

Newsletter April 2009

Please distribute this newsletter to your colleagues and other people interested!

Welcome to CIRCLE!

Implementing a European Research Area (ERA) in the field of climate change

CIRCLE is a European Networking project aiming at implementing a European Research Area (ERA) in the field of climate change and adaptation research. The aim of CIRCLE as an ERA-NET is described on our website: www.circle-era.net.

1. CIRCLE News

➤ CIRCLE MED-website online

The CIRCLE-MED is online. It is an important tool for information exchange within the CIRCLE-MED community and will allow you to follow the projects progress and achievements. CIRCLE-MED is a geographical group which addresses issues of common interest to the Mediterranean countries. The first CIRCLE-MED pilot joint call was dedicated to integrated coastal zone management and water management. Eight projects were funded.

<http://www.circle-era.net/geographical-groups/mediterranean/>

➤ New CIRCLE observer

CIRCLE welcomes Spain as a new CIRCLE Observer. The Ministry of Science and Innovation is a research and development unit acting under the Spanish Government.

<http://www.circle-era.net/circle-team/ministry-of-science-and-innovation-ministerio-de-ciencia-e-innovacion-micinn-spain/>

➤ CIRCLE follow up - CIR²CLE

CIR²CLE has successfully been submitted on April 21 2009. The consortium thus prepares for a continuation in 2010.

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=183

2. Other news

➤ Europe

White Paper

In April 2009 the European Commission presented a policy paper known as a White Paper which presents the framework for adaptation measures and policies to reduce the European Union's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

<http://www.circle-era.net/recent-country-news/united-nations/>

3. Country news

➤ Sweden

Integrated climate and energy bill

On March 17th the Swedish government released their "Integrated Climate and Energy bill". It focuses on how to reduce emissions so they will have fossil free transportation in 2030, how to reach 50% renewable energy and on information on energy efficiency to households and industry. It also addresses adaptation on a national level.

CLIMATOOLS has finalised a new report

The Swedish research programme CLIMATOOLS has finalized a report, providing basic data on what kind of goal conflicts Swedish decision makers will likely have when making decisions concerning adaptation in the sectors of the built environment, tourism and outdoor recreation, and human health.

<http://www.circle-era.net/recent-country-news/sweden/>

➤ The Netherlands

The Delta Alliance

The Delta Alliance is an initiative to promote international cooperation of experts, water managers, other practitioners and their governments. It aims to raise awareness, share information and develop tools for sustainable development of low-lying areas in times of a changing world and a changing climate.

<http://www.circle-era.net/recent-country-news/the-netherlands/>

➤ **Austria**

First Activities for developing a National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) for Austria

In Austria the development of a national adaptation strategy has been announced officially in the current government programme which defines goals until 2013. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW) has already initiated preparatory projects.

Austrian Climate Research Programme (ACRP)

On March 2nd 2009 the Kli:En programme ACRP closed its 4 Mio. Euro call on climate and energy related research topics focusing on impacts of climate change as well as adaptation needs.

<http://www.circle-era.net/recent-country-news/austria/>

➤ **Lithuania**

Lietuvos Draudimas is setting up Youth Environmental Initiatives Fund

Lietuvos is one of the largest insurance companies in Lithuania. Students will actively participate in different environmental campaigns and projects. The establishment of special scholarships for the best scientific papers on the subject of climate change in Lithuania will be a good incentive for the students to be more active in this field which is of high relevance for the academic community as for the public community.

<http://www.circle-era.net/recent-country-news/lithuania/>

4. Congresses and other announcements

➤ **ImpactE International Conference on "Past, Present and Future Health Impacts of Extreme Events in Portugal" – 25-26 May 2009, Lisbon, Portugal**

Research work in the project *Past, Present and Future Health Impacts of Extreme Events in Portugal* is almost concluded and the results will be presented in this conference.

One of the project objectives is to make the assessment of past and current population health vulnerability to: periods of extreme thermal stress; periods with high air pollution levels associated with extreme temperatures and to forest fires and also to the indirect health impacts of drought periods. Another objective is to make the assessment of the possible increases in mortality and morbidity associated with future episodes of extreme weather in Portugal, in particular those associated with heat waves.

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➤ **CIRCLE Workshop: “Supporting the exchange about and development of National Adaptation Strategies (NAS) across Europe.” – 17-18 June 2009, Budapest, Hungary**

In the framework of this workshop participants working on National Adaptation Strategies within Europe come together to discuss processes for adaptation strategies, action plans and stakeholder involvement. Experiences in developing adaptation strategies will be exchanged in terms of strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Furthermore, possibilities for further collaboration between countries will be explored. The PEER study “Europe adapts to climate change: Comparing National Adaptation Strategies” will serve as a basis for discussion. In the course of the workshop experts from Finland, Spain, France, Denmark, Netherlands, United Kingdom, German and Hungary have the opportunity to present their experiences in developing and implementing NAS.

<http://www.circle-era.net/events/circle-workshop-national-adaptation-strategies-2009/>

➤ **2nd Conference on Transport, Atmosphere and Climate – 22-25 June 2009, Maastricht, the Netherlands**

The TAC-2 conference will cover all aspects of the impact of the different modes of transport on atmospheric chemistry, micro-physics, radiation and climate. It will be held in Aachen, DE and Maastricht, NL from 22 to 25 June 2009.

<http://www.pa.op.dlr.de/tac/>

➤ **Fifth Urban Research symposium: Cities and Climate Change: Responding to an Urgent Agenda. June 28-30 (2009) Marseille, France**

This Symposium aims at pushing forward the research agenda on climate change from a city’s perspective. Specifically, the main questions will be structured around the impacts of city and urban growth on climate change; measuring and anticipating the consequences of climate change on urban quality of life, city assets, and local and national economies; and assessing alternatives to increase the resilience of cities and related costs and incentives required for successful implementation.

<http://www.urs2009.net/>

➤ **CIRCLE Final Conference – 9-10 September 2009, Vienna, Austria**

The CIRCLE Final Conference will firstly highlight the results and achievements of the last years and secondly detail the action plan for the following years.

The Conference will be organised in three parts:

- History, lessons learnt and achievements of CIRCLE ERA-Net;
- Outlook on the second generation ERA-Net CIR²CLE;
- Experiences of other ERA-Nets and linkages to them as well as to FP projects

<http://www.circle-era.net/events/final-and-outlook-conference-vienna-2009/>

➤ **International workshop “Europe adapts to Climate Change”, Science-policy interactions in national adaptation policy, 14-15 September 2009, Utrecht, the Netherlands**

The workshop is organised by the Dutch “Knowledge for Climate” research programme” in collaboration with the German Aerospace Centre, the Finnish Ministry of Forestry of Agriculture and Forestry, and the CIRCLE ERA-Network. The aim of the workshop is to bring together scientists and policy makers in the field of climate change adaptation to exchange views and experiences on science-policy interactions in support of development and implementation of adaptation strategies in Europe and design effective research and knowledge sharing tools.

For more information please contact Robert Biesbroek: robbert.biesbroek@wur.nl

➤ **World Climate Conference 3. August 31-September4 (2009) Geneva, Switzerland**

This conference is focusing on scientific advances in seasonal to inter-annual time-scales, taking into account multi-decadal prediction. It includes the application of climate prediction and information to societal problems, enabling adaptation to climate variability and change in various sectors such as agriculture and food security, forestry, energy, water, health, urban and rural settlements, infrastructure, tourism, wildlife, trade and transport that contribute to sustainable socio-economic development.

http://www.wmo.ch/pages/world_climate_conference/index_en.html

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