

## Newsletter 3: July 2007

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

### CIRCLE

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

#### First CIRCLE joint call launched.

CIRCLE's MED group, consisting of France, Italy, Portugal and Israel as well as Spain's autonomous region Galicia, has launched the first joint call for proposals. The topic is Coastal Zones and Water Management. For more information concerning project description, eligibility criteria, application procedure please follow this link.

<http://www.circle-era.net/research-funding/>

### 1. CIRCLE NEWS

#### New staff at CIRCLE

Since March 2007 Martin König, CIRCLE initiator and coordinator, is supported by a new CIRCLE team member: Dr. Dagmar Schröter, who joins us as the scientific coordinator, with particular focus on transnational climate impact and adaptation research. Dagmar's main research interests, CV and recent publications can be found here (link: [www.schroeter-patt.net](http://www.schroeter-patt.net))

#### New countries participating in CIRCLE

CIRCLE's partnership now extends even further. Recently the autonomous region Galicia from Spain joined our circle as observer. <http://www.circle-era.net/circle-team/conselleria-de-innovacion/>  
To find more details about the CIRCLE partnership please refer to <http://www.circle-era.net/circle-team/>.

#### ➤ New results

The report on **project evaluation and selection practices as well as the CIRCLE position paper** is now available on the website.

Download at <http://www.circle-era.net/results/>.

## 2. OTHER NEWS

### ➤ The Netherlands

The Dutch ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning has organised an international workshop "Building of National Climate Change Adaptation Strategies". Different practices and approaches were exchanged. Outcomes and recommendations are available at:

<http://www.programmaark.nl/Internationaal/25242.aspx>

For an overview of the situation pro country: more:

## Workshop "Building National Climate Change Adaptation Strategies" 07-03-07

National adaptation strategies in European countries participating at the workshop (information as provided by participants)

Country	National adaptation strategy?	Main challenges / dilemma's
Italy	<p><u>Current Status:</u> No National Adaptation Strategy. Some adaptation measures have been implemented within some sectoral policies (environmental protection, water resources sectors, human health). Many adaptation options have been identified and put into practice (especially in the fields of desertification, water resources, agriculture, coastal protection, and heat health warning systems). Only a few and site-specific economic assessments on adaptation exist in Italy.</p> <p><u>Perspective:</u> Preparation activities with regard to adaptation measures have already started, but are not very far developed, yet.</p>	<p>The lack of institutional coordination is probably a major barrier. Adaptation issues need to be shared under joint responsibility in an integrated way.</p> <p>In this regard a National Adaptation Strategy would also likely provide the proper framework allowing more institutional coordination among the relevant involved sectoral policies, especially in the identified most vulnerable sectors (water supply, agriculture, forestry, health, all especially in the South of the Country) and zones (coastal and alpine areas).</p>
Czech Republic	<p><u>Current Status:</u> The "National Program to Abate the Climate Change Impacts in the Czech Republic" was approved in 2004 and is aimed at setting of the main national targets and appropriate policies and measures to ensure meeting of the reduction emission targets to the maximum possible level in the sense of international agreements, to reflect existing and future social and economic conditions in the CR and to promote sustainable development. The National Program includes specific mitigation and adaptation measures for specific sectors - water management, agriculture, forestry and health.</p> <p><u>Perspective:</u> There is a need of elaboration of concrete sectoral adaptation measures and also there is need for their detailed economic evaluation because adaptation measures can lead to significant abate of negative climate change impacts.</p>	<p>There is a need of better and improved models and analysis regarding the impacts of climate change especially in regional and local level of the Czech Republic. Also there is a need of monitoring and long-term studies.</p>



