



## **Dealing with uncertainty: Disseminating climate change projections for Hessen, Germany**

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The Hessian Agency for Environment and Geology has started in 2004 an initiative to provide local stakeholders in the German federal state of Hessen with the necessary information to adapt to climate change and its impacts, resulting in the Centre of Expertise in Climate Change. There is nowadays a strong awareness of climate change in the public, economy and politics. People are willing to take climate change and its impacts into account for their planning. However, climate change information is normally not available in a form that allows these stakeholders to immediately use the information. This is not only a technical problem with data formats and so on, but more fundamental a problem of dealing with uncertainty and probabilities.

While on the global scale climate change signals are quite coherent, this is not necessarily the case on the regional scale. It is generally found that while in northern Europe rainfall will increase, in southern Europe a reduction of rainfall is projected. Germany is situated in middle Europe and Hessen is situated in central Germany, so the direction of the rainfall change might differ from one model to the next. In this context it is necessary to provide stakeholders with the means to handle this kind of information, including the uncertainty of it.

The aim of the Centre of Expertise in Climate Change is to provide high quality high-resolution climate change information for Hessen. Thus, it is also necessary to provide the necessary means to handle the immanent uncertainty of the information. The presentation will show examples and discuss strategies for this goal.