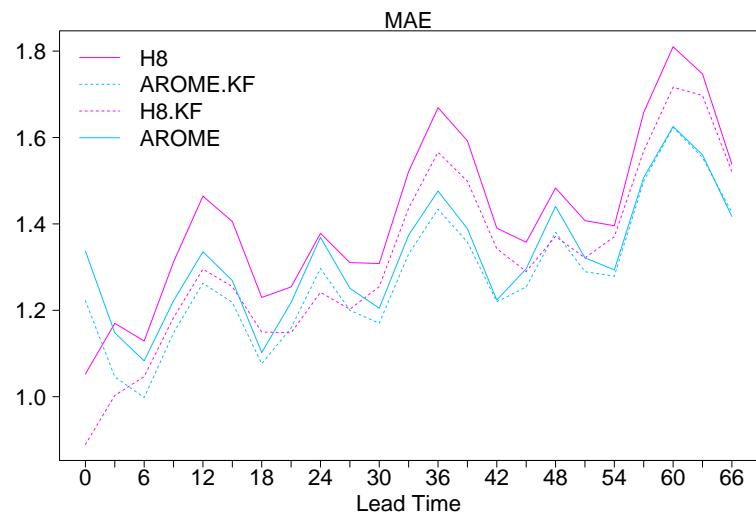
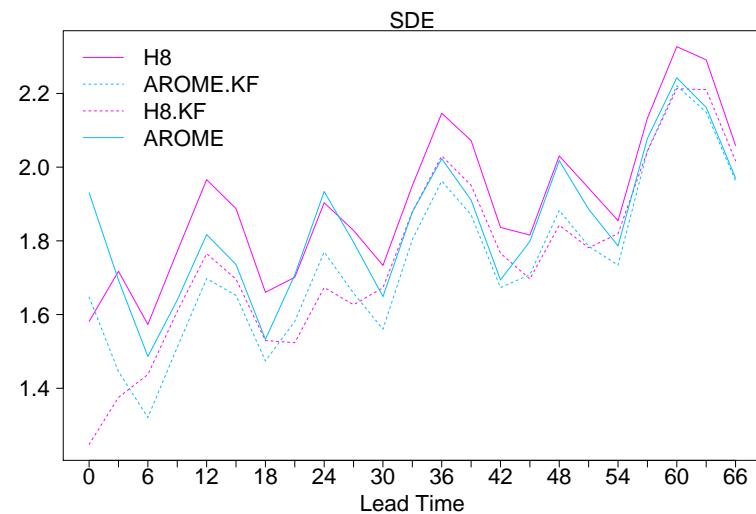
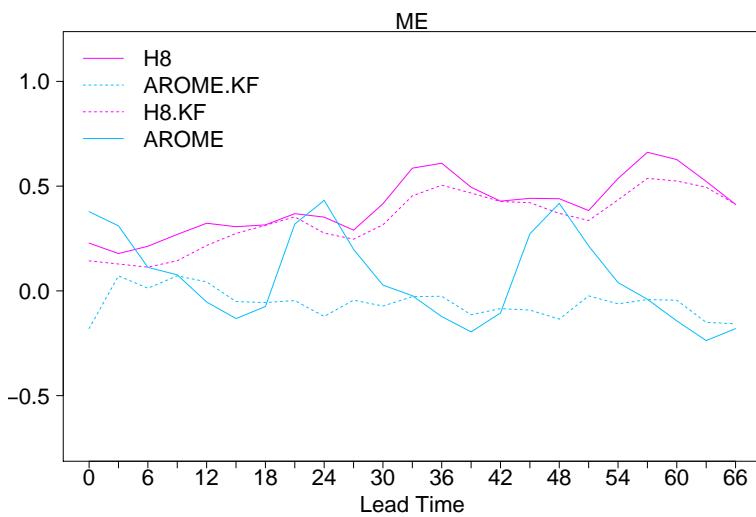
SDE at observing sites

forecast means 01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013





## 8.4 Post processed temperature 2m



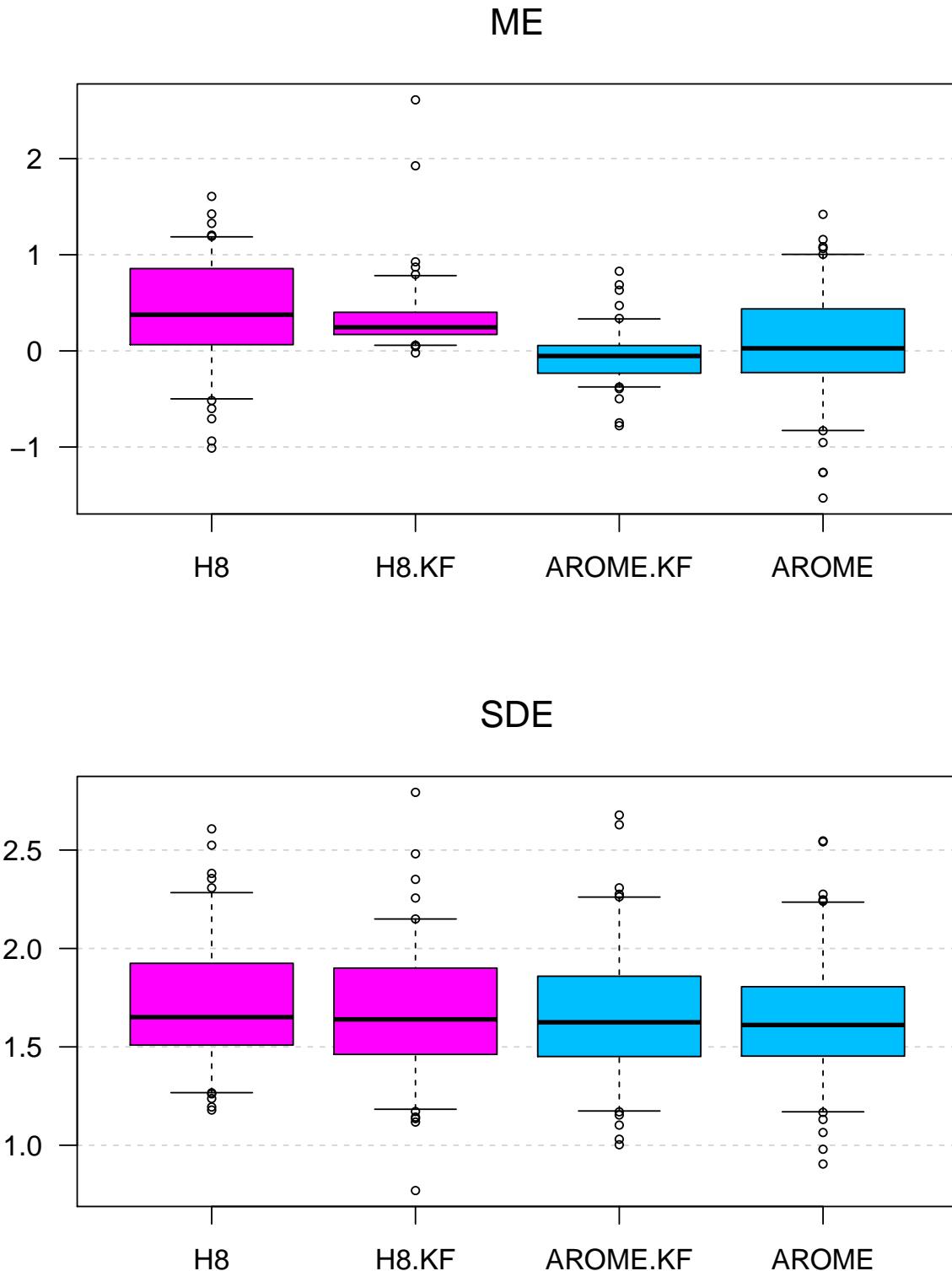
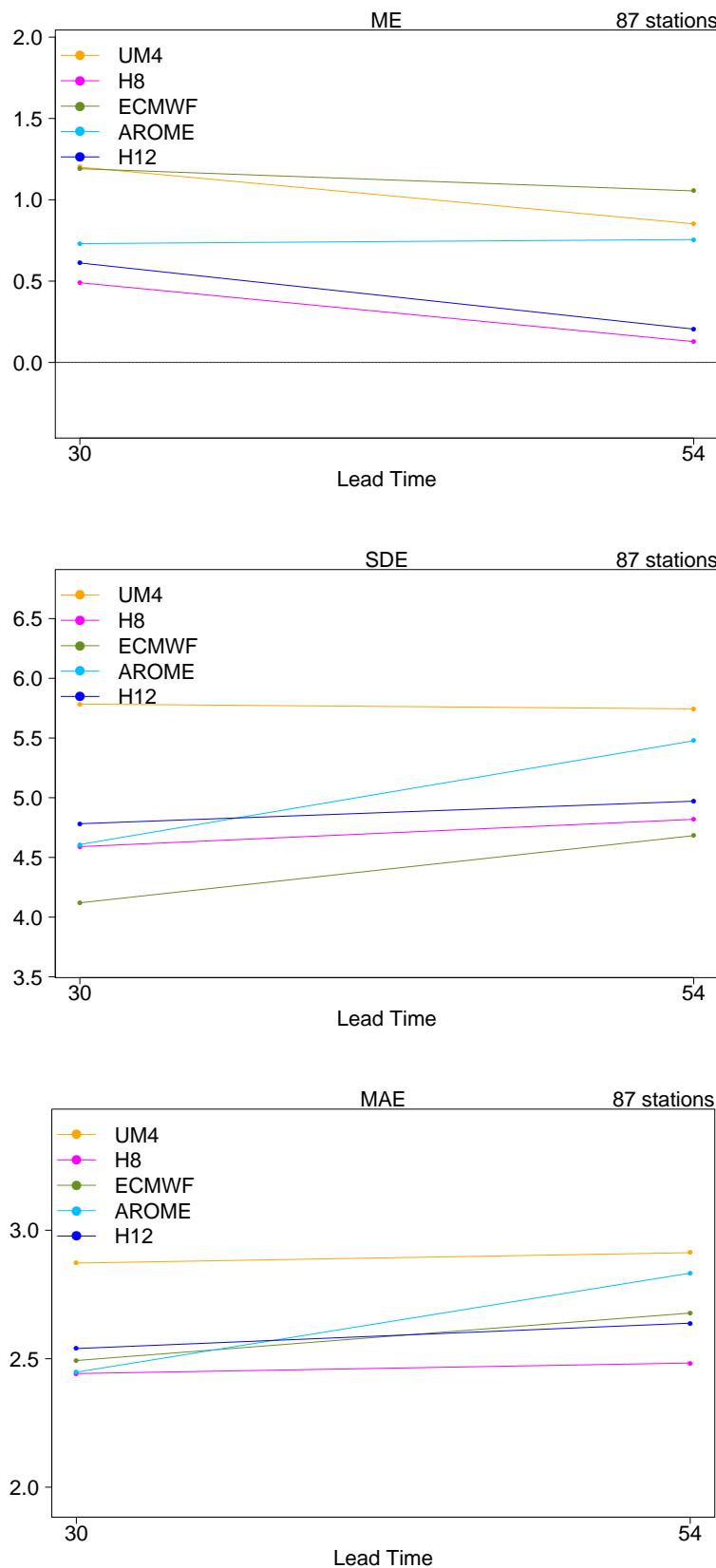


Figure 26: Lead time 00 +3,+6,...,+66



## 8.5 Daily precipitation



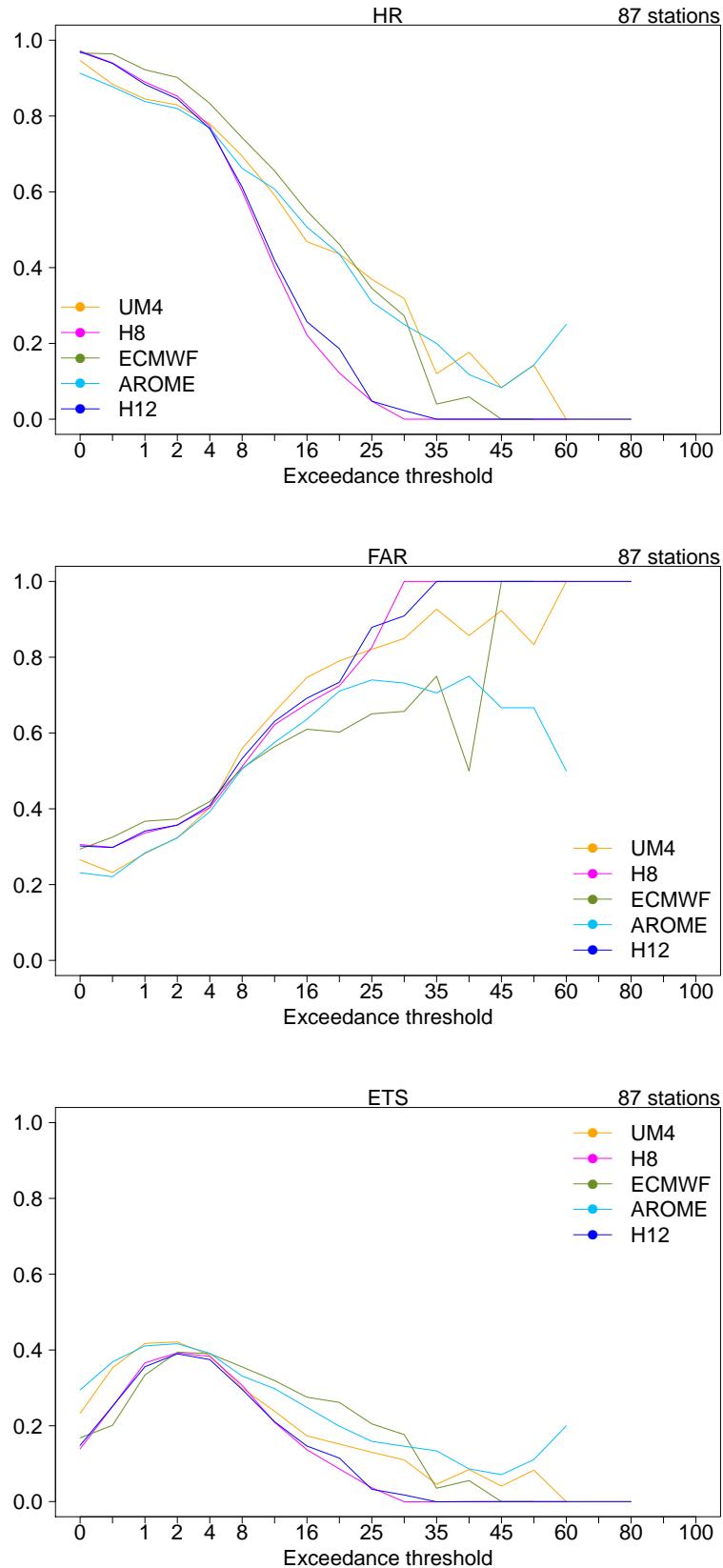


Figure 27: Lead time 00+30.