<p><b>Finland</b></p>	<p><b>Current Status:</b> Finland has published its climate change adaptation strategy in January 2005. It was drawn up as a self-standing and comprehensive work and it was based on available research information and expert assessments and judgements. The main issues of the strategy were later included in the National Climate and Energy Strategy in 2006.</p> <p>The strategy aims at improving Finland's adaptive capacity in order to reduce negative consequences and to take advantage of opportunities resulting from climate change.</p> <p>The strategy describes the impact of climate change in the following sectors: agriculture and food production, forestry, fisheries, reindeer husbandry, game management, water resources, biodiversity, industry, energy, traffic, land use and communities, building, health, tourism and recreation, and insurance.</p> <p>Sector specific and cross-cutting actions to improve the adaptive capacity and to adapt to future climate change are presented. The Adaptation Strategy also includes a proposal for a research programme which has started in 2006.</p>	
<p><b>Malta</b></p>	<p><b>Current Status:</b> Some work has already been carried out on the issue of Malta's vulnerability and adaptation requirements, mainly through the Climate Change Project which led to the submission of Malta's First National Communication to the UNFCCC, but which followed up with work on Adaptation needs.</p> <p><b>Perspective:</b> The Strategic Planning Team (within the Plan Making and Policy Development Unit of the Planning Directorate of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA)) is responsible for strategic plan and policy formulation. Currently this team is undertaking the review of the Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands and is in the policy formulation stage. The adaptation of land use and buildings to climate change is being dealt with in this plan.</p>	<p>- The most important dilemmas from a spatial dimension are economies of scale and high density of development.</p> <p>- Malta's particular geophysical, economic and social characteristics, as a small island state, limit the scope of actions for adaptation. Malta's small size, with the very high population density can limit very much actions that can be taken especially in a spatial context (lack of available land space, visual considerations etc.).</p> <p>Also, financial expenditure priorities may again further compound the problems faced when trying to implement adaptation measures. Water availability, a perennial problem in Malta due to our low precipitation levels, will be further impacted by further reductions in precipitation or changes in precipitation patterns, thus requiring an ever-increasing dependence on energy intensive reverse osmosis water desalination technology, which again requires land (for the plants themselves), greater expenditure, and greater fuel costs = behavioural changes to reduce demand for water, greater use of natural resources (ex rainfall), greater use of treated gray water (infrastructure for treatment and reuse of sewage required), shift in agricultural sector to less water intensive practices etc.</p>

