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# Typical Meteorological Year generation service report

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Customer : DLR  
Site: Osternburg

Authors: Claire Thomas, Mathilde Marchand and Etienne Wey  
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## Glossary

- PV : Photo Voltaic
- GHI : Global Horizontal Irradiation
- GTI : Global Tilted Irradiation (in-plane irradiation for a fixed PV panel with a given tilt and azimuth)
- DNI (or BTI) : Direct Normal Irradiation (direct irradiation in a plane tracking the sun position)
- TMY : Typical Meteorological Year
- P50 : 50% percentile of a distribution (median)
- FS50 : 50% median of a distribution based on the Finkelstein-Schafer distance between two Cumulative Distribution Functions (CDF)
- P90 : 90% percentile of a distribution (90% of the values will be above this threshold)

## Introduction - methodology

Customer has requested a Typical Meteorological Year (TMY) P50 (median scenario) and P90 (pessimistic scenario) for their site. This report synthesizes the TMY results for both the GHI and the Direct Normal Irradiation (DNI) components.

The method for the TMY (P50) generation exploits the HelioClim-3v5 for the radiation data, and the MERRA reanalysis from NASA for the other meteorological parameters. This method has been developed and validated within the framework of the European research project named ENDORSE

(funded by the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the EU, number of agreement n°262892). A full description of the method is available at: <http://www.endorse-fp7.eu/pre-market-services/tmy-generation/service>.

Please note that the main outcome of this new service is the notion of “driver” which consists of taking into account in the month selection the solar technology for which the generated TMYs will be exploited. The “driver” selected for this case of TMY generation is given in the “Data description” paragraph below. These effective radiation component results (or, as a reminder, this “driver”) are available in annex.

Please note also that the P90 TMY is based on an annual P90 analysis. The standard deviation of the long term annual values of the driver irradiation is computed and multiplied by 1.28155 to obtain a P90 estimate. Then, the P90 representative year is chosen as the year for which the annual sum of the driver irradiation is the closest to the P90 estimation.

The first section gives a brief overview of the site description.

The second section (“Selected months for the P50 and P90 TMY”) lists the months that have been selected by the method based on the driver.

The third and the fourth sections show respectively the results and illustrations for the GHI and the DNI components.

The fifth (and last) section is a summary of the major results of this TMY generation service.

## Data description

Name of the location: Osternburg

- \* Latitude: 53.1138°
- \* Longitude: 8.2664°
- \* Altitude: 5.0 m

Driver: GTI for fixed tilted PV - tilt: 5.311376e+01 (deg) - Azimut: 180 (deg)

Long-term time series:

- \* Begin date: 2005-01-01
- \* End date: 2016-12-31
- \* Nb years: 12
- \* Sampling of the data: 60 min
- \* Unit of the data: Wh/m<sup>2</sup>

Databases used:

- \* Radiation components: long term HelioClim-3v5 time series
- \* Other meteorological parameters: MERRA (NASA)

Output formats:

- \* CSV compatible with the PVsyst software
- \* CSV compatible with the System Advisor Model (SAM, NREL)

### Selected months for the P50 and P90 TMY

Year chosen for:	P50	P90
Jan.	2011	2006
Feb.	2005	2006
Mar.	2012	2006
Apr.	2005	2006
May	2006	2006
Jun.	2015	2006
Jul.	2015	2006
Aug.	2007	2006
Sept.	2008	2006
Oct.	2010	2006
Nov.	2005	2006
Dec.	2014	2006

## Results and illustrations for the GHI component, P50 and P90

The long term variability of the GHI component is represented as a "boxplot" graph for each month.

