



Austria's "Information Portal Climate Change" – Getting climate science across

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The need to prepare complex, scattered and conflicting climate science results in a comprehensible, standardised and consistent way in order to reach and be useful for a broader public has been recognised at Austria's national meteorological service during 2010. Therefore, by the end of 2010 a comprehensive new part of the Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics' (ZAMG) website has been activated in terms of a climate service application focussing on Austria and the Alps: At www.zamg.ac.at/klimawandel the German-speaking "Informationsportal Klimawandel" (Information Portal Climate Change) is accessible.

In the first working phase of 2010, the focus was on the information aspect. The staff of the Department Climate Research compiled about 90 articles in six sections. The articles are featured by figures, strongly linked among each other and completed by external links, references and contact details. All articles underwent an internal cross-checking by the colleagues within the department.

In the second phase of 2011, the information portal is supplemented by the presentation of spatial data. Research results from different reanalysis, interpolation and modelling projects are integrated and visualised in a web map tool. By doing so, the development of 30-year-means of temperature and precipitation across Austria from 1790 to 2090 is traceable. Details on data generation, preparation and interpretability are provided.

In the ongoing working phase of 2012, selected climate data are made available for download. These include homogenised observation series, mean values for the period 1981–2010, simulated future development of climate change indices, urban modelling results and glacier modelling visualisation. Data will be featured by metadata details following INSPIRE guidelines.

The information portal aims to support a broad public with independent, easily understandable and well-founded research facts. As an example, the freely available contents assist the newly founded Climate Change Center Austria in establishing a serious social dialogue on climate change. Objectification of the climate change discussion will make irrational argumentations by both alarmists and sceptics difficult and is the sole basis for all reasonable decision making.