<b>Belgium</b>	<p><u>Perspective:</u> In Belgium, a national strategy for adaptation to climate change is expected to be included in the National Climate Plan (2007-2012). However, very few initiatives have been taken so far to develop the strategy. Only an assessment of several current sectoral measures has been performed (Forestry, water management). As member of the CIRCLE era-net (Impact and adaptation research to climate change for a larger Europe) we believe that the Belgian Science Policy Office ( BELSPO) could play a "boosting" role in the development the national strategy for adaptation to climate change.</p>	<p>It is somewhat difficult to anticipate problems or dilemmas at this stage. One of the main challenge will firstly be to come up with priorities and strategies to be accepted from partners of the different Belgian Regions ;-).</p>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<p><u>Current Status / perspective:</u> Slovenia has started a climate change adaptation program at the beginning of 2006. At present we have collected data on vulnerability of our country and some assessment on climate projections for our area, but projections should be updated. We have also gathered some information on possible adaptation strategies in some sectors. The project was not supported by adequate resources.</p>	<p>There are many sceptics in Slovenia and adaptation is not recognized as equally important as it is mitigation. There is enormous disparity between resources engaged in mitigation compared to resources engaged in adaptation.</p>
<b>Latvia</b>	<p><u>Current Status / perspective:</u> Up to now Latvia has separate political planning documents, measures, projects concerning Climate change adaptation problems, but not yet an overall adaptation strategy (only strategy for risk management in agriculture have been developed, but not yet adopted at the highest – Cabinet of Ministers – level)</p>	
<b>Norway</b>	<p><u>Current Status / perspective:</u> Norway plans to develop a national strategy, but the Ministry of Environment have to await a decision on this in the Government. This means we are in a very early stage in our development. We plan to organize a steering committee with all relevant Ministries. If concluded as we plan to, the secretariat of this "process" or strategy is to be located at the Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning, a directorate under the Ministry of Justice.</p>	
<b>Netherlands</b>	<p><u>Current Status:</u> The Netherlands is in the middle of developing a national spatial adaptation strategy. During March and April several governmental en non governmental organizations will be consulted about the draft version of the strategy and of a first draw of the national adaptation agenda.</p> <p><u>Perspective:</u> The Minist(er)y of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment is planning to present the definitive version of the strategy in the end of 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sealevel rise is increasing the risk of flooding: how do we keep the lower and most urbanized and industrialized parts of the Netherlands safe (and attractive for investors)?</li> <li>- How can we make 'spatial planning on-daily-base' climate proof?</li> <li>- How do we effectively set-aside (large) areas for possible needed adaptation measures in the (far) future?</li> </ul>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<p><u>Current Status / perspective:</u> The UK is currently developing an Adaptation Policy Framework (APF) which will set out a rational structure for the roles and activities of different organisations (from Central Government down to individual actors) to ensure a comprehensive and coherent approach to adaptation in the UK and to prevent adaptation in one sector having negative impacts on another sector. The key themes emerging from consultation on the first phase of the UK APF (2005/06) are shown in the next column. For the second phase of the APF, government will publish a document by the end of 2007, setting out a cross-</p>	<p>The key themes emerging from consultation on the first phase of the UK APF were: (a) Need for government leadership, noting at same time that everyone has a responsibility to act. (b) Need to work out how to manage cross-sectoral maladaptation issues. (c) The important role of regional and local government in promoting and delivering adaptation, e.g. regional climate change partnerships are key.</p>



	<p>departmental adaptation framework. This will set out priority areas for action and roles and responsibilities by government at all levels and the private sector.</p> <p>The UK government also funds the UK Climate Impacts Programme (since 1997) which is providing a bottom-up approach to adaptation and provides tools (e.g. climate change scenarios.)</p> <p>The UK is currently developing a new set of climate scenarios to be published in 2008. These will be based on probabilistic models.</p> <p>It also funds a significant amount of cutting-edge research on climate change and its impacts (e.g. the Hadley Centre at the Met Office).</p>	
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➤ **Germany**

**1. Klimazwei has been kicked off**

Within the research programme Klimazwei, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in Germany is funding more than 40 research projects with ideas on how to deal with climate change. Klimazwei looks at aspects of adaptation and mitigation. Information about the funding programme and details on the projects in Klimazwei can be found here (<http://www.klimazwei.de/>)

**More**

The kickoff conference of klimazwei took place in Berlin on February 28 and March 1, 2007. About 250 participants met for this event. The funding programme, its aim and context was presented, but, above all, the persons in charge introduced and discussed their projects. On the first day, every single project was presented and discussions were deepened during an extensive poster session in a casual atmosphere. On the second day, ideas and concepts of the projects were discussed under overarching and cross-cutting questions in six discussion forums. It turned out that even for the topic of how to deal with climate change being far-ranging and wide-spread, possibilities of cooperation between projects evolved. Moreover, in the adaptation part of klimazwei two workshops are being planned as a result of this kickoff conference: one about “Methods in Regional Networking” and one about “Decision Support Systems”.



## 2. KLIMZUG (Managing climate change in the regions for the future): Call for Papers

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research launched the call KLIMZUG (Managing climate change in the regions for the future) in March 2007. Its objective is to integrate anticipated changes in climate and resulting extreme weather phenomena in processes of regional planning and development. Here, the development of regional cooperation networks (or further development of existing ones) is intended to pool the scientific, planning, technical and entrepreneurial strengths in a region and to actively establish structures for a new, state of the art approach to managing climate change, in particular improved adaptation to climate trends and extreme weather conditions. In addition, partner regions throughout the world may be enlisted in order to ensure the international transfer of the know-how developed in the projects.