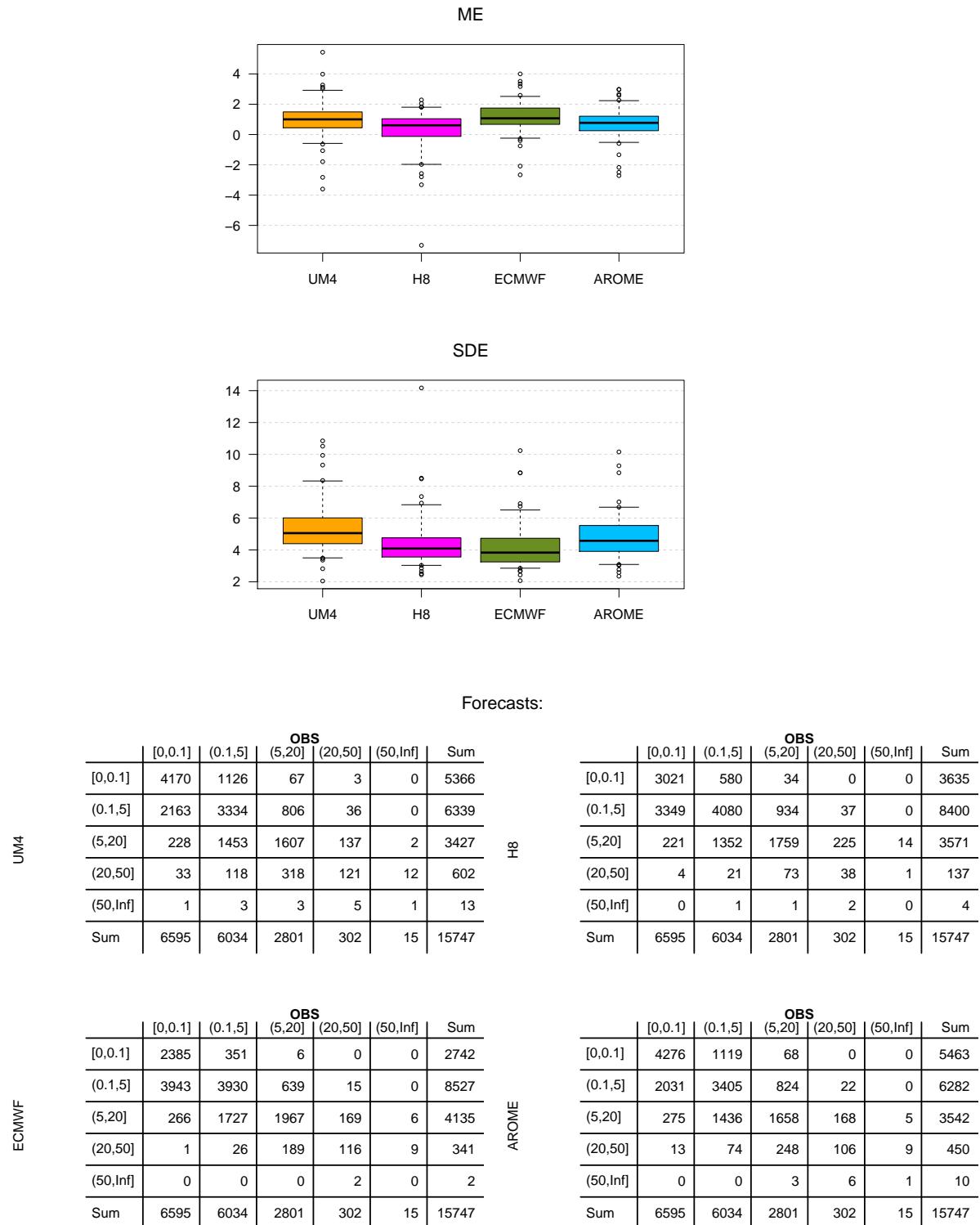
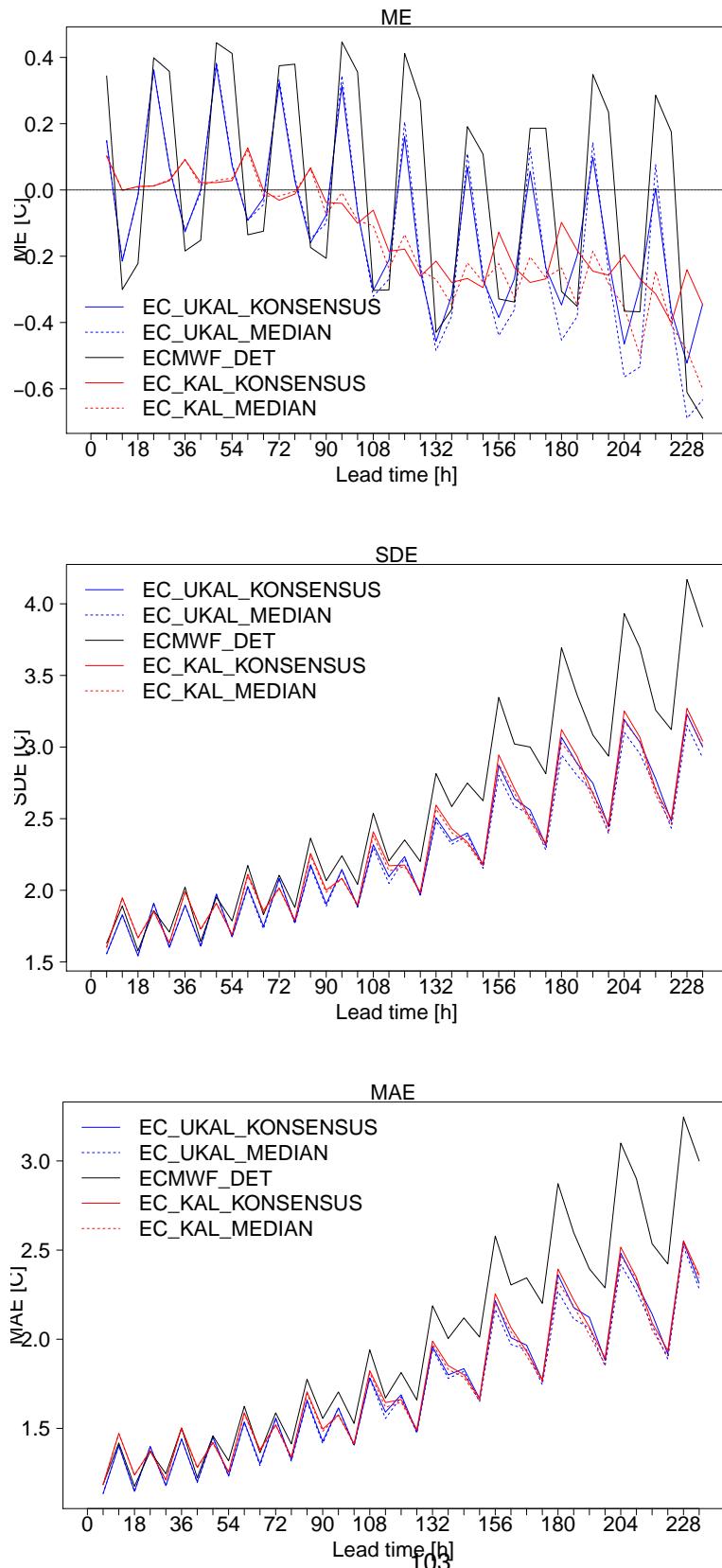


Figure 28: Lead time 00+30,+54.



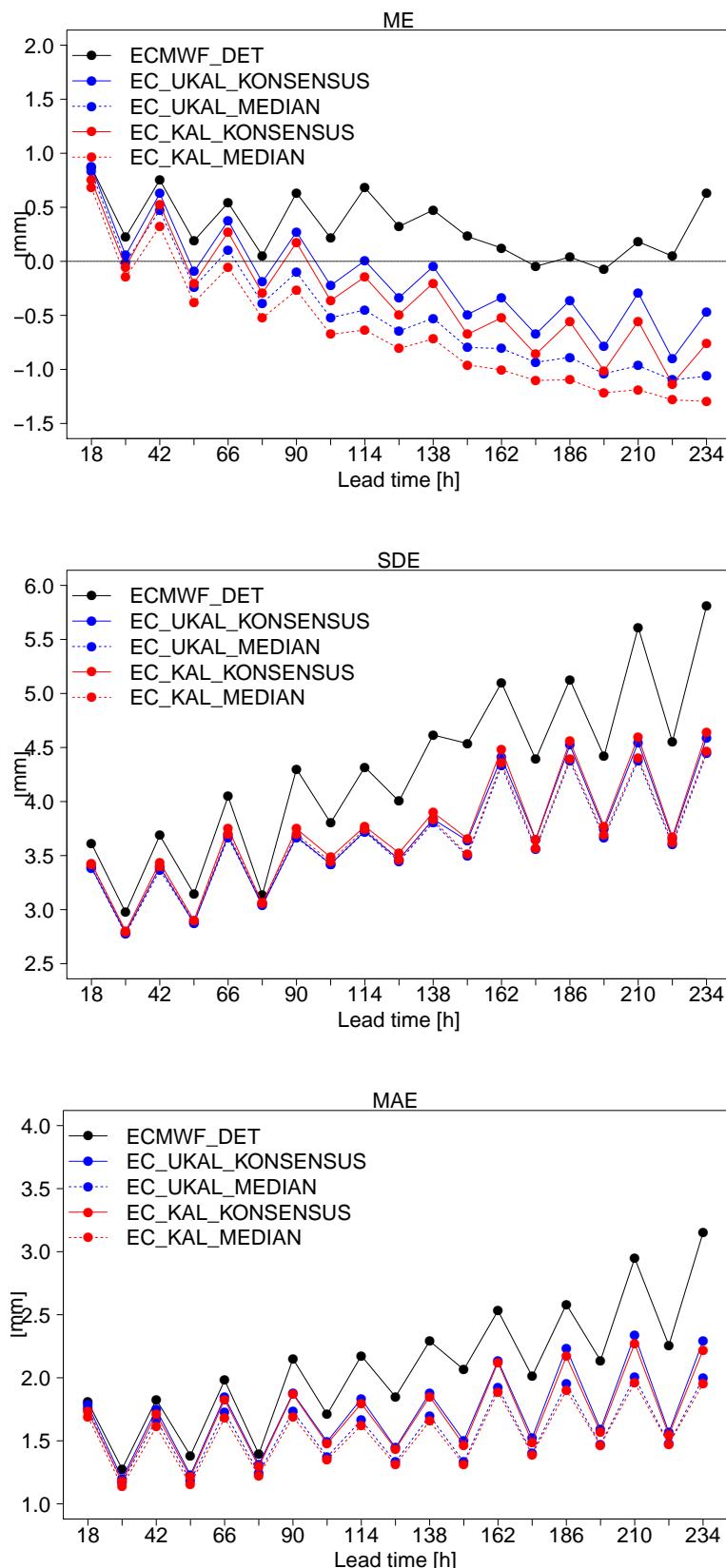
## 9 Long term forecast

### 9.1 Temperature 2m





## 9.2 12h Precipitation



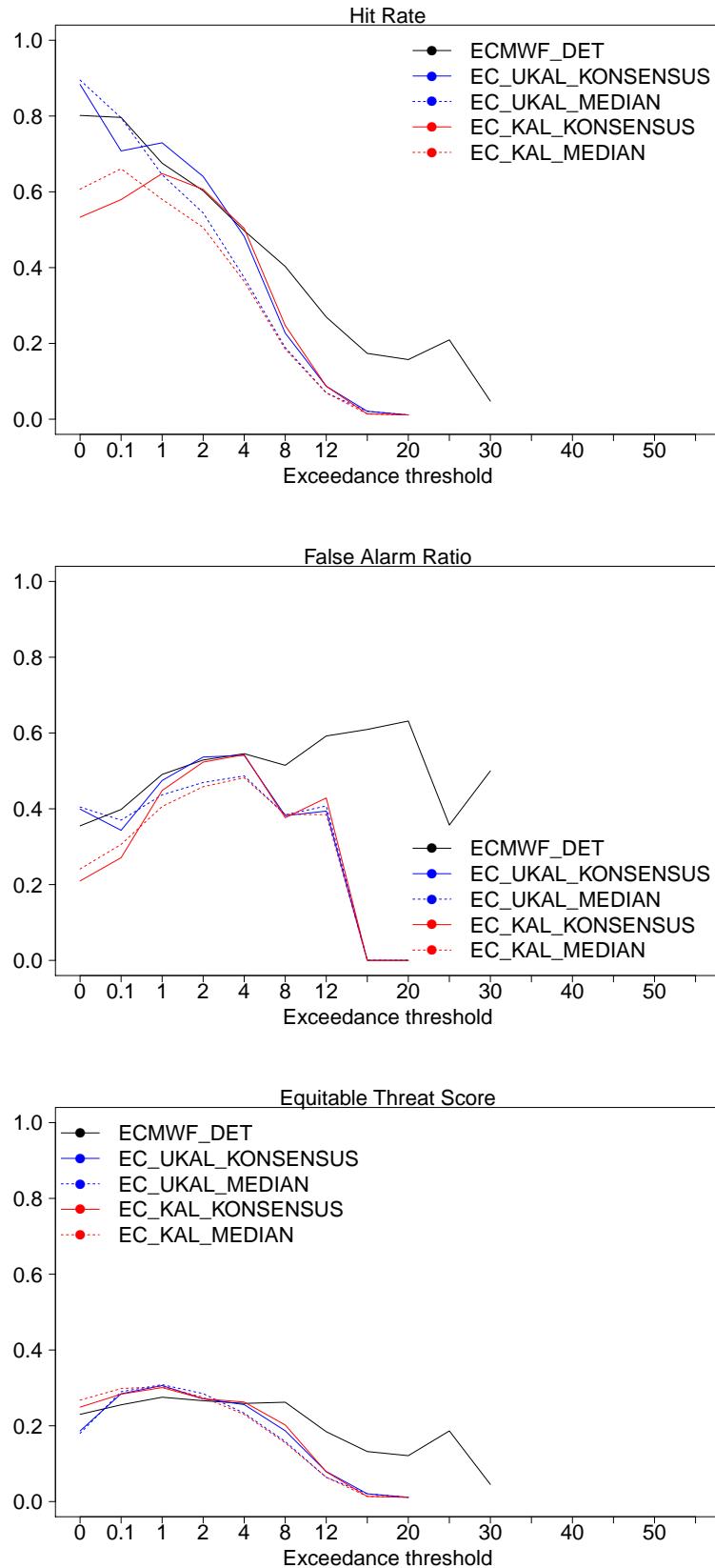


Figure 29: Lead time 00+78h (night time)

