



Guideline on climate data for climate impact research and stakeholders

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In 2015/16 a climate dataset of downscaled regional climate model results for Austria was created. The intention of this dataset was to create a basis for further climate impact research in order to make future studies more comparable (EMS2016-474; ÖKS15 dataset). Within workshops the awareness on the uncertainties and limitations was a returning discussion. Therefore the production of a guideline on the qualities and uncertainties of this created dataset was a logical next step.

While the main target of the guideline is to ensure that the data will not be overstressed, it should not only be helpful for scientifically educated data users. The second target group are stakeholders and decision makers interested in understanding the sources of uncertainties and how to handle them.

The guideline is split into 3 parts:

Part one includes e.g. background information on climate models, observation based analyses and downscaling methods. This part gives basic information, clearly distinguishing between the most essential points and more in depth information. This part is created for interested stakeholders, decision makers and the public, but also scientific educated persons starting to work in the area of climate impact research.

Part two is based on the ÖKS15 dataset itself, offering evaluations of the downscaled climate model data, the spatial observation based analyses used during the the downscaling process and an example on use of this dataset in climate impact research. This includes e.g. spatial distribution of uncertainties, evaluation of the downscaling methods and the effect of different resolution in the input to a climate impact model.

Part three offers practical solutions for frequently asked questions from climate impact researchers, starting from potential data sources to the right choice in used climate model runs or pros and cons of different kinds of data. The questions have been collected during a workshop with impact researches, decision makers and stakeholders as well as during team meetings in discussions with the climate impact project partner.

Moreover a webpage was created to inform the Austrian climate impact community on the quality of single climate model runs, so that they can make a better choice on the data they use. Additionally to the basic information on the problem further information is included by Austrian climate modellers concerning the expected effects of those problems for Austria.

The presentation will offer insight into the basic ideas behind the guideline, the structure and the process of its creation as well some results and feedback.