

XI – Climate adaptation services

Parallel session B – Monday 10th March 16:00-17:30

ID N°: [169]

Title: **IMPROVING CLIMATE-ADAPT CASE STUDIES TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PRACTICES**

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Case studies on climate change adaptation are essential to show that adaptation initiatives are already in place around Europe at various scales. Case studies can be extremely useful in spreading the concept of adaptation and in stimulating the design of adaptive strategies and the concrete implementation of adaptation measures. Climate-ADAPT, the European Climate Adaptation Platform, aims to support Europe in adapting to climate change and recognises the relevant role of case studies in contributing to this goal.

In contrast to other case study collections that focus on assessing vulnerabilities or describe planned actions, Climate-ADAPT case studies intend to illustrate concrete implementation of practical experiences of climate change adaptation. Among the set of criteria to properly select relevant cases, three criteria are considered as inclusion/exclusion ones: clear climate change adaptation relevance, actual implementation of strategies or measures, information accessibility and possibility for evaluation. The complete set includes other eight selecting criteria; among these case studies should: (i) represent good practice, leaving out cases of maladaptation, (ii) ensure proper coverage of all European regions and EEA member states, (iii) focus on the local and regional scales, including trans-regional initiatives, (iv) cover all adaptation sectors in a balanced way.

The Climate-ADAPT platform enables users to extract information on European case studies, and on other items' typologies (e.g. reports, guidelines, maps and dataset, indicators, adaptation options, etc.) related to a wide number of sectors, climate impacts and geographic areas, thus providing inspiration for local and regional administrators and practitioners dealing with climate change adaptation. Provided information is not limited to the case study description, but also extends to issues related to contacts and source for detailed information, implementation time and lifetime of adaptation measures, legal aspects, stakeholder participation, success and limitation factors, cost benefit. Dissemination of Climate-ADAPT and in particular of case studies aims to stimulate local and regional stakeholders to provide information on their own experiences on climate change adaptation, contributing to the on-going process of improvement of the case studies' database, in particular to fill major gaps. Up to now, these are mainly related to the: (i) health, financial, and marine and fisheries sectors, (ii) extreme temperature, drought, water scarcity and impacts related to changes in ice and snow, (iii) Eastern Europe and the Alpine Space regions; (iv) trans-regional initiatives. The on-going actions promoted by EEA and ETC-CCA aim to improve the representativeness and balanced distribution of case studies, as well as the quality of provided information focusing in particular on the positive implications for other contexts that need to cope with climate change.

Presenter

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ID N°: [77]

Title: USING ONLINE-TOOLS TO DEVELOP LOCAL AND REGIONAL ADAPTATION STRATEGIES - LESSONS LEARNED FROM AN EXISTING SYSTEM FOR DECISION MAKERS IN GERMANY

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Decision maker at regional and local level often face major challenge in achieving good adaptation: The available climate scenarios are on long time scales and uncertainties are still inevitable. European and national adaptation strategies can give an overall framework, but they often stay abstract in their meaning for the local decision maker. And municipalities face other major problems – like economic or social questions, too.

The Federal Environmental Agency in Germany offers an online-tool called “Klimatse” in order to support local decision-makers in adapting to climate change. The tool guides them to systematically assess climate impacts and develop an integrated adaptation strategy: From awareness about the topic through developing adaptation measures up to implementation and monitoring. The tool was published in 2010 and is today accessed by about 400 visitors per month. (See www.klimatse.anpassung.net)

After more than three years of successful operation, it is time to make a comprehensive evaluation: Did the tool address the right users? Did the perception of adaptation in municipalities change? Where should it be revised? Are the right target groups addressed? A research project examines these questions and gives recommendations for a revised version of the “Klimatse”.

Our presentation will show the scientific results of this project. We will discuss the following questions:

- **Where did local authorities get the impulse to deal with adaptation?**
We will present results from field interviews as well as latest desk research and will typify different approaches.
- **What barriers are central to the regional implementation of adaptation? And how to overcome these barriers?**
We will present theoretical concepts and real experiences from Germany.
- **How can the issues of adaptation be implemented in the local policy debate?**
We will present our findings how adaptation is integrated with other policy aims in local policy making.
- **What can we learn from the actual use of the online-tool?**
We will present findings from the analyses of the user-statistic

At the end we will discuss the lessons we learned for developing future decision support tools for the regional and local level.