Funding of up to 3 million € per year each will be provided to 5 German regions over a period of 5 years. Partner regions abroad are expected to provide their own funding towards the regional partnership.

The complete text of the KLIMZUG call can be found at

<http://www.bmbf.de/en/furtherance/7764.php>

### ➤ Switzerland

Swiss national report on vulnerability to climate change in 2050

In March 2007 the Swiss Advisory Body for Climate Change (OcCC) and ProClim-, (“-.”?)Forum of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) have published a report addressing key issues of vulnerability of Switzerland to climate change in the year 2050 (“Klimaänderung und die Schweiz 2050 – Erwartete Auswirkungen auf Umwelt, Gesellschaft und Wirtschaft”; in German). The report assesses impacts of climate change on ecosystems, agriculture, water management, health, tourism, energy, buildings and infrastructure, urban areas, and insurance. Download available from [http://www.proclim.ch/products/ch2050/CH2050\\_d.html](http://www.proclim.ch/products/ch2050/CH2050_d.html)

### More

The time horizon of 2050 was chosen because it will be experienced by people living today and because climate change until that time is similar for the different emission paths. However, it has to be noted that changes beyond 2050 might be considerably higher and strongly depend on mitigation measures already taken during the years and decades to come.

The assessment of vulnerability has been based on a probabilistic climate change scenario projecting a warming of about 2°C (95% probability range of 1-3.5°C) in autumn, winter and spring, and nearly 3°C (range of 1.5-5°C) in winter, as well as a precipitation increase of about 10% (range of 0-20%) during winter months and a precipitation decrease of about 20% (range of 5-30%) in summer.

Some main impacts and vulnerabilities are listed below:

- Water supply and usage: 75% of water stored in glaciers will be lost. During dry periods there will be more competition regarding water usage. There will be enhanced potential for floods in winter and spring.
- Tourism: There will be less snow in winter at lower altitudes which affects ski tourism.
- Infrastructure: land use planning and architecture have to consider climate change at an early stage, especially concerning the increasing demand for cooling in summer months. Transport networks and buildings are at greater risk of weather related hazards. Extreme

Precipitation enhances the damage risk for infrastructure, traffic routes, touristic facilities and settlements.

- Humans: More heat waves will affect health. Especially during heat waves human performance and productivity will be reduced.

Switzerland is able to adapt relatively well up to 2050. Damage and adaptation costs are unknown but will increase with greater change.

The report (in German) can be ordered (€ 20) from OcCC or ProClim, Schwarztorstr 9, CH-3007 Bern, Switzerland, phone +41 31 328 23 23, e-mail: [occc@scnat.ch](mailto:occc@scnat.ch) or downloaded from [www.proclim.ch/products/ch2050/CH2050\\_d.html](http://www.proclim.ch/products/ch2050/CH2050_d.html)

A French version will be available as pdf on [www.occc.ch](http://www.occc.ch) in May 2007.

#### ➤ **Israel**

A study on climate change and the incidence of West Nile fever eruption has recently been completed.

Download summary: [http://www.sviva.gov.il/Enviroment/bin/en.jsp?enPage=e\\_BlankPage&enDisplay=view&enDispWhat=object&enDispWho=odotHamisrad%5EI599&enZone=Air\\_pubic&enVersion=0&](http://www.sviva.gov.il/Enviroment/bin/en.jsp?enPage=e_BlankPage&enDisplay=view&enDispWhat=object&enDispWho=odotHamisrad%5EI599&enZone=Air_pubic&enVersion=0&)

