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SECOND OUTLINES OF A PROPOSITION FOR AN INTERNATIONAL WEB-RESEARCH- AND WEB-COMMUNITY-PROJECT IN WEATHER SENSITIVITY

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The following contribution to the discussion is a short version. More detailed depictions are on www.medizinmeteorologie.de and www.medicalmeteorology.de (or will be there in the near future). Corresponding author address: webmaster@medizinmeteorologie.de or look at www.kerseboom.de (this contact-website contains also a current telephone number).

For the relief of the reference the individual paragraphs are numbered.

1. In the "First Outlines" (<http://ams.confex.com/ams/15BioAero/15BioAero/abstracts/49628.htm>) initially has been referred to the newer statistically representative survey about the prevalence of weather sensitivity in Germany (you find the complete text – in German language with an English summary here: <http://arbmed.klinikum.uni-muenchen.de/presse/Wetterfuehligkeit.pdf>; HTML-version with google). The circumstance that the larger half of the population feels concerned, underlines the meaning of this research topic. In order to continue this impetus it's a good idea to establish a broader empirical basis containing in optimal case daily recordings of a representative group of weather sensitive people during as long a period as possible. The basic idea carried forward by me consists now of receiving these recordings as entries into a web form that was especially prepared for this purpose; that creates a set of new and serious advantages. The web form is to be understood as one feature of a Website that is designed especially for the needs of weather sensitive people with the aim of generating a web community.

2. These „Second Outlines“ are addressed mainly to potential project collaborators. A process, which should be managed together, would be the development of the adequate web entry form version 1.0. Another question has to do with the location background: Where exactly shall we search for participant members? For this, first specifications follow now.

3. Every daily entry had to contain a finely differentiated estimation of the own state of health (Befindlichkeit). In the author's prepro-

ject, which will have to 1.10.2002 the daily exact data of four complete years, twenty differentiations (from extremely badly to extremely well) have proved to be a good choice.

4. The author would of course bring in his experiences from the mentioned preproject. (The evaluation will be documented on the Websites mentioned.) The here underlying data base contains further daily subjective weather classifications as well as daily free context-sensitive comments. In addition, there is still a great number of computerscripts from these four years to the whole theme. When the entire input of four years will be ready (or even sooner) the work input will be shifted more strongly on the analysis.

5. It would be very helpful, if each daily entry could contain a finely differentiated (subjective) estimation of the weather situation. I operated with seventy distinctions and do think that such a high number was appropriate; after a short period of experience you understand that you need very many distinctions for the whole year (that may sound a little bit improbable; at opportunity I can explain it more in detail).

6. On the other hand: This point may expect too much of a part of the participant members – especially when in daily work stress he/she is not perceiving very much the weather situation for many hours. One possible reaction could be to offer a mini-, midi- and maxi-version of the web form. In the mini-version this input field would be missing.

7. A key point is the development of a finely differentiated catalog of objective weather

classifications and weather scenarios for weather sensitivity purposes. Those parameters should be (possibly) included that the nearest meteorological station is able to offer. A very high number of distinctions might come out, which one can hold perhaps still within the two digit range.

8. This is also therefore a good starting time for such a project because the access to the data of thousands of meteorological stations worldwide by Internet became in the meantime possible and more simple.

9. To avoid problems with different micro climates the best way would be to concentrate upon a few cities with relatively homogeneous climatic situation; where the data of the meteorological station would be more or less transferable for the locations of the participant members from that city.

10. That is an important argument, in order to dedicate to the selection of favorable cities enough attention. From these criteria and from my personal prehistory I care with priority for Bremen. For every city to be taken, a kind of a

scientific responsible will be needed. He/she must make him/herself sufficiently familiar with the meteorological profile of the city, also with specific and unusual features. For instance if Munich should belong to the set of the selected cities, then a phenomenon like foehn – in the case of Las Palmas a phenomenon like the Calima should not be forgotten in the web form.

11. Explorative interviews with weather sensitive people in every participating city at as early a time as possible would be very important.

12. These interviews are meaningful in different regard. One aspect is to create publicity for the project in the city. One other crucial point is that these interviews can help to understand in which subgroups the very inhomogeneous group of weather sensitive people should be divided. I have no doubt that we need a two digit number of subgroups. Without a solid concept at this point the whole investigation would be weak.

13. My concluding remark is a call for comments!