



Understanding Climate Service Science: Balancing Users' Needs with Providers' Capabilities

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The overall strategic objective of the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI)-Climate is to contribute to highly coordinated knowledge development by not only improving the scientific expertise on climate change risks and adaptation options, but also by connecting that knowledge with decision making. Understanding the nature and scope of those providing climate services and the services being provided and understanding users' needs and requirements is critical to realisation of this strategic objective. The main aim of the JPI-Climate Working Group 2 "Researching and advancing Climate Service Development" is to coordinate knowledge development and transfer to improve the climate (change) services to society and within Europe.

In order to avoid duplication of efforts and picking on differences in the quality and nature of information being provided from country to country there is a need for a certain degree of consistency of approaches and quality assurance. The JPI-Climate will bring interaction between the emerging national and European climate services initiatives.

Climate services produce strongly science-based client-oriented information. They should be built on a good understanding of the stakeholder needs, and provide easy access to up [U+2010] to [U+2010] date information and expertise regarding specific policy or research questions. It is evident from experience that such services need (and are perceived) to be salient, credible and legitimate from the perspective of the intended users and providers of those services, and within the supportive research community. Achieving this aim and developing and delivering the required services necessitates the engagement of the spectrum of users and providers, as well as researchers from the physical, natural, engineering, economics and social sciences – the science underpinning climate services.

The JPI-Climate, Module 2 Fast Track Activities (FTAs) are exploring, mapping and analysing users' requirements and climate service providers within Europe. Such information does exist to some degree but are fragmented and relatively little is systematically documented or analysed. These FTAs include a number of national dialogues and will draw on existing information, including that being compiled through previous initiatives and various research projects. However the mapping within the FTAs goes beyond the existing inventories and will lay the ground for a mid [U+2010] to long [U+2010] term multidisciplinary research on the governance of CS. The FTAs are intended to identify research gaps and inform the development and delivery of the JPI-Climate strategic research agenda, including those components for the seasonal to decadal predictions, societal transformation and decision support tools.

This initiative is a multi-year process of research and information exchange engaging climate service providers and users in Europe, at different levels (regional-national-international) in several loops of national and European dialogues. This presentation will provide some insights into the directions and initial outcomes of the FTAs and what these mean for the science underpinning climate services.