

SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME PRIORITY: ERA-NET
Coordination of National and Regional Activities (ERA-NET scheme)



CIRCLE CA

**Climate Impact Research Coordination for a Larger
Europe**

**CIRCLE Chat Session Report from the
Climate 2008 Online Conference**

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1 Introduction

The online conference "Climate 2008 / Klima 2008" introduces to the latest findings on scientific research on climate change, including elements related to its environmental, social, economic and policy aspects. During November 3-7 2008 a big number of new projects and innovative initiatives being undertaken in both industrialised and developing countries by universities and scientific institutions, government bodies, NGOs and other stakeholders can you refer to.

CIRCLE ERA-Net was given the opportunity to participate during that online conference as the Chair of a 30 Minutes Chat Session on the theme "Research Topics for Climate Change Impacts and Response".

Many thanks to Climate 2008 team!

2 Chat Session

2.1 Guiding Questions

- **What information do we generally still need, to be answered by research, for better adapting to Climate Change in Europe? Basic or applied research?**
- **Applied research on the local level? What should be done on the transnational level?**
- **What topics could be better tackled by research on a European level (e.g. by a transnational joint call) compared to a national stand alone call?**
- **Where do you see the benefits of a transnational approach in research?**
- **Should research on adaptation focus on specific sectors or areas? Or should one special vulnerable region rather be investigated?**
- **Development of applied policy and stakeholder interfaces, in order to disseminate case studies to relevant communities: hydropower authorities, water managers versus agriculture and forestry, etc. How important and necessary do you see this recommendation?**
- **How can stakeholders be best involved and informed with research results? Through networks?**

2.2 Main Outcomes of the chat Session

The following points were raised during the Chat Session:

- Focus on applied research on the local and regional level, in the field of Climate Change;
- Cross-checking/Comparison of adaptation practices at field level – importance if indigenous knowledge;
- Especially less developed countries need a well equipped information database (currently a limited scope for modelling software), to not only rely on World Bank and IPCC reports;
- Information with regard to e.g. temperature, rainfall, social cultural is still needed;
- Mutual cooperation is necessary especially through sharing of knowledge, information and experience;
- Approaches, top-down and bottom-up (use of local/indigenous knowledge) are regarded as necessary when initiating adaptation.

What is needed!?

- A new form to act, good governance and new projects on the regional level (e.g. for the mountain range);
- Good basic research as a prerequisite for good applied research;
- General rules of identifying and assessing impacts for applied research;
- Find out the severity of upcoming threats so that people can initiate adaptation (e.g. early warning, awareness rising).

Role of research:

- Contribution of research to give different solution or ideas in different places, so that we (nations) can search and select best adaptation practices;
- Research should offer/aim at offering case studies of different regions;
- A topical approach in research is more useful, when thinking about transnational projects and comparisons. The possible adaptations and vulnerabilities are geographically different, but have a profound metrological base (that's the rules) for a specific topic, so you can compare research in different regions and it is comparable;
- The strength of a transnational network would be, to define, enhance methodology to get comparable studies and hopefully adaptation strategies that could be applied in several countries.

3 Annex

In the following you can find the detailed chatlog, also available via <http://www.climate2008.net/?a1=chatlog&room=10>.

Room: Umweltbundesamt Wien, ERA-net CIRCLE

Theme: Research Topics for Climate Change Impacts and Response

Markus Leitner, Umweltbundesamt Österreich:

CIRCLE is a European Networking project aiming at implementing a European Research Area (ERA) in the field of climate change and adaptation research. CIRCLE aims to establish cooperation among national programmes of European countries in the field of climate change impacts and adaptation research. This will be done by promoting information exchange, alignment of research agendas and the setting out of trans-national research calls. More information regarding CIRCLE is available at www.circle-era.net.

Markus Leitner: Hello Everyone... Welcome to all.. I am Markus Leitner from the Austrian Federal Environment Agency and coordinating the ERA-Net CIRCLE. Does anybody want to briefly introduce her/himself?

Mehdi Azam: Hi Mehdi from Bangladesh..welcome everyone in the chat

Mehdi Azam: Climate change is happening. There is no turning back. Only through awareness and adaptation options at all levels can we hope to, at the least, delay its devastating effects.

Markus Leitner: Ok, let's start (thank you Mehdi for this warming up - you are absolutely right!)

Mehdi Azam: But dont be sitting stop we have to fight against inhuman behaviour of developed countries

Markus Leitner: We would like to get ideas on the following question:
What information do we generally still need, to be answered by research, for better adapting to Climate Change in Europe? Basic or applied research

Mehdi Azam: absolutely applied research

Markus Leitner: Mehdi, how do you perceive the problem climate change in your country?