NB: Help to understand the monthly boxplot illustration

- \* The bottom horizontal line is the minimum monthly value
- \* The top horizontal line shows the maximum monthly value
- \* The orange box shows the extent from the 25 to 75 percentile values
- \* The circle in the orange box show the median value
- \* The horizontal line in the orange box shows the average value

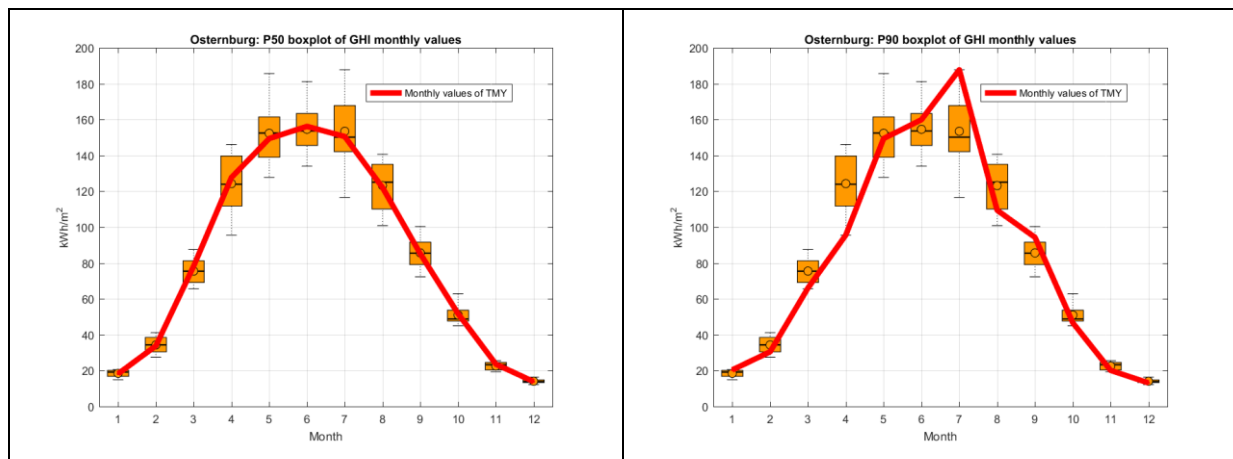


Figure 1: monthly boxplot for the GHI component.  
(P50 on the left hand side, P90 on the right hand side)

The monthly GHI values of the TMYs are:

	P50 (in KWh/m <sup>2</sup> )	P90 (in KWh/m <sup>2</sup> )
Jan.	18	20
Feb.	34	30
Mar.	78	66
Apr.	128	96
May	149	149
Jun.	156	160
Jul.	151	188
Aug.	122	109
Sept.	85	94
Oct.	52	47
Nov.	24	20
Dec.	14	13

YEARLY

1010

993

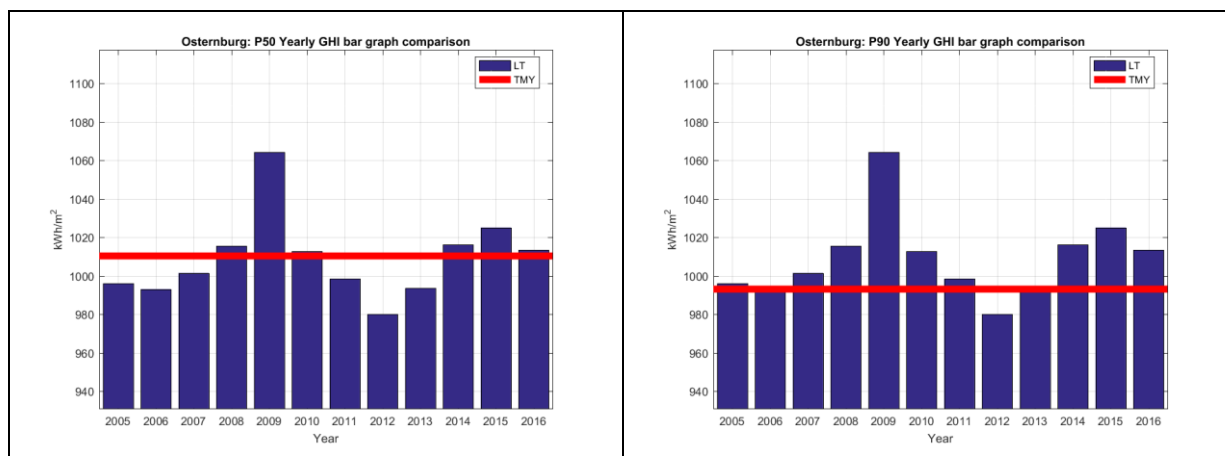


Figure 2: yearly GHI bar graph comparison  
(P50 on the left hand side, P90 on the right hand side)