Presenter

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ID N°: [95]

Title: CLIMATE ADAPTATION SERVICES FOR THE NETHERLANDS: AN OPERATIONAL APPROACH TO SUPPORT SPATIAL ADAPTATION PLANNING

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There is a growing availability of climate change information, offered to scientists and policy makers through climate services. However, climate services are not well taken up by the policy-making and planning community. For local stakeholders, planners and policy makers, climate change may be considered too uncertain, too far away in space and time, and to be solved somewhere else rather than at municipal level reinforced by lack of knowledge of precise impacts at the local scale, while, especially at the local level, spatial planning plays a critical anticipatory role in promoting robust adaptation. Climate services focus on primary impacts of climate change, e.g., the disclosure of precipitation and temperature data, and this seems insufficient in meeting their needs. We argue there should be more focus on translating consequences of climate change to land-use claims and subsequently discuss the validity, consequences and implications of these claims with stakeholders, so they can play a role in spatial planning processes at the local scale where much of the climate adaptation takes place. Adaptation planning typically includes a multitude of aspects and affects a wide variety of stakeholders. In such a multi-stakeholder setting, and while dealing with long-term impacts with a high level of uncertainty, supporting decision-making and planning processes is a challenge. This challenge can be met by tools that focus more on supporting interactive design and finding common ground than on optimisation and solving problems. The term Climate Adaptation Services is introduced as being a stepwise approach supporting the assessment of vulnerability in a wider perspective. The approach operationalises the different steps within the vulnerability assessment framework as developed by Fussler and Klein (2006). Furthermore, we include the design and appraisal of adaptation strategies. We developed the Climate Adaptation Atlas and the Climate Ateliers as tools within the Climate Adaptation Services approach to support decision-making and planning processes. Special attention is given to the development of policy relevant indicators and visualisation techniques to effectively communicate the information. In this paper, we describe the different steps of our approach and report how some of the challenges were addressed.

Presenter

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ID N°: [176]

Title: **CAN TARGETED CLIMATE SERVICES HELP IN ADAPTATING TO GLOBAL WARMING?**

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Climate adaptation services have come to the center of the debate all all levels of governance. Mitigation itself does not fully reduce CO2 emissions and citizens need now a complementary action to deal with a global problem at a local level. Increasing adaptation capacity and resilience of societies, infrastructure, and cities through targeted and reliable climate adaptation services and products is the unavoidable way out to face global warming.

Climate adaptation services can be offered worldwide. Europe is lead in adaptation policies. But there are also partners around the world which offer and share these services transferable to other local areas with similar challenges. An example of this is the collaboration is the existing between European partners in the Mediterranean basin (including CMCC) and the other parts of the world with a Mediterranean climate: Low California, South Africa, West Australia and Chile, constituting the five regions the Mediterranean Climate Change Cities Consortium - MC4 - <http://mc-4.org/>) born in 2012. Its second conference will be in June 2014 under the Greek Presidency where policy and science will come together again and practitioners, policy-makers, business leaders, and academics from Mediterranean-climate cities will support vibrant, healthy, sustainable communities that promote ecological resilience, economic competitiveness, and social equality. As concrete examples of services offered we can mention expertise training, risk reduction and/or impact assessments, evaluation, monitoring or peer reviews.

Another type of collaboration comes at European level with the involvement of CMCC in the Climate Knowledge Innovation Community initiative, where its Adaptation Services Platform addresses adaptation services from an innovative perspective, with projects such "The Adaptation Tool for Local Authorities" to enable European local authorities accessing the climate knowledge to prioritize and implement adaptation strategies, or CLIMPACT-METNEXT, with a unified web toolbox for local climate adaptation services. Webdessyco is another proposal looking into a web tool to adapt to climate.

Regardless being climate change a macro level challenge, the solutions can only be efficient if implemented locally. An increasing pressure for local decision makers lays in the adoption of strategic approaches through mainstreaming adaptation in all cross sectoral policies such as transports, energy, social, insurance, agriculture, economy, ICT,...and accessing climate adaptation knowledge from the scientific community. Without this knowledge and services it is less efficient to get the full picture throughout Europe and worldwide to prioritize and implement adaptation strategies.

The right climate adaptation services can only be translated into concrete solutions with a real policy impact by understanding in parallel its limitations and involved uncertainties where citizens awareness raising is key to make change a reality.

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