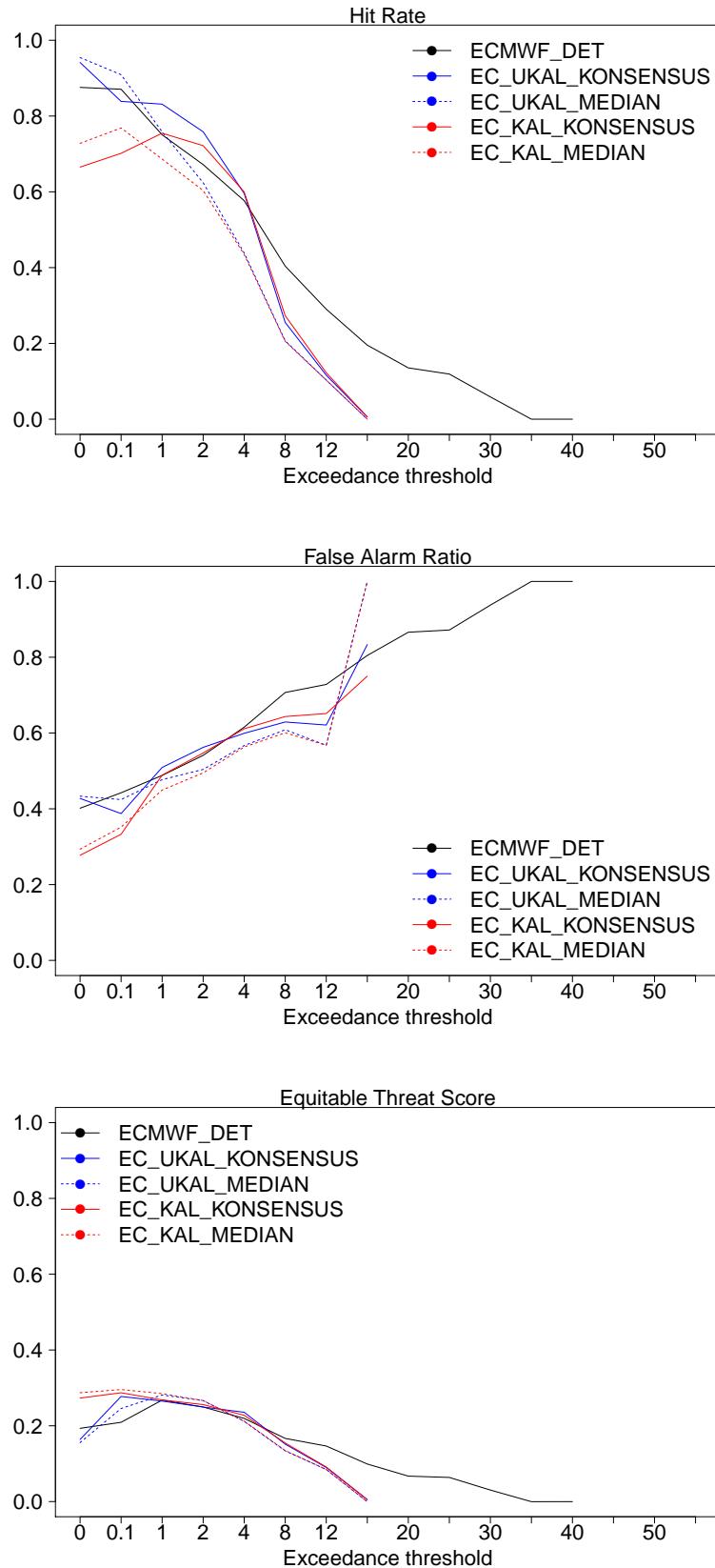


Figure 30: Lead time 00+90h (day time)

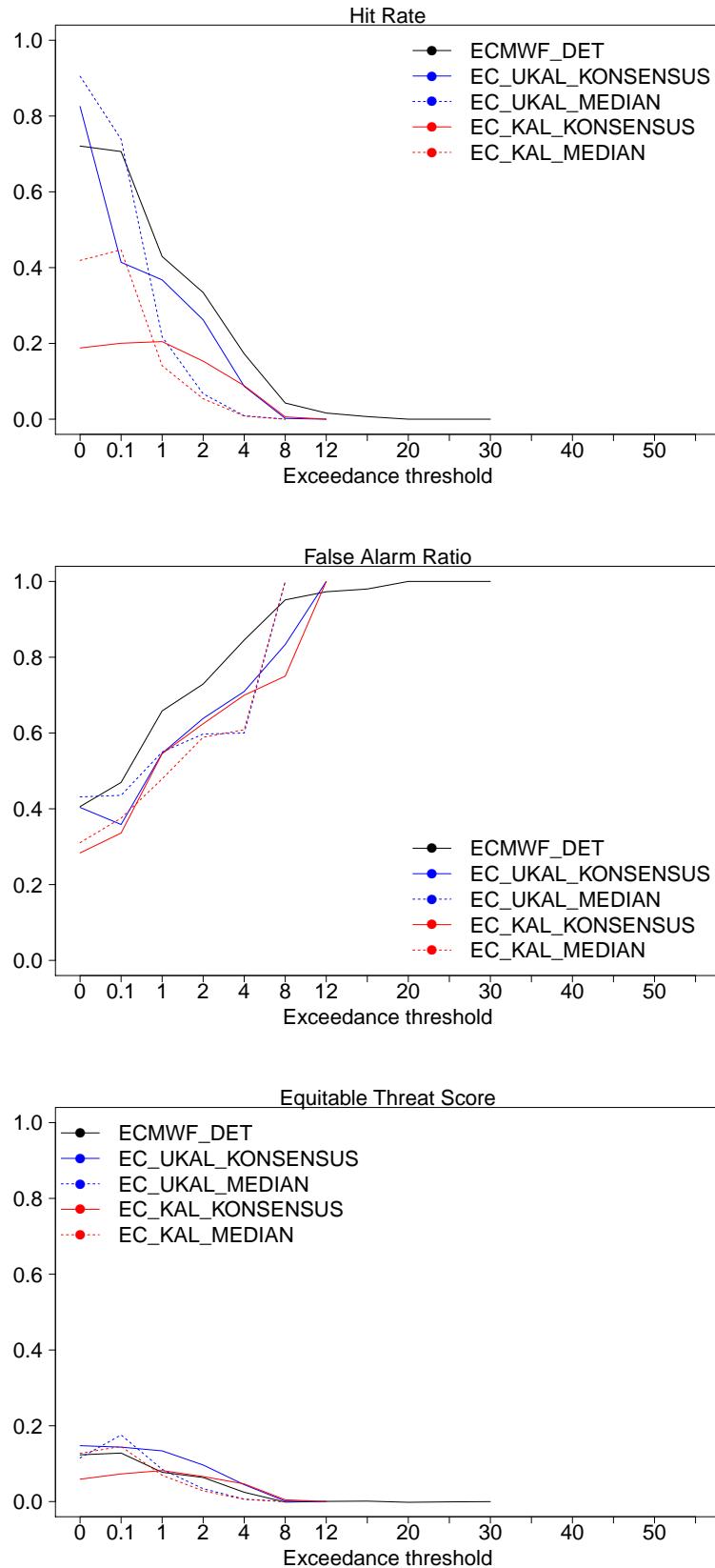


Figure 31: Lead time 00+222h (night time)

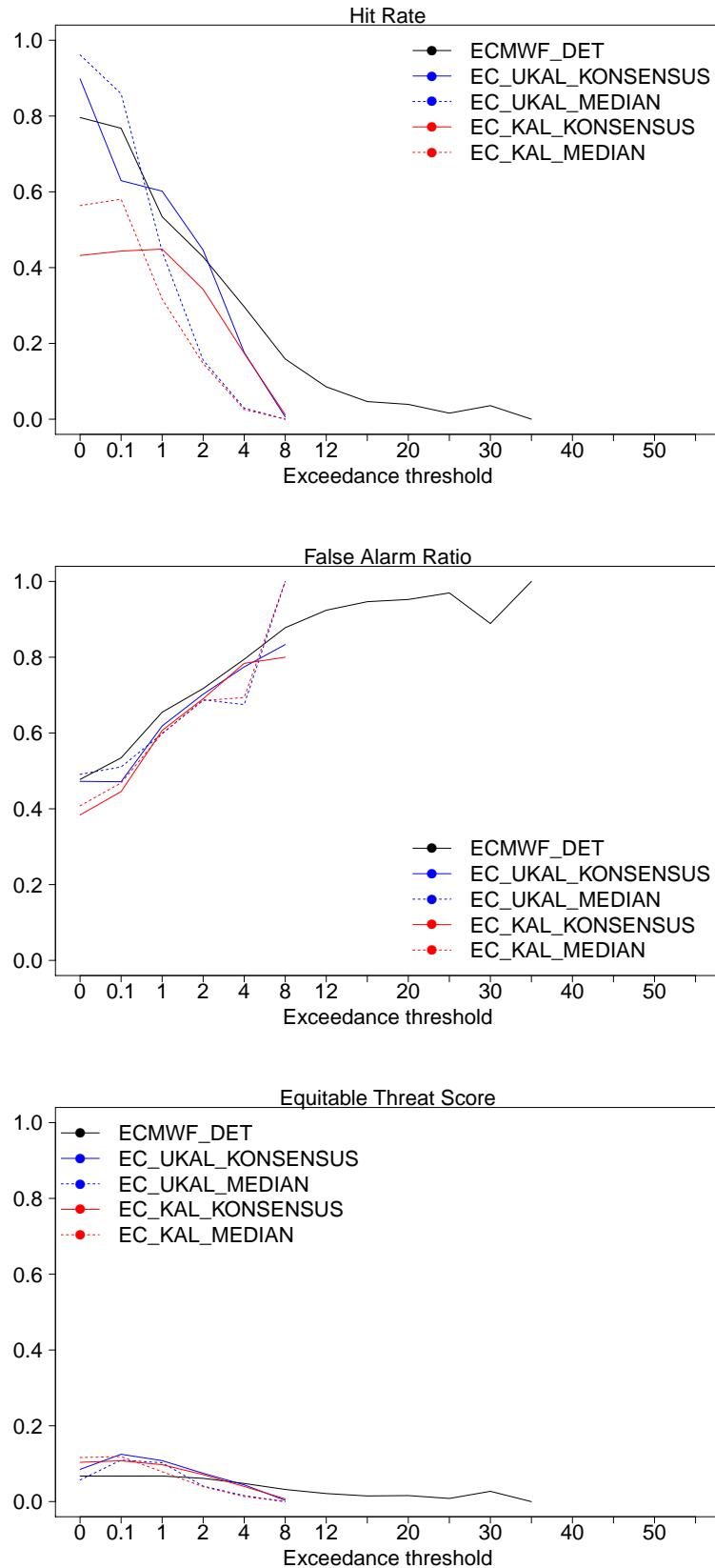
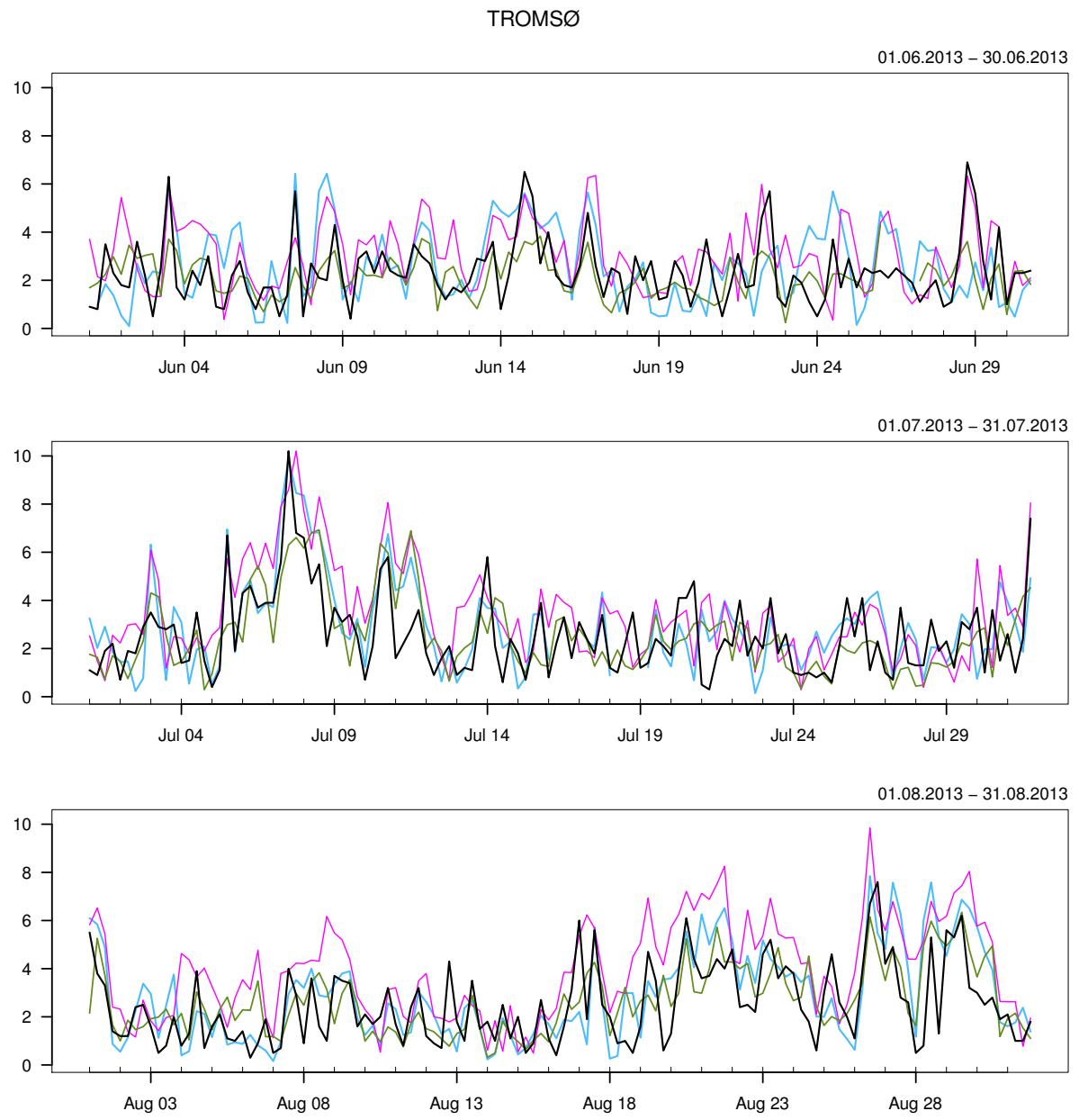


Figure 32: Lead time 00+234h (day time)