## Results and illustrations for the DNI component, P50 and P90

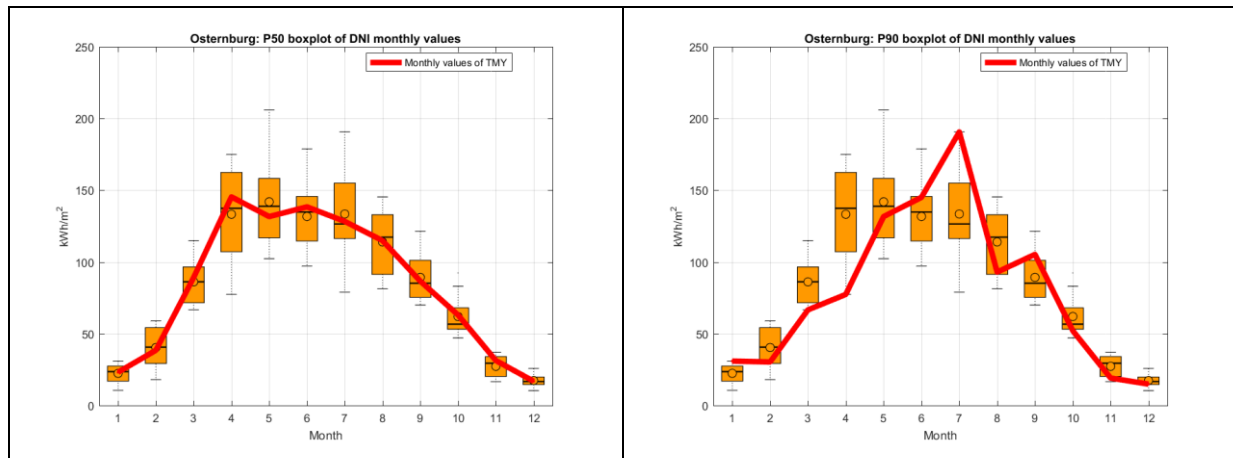


Figure 3: monthly boxplot for the DNI component  
(P50 on the left hand side, P90 on the right hand side)

The monthly DNI values of the TMYs are:

	P50 (in KWh/m <sup>2</sup> )	P90 (in KWh/m <sup>2</sup> )
Jan.	23	31
Feb.	38	30
Mar.	89	67
Apr.	145	77
May	132	132
Jun.	138	145
Jul.	128	191
Aug.	115	93
Sept.	87	105
Oct.	63	52
Nov.	31	19
Dec.	17	15
YEARLY	1007	957

