

# CIRCLE Newsletter 2: January 2007

*Climate Impact Research for a Larger Europe [www.circle-era.net](http://www.circle-era.net)*

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## **Welcome!**

CIRCLE is an 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 in our downloadable leaflet.

[Download the leaflet](#)

## **Contents**

1. CIRCLE NEWS
2. OTHER NEWS
3. CIRCLE RELATED CONFERENCES

## **1. CIRCLE NEWS**

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### **New countries participating in CIRCLE**

CIRCLE's partnership extends further more. We welcome on board of CIRCLE as new observing countries Switzerland, Iceland as well as the European Environment Agency (EEA). To find more details about the CIRCLE partnership please refer to [www.circle-era.net/circle-team/](http://www.circle-era.net/circle-team/).

### **First common call in progress**

The Mediterranean countries within CIRCLE (MED Group) prepare a common call.

Exchanges on scientific and organisational topics were initiated during a first meeting held in Jerusalem and were refined during the second semester of 2006. A dedicated workshop held during the Toulouse EBM (November 23-24, 2006) showed that a possible centre of interest could be "coastal zones & water management". The call should be issued during the first semester of 2007. A two stage evaluation process is considered: Scientific evaluations will be performed and ranked by experts selected from within a pool of international experts, while funding agencies will then have to decide, taking into account scientific ranking, funding availability and cross-financing capacities.

[More information](#)

### **New results**

The report on barriers and facilitating aspects of trans-national research cooperation is now available on the website.

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### **MED Group**

The first objective on the CIRCLE/MED agenda is to develop a common call in a specific field of climate change impact or adaptation research. This pilot call will provide a possibility to identify opportunities and barriers for the future cooperation of funding institutions. According to the schedule so far, the first common call is planned for May or June 2007, and funding of selected projects is foreseen in late 2007 or early 2008. A questionnaire related to the forthcoming common call has been circulated.

[More information](#)

### **Nordic group**

In Oslo a workshop was held on social sciences in adaptation research. The Nordic countries have different strengths and approaches to adaptation strategy work and research efforts. Therefore exchange of best practices, success stories, compilation of ongoing research etc. are considered important steps towards co-operation, for which CIRCLE provides a framework. Three research approaches and potential collaborative activities were discussed:

- Research on the process of adaptation
- Research to evaluate vulnerability and adaptive capacity
- Research to identify and evaluate adaptation measures

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### **Cooperation with other ERA-Nets**

A dedicated workshop for cooperation among ERA-nets in the field of environment and global change was held in Brussels on the 30th of January 2007.

CIRCLE aims at further cooperation with related ERA-Nets in order to create a better transparency and coherence of research funding within the ERA-Net scheme.

[More information](#)

## **2. OTHER NEWS**

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### **Sweden**

In December 2006 the Swedish Government took three steps to broaden and deepen cooperation between business, scientists and politicians by setting up:

- A Commission for Sustainable Development
- A Scientific Council on Climate Issues
- A Parliamentary drafting Committee

It is the Government's hope that these initiatives will make possible a deeper analysis of climate-related challenges and opportunities on which to base conclusions, goals and concrete action.

One of the outcomes will be the Climate Policy Bill which the Government plans to present in 2008. Another purpose behind the initiatives is to enable Sweden to play a leading part in the international negotiations for a new climatic order, which needs to take place during the Swedish EU presidency in 2009.

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### **The Netherlands**

Deltas are attractive settlement sites. Their fertile soil, presence of fresh water and the proximity of transport routes over river and sea make them an ideal place to live and for economic activities. However, there is a downside: Lying in the low coastal zone makes deltas vulnerable to all kinds of disasters like hurricanes and tsunamis. This vulnerability will only increase because of sea level rise as a result of climate change.

In December 2006, a report on making deltas cope with the effects of climate change was released

[More information](#)

### **3. CIRCLE RELATED CONFERENCES**

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#### **klimazwei - Research for Climate Protection and Protection from Climate Impacts**

Berlin, Germany February 28 - March 1, 2007  
Organiser: PTDLR

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#### **Insurance and Adaptation to Climate Change**

Paris, France March 13, 2007  
Organiser: Ecole Polytechnique, ADEME, AXA, EDF and FFSA

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