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Transnational challenges for climate cooperation - results from the Saxon-Czech project INTERKLIM

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The climate conditions in Czech Republic and the federal state of Saxony are crucially shaped by the orographic conditions in the border area. Particularly, the location and exposure of the Ore Mountains has a major effect on the incoming air mass (windward and leeward) and significantly modifies the climate characteristics in both countries. Thus, different large-scale atmospheric circulation patterns can have entirely different impacts on the local climatic conditions in the different regions. Both the geographic heterogeneity and the expected climate change and its associated risks, pose the challenge to develop cross-border and integrative adaptation strategies to climate change. The development of such strategies is dependent on the availability of adequate data sources and expert knowledge. Therefore the main objectives of the project INTERKLIM are the joint transnational climate cooperation, particularly data exchange, analysis and the creation of regionally specific climate projections for the naturally complex border region on the base of up-to-date scientific data and methods. The obtained results represent a working base for a large number of urgent questions in the field of climate impact research and climate adaptation for various stakeholders (e.g. in agriculture, forestry, fishery, water management, spatial planning, tourism, health, nature conservation or for the identification of adaptation needs and adaptation capacity). The outcome of the project can be consulted to support the emerging development processes for transnational adaptation strategies and are implemented by stakeholder events, outdoor information panels on climate change in the border region, publications and additional public relations measures. Thus, the results can contribute to both the public discussion and the professional identification of both potential synergies and conflicts in a wide range of sectors.