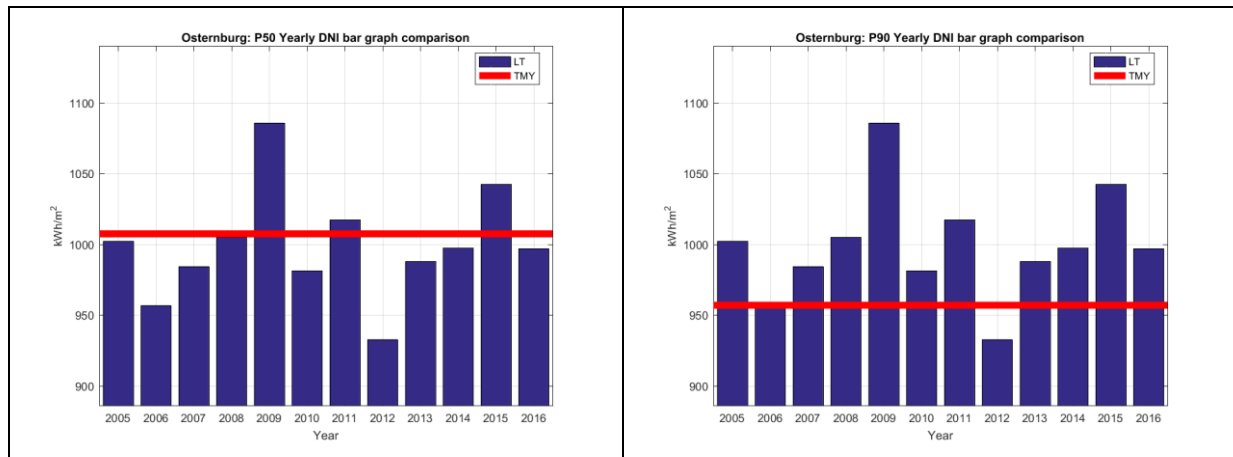


Figure 4: yearly DNI bar graph comparison  
(P50 on the left hand side, P90 on the right hand side)

## Conclusion – interpretation of the results

The major results of this TMY analysis are, in kWh/m²:

- GHI P50 yearly average irradiation value: 1010
- GHI P90 yearly average irradiation value: 993
- DNI P50 yearly average irradiation value: 1007
- DNI P90 yearly average irradiation value: 957



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## **ANNEX 1: results for the effective part of the radiation P50 and P90 (“driver”)**

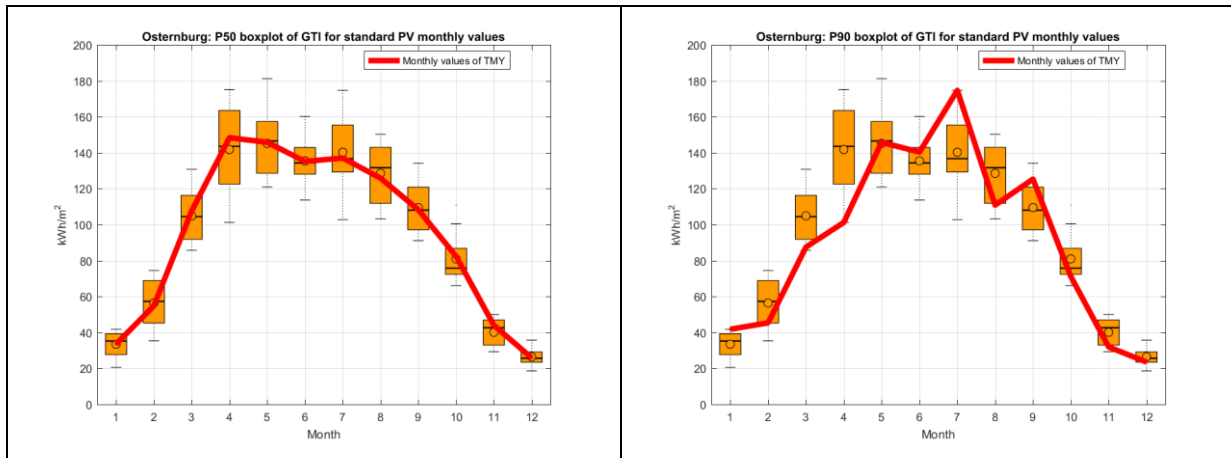


Figure 5: monthly boxplot for the driver component  
(P50 on the left hand side, P90 on the right hand side)

The monthly driver values of the TMYs are:

	P50 (in kWh/m²)	P90 (in kWh/m²)
Jan.	33	42
Feb.	55	45
Mar.	108	87
Apr.	148	101
May	146	146
Jun.	135	140
Jul.	137	175
Aug.	126	111
Sept.	108	125
Oct.	82	71
Nov.	44	32
Dec.	26	24
<b>YEARLY</b>	<b>1149</b>	<b>1099</b>

