

Joint CIRCLE-2 SHARE and JPI Climate Scoping Workshop: Processes for improving the interface between climate research and its application: sharing experiences on climate services development in Europe

Date: 8-9 of November, 2011

Venue: Bologna, Italy

Organizers:

Circle2 Work-package SHARE 4.2

JPI Climate Module 2 and 3

Supported by CMCC, Bologna, Italy

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BACKGROUND:

Overarching process: The climate science community finds itself increasingly exposed to various groups of stakeholders asking rather specific questions about consequences, uncertainties, probabilities related to climate and climate change and the related risks. These clients are decisionmakers and stakeholders from industry and other private enterprises, various policy areas and planning disciplines as well as highly trained scientists using the data for impact research and applied research. The various categories of “users” are affected by the physical, ecological, economic or social consequences of climate change in very different ways.

This workshop wants to bring together and interlink different communities in order to develop and optimize processes related to the application of climate and climate change research. A first step towards that aim could be to get a better overview/inventory about already existing processes and initiatives. Therefore different experiences from initiatives aimed at enhancing development of climate services, with a special focus on mechanisms and processes for informed engagement of stakeholders/users shall be shared.

The Workshop is part of a process, which engages in the development of a European network to share information, tools, case studies, experiences and means to develop processes to improve the interface between climate research and its application. It is targeted at developers and users of climate services and shall identify common issues, share information and experiences and initiate collaborative research and learning processes. Ultimately, it could lead to the development of joint products, methodologies and protocols and establish a systematic and sustainable exchange of good practice.

Objectives: With the upcoming workshop we want to mark a specific effort to exchange process oriented experiences from practice. The scope is to establish a better overview about activities in the different countries, as the landscape is becoming ever more complex which makes exchange of knowledge at the same time more needed and more difficult. Different countries have different strengths in their approaches, and are at different stages of establishing sector specific knowledge. This workshop can outline also which countries have already experiences with specific sectors.

Input on the following propositions shall be collected (building on conclusions from the joint EEA/ISENES/Circle2 “IS-ENES Workshop on Bridging Climate Research Data and the Needs of the Impact Community”):

Mechanisms for sustained user involvement: A concerted effort is needed to develop and implement such a mechanism, possibly in the context of a system of European climate services. Required interactions include collaborative strategy development, regular feedback on evolving climate information portals, the joint development of guidance, periodic (e.g., bi-annual) European conferences, and management of expectations to avoid unrealistic demands .

Development of training programmes on use and interpretation of climate modelling results and on dealing with multiple uncertainty issues: The number of researchers and practitioners working with climate data is rapidly increasing, and the volume and complexity of climate model output will increase as new results become available (CMIP5, CORDEX). With notable exceptions, the user community is not well trained to use and interpret this information correctly and effectively. An urgent need exists to develop and implement training programmes for impacts researchers, for practitioners, and for students. Main messages and materials could be harmonized at the European level (e.g. using and integrating input from various related FP7 projects) and funding sources be identified.

Concrete aims of the workshop will be:

- **Developing a working structure and methods how to proceed**
- **Assessing needs for further actions on this topic in (possibly) a sector-oriented approach**
- **Addressing suitable follow up activities for 2012/2014;**

Background: Many European countries currently are devising and establishing institutions providing climate services, which face comparable difficulties in establishing a good knowledge of user needs and ways to communicate with users. On the other hand many “climate data users” find it extremely difficult to define their knowledge needs and cannot do so independently from the producers of climate data. Research and research results are often not targeted towards user needs as well. Therefore a clear separation where in single interactions users hand over their neatly packaged user needs and scientists then in turn work out the answers would be a too high challenge. The idea of joint knowledge production and learning seems to be a more suitable approach. But establishing and answering user needs makes boundary crossing become important, which then needs to be guided. From pioneering examples we also have learnt about the problems, for instance, that it can be rather difficult to have a continuous stakeholder input. Mechanisms to ensure sustained interaction therefore are very much needed.

Circle-2 and JPI-Climate “Connecting climate knowledge for Europe” have identified the above mentioned topic to be of high relevance and joint interest for both of them. JPI-Climate proposed it as relevant for a JPI-Fast Track Activity by Module 2 “Research for Climate Service Development” and Module 3 “Societal transformations in the Face of Climate Change”. The topic was further specified in a round table discussion at the first annual progress meeting of Circle 2 in Bologna, June 21-22.2011. In addition, within FP7 two projects, ECLISE and ClimRun are working on climate service development – both focussing on ways of involving users and/ or their perspectives.

The planned workshop also follows up on the workshop “Bridging Climate Research Data and the Needs of the Impact Community” jointly organized by European Environment Agency (EEA), Circle 2 and FP7 Project IS-ENES in January 2011, which brought together climate impact researchers and climate modellers, and indicated need to involve policy makers, practitioners and other end users of climate information. It had the aim to support the development of a European network of climate services as well as the European Clearinghouse on Climate Change Impacts Vulnerability and Adaptation (ACE), one of the elements of a new European Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to be developed following the EU White Paper on Adaptation.

