



Towards a framework to the evaluation of climate service and knowledge transfer processes within climate and coastal research

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Climate, polar, marine and coastal research and related services rely on multi- and transdisciplinary research processes: Most of the projects/products in the field of climate or coastal service and knowledge transfer are being managed and developed in close collaboration between scientists, practitioners, decision-makers, and further stakeholder groups. Indeed, the identification and formulation of the central needs which are of relevance to administration, economy or politics in coping with climate change, foster the co-creation between the different realms of knowledge. Next to the question of how this co-creation of knowledge can be realized, the overarching questions are what are good and successful dialogue processes and how these can be evaluated? This challenge is currently tackled in cooperation by several Helmholtz Centres within the Helmholtz research field of Earth and Environment. Findings from this line of research shall act as one building block in the effort to develop common quality criteria and operational evaluation indices which could be applied for the next research institution evaluation of research programmes and Helmholtz Centres.

The ongoing working process will be described in the conference presentation. Starting with long-term experiences in the process of stakeholder dialogues, literature reviews to acquire knowledge on the field of transdisciplinarity were conducted to gain an overview on the epistemic state-of-the-art discussion. A succession of workshops collected experiences on appropriate quality criteria, working intensely on definitions to enhance common understanding, and creating a shared set of terminology. Overarching evaluation criteria and indices for the different fields of transferable and transdisciplinary research are currently in the stage of being formulated and negotiated in the Helmholtz research field of Earth and Environment. The latter appears to be most challenging, since different scientific disciplines and research traditions have to be integrated: Research for application in the different fields of coastal, polar, marine and climate studies as well as dialogue-oriented or transdisciplinary research approaches. The presentation will highlight references to very different research fields, like i.e. public health, having supported our understanding of the specific aspects of the transdisciplinary research mode, and pinpointed towards some guiding ideas that could be harnessed for evaluating processes of co-creation of knowledge. At this stage of knowledge, the authors aim to discuss the preliminary status of proposed evaluation criteria and indices found so far with the conference audience. We believe that this discussion will reveal important feedback for the process of finalizing the set of criteria and indices that might be connectable to other fields of transdisciplinary research.