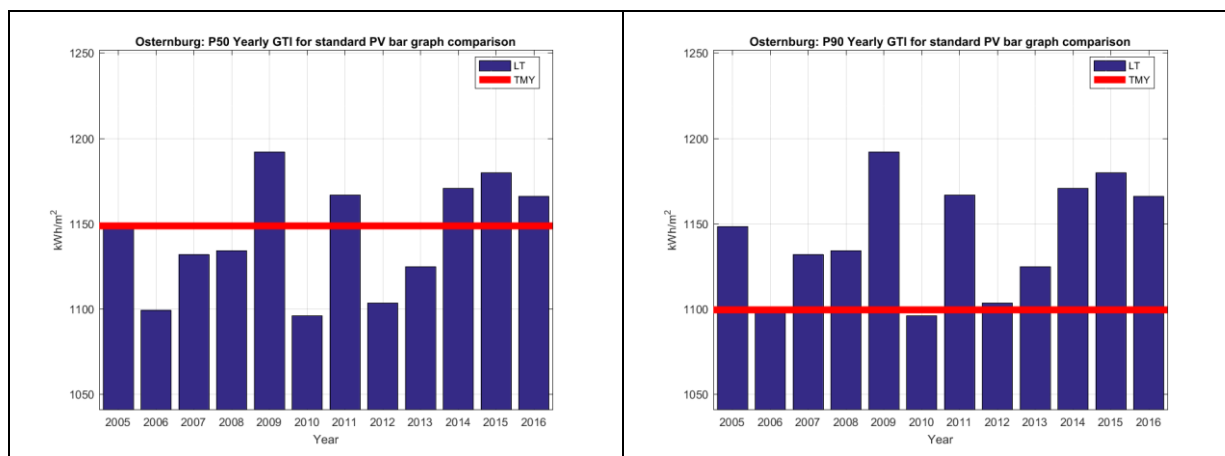


Figure 6: yearly driver bar graph comparison  
(P50 on the left hand side, P90 on the right hand side)

## **ANNEX 2: Executive Summary about HelioClim-3 and SoDa**

### **Summary**

The HelioClim surface solar radiation (SSR) databases, HelioClim-1 and HelioClim-3, are based on SSR estimation from Meteosat Second Generation images. This satellite-based method used to estimate the SSR is named HelioSat-2 and was proposed and developed by the Center for Observations, Impacts and Energy of MINES ParisTech / ARMINES. The HelioClim databases are commercialized by Transvalor and are available, with other solar related web-services, at [www.soda-pro.com](http://www.soda-pro.com).

### **Protagonists**

The Center for OIE (<http://www.oie.mines-paristech.fr/Accueil/>) is a joint research laboratory of the French school of engineers MINES ParisTech ([www.mines-paristech.eu](http://www.mines-paristech.eu)) and ARMINES ([www.armines.net](http://www.armines.net)). ARMINES is a “non-lucrative” association meant to be a framework for school of engineers for research activities directed to the industry.

Transvalor is a commercial company, created by ARMINES, to transfer and value into the industry the research results of the different school of engineers involved in ARMINES.

### **Methodology**

Satellite-based methods for surface solar radiation (SSR) estimation such as the well known HelioSat method ([2], [1]) represent an operational alternative to interpolation approaches based on meteorological ground stations, as it enables a better spatial and temporal coverage.

Since 2004, the Heliosat-2 algorithm [3] applied to Meteosat Second Generation SEVIRI images has been used to update, on a daily basis, the solar resource database HelioClim-3. This database covers Europe, Africa, the Mediterranean Basin, the Atlantic Ocean and part of the Indian Ocean with a spatial resolution of approximately 5 km (see figure) and a temporal resolution up to 15 minutes. The Meteosat Second Generation data are received from Eumetsat and processed in near real time, overnight.