Mehdi Azam: we have to cross check every adaptation practice at field level as we are doing in our country in southwestern coastal Bangladesh

Markus Leitner: Applied research on the local level? What should be done on the transnational level?

Mehdi Azam: Actually we have no well equipped info database..so we have to depend on WB, IPCC study report. But our main source is our vulnerable affected people

of the respective locality

Mehdi Azam: develop as per local demand

Mehdi Azam: for applied research

Markus Leitner: what kind of information would you exactly need by the means of a database?

Markus Leitner: information about future developments (climatic patterns) on the regional level or do you need concrete practical solutions?

Mehdi Azam: Mainly temp, rainfall,... socio-cultural

Mehdi Azam: We need strong and concrete solution to overcome the problem

Markus Leitner: Do you currently use Regional Climate Modells in your area for Climate Change Impact Assessment?

Mehdi Azam: as we are the victims

Mehdi Azam: I informed you earlier we have limited scope for modeling software

Mehdi Azam: so we use international research information

Franziska Mannke: Welcome to Monica from Chile - to those that just joined: We will provide the full chat logs later on the website.

Markus Leitner: What do you actually do to protect the people? Do you have any kind of warning system?

Mehdi Azam: Markus, Im from Bangladesh (mehdi.azam@yahoo.com) let me know yours

Franziska Mannke: Welcome to the new participants: To repeat once again the starting question by Markus Leitner: What information do we generally still need, to be answered by research, for better adapting to Climate Change?

Markus Leitner: markusl@gmx.at

Markus Leitner: What topics could be better tackled by research on a European level (e.g. by a transnational joint call) compared to a national stand alone call?

Mehdi Azam: Actually our field staff did it. Im doing research in some affected areas and identified some indigenous knowledge of flood and cyclone protection...now we are trying to familiar it among the community

Mehdi Azam: thats one should be transnational

Markus Leitner: WHat? The use of indigenous knowledge to identify the areas for flood

protection measures?

Mehdi Azam: think globally but act should be locally

Markus Leitner: How can research support this?

Mehdi Azam: no that was how community will cope with the adverse situation during disaster

Monica Ihl Tessmann: I find that we need not only new information and models or technical support and educational solutions, we need a new form to act, good government, and new projects at regional level for example the mountain range 🤔

Tiago Capela Lourenço: Hi everyone. I'm writing from Portugal. I'm based at the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Lisbon and working as the Portuguese project manager for CIRCLE ERA-Net in collaboration with the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (public funding agency).

Robert Steiger: I think it's important, that the most recent and at the moment best climate models are available for every researcher. Good basic research is the prerequisite for good applied research. For the applied research it would be helpful, if general rules of identifying and assessing impacts could be defined.

Mehdi Azam: Monica you can check ALPCC project of PRODIPAN

Markus Leitner: But how can we support the government or any stakeholder in adapting? how can research contribute?

Markus Leitner: Can Regional Climate Models currently be used for Climate Change Impact Assessment?

Monica Ihl Tessmann: merci Mehdi

Mehdi Azam: research can find out the severity of upcoming threats so that people can initiate adaptation

Tiago Capela Lourenço: We have been involved in CIRCLE's pilot call for the Mediterranean area and this is something of great interest to us. What are the topics that can be best addressed through transnational calls, instead via our own national calls.

Markus Leitner: Where do you see the benefits of a transnational approach in research?

Mehdi Azam: there need to be combination of resources that are enhancing the livelihood flexibility, and thus the range of choice available to households as they face both familiar and new risks.

Monica Ihl Tessmann: research contribute to give different solutions or ideas in different places so we can search and select the best adaptation

- Markus Leitner:** but those information (upcoming threats) have to be transferred to the probably affected population - in time!
- Mehdi Azam:** you are absolutely right Monica...we need adaptative response
- Markus Leitner:** Monica, so you mean a study on best practice?
- Monica Ihl Tessmann:** many place have similar problems, but the solutions are nor rthe same not in time and not in space
- Markus Leitner:** What fields are the most vulnerable ones - from your point of view?
- Mehdi Azam:** as like case study.yaa. of different region
- Tiago Capela Lourenço:** I agree with Robert. But how to define a common set of rules that can be used in identifying common topics? There are several approaches. Do you belive the topical one (adaptation fo floods or drought for example) should overcome the geographical focus (mediterranean, mountains)?
- Markus Leitner:** a case study offering concrete solutions?
- Mehdi Azam:** Agricultural sector
- Jo S:** and I ask then also again what :)
What`s with the project in Genf?
I can not really think that this is completely ecologically friendly
- Monica Ihl Tessmann:** the most vulnerable? I dont know, it can be the forest, tropical or coastal forest?
- Mehdi Azam:** not every time but in some case case
- Mehdi Azam:** 😊
- Mehdi Azam:** case studies can easily initiate adaptation options
- Markus Leitner:** should research on adaptation focus on specific sectors or areas? Or should one special vulnerable region rather be inverstigated?
- Monica Ihl Tessmann:** Concrete solutions can help to other people find the way, but we have to develop new estrategies, new and not expensive methodologies
- Mehdi Azam:** one region by region based on priority basis
- Robert Steiger:** @Tiago Yes I think the topical approach is more useful when thinking about transnational projects and comparisons. Of course the possible adaptations and vulnerabilities are geographically different, but I think if you have a profound methodological base (that`s the rules) for a specific topic, then you can do research in different regions with the same methodology and it`s

