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Appraising social-economic benefits of weather services - the choice for an approach depends on how one intends to use the output

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The interest for economic appraisal of weather services seems to abound among European NHMS's. However, in many cases the NHMS's are at loss when it comes to actual implementation of economic appraisal as well as to utilization of the results. This contribution provides an overview of the possible purposes of analyzing the social-economic benefits of national weather services, as well as the implications for applicable approaches and likely efforts. The contribution is based on work done for the Task Team Social-Economic Benefits (TT-SEB), as part of the WMO RA VI Working Group of Service Delivery and Partnership. A final report of the Task Team is planned to be ready by the end of 2012.

Topics that will be discussed are – among others – (1) differences between company, sector and overall social-economic benefits, (2) differences between welfare effects and production effects, (3) differences between revealed, elicited and attributed values, (4) how to engage the organization in carrying out and exploit a social-economic appraisal, and (5) what kind of benefits does it bring to an NHMS to appraise the social-economic benefits of its services.