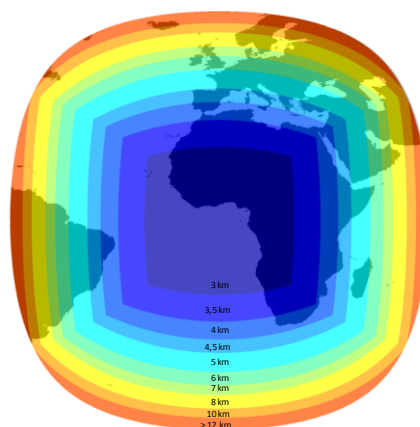


Figure 7: Spatial coverage and resolution of HelioClim-3 solar resource database.

There are two independent acquisition and processing chains for the HelioClim-3 database: one in MINES ParisTech, and one in Transvalor, in Sophia Antipolis. In brief, the process of these two chains begins by the merging of these two images into a synthetic image normalized according to the sensor and the sun elevation. As this image is located in the visible part of the spectra, the idea of the

HelioSat-2 method is the following: the whiter the pixel, the cloudier. The method calculates the proportion of cloud contained in each MSG pixel compared to the same pixel value in clear sky conditions, in order to deduce the irradiation value at ground level.

### HelioClim-3

MSG images are routinely processed with the Heliosat-2 method every 15 min to update the HC3 database [3]. Heliosat-2 combines a clear sky model with a “cloud index”. The cloud index approach is based on the assumption that the appearance of a cloud over a pixel results in an increase of reflectance in visible imagery; the attenuation of the downwelling shortwave irradiance by the atmosphere over a pixel is related to the magnitude of change between the reflectance that should be observed under a cloud-free sky and that currently observed. This magnitude of change is quantified by the cloud index.

Versions 4 and 5 are the two most advanced versions of HC3. The version 4 uses the climatological European Solar Radiation Atlas clear-sky model [4], based on the Linke Turbidity Factor. The climatological database of Linke Turbidity factor has been estimated using ground measurements worldwide [5], and led to one map per month which have been temporally interpolated to generate one map per day. The major drawback of this climatological database is that it never updated to take into account the attenuation or increase of the atmosphere turbidity due to local effects such as maritime inputs, volcanoes, fires, evolution of the water vapor content, pollution... The version 5 of HelioClim-3 [6] is an attempt to overcome this limitation, by exploiting the McClear clear sky model [7], also outcome of the MACC projects. McClear provides updated information on the content of the atmosphere, combining both in-situ and satellite inputs.

HC3 estimates of SSI are available at integration periods (or time steps) of 15 min, 1 h, 1 day and 1 month. The temporal coverage of data is from 2004-02-01 up to current day-2 for the version 5, and day-1, real time and even d+1 forecast data for version 4. HC3 provides 15 minutes Global Horizontal Irradiation values, on which decomposition models are applied to compute all the components of the radiation over a horizontal, fix-tilted and normal plane for the actual weather conditions. When a request is launched, post-processing layers are applied for instance to modulate the radiation values inside the MSG pixels to take into account the actual elevation of the required location, or to compute the shadowing effect of the far horizon. HC3 time series can be retrieved either via the SoDa website, or automatically via a machine-to-machine access. Several other value-added services based on this resource are also available as a one-shot request, such as the purchase of a volume of HC3 time series or Typical Meteorological Years on a given area, irradiation maps, measurement completion...

### Accuracy and uncertainties

We have built an html page on the SoDa website with the uncertainty result of a benchmarking. The 15 horizontal radiation values of the HC3 version 4 and version 5 databases were benchmarked using 14 BSRN ground stations:

<http://www.soda-pro.com/help/helioclim/helioclim-3-validation/bsrn-stations>

### The people in Transvalor

Dr Etienne Wey is the General Manager of Transvalor. He graduated from the engineering school INSA in Lyon and received his Ph.D at MINES ParisTech in 1984. He worked on the development of

the software Forge2 then established the software department of Transvalor, in Sophia Antipolis. In collaboration with the CEP Mines ParisTech research centre, he started in 2008 a commercial activity based on the valorisation of the HelioClim databases and SoDa web-site.