Participants: The workshop is esp. targeted at developers, providers and disseminators of climate services, as well as researchers and policy makers, esp. participating in CIRCLE 2, JPI Climate Module 2 and Module 3 and related projects such as ECLISE (Enabling Climate Information Services for Europe), ClimRun (Climate Local Information in the Mediterranean region Responding to User Needs) and IS-ENES. We want to address representatives from European Climate Service Centers, interested in exchanging experiences with other CSCs and representatives from other organizations, stakeholders and practitioners acting at the European level on the topics shall be involved (e.g. EEA, National Environment Agencies etc.) .

Output and Follow Up: Proceedings of the meeting as the basis for CIRCLE-2 future activities and Fast Track activities of JPI Climate.

This scoping workshop shall contribute to a Follow Up activity, by shaping a more extended user needs workshop with representatives from different sectors, Stakeholders and users of Climate Services. These are representatives from different user-groups (e.g. Finance Sector, Insurance Sector, Water sector, Energy Sector, Health Sector, Tourism...) interested in improving Climate Services and Climate Information relevant to their sector. This should take place in spring 2012. Further details and budget still have to be discussed.

PROGRAMME

Monday 15:00-18:00 and Tuesday 8:30-12:30: JPI preparatory Meeting of M2 and M3 (optional):

Tuesday, 08th November 2011

13:30-14:00 Registration, coffee/tea

14:00-15:00 Opening (plenary)

Opening and welcome by Host (Sergio Castellari)

Welcome by CIRCLE2 (Tiago Capela Lourenço)

Goals of the Workshop (Kirsten Hollaender/Dagmar Bley)

15:00-18:15 Session 1 “National experiences with Climate Services” (plenary)
(Chair: Sergio Castellari (tbc))

15:00-15:30: J. Roger Street, UKCIP, UK:

The UKCIP Experience: lessons learnt in developing and presenting climate information to support decision making

15:30-16:00: Reimund Schwarze/ CSC, D:

The CSC experience in Germany: Lessons learnt and challenges ahead

16:00-16:30: Coffee Break

16:30-17:00: Janette Bessembinder, KNMI, NL:

Climate services in the Netherlands and the interaction with impact researchers and policy makers

17:00-17:15: Andreas Gobiet, Wegener Center Graz, A:

The Climate Change Centre Austria (CCCA)

17:15-18:15: Discussion

19:30-22:00 Social Dinner

Wednesday, 9th November 2011

8:30-10:30 Session 2: "Understanding User Needs" (plenary and parallel sessions) (Chair: Reimund Schwarze)

8:30-8:45: Impulse speech by Hans-Martin Füssel, EEA
EU Clearinghouse Mechanism on Adaptation and 2012 EEA Climate Change report

8:45-9:00 Rob Swart (Wageningen University and Research Center, NL):
Outcome of IS-ENES Workshop on "Bridging Climate Research Data and the Needs of the Impact Community" (working title tbd)

9:00-9:15: Björn Weber, CSC
Experiences from EU-Research Project "ECLISE"

9:15-9:30 Silvio Gualdi, CMCC
Experiences from EU-Research Project: "ClimRun"

9:30-10:30: Discussions in Parallel Sessions.

Session A: *Mechanisms for sustained user involvement*

Session B: *Enhancing the User Relevance of climate information*

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break feed back

11:00-13:00: Session 3: "Research perspectives" (plenary) (Chair: Roger Street)

Short reporting back from the two parallel sessions

Summary and Discussion about future proceeding and activities

Lessons learnt

Where to go from here

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13:00-13.30: Closure of workshop

13.30: Lunch

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:

1. Roger B Street | Technical Director, UKCIP, UK
2. Peter P.J. Driessen, Utrecht University, NL
3. Steinar Andresen, FNI, N
4. Rob Swart, WUR, NL
5. Tina Christensen, Ph.D, Danish Climate Centre, Danish Meteorological Institute (represents Katrine Krogh Andersen), DK
6. Sergio Castellari, CMCC, IT
7. Dagmar Bley, PT-DLR, D
8. Kirsten Hollaender, PT-DLR, D
9. Andreas Gobiet, | Assist. Prof., Wegener Center, Univ. Graz, AT
10. David Dodd, Environmental Protection Agency, Dublin, Irl
11. Ruth Hughes, UK
12. Tiago Capela Lourenço, University of Lisbon, PT
13. Urmas Raudsepp (represents Aare Ignant)
14. Jaak Jaagus, (represents Aare Ignant, Estonian Science Foundation, Tallinn),
15. Silvio Gualdi, INGV/CMCC, IT
16. Reimund Schwarze, CSC Hamburg, D
17. Janette Bessembinder, NL
18. Hans-Martin Füssel, EEA, DK
19. Björn Weber, CSC, D
20. Birger Tinz, DWD, Hamburg, D
21. Eirik Førland, Norway, Norwegian Met Office (represents Rasmus Bennestad)
22. Martine Vanderstraeten, BELSPO, Belgium (represents Sophie Verheyden), B
23. Ana Gomes, FFCUL, Portugal
24. Hans Sanderson, Aarhus University, DK
25. Lars Barring Rossby Centre, SMHI (represents Carin Nilsson), SE
26. Ingunn Borlaug Lid, Forskningsradet, NO