Climate predictions for climate services: current activities and future plans at ECMWF

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At the forefront of weather predictions for more than 40 years, the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) has also been involved in climate predictions for the last 20 years. While the focus, in this context, has so far been on seasonal and intraseasonal timescales, in recent years initiatives have emerged to extend the prediction horizon to multi-season and multi-year periods. The most important such initiative sits under the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), initiated in 2015 and operated by ECMWF on behalf of the European Commission. What makes C3S stand out best is its focus on responding to user needs - from the technology developed to enhance the user experience, to the relevance and the fitness for purpose of the content of the service. This presentation will summarise the current setup of the climate prediction component, describing the content as well as the platform for data services, and will highlight the key areas of future activity on multi-year predictions.