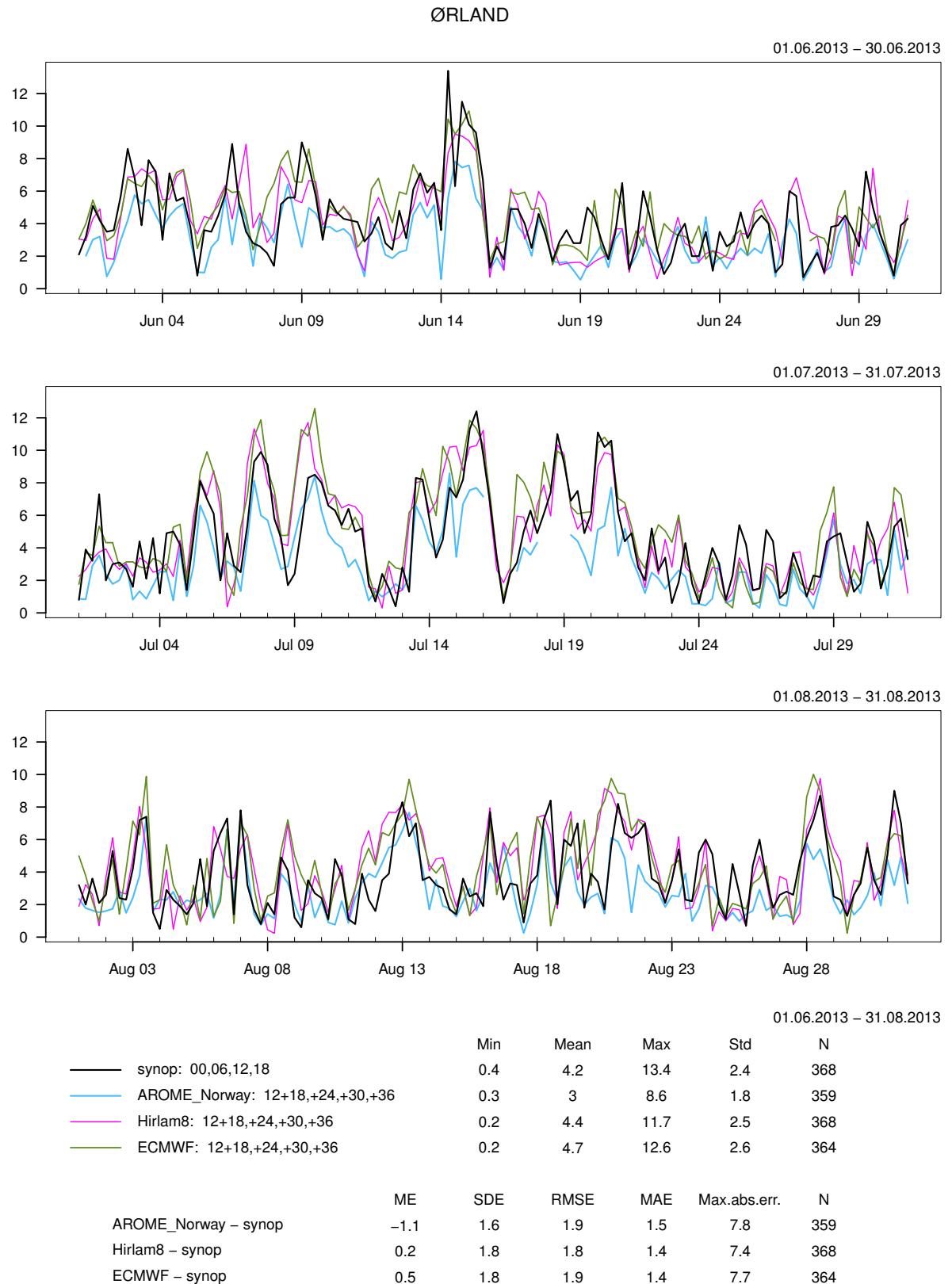


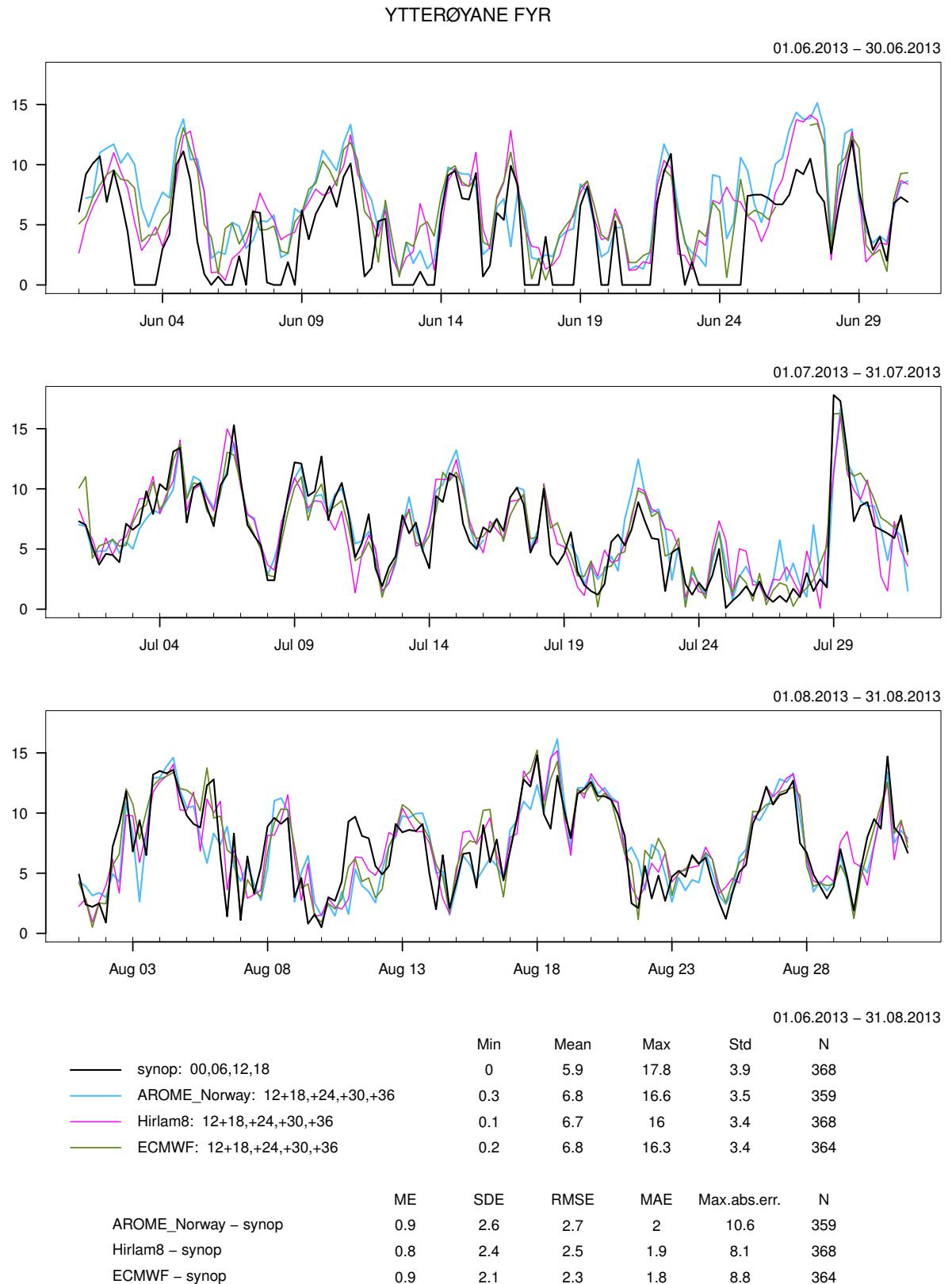
## 10 Appendix

### 10.1 10m Wind speed



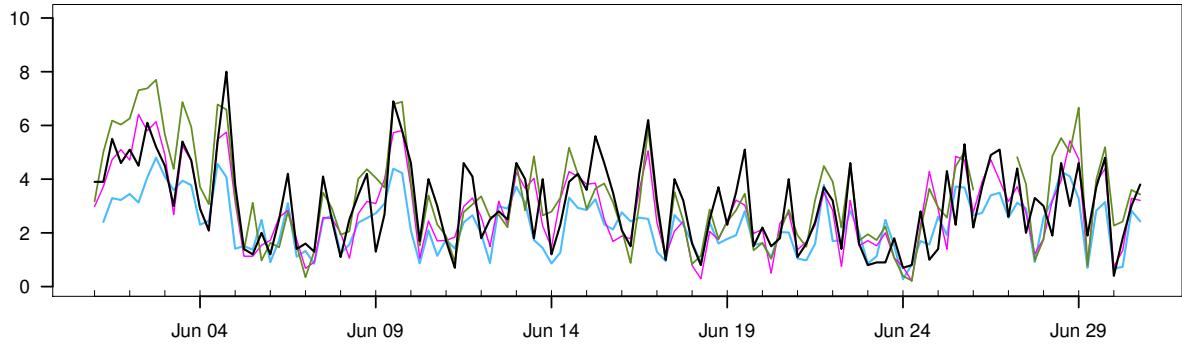
	Min	Mean	Max	Std	N
synop: 00,06,12,18	0.3	2.5	10.2	1.5	368
AROME_Norway: 12+18,+24,+30,+36	0.1	2.8	9.9	1.8	359
Hirlam8: 12+18,+24,+30,+36	0.3	3.5	10.2	1.8	368
ECMWF: 12+18,+24,+30,+36	0.2	2.5	6.9	1.3	364
	ME	SDE	RMSE	MAE	Max.abs.err.
AROME_Norway – synop	0.3	1.5	1.5	1.2	5.6
Hirlam8 – synop	1	1.6	1.9	1.5	5.2
ECMWF – synop	0	1.4	1.4	1.1	4.2



