

Climate information: user needs and providers questionnaire

Subject: invitation to take part in a survey for the identification of climate service providers, the assessment of the offered climate services and the inventory of users' requirements

In Europe and its member states a number of initiatives have been taken or are planned in view of responding to climate change and its present and future impact. Two important aspects in that respect are adaptation to climate change and the management of climate risk. There is a need to transform climate related data into customized products and services that have a societal and public use. The communication of information between service providers and the end users remains a real challenge.

Several initiatives are being developed on the international, European and national level. For example, on the international level there is the *Global Framework for Climate Services* (GFCS) and which is giving the following (broad) definition of Climate Services in the Report of the High-Level Taskforce (WMO No. 1065, 2011; http://www.wmo.int/hlt-gfcs/downloads/HLT_book_full.pdf):

"Climate services encompass a range of activities that deal with generating and providing information based on past, present and future climate and on its impacts on natural and human systems. Climate services include the use of simple information like historical climate data sets as well as more complex products such as predictions of weather elements on monthly, seasonal or decadal timescales, also making use of climate projections according to different greenhouse gas emission scenarios and time frames. Included as well are information and support that help the user choose the right product for the decision they need to make and that explain the uncertainty associated with the information offered while advising on how to best use it in the decision-making process."

In this context several European initiatives have also been established, as the *Copernicus Climate Change Service*, the *H2020 - Climate Action*, the *Joint Programming Initiative-Climate* (JPI-Climate), a.o.

The *Copernicus Climate Change Service* at ECMWF will give access on a European level, to information concerning the monitoring and the predicting of climate change and benefits from a sustained network of in situ satellite based-observations, the re-analysis of the earth climate and modelling scenarios, based on a variety of climate projections.

The Horizon 2020 '*Societal challenge 5-Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials*' is presently launching in its work plan an ERA-net on climate services.

Belgium, represented by the Belgian federal Science Policy Office - BELSPO - is also taking actively part in the Joint Programming Initiative 'Climate Change'. (JPI-Climate: <http://www.jpi-climate.eu/>). This JPI is a collaboration between 14 European countries aiming to coordinate jointly their climate research and fund new transnational research initiatives. Overall, the JPI Climate connects scientific disciplines, enables cross-border research and increases the science-practice interaction. Part of the activities within the JPI relate to the identification of climate service providers, the assessment of the offered climate services and the inventory of users' requirements in view of developing a research agenda in support of Climate Service Development.

Moreover, BELSPO aims to bring together the present expertise of several Federal Scientific Institutions in a '*Federal Climate Centre*'. This initiative is supported by a study which is currently conducted.

The present survey will enable to identify the users' (potential) needs and the available information and services as the base to develop a national and European framework for climate services.

This survey is also considered to complement a number of bilateral interviews by Dr. Dominique Fonteyn (BIRA-IASB).

You are kindly invited to fill in the surveys, either as a climate service provider, a (potential) climate service user or both.

If you are a climate service provider please go to: www.climate-knowledge-hub.org

If you are a (potential) climate service user please go to <http://www.belspo.be/survey/climate>

If you are a climate service provider and a (potential) climate service user, please fill in both surveys. The deadline for the surveys is July 31st 2014

In view of analysing the result of the survey and identifying topics of relevance for the development of Climate Services in Europe and in Belgium 'dialogue' workshops will be organised on September 11 and 12 2014.

Should you have any questions please contact Mrs. Martine Vanderstraeten (BELSPO - vdst@belspo.be - 32/02/23 83 610 from July 1st onwards) or M. Joerg Cortekar (Climate Service Centre Hamburg - Joerg.Cortekar@hzg.de (+49 40-226 338-445).

We thank you in advance for your cooperation.