Quality Assurance for Essential Climate Variables

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What is QA4ECV designed to achieve?

1. To design and develop a quality assurance system that can be applied by users to evaluate whether a satellite data set is mature enough for a particular purpose.
2. To generate long-term (30-year+) data records of Atmosphere and Land parameters relevant to air pollution and climate change.
3. To provide a need for reliable, traceable, and understandable quality information on satellite data records that could serve as a blueprint contribution to a future Copernicus Climate Change Service.

Why is this important for Europe?

QA4ECV will help scientists and policy makers in judging the usefulness of satellite data. This is especially important for policy makers who are increasingly relying on Earth Observing data to make decisions on mitigating and adapting to climate change. These decisions need to be ‘evidence-based’ and this requires complete confidence in EO-derived products.

Suppliers feel that:
- Their products do contain adequate QA information
- Dissemination of QA info to the data users is effective

3 Key recommendations from the survey

It is clear that QA evidence needs to be supplied in a more comprehensible format:
1. All QA info for satellite products must be easily obtainable and published
2. If product uncertainty is known, it should be stated how this is calculated
3. Full and comprehensible details of the processing chain for a satellite product should be available to users