

## **Climate Change - Transnational Regions in Europe face similar adaptation challenges**

**CIRCLE - Climate Impact Research Coordination for a larger Europe - supports the efforts towards adaptation to climate change via funding of transnational research projects and share and exchange of knowledge.**

Vienna, September 23, 2009 – The CIRCLE Final and Outlook Conference from 9 to 10, September 2009 took place in Vienna and highlighted the outcomes and achievements of the CIRCLE Partners and Observers to develop a European Research Area (ERA), closing the first phase of the CIRCLE project and gave an outlook on the future direction of a second generation CIRCLE project.

CIRCLE has started 4 years ago and worked its way through the ERA Network principles, the project has been able to set up an extensive research network including national and regional research programmes from 24 EU member and associated countries and 34 organisations involved throughout the project. Through coordinated planning of research programmes, the alignment of research agendas and the exchange of information, knowledge and experience, CIRCLE aimed to establish a truly European research effort supporting adaptation policy in and outside Europe via funding of transnational research.

Within this trustful network, already two joint calls on transnational projects with 11 projects and a budget of 2.5 Million EURO were funded in the Mediterranean and Nordic areas. The launch of the CIRCLE Mountain call on September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009 will be the last activity of CIRCLE during the project lifetime. Finally joint calls, with 14 different funding organisations pulling together around 4.7 Million EURO of national contribution, were realised.

Based on CIRCLE experience, a second generation ERA-Net on CCI/AV research - CIRCLE-2 – focussing on climate change research was developed and will continue to shape the development of an European Research Area in the field of Climate Change Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability.

CIRCLE has set up groups related to geo-climatic areas and/or to socio-economic circumstances (GROUP Concept), which consist of several national programmes jointly addressing issues. The area-related groups adapted the work of CIRCLE (e.g. modes of collaboration, evaluation procedures, and modes for mutual opening of infrastructure) to their specific geo-climate or socio-economic related needs.

CIRCLE was led by a coordination team in the Umweltbundesamt, the Environment Agency Austria.

**Further information:** <http://www.circle-era.net>

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## CIRCLE Partners and Observers