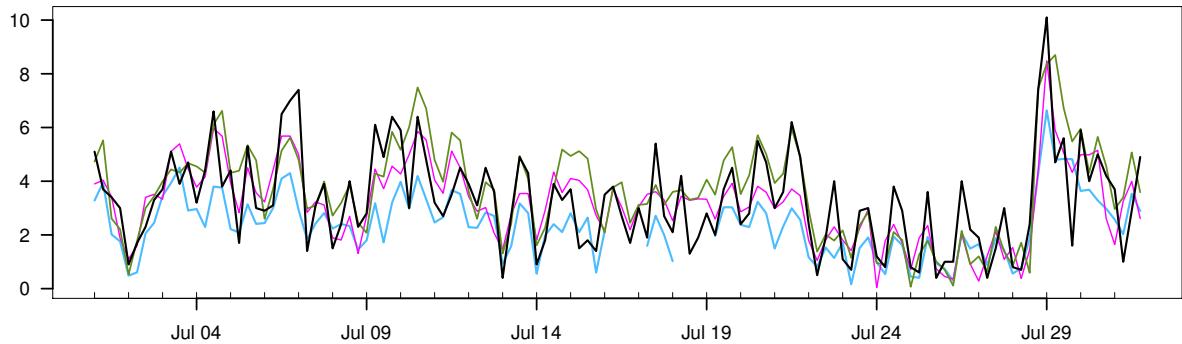


## BERGEN – FLORIDA

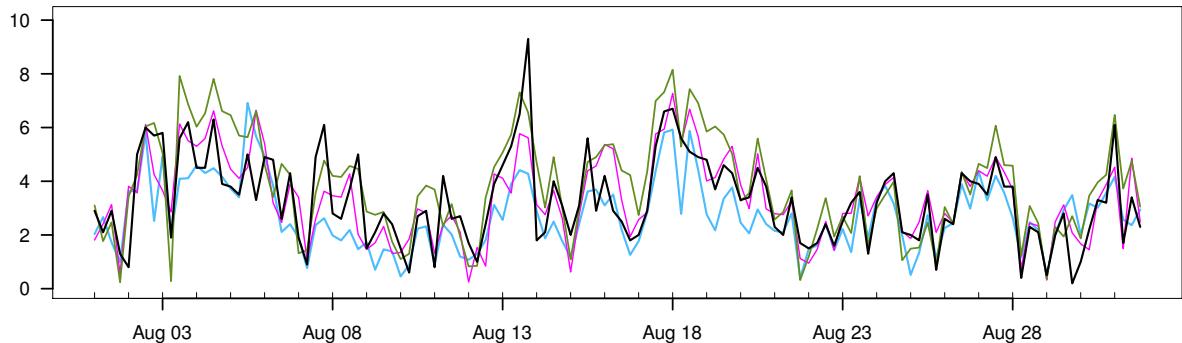
01.06.2013 – 30.06.2013



01.07.2013 – 31.07.2013



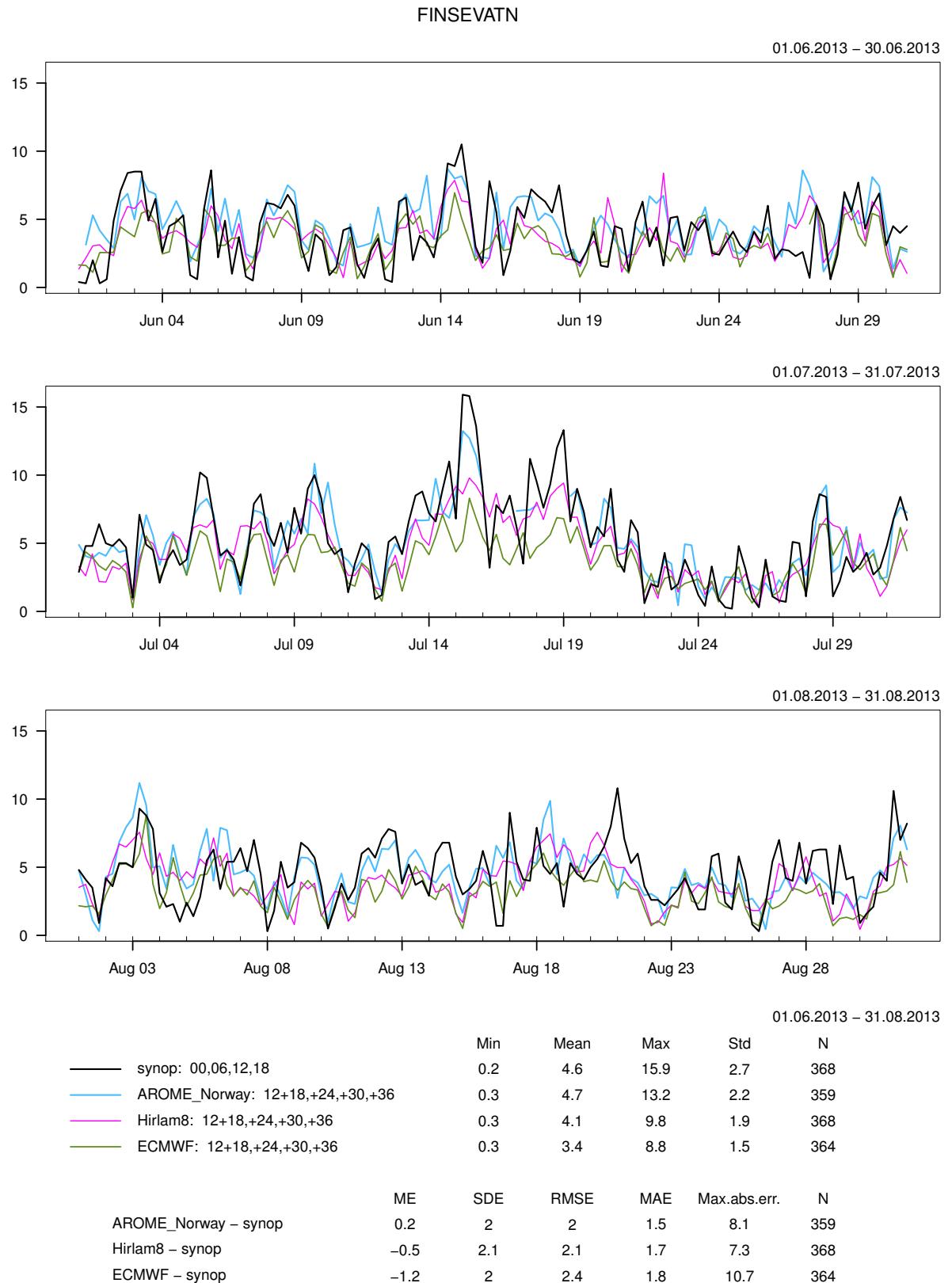
01.08.2013 – 31.08.2013

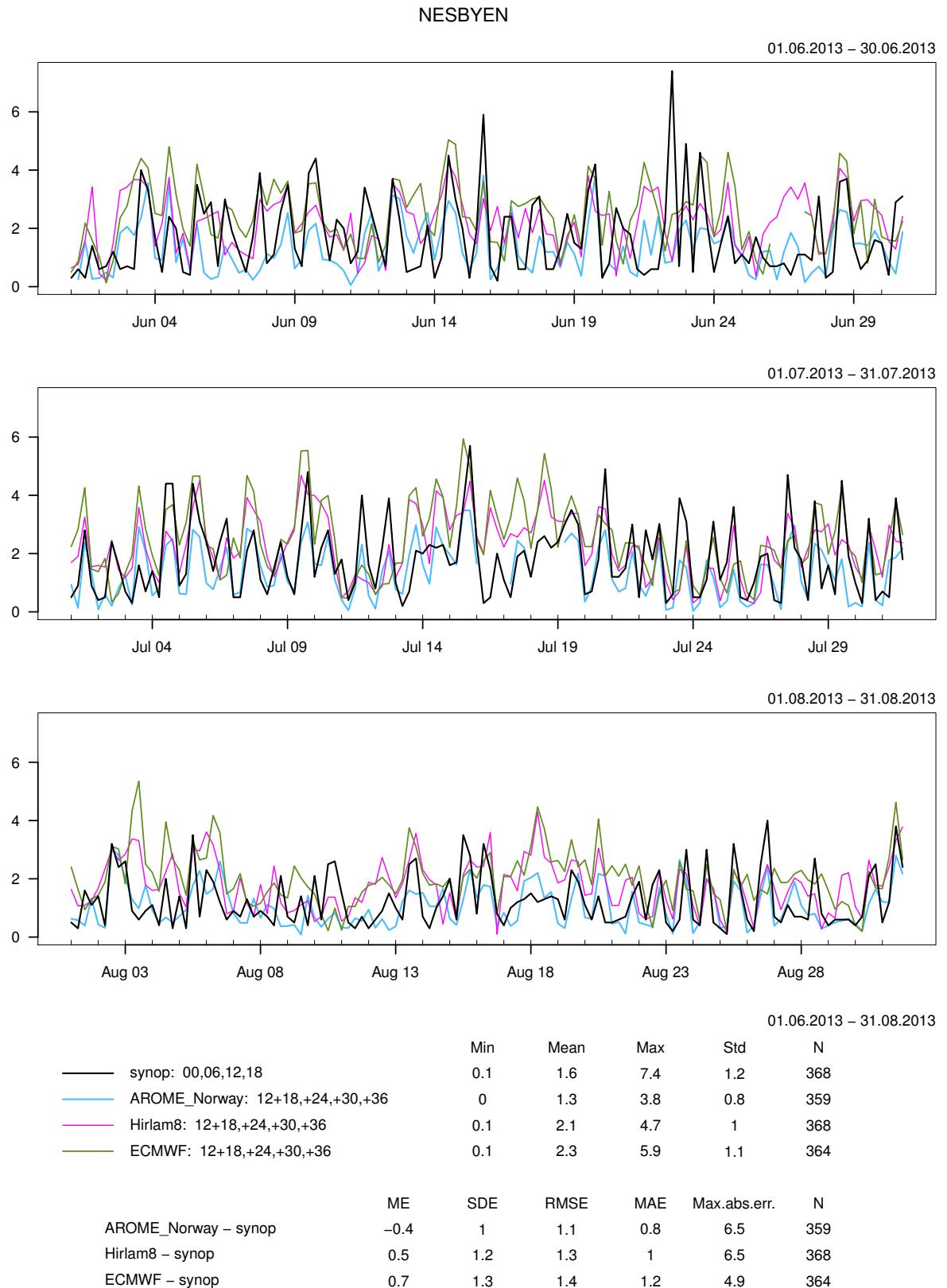


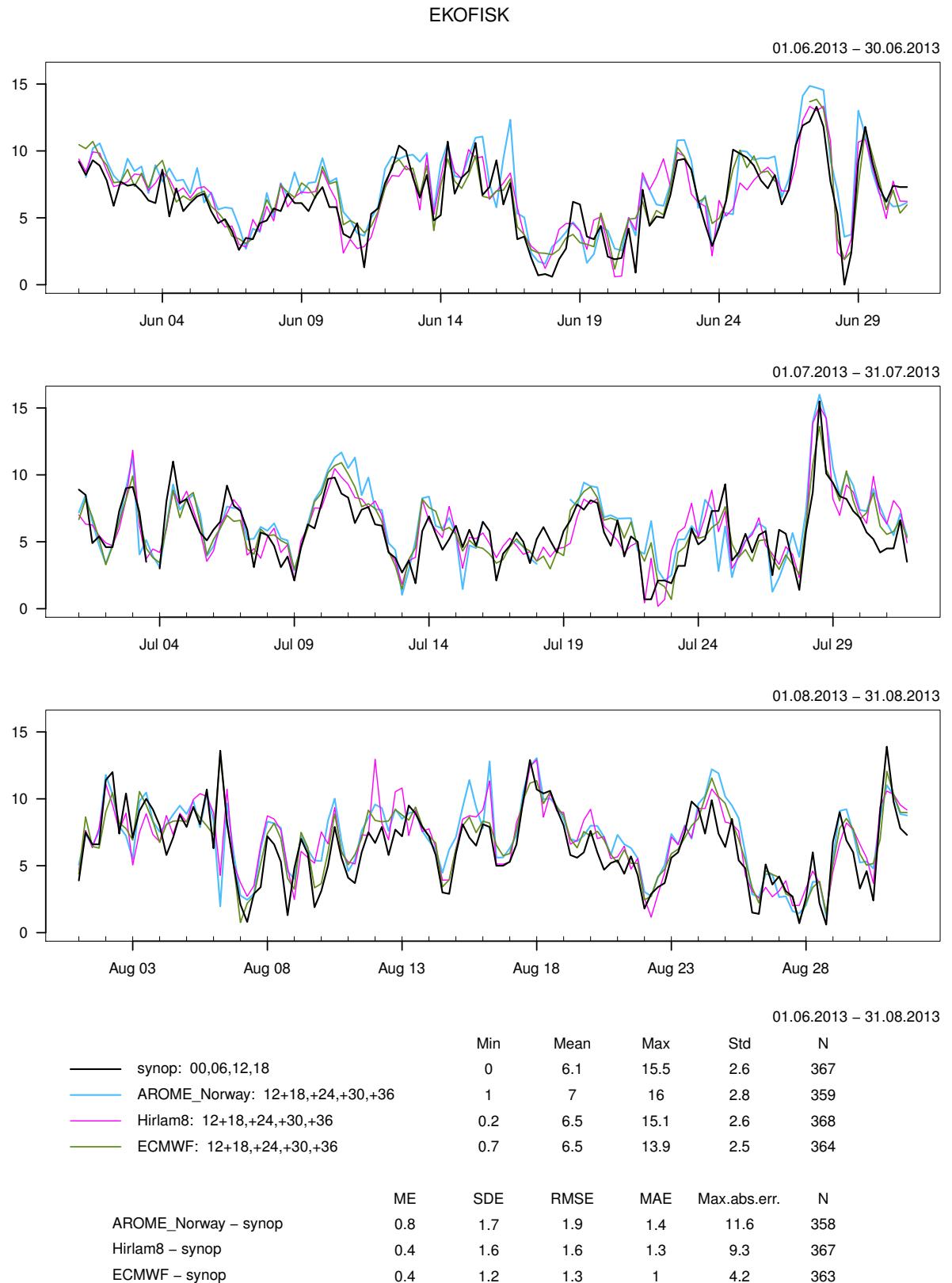
01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013

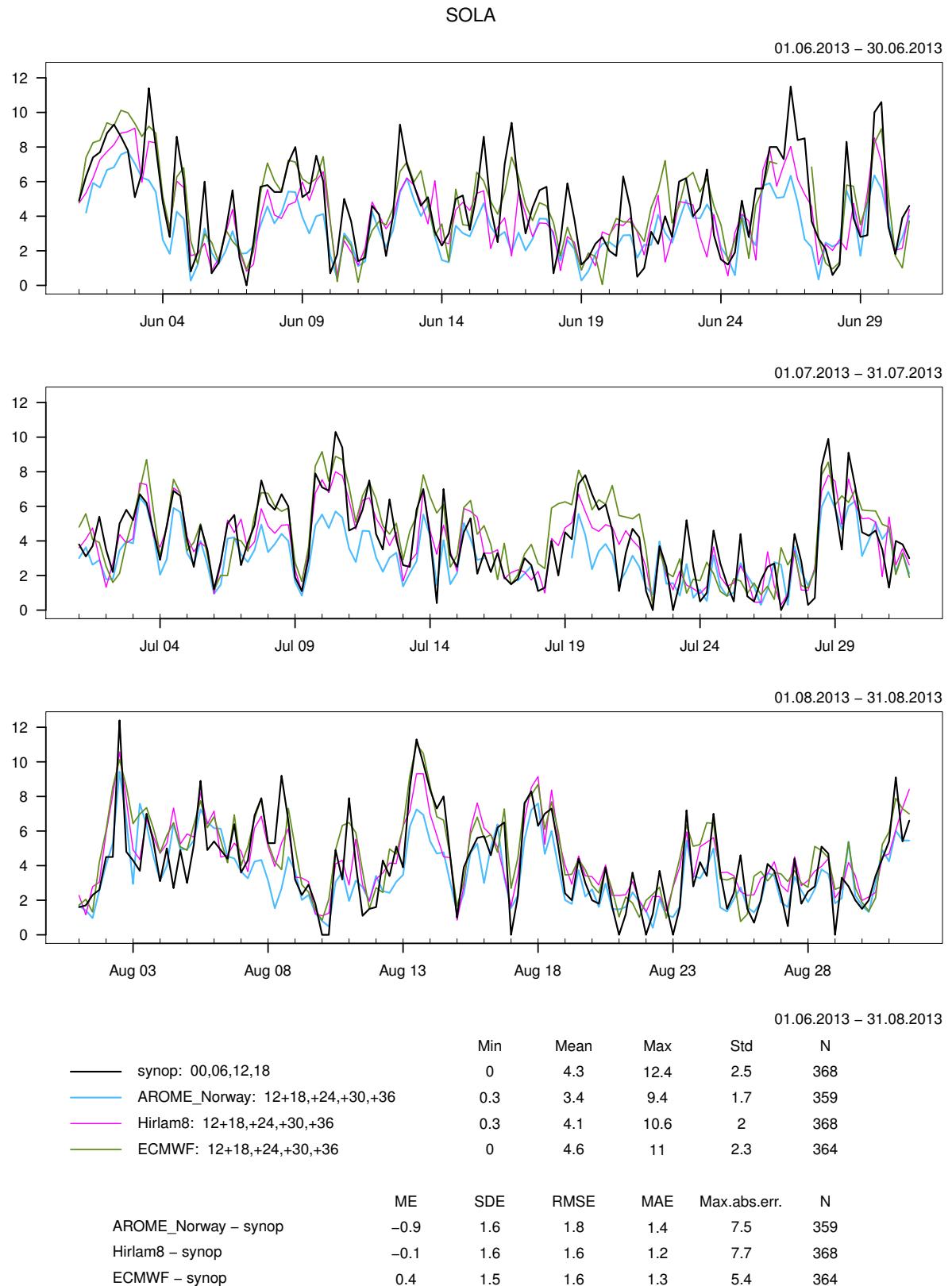
	Min	Mean	Max	Std	N
synop: 00,06,12,18	0.2	3.2	10.1	1.7	368
AROME_Norway: 12+18,+24,+30,+36	0.2	2.5	6.9	1.2	359
Hirlam8: 12+18,+24,+30,+36	0	3.1	8.5	1.5	368
ECMWF: 12+18,+24,+30,+36	0.1	3.6	8.7	1.8	364

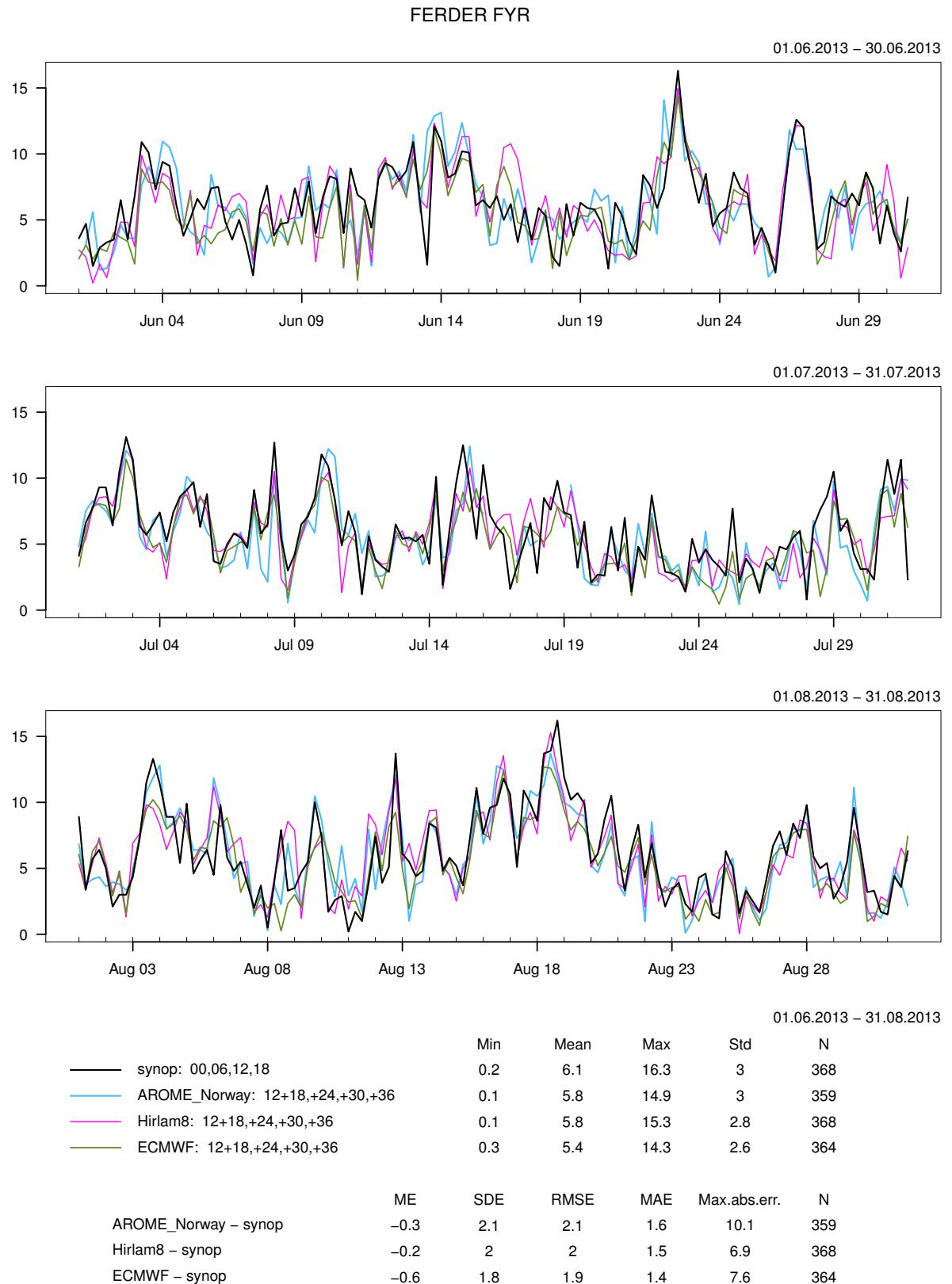
	ME	SDE	RMSE	MAE	Max.abs.err.	N
AROME_Norway – synop	-0.8	1.1	1.4	1	5	359
Hirlam8 – synop	-0.1	1.1	1.1	0.8	3.7	368
ECMWF – synop	0.4	1.2	1.2	1	4	364





