



Developing Climate Services in Europe: The Challenges Ahead

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The community of climate scientists finds itself increasingly exposed to groups of stakeholders asking rather specific questions about climate variability, climate change, its impacts, probabilities and related uncertainties. Such issues concerning climate services need to be resolved in a problem-oriented approach and in bi-directional communication with the stakeholders involved, scientists informing stakeholders but also stakeholders informing scientists. Many countries in the EU are currently developing their own climate services, sometimes with multiple providers per country. Each provider is using its own methods and approaches to deliver data and information. In each European country the climate services are also defined somewhat differently. There are a number of challenges that need to be addressed in the path toward the development of climate services in Europe. The three areas addressed in this paper are: Governance of climate services, communication of climate knowledge to end-users and improving the interface between climate research and its application. Despite many unresolved issues on climate services, there are obvious benefits of collaboration within the European networks of climate services and many shared objectives as we demonstrate in this paper.