



Evaluating the utilization of climate information products of the WMO RA VI RCC-network by NMHSs in the context of S2D climate service product development

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WMO Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) have a key-role for the provision of regional climate information products. These products serve as basis for sector- and user-specific climate product development on a national level especially provided by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS). For the development and dissemination of upcoming seasonal to decadal (S2D) climate service products in Europe, as explored and developed in the EU FP7 project EUPORIAS, the function of the RCC as providing institution seems to be obvious but needs to be evaluated.

The relevance of RCC products for NMHSs and the potential of the RCC as institution producing and disseminating such products were assessed by an online-survey. The survey queried the characteristics and scope of products developed by NMHSs with respect to their sector-specificity and time-scales. Furthermore, the use and relevance of RCC products for the own product development was queried. The use of Climate Watch Advisories was queried exclusively, since these will play an important role in the context of S2D climate information.

The results indicate a comprehensive use of RCC products. All RCC products are considered to be relevant for most of the NMHSs. However, RCC products are mostly used for the development of general climate information products and have minor relevance for user- or sector-specific products. Remarkable exceptions are seasonal forecast products which are only used by some users but they use them regularly and consider them as highly relevant. Climate Watch Advisories have especially a high potential use for most NMHSs if covering demanded time-scales and providing impact-related information relevant for sector- and user-specific climate information.

RCCs, as providers of regional climate information, may become key-institutions for laborious and capacity intensive tasks like seasonal forecast products. However, the pathway of regional climate service development and dissemination conditioned by RCC structures (top-down) may be challenged with respect to user- or sector-specific tailoring of climate information.