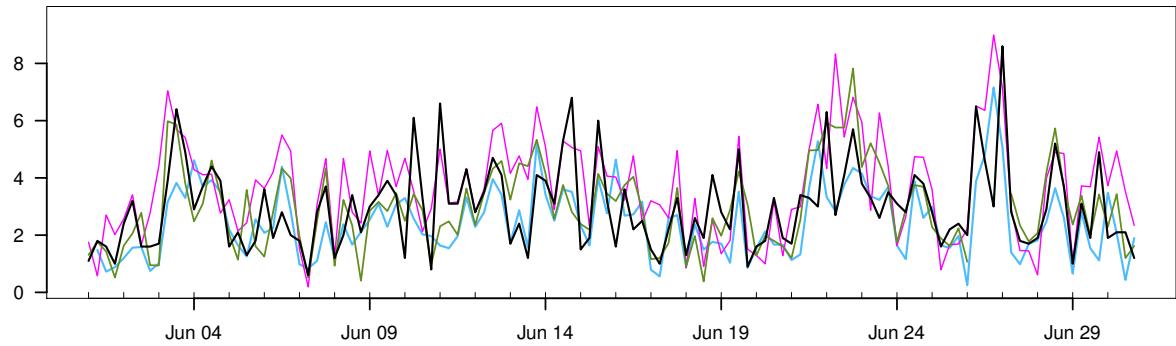




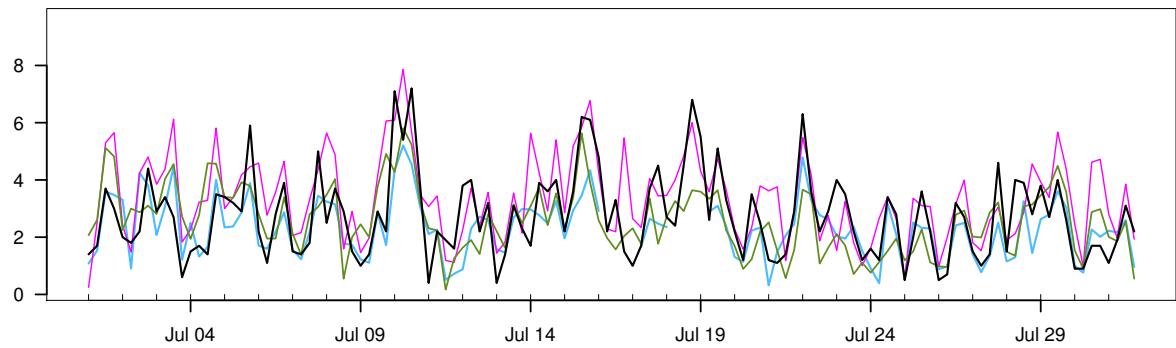


## OSLO – BLINDERN

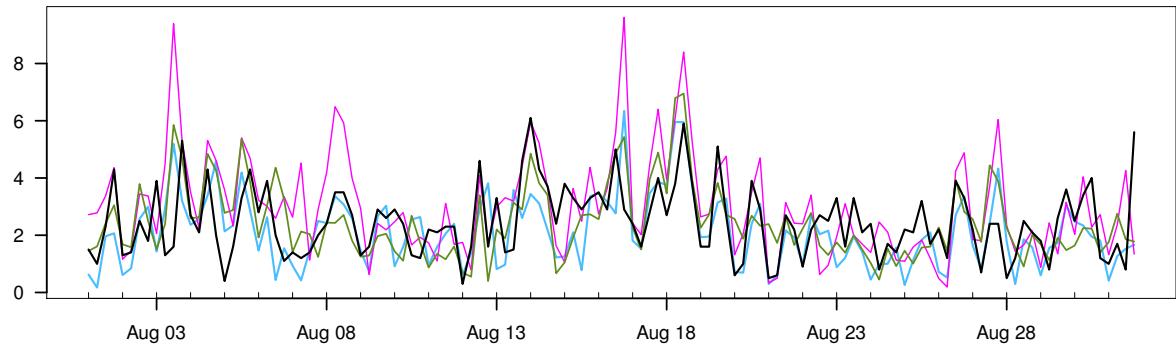
01.06.2013 – 30.06.2013



01.07.2013 – 31.07.2013



01.08.2013 – 31.08.2013



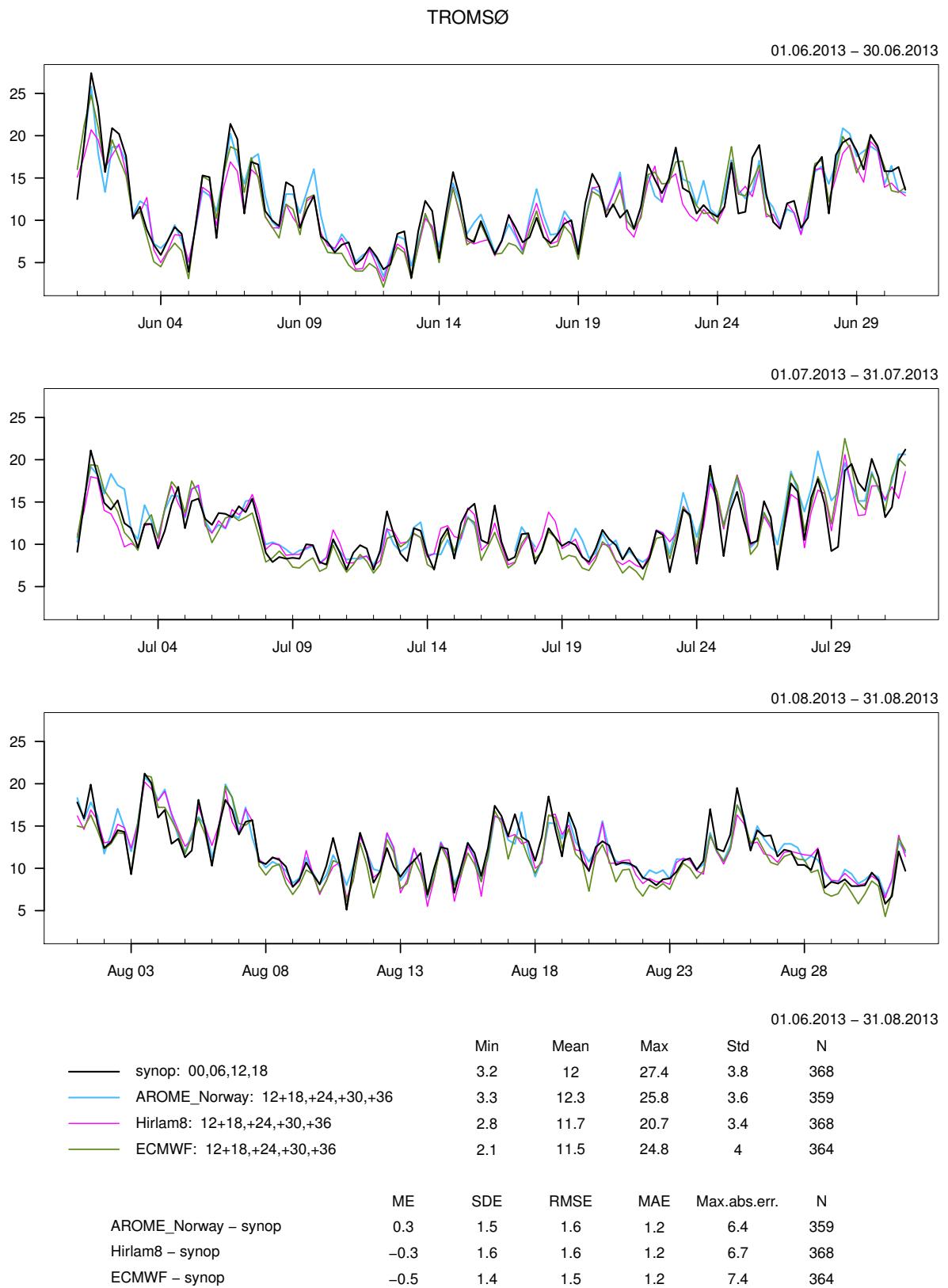
01.06.2013 – 31.08.2013

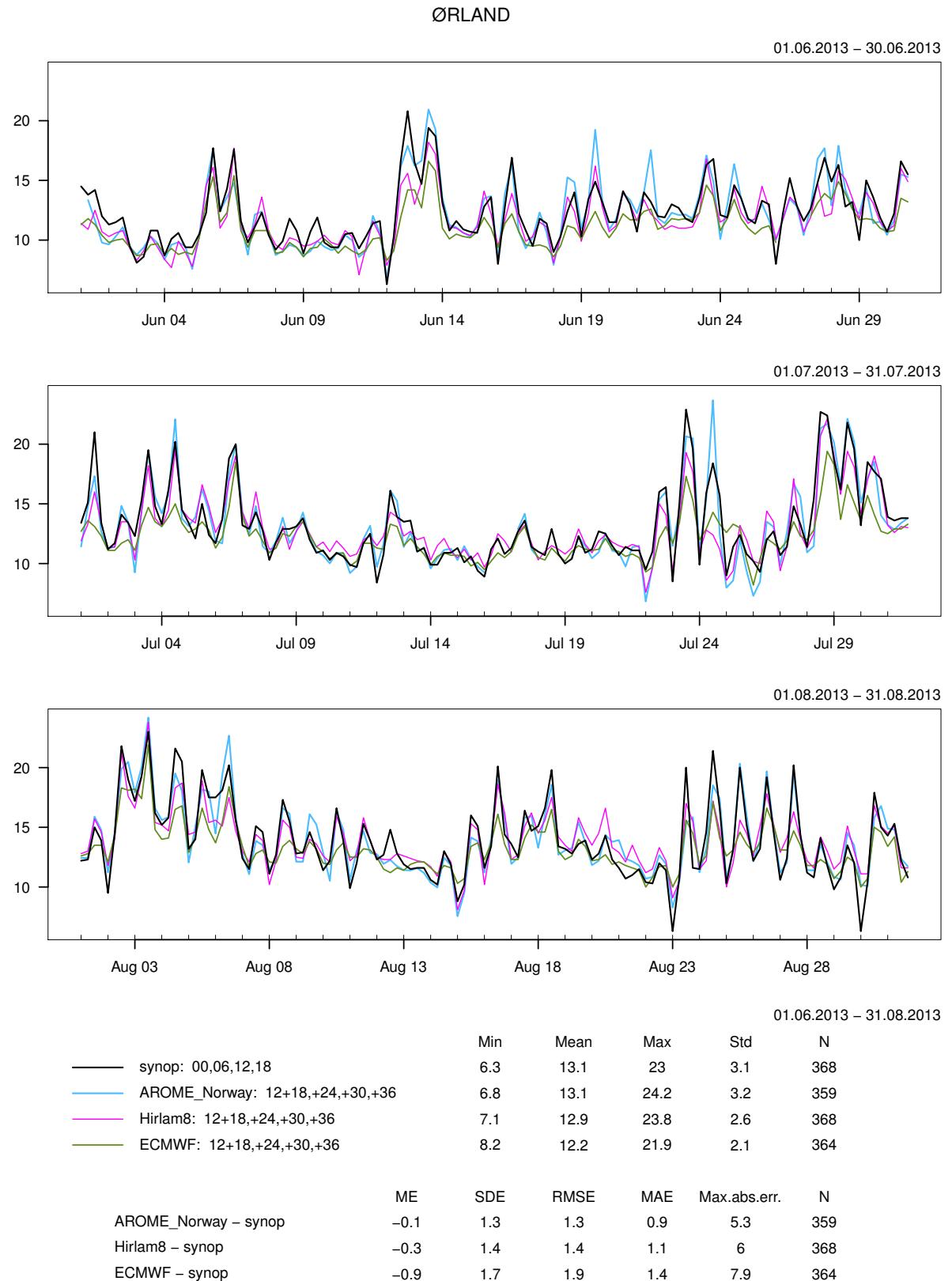
	Min	Mean	Max	Std	N
synop: 00,06,12,18	0.3	2.7	8.6	1.4	368
AROME_Norway: 12+18,+24,+30,+36	0.2	2.3	7.2	1.2	359
Hirlam8: 12+18,+24,+30,+36	0.2	3.3	9.6	1.7	368
ECMWF: 12+18,+24,+30,+36	0.2	2.6	7.8	1.3	364