Ms Dr. Claire Thomas received her PhD from MINES ParisTech in 2006 on the subject "fusion of images". She then worked as a post-doc at INRIA in Rennes on meteorology using EO data and assimilation techniques. Claire Thomas published several peer-reviewed articles in international journals. She joined Transvalor in April 2009 to work full time on the SoDa project and the HelioClim databases use and commercialisation.

Ms Dr. Mathilde Marchand received her PhD from MINES ParisTech in 2013 on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). She has been hired in July 2015 to help the SoDa answer all the requests from the customers.

### **The people in CEP Mines ParisTech**

Dr. Philippe Blanc graduated from the engineering school SupTelecom and received his PhD degree from MINES ParisTech in 1999 in the field of engineering sciences and applied mathematics. He has been working as a research engineer at Aérospatiale, then Thalès Alenia Space in signal and image processing and data fusion for Earth Observation systems and various projects where scientific support in signal and image processing, statistics, algorithmic prototyping and applied mathematics is required. He joined the CEP Mines ParisTech in 2007.

Dr. Thierry Ranchin received his PhD degree in applied mathematics in 1993 and his "Habilitation à diriger les recherches" in 2005. His current research interests are the development of innovating methods for fusion of multisources data, and mapping of geophysical parameters for renewable energies. He is the co-chair of the Energy Community of Practices of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) initiative and the co-chair of the User Interface Committee within the Group of Earth Observation (GEO). Since November 2007, he is the deputy director of the CEP MINES ParisTech.

Prof. Lucien Wald is a Professor at MINES ParisTech since 1991. He is specialised in geophysics (meteorology, oceanography, air quality), remote sensing and image processing. He received several Awards for his research in information technologies and especially in data fusion in environment. He was responsible for the creation of the databases and the maps for the European Solar Radiation Atlas. He was the scientific coordinator of the SoDa project which gave birth to the SoDa web site and the HelioClim databases.

### **Publications**

[1] Beyer H. G., Costanzo C., Heinemann D., Modifications of the Heliosat procedure for irradiance estimates from satellite images. *Solar Energy* 56(3); 207(1996).

[2] Cano D., Monget J., Albuissou M., Guillard H., Regas N., and Wald L., A method for the determination of the global solar radiation from meteorological satellite data. *Solar Energy* 37; 31(1986).

[http://www.helioclim.org/publications/1982\\_SE\\_Cano.pdf](http://www.helioclim.org/publications/1982_SE_Cano.pdf)

[3] Rigollier C., Lefèvre M., Wald L., 2004. The method Heliosat-2 for deriving shortwave solar radiation data from satellite images. *Solar Energy*, 77(2), 159-169.

A number of open papers about HelioClim and SoDa, readable from the Web can be found there:

<http://www.helioclim.org/publications/index.html> and there:

<http://www.soda-pro.com/help/publications>

[4] Rigollier C, Bauer O, Wald L. On the clear sky model of the 4th European Solar Radiation Atlas with respect to the Heliosat method. Solar Energy 2000;68:33-48

[5] Remund J., Wald L., Lefèvre M., Ranchin T., Page J. Worldwide Linke turbidity information. Proceedings of ISES Solar World Congress, 16-19 June 2003, Göteborg, Sweden.

[6] Qu Z, Gschwind B, Lefevre M, Wald L. Improving HelioClim-3 estimates of surface solar irradiance using the McClear clear-sky model and recent advances in atmosphere composition. Atmospheric Measurements Techniques 2014;7:3927–3933

[7] Lefevre M, Oumbe A, Blanc P, Espinar B, Gschwind B, Qu Z et al.. McClear: a new model estimating downwelling solar radiation at ground level in clearsky conditions. Atmos. Measur. Tech. 2013;6:2403–2418