#### ➤ **Italy**

IPCC FOCAL POINT activities

Within the activities of the Italian IPCC FOCAL POINT Sergio Castellari (CMCC/INGV) an ad hoc WEB SITE has been built (<https://www.cmcc.it/web/public/IPCC-Italia>) at CMCC with the aim to facilitate mutual information exchange between the national and the international levels on climate change related issues. The languages used are Italian and English. The web site includes some pages of presentation and introduction of the IPCC work, publications and events, and also pages devoted to the Italian initiatives on Climate change, including both the Institutional framework and ongoing scientific research ([http://www.cmcc.it:8080/web/public/Iniziativa\\_Italiane](http://www.cmcc.it:8080/web/public/Iniziativa_Italiane)), relevant Italian Events on Climate Change ([http://www.cmcc.it:8080/c/portal/layout?p\\_l\\_id=PUB.1.203](http://www.cmcc.it:8080/c/portal/layout?p_l_id=PUB.1.203)), IPCC focal point Press releases (<http://www.cmcc.it:8080/web/public/ipcc/comunicatistampa>) and useful international, European and national links (<http://www.cmcc.it:8080/web/public/Links>). Furthermore two mailing lists of scientists and journalists have been created and an ALERT SERVICE has been activated. The alert system provides the mailing lists' subscribers with typically twice-weekly update on the relevant international, European and national news and publications on climate change.

#### ➤ **Switzerland/Germany/Austria**

Within a joint effort of proClim (Switzerland), Umweltbundesamt (Austria) and the German IPCC coordination point, the summary of policy makers for the 4<sup>th</sup> IPCC assessment report has been translated into German.

Download at: <http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/umweltschutz/klima/ipcc-bericht/>

#### ➤ **The Netherlands**

The PCCC (platform for communicating climate change) has released a brochure on the significance of the IPCC report for the Dutch situation. [http://www.knmi.nl/VinkCMS/news\\_detail.jsp?id=37605](http://www.knmi.nl/VinkCMS/news_detail.jsp?id=37605) (English translation not available yet).

### 3. Congresses and other announcements

#### **CIRCLE's Annual progress meeting October 24-26**

Will take place in Toulouse.

More at: [www.circle-era.net](http://www.circle-era.net)

#### **Italy**

National Conference on the Climate

12-13 September 2007:

The Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) organises a two-day National Conference on Climate at FAO on the 12th and 13th of September 2007. The meeting will focus on climate change adaptation, coastal defence and impacts on flora and fauna. The meeting is expected to provide recommendations on adaptation and to stimulate the process relevant for the development of a possible national adaptation strategy. (A website is currently not available).

#### **Netherlands**

International Conference "Climate *changes* Spatial Planning"

12-13 September 2007:

The "Climate *changes* Spatial Planning Programme" (CcSP) organises a two days International Conference at the World Forum Convention Centre, the Hague, the Netherlands on the 12th and 13th of September 2007. On the first day international experts and policymakers will present international developments in climate change research and policy. On the second day the first results from research in over 40 projects in the CcSP programme will be presented and discussed. Topics include climate modelling, climate scenarios, mitigation, adaptation research, adaptation policy in the Netherlands and communication. The conference is organised around the Midterm Evaluation of the programme and is expected to provide recommendations on the further implementation of the programme. For more information and registration see [www.climatechangespatialplanning.nl](http://www.climatechangespatialplanning.nl).

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Contact:

For input and feedback on this newsletter:

Annemarie Tjerkstra

Email: [newsletter@circle-era.net](mailto:newsletter@circle-era.net)

Tel: +31-(0)20 5988648

Imprint and information about CIRCLE:

CIRCLE Coordination, Martin König & Dagmar Schröter

Umweltbundesamt GmbH (Federal Environment Agency - Austria)

Tel +43 1 31304-5961 or -3458

Fax +43 1 31304-3700

Email: [martin.koenig@umweltbundesamt.at](mailto:martin.koenig@umweltbundesamt.at) & [dagmar.schroeter@umweltbundesamt.at](mailto:dagmar.schroeter@umweltbundesamt.at)

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