



Prototype development of user specific climate services

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Systematic consultations in the last years with representatives from sectors particularly affected by climate change have helped the Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS) to identify the most pressing needs of stakeholders from public and private sectors. Besides the development of innovative climate service products and methods, areas are also identified, for which intensive research activities have to be initiated. An example is the demand of decision makers for high-resolution climate change information needed at regional to local levels for their activities towards climate change adaptation.

For questions concerning adaptation to climate change, no standard solutions can be provided. Different from mitigation measures, adaptation measures must be framed in accordance with the specific circumstances prevailing in the local situation. Here, individual solutions, which satisfy the individual requirements and needs, are necessary. They have to be developed in close co-operation with the customers and users.

For example, the implications of climate change on strategic and operative decisions in enterprises are becoming increasingly important. Sea level rise or extremes like floods, droughts and severe storms can affect the entire value chain of a company. Therefore high-quality consultancy for businesses is needed, in order to support decision makers in identifying associated risks and opportunities. In this context, following the tool box principle, GERICS has developed the Company Toolbox as a prototype user specific climate services product. For the development of prototype products, a general methodological approach has been framed: It includes the idea generation, the iterative development, the prototype testing - in co-development with the user - and finally the operationalization of the product. High process transparency and high process and product quality are a prerequisite for the success of a product.