

Circle Nordic call 2008

Research on consequences of climate change for policy making in the Nordic countries

SUMMARY OF THE FUNDED PROJECTS

The following projects will be funded during the years 2008-2010:

PROJECT'S NAME and funding all together (€)	SWEDEN: Partner and national funding	NORWAY: Partner and national funding	FINLAND: Partner and national funding
Climate change: A Regional Assessment of Vulnerability and Adaptive capacity for the Nordic countries (CARAVAN) 100000	Centre of Climate Science and Policy Research, Linköping University (LIU) 30000	University of Oslo (UiO) 22000	Finnish Environment Institute (COORDINATOR) 48000
Climate Change adaptation in Norway, Sweden and Finland – Do research, policy and practice meet? 90000	a) Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) & b) Linköping University a) 15000, b) 15000	a) Norwegian Meteorological Institute & b) Center for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo (CICERO) a) 15000, b) 15000	a) Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) (COORDINATOR) & b) Helsinki University a) 15000, b) 15000
Climate change, community response and multilevel governance 106280	a) Stockholm Environment institute (COORDINATOR) & b) Umeå University – Department of Social and Economic Geography a) 26500, b) 15600	Western Norway Research Institute 42540	Arctic Centre - Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law (FINLAND) 21640

NATIONAL FUNDING

Sweden all together (€)	102 100
Norway all together (€)	94 540
Finland all together (€)	99 640
TOTAL (€)	296 280

Project descriptions

Climate change: A Regional Assessment of Vulnerability and Adaptive capacity for the Nordic countries – CARAVAN

The central aim of this two-year project is to compare and contrast alternative approaches to quantifying regional vulnerability to climate change in the Nordic region with a view to conducting more detailed vulnerability assessments in follow-up national and Nordic studies. Vulnerability is a function of exposure to climate change, sensitivity to its effects and adaptive capacity. The project's five specific objectives (each comprising an individual work package) are to: 1. explore alternative methods of describing exposure to climate and to climate change, based on a consistent set of climate observations and scenarios from a range of sources; 2. examine alternative impact models employed in partner countries for evaluating sectoral sensitivity to climate change, and analyse their applicability for application at municipality scale within each country as well as Nordic-wide; 3. analyse appropriate indicators of adaptive capacity, based on literature review, comparison of national approaches and experiences, and available data and scenarios; 4. undertake preliminary vulnerability mapping for the present-day and future (e.g. 2050) in each country for at least one common sector using alternative approaches, scenarios and indices and compare the results; 5. report the results to stakeholder groups and prepare recommendations for future integrated assessments of regional vulnerability to climate change in the Nordic region. Systematic assessments of this kind are required to identify regions, sectors and communities in the Nordic region that may have difficulties in meeting the challenge of climate change. There are six work packages: WP 1 covers management and co-ordination; WPs 2-6 address the five objectives described above. Results will be presented at two workshops. Workshop 1, at month 6, will target key researchers in the field of vulnerability assessment. Workshop 2, at month 21, will target stakeholders working at national and municipal level. All three Partners have prior experience in some aspects of climate change vulnerability assessment, and are planning or already undertaking vulnerability assessments in their own countries. This project would provide us with an excellent opportunity to pool our knowledge and experience to develop effective methods of assessment to serve the whole region.

Climate change adaptation in Norway, Sweden and Finland - Do research, policy and practice meet?

Building on climate, impact and adaptation research, in dialogue with policy and practitioner representatives the objectives of the project are: to assess the present use of regional climate scenarios in communication, decision support and decision-making on climate change adaptation and mitigation; to map the present status of national and Nordic adaptation studies; to identify and analyse differences and best practices in the Nordic countries; to provide recommendations on future climate, impacts and adaptation research, research/policy dialogue and policy. The National Meteorological Institutes (FMI, SMHI, met. no) are experts on scientific basis of climate change and have the best knowledge of the national research projects and initiatives on impacts and adaptation. Helsinki University, Department of Economics and Management; CICERO and the Centre for Climate Science and Policy Research, Linköping University from Sweden lead the stakeholder dialogue, evaluate policy relevancy and will compare these national approaches. All partners will participate in formulating recommendations. The work is divided into four work packages: Survey and assessment of climate scenarios and downscaling strategies used in climate change impact and adaptation studies in the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, and Finland); Review on adaptation studies in the Nordic countries; Review and assessment of national policy approaches; Recommendations for better adaptation research and policies: A synthesis. The results of this project are expected to enhance transfer of knowledge between the countries and between different economic sectors, on adaptation to climate change. Special attention will be given to use and usefulness of climate scenarios. Another important outcome will be improved networking among the Nordic actors. Finally, the recommendations of this project are expected to have impact on future shaping of research agendas and policy actions by pointing out gaps of knowledge, needs of coherence, benefits of joint efforts, and prioritization of actions.

Climate Change, Community Response and Multilevel Governance

The aim of this project is to build a Nordic network for research on local climate adaptation and mitigation in the context of multilevel governance. By organizing a series of workshops for researchers and stakeholders, it will create a foundation for making creative links among the increasing number of ongoing research projects on climate adaptation. Furthermore, by placing the climate adaptation research into a context of sustainable development, it will explicitly link the analysis of adaptation to the issues of mitigation. The theoretical context of multilevel governance will create a potential for analysing the links between local, national, and international climate policy. The expected output of the project is a network that will increase the value of ongoing research projects by sharing of methods and results. It will also serve to bridge between research and practice in Finland, Norway, and Sweden. This will produce one or more joint research proposals that take advantage of the different national settings to develop strong comparative approaches in relation to both different national contexts, between EU and non-EU contexts, and between rural and urban areas. One of the workshops will focus on the Arctic, which will allow analysis that explicitly examines the role of international regional governance. Moreover, we will produce a review article of climate adaptation in the participating countries. The workshops will include representatives of major ongoing research projects on climate adaptation in the Finland, Norway, and Sweden and link to research on sustainable development in the context of Local Agenda 21 and on other environmental stressors and social processes. Common themes for the workshops will be the challenges of participatory research and the role of local mitigation and adaptation actions in the context of national and international climate politics. Special attention will be paid to the role of international regional cooperation with the Arctic as an example. Furthermore, we will focus on combining scenarios of climate change with scenarios of socio-economic change to better understand the cumulative effect of these two processes for local vulnerability. We will also raise the long-term challenge of preparing for a post-carbon society; a concept which have just recently been coined by the EU.