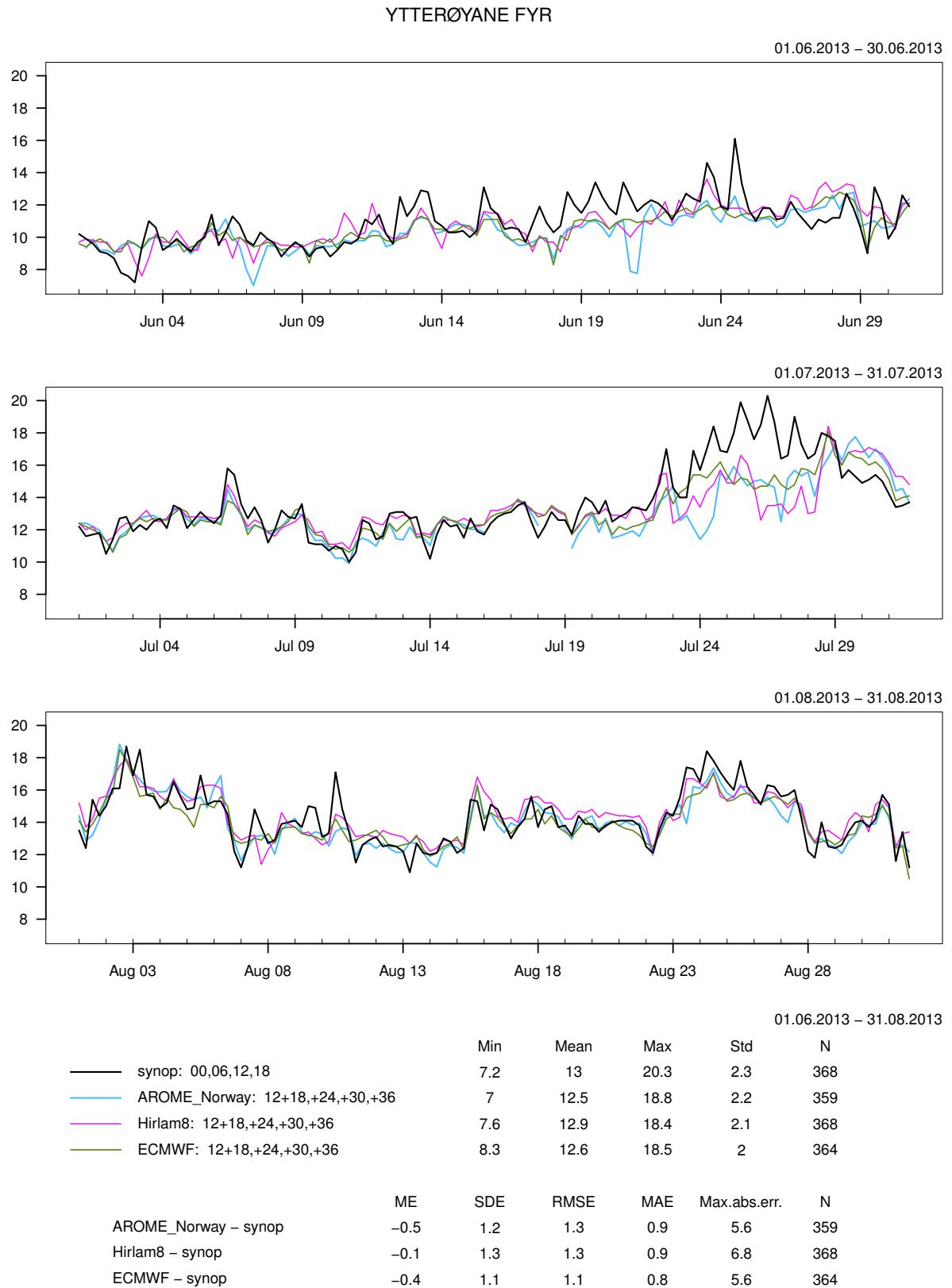
	ME	SDE	RMSE	MAE	Max.abs.err.	N
AROME_Norway – synop	-0.4	1.2	1.2	0.9	5	359
Hirlam8 – synop	0.6	1.4	1.6	1.2	7.8	368
ECMWF – synop	-0.1	1.3	1.3	1	4.3	364