comparable.

- Mehdi Azam:** yaa effective but less expensive technologies
- Markus Leitner:** What information on adaptation do you regard as necessary for example in alpine regions or with respect to water?
- Mehdi Azam:** Im not expert of Alpine
- Markus Leitner:** So you suggest monitoring in different areas with the same methodology and comparison?
- Mehdi Azam:** yes
- Tiago Capela Lourenço:** But concrete solutions, like you said Monica, are different in time and place. And each country (sometimes even region) sets their very own priorities. When you try to combine these priorities into the transnational scope it not always easy to agree on what is actually the common priority.
- Markus Leitner:** Development of applied policy and stakeholder interfaces, in order to disseminate case studies to relevant communities: hydropower authorities, water managers versus agriculture and forestry, etc. How important and necessary do you see this recommendation?
- Markus Leitner:** @ Tiago: It is not easy on the national level and even harder on the european or international level to find common research priorities ...
- Robert Steiger:** @Markus: Yes. That would be the strength of a transnational network, to define, enhance methodology to get comparable studies and hopefully adaptation strategies that could be applied in several countries.
- Mehdi Azam:** yes but we have to incorporate because we all are the victims
- Markus Leitner:** but some countries developed own national strategies covering their own priorities
- Markus Leitner:** Does anybody wish to make any comments?
- Monica Ihl Tessmann:** not only monitoring different areas, different problems with the same methodology and different cost, it is important to compare, but we I find that the focus is
- Tiago Capela Lourenço:** @Robert. I completely agree. But the method base for basic research is one thing and for adaptation research (inc. policy and strategies) is a different one. How to best get scientific information that can serve as basis for adaptation at the transnational level? Like Markus is asking, it is very important to put stakeholders to discuss the problems. And then to put stakeholders from one coutry to talk with other countries.

- Markus Leitner:** @ Monica: to compare and find a best way? Is this possible?
- Monica Ihl Tessmann:** each region must define what model ist the best and define the most important problem
- Mehdi Azam:** yes monica you right
- Markus Leitner:** How can stakeholders be best involved and informed with research results? through networks?
- Monica Ihl Tessmann:** only one problem for a big region
- Mehdi Azam:** but mutual cooperation is necessary through sharing knowledge and information
- Monica Ihl Tessmann:** Yes Mehdi,
- Tiago Capela Lourenço:** yes.
- Mehdi Azam:** Advocacy and campaign at upper level to grassroot level
- Markus Leitner:** How can information best be shared and implemented? Often resources are scare?
- Markus Leitner:** a top-down approach?
- Jo S:** I have seen on television that woods must die, so that place is for maize. Then Bio-diesel is produced of him. But woods must die and poor people must starve for it!
What kind of ecologically friendly is that???
- Monica Ihl Tessmann:** and than we can the finantial support necessary for research and applied work
- Mehdi Azam:** Community mobilization
- Mehdi Azam:** through top down approach
- Markus Leitner:** On the hand information about vulnerabilities are only availabel at grassroot level ...
- Markus Leitner:** adaptation measures are not ecologically unfriendly - on the contrary!!!
- Tiago Capela Lourenço:** @Jo. Some of the times it is not. You have to check what are the options against are the outcomes.
- Walter Leal:** Dear colleagues. We thank you all for the discussions. The chat will close in 2 minutes.
- Walter Leal:** Any final statements from Mr Leitner?

Monica Ihl Tessmann: Vulnerabilities are direct related with degradation and pollution and we know what part of the region is vulnerable

Markus Leitner: to come back to our 1st question: What are the open questions to be answered by research to better adapt to cc?

Markus Leitner: Thank you for your input and I hope everybody learned something! Please come back to me via the CIRCLE webpage or circle@era.net! Best regards to all of you and thanks for chattin with the CIRCLE team!

Walter Leal: Many thanks everyone. The chat closes now.