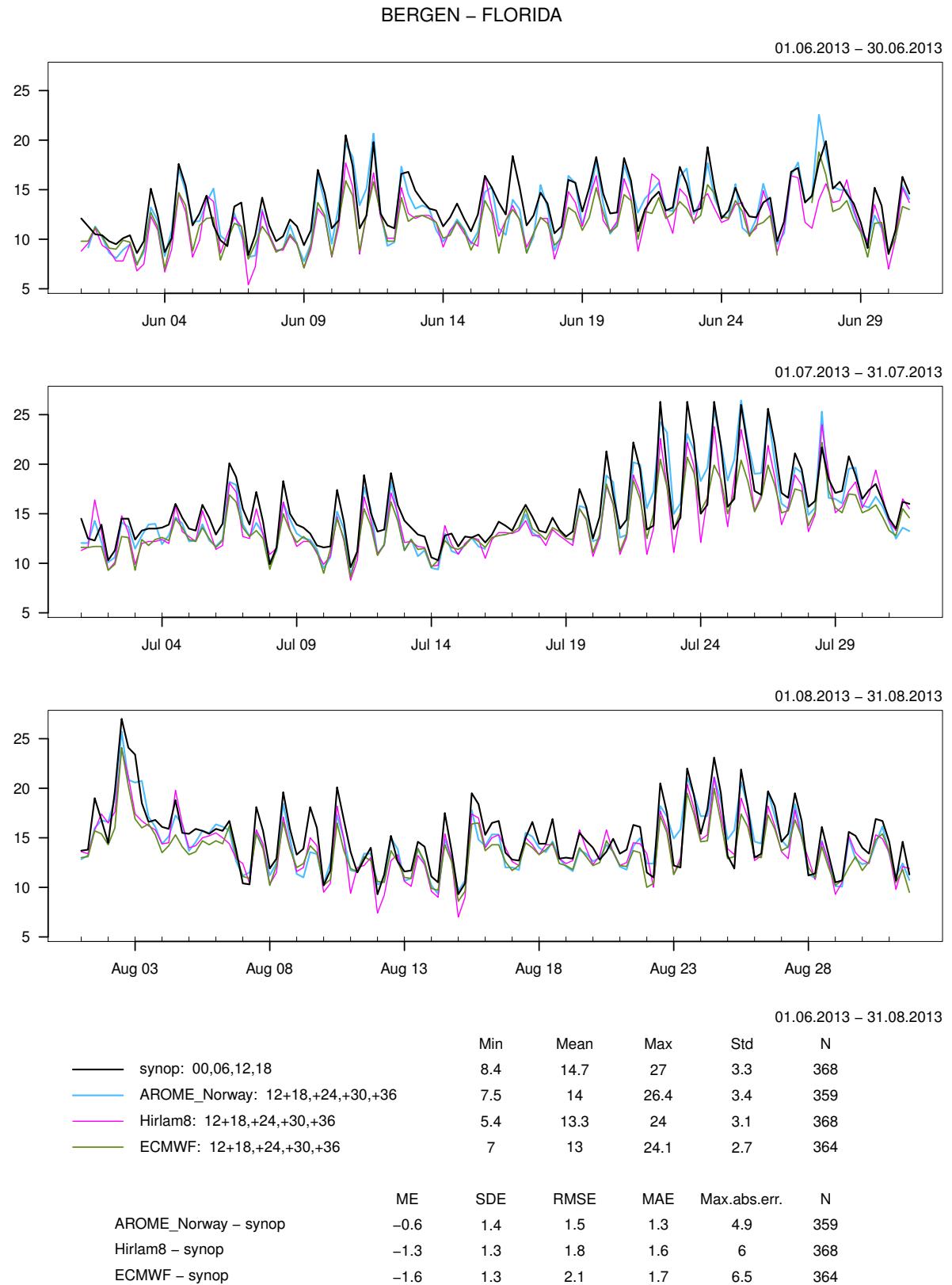


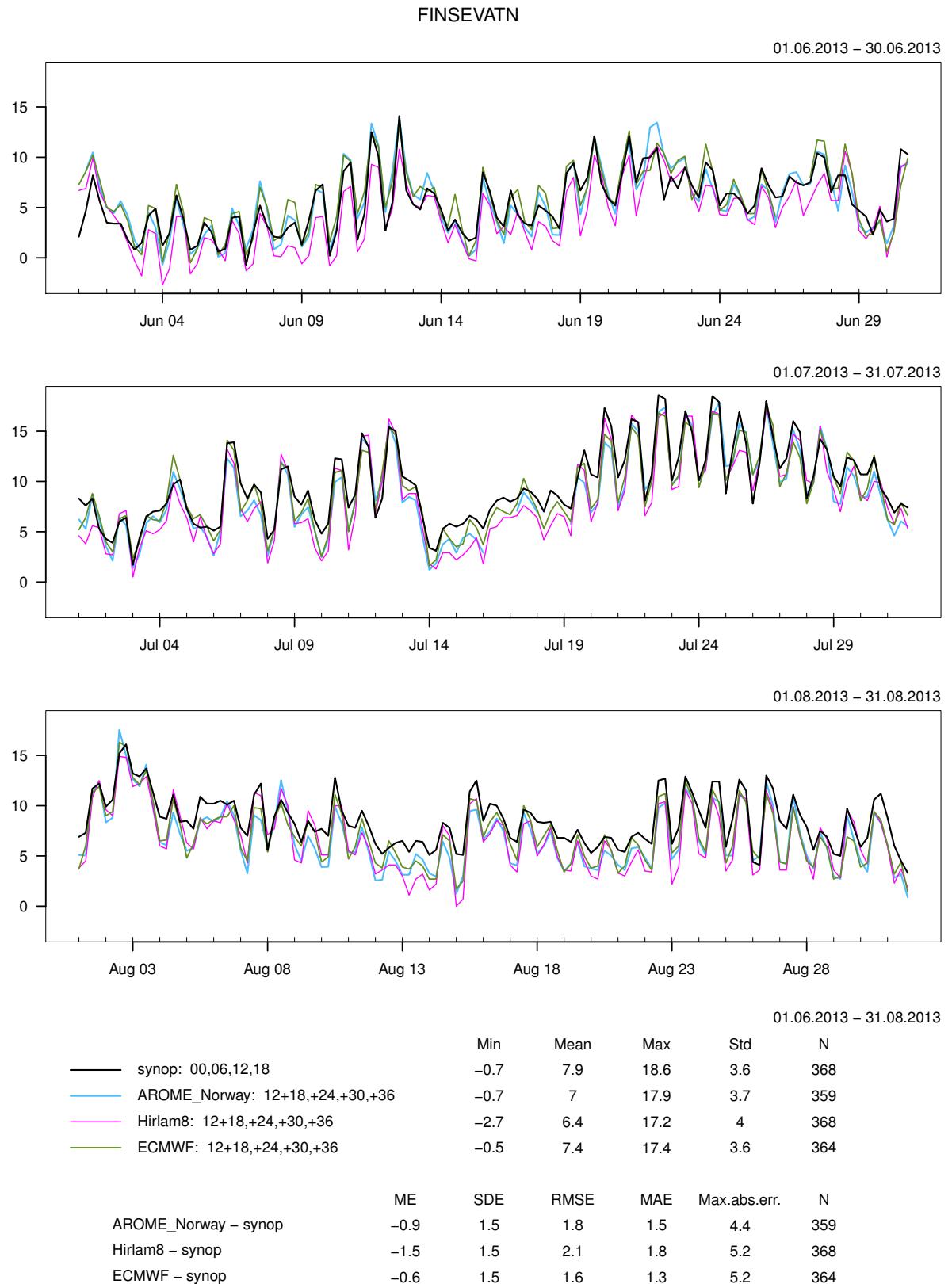
## 10.2 Temperature 2m

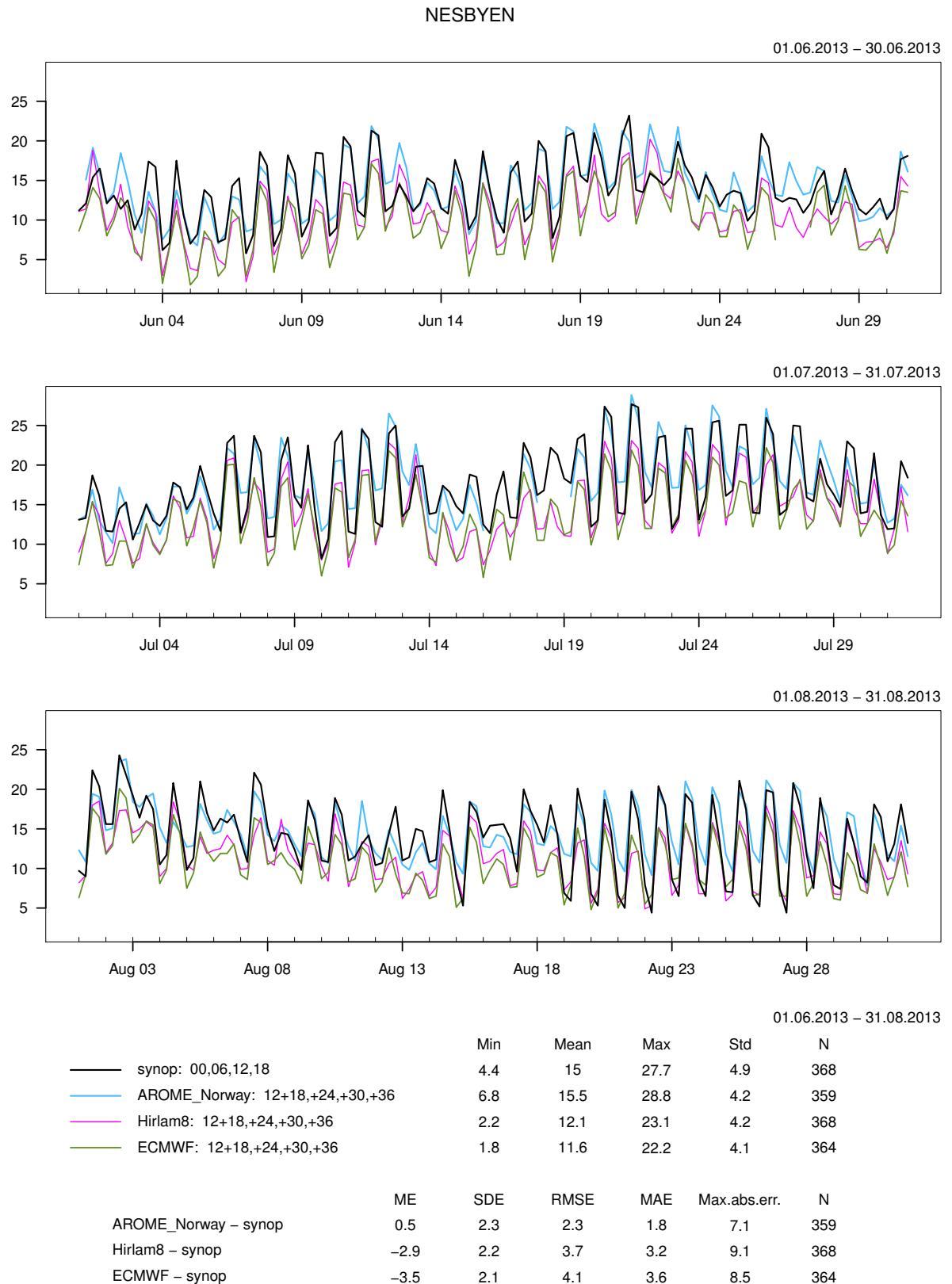


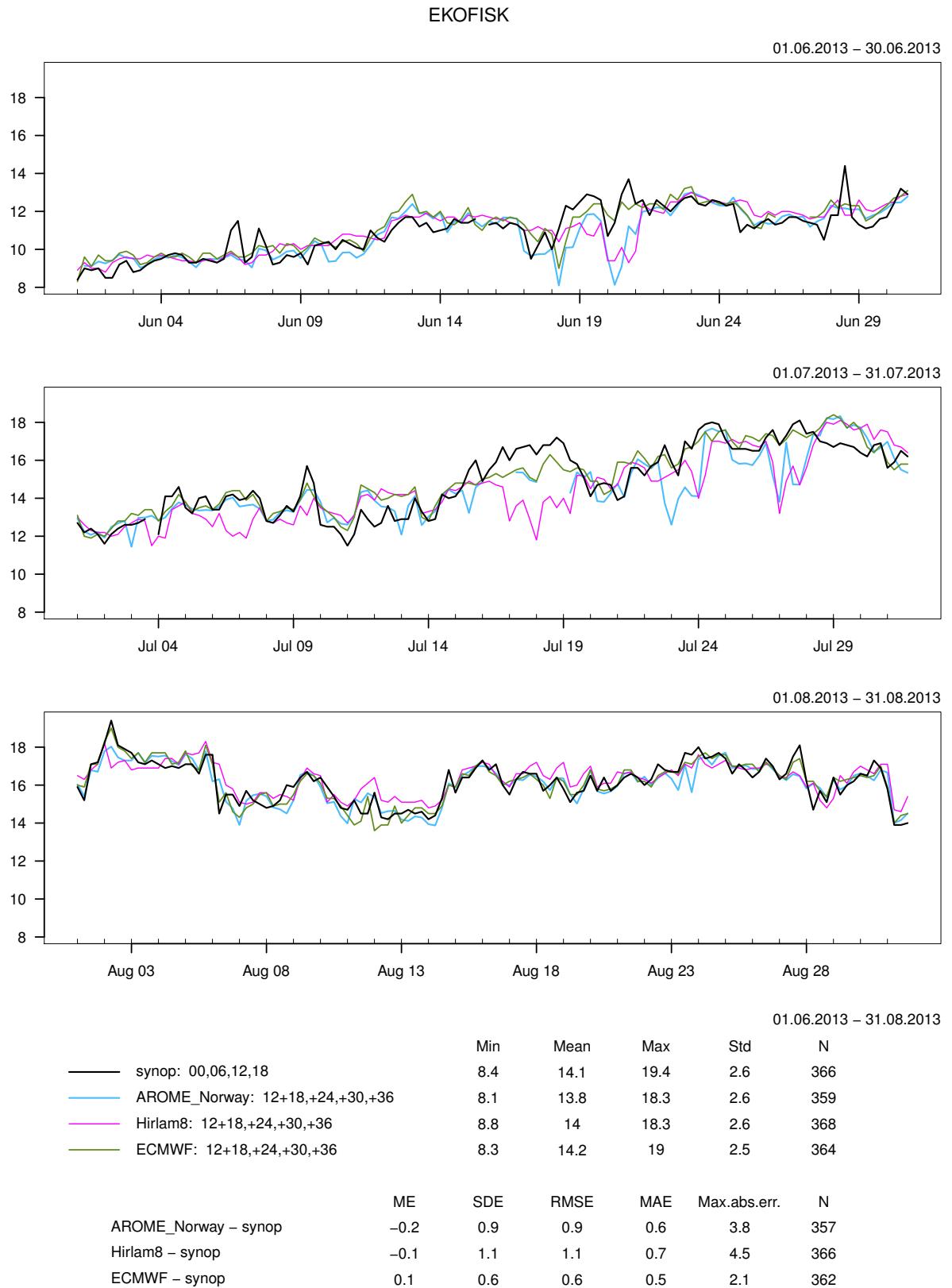


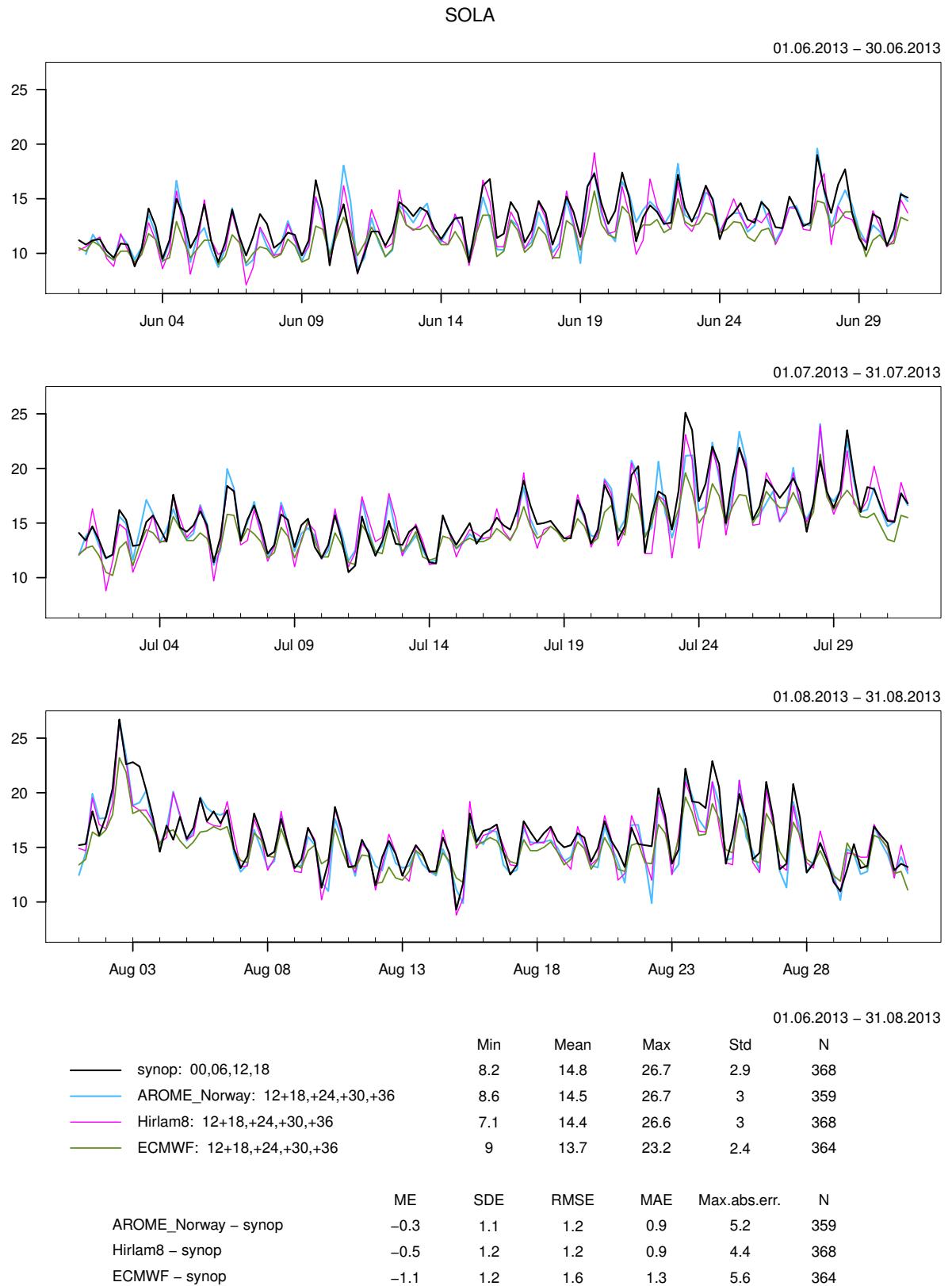


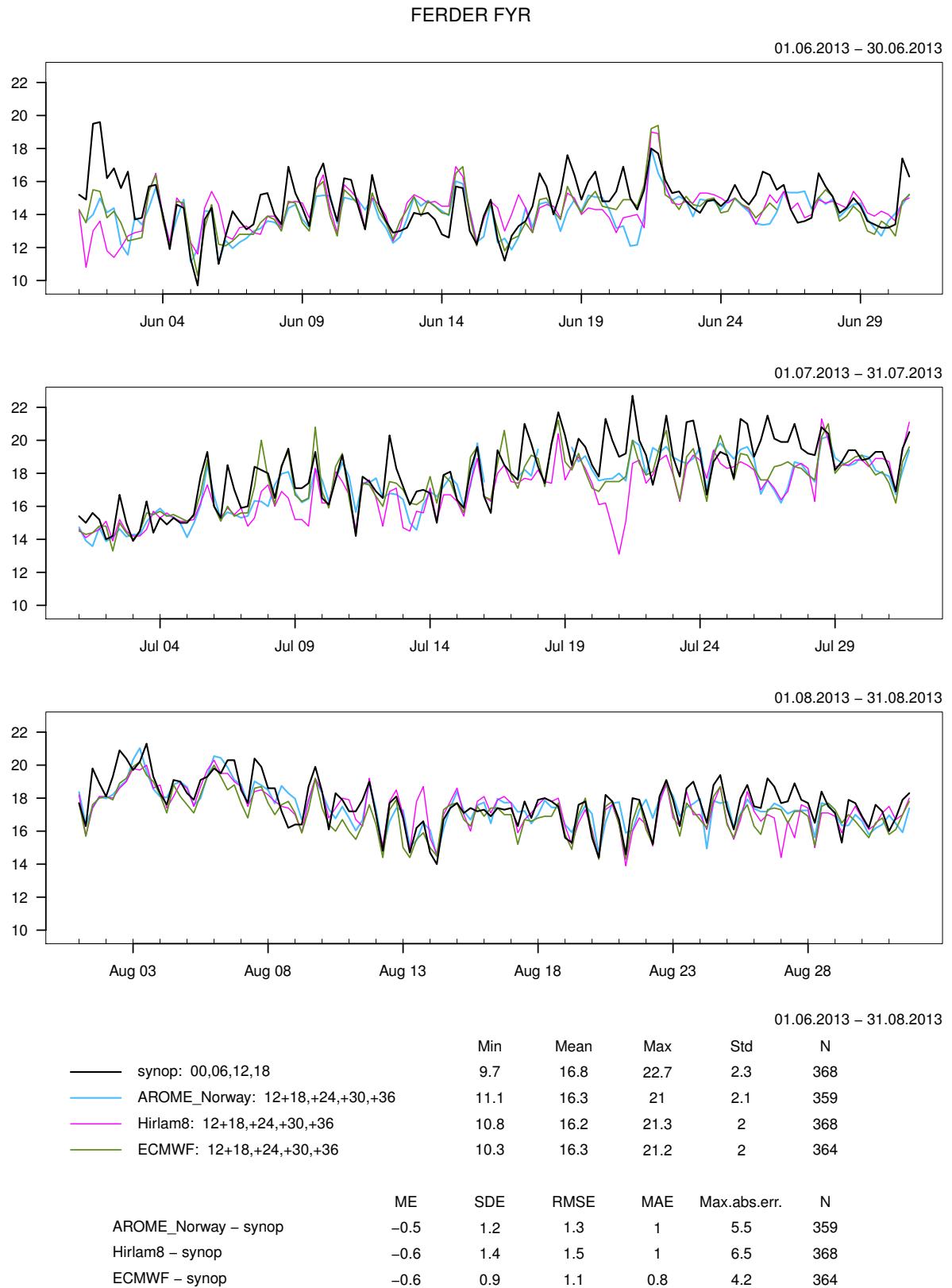


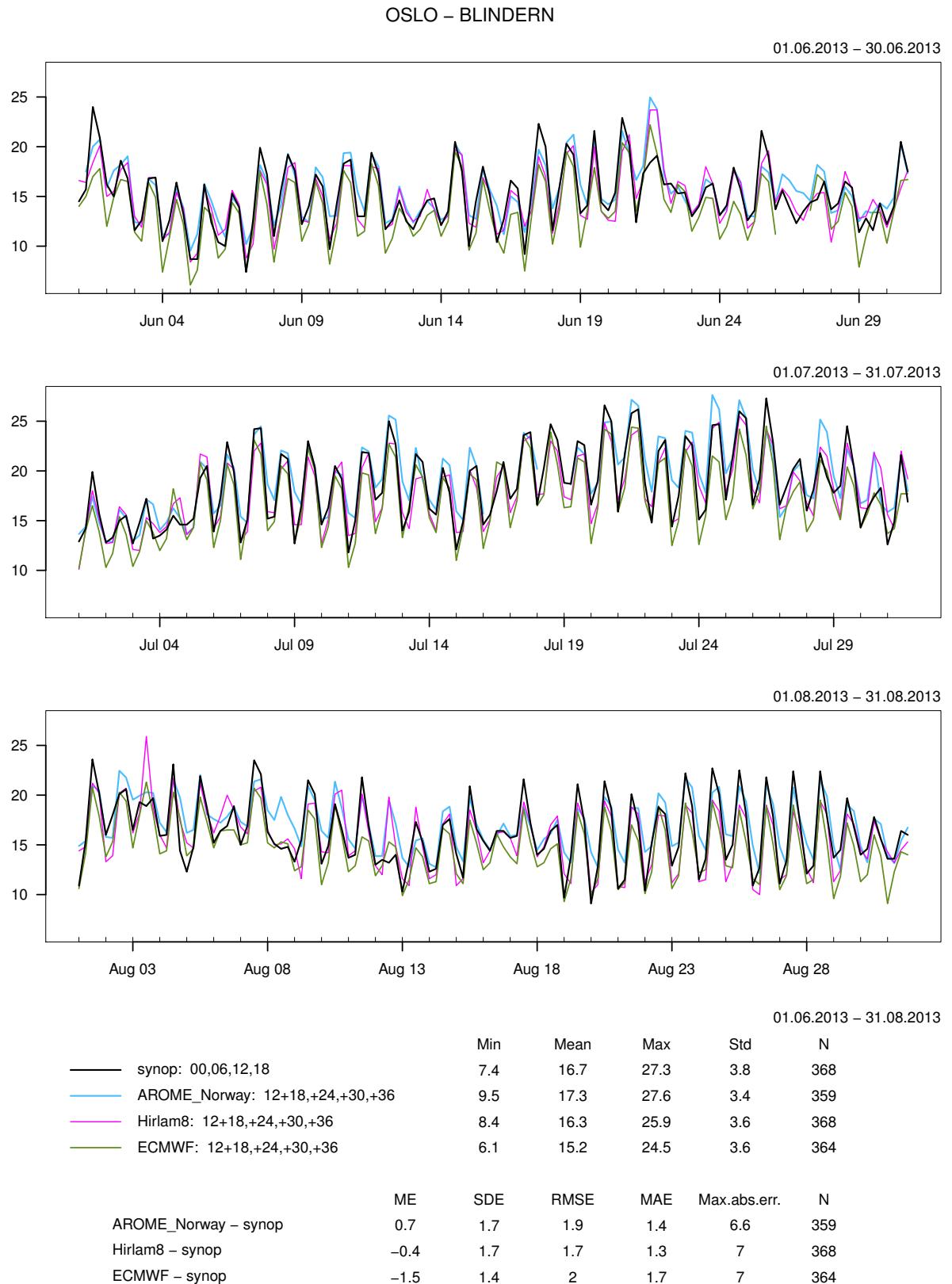














## 10.3 Daily precipitation

