

National Dialogues in Europe

Challenges and lessons learned



held on the 8th of May

Climate Service Center, Hamburg, Germany

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Sharing experiences with National Dialogues

Aim of this workshop is the exchange of experiences between different JPI partners that have already organised their national dialogues and the offering of support for those partners who are still in the development phase of their national dialogues.

We will present those results and will discuss about the JPI contributions to the establishment of a network of climate services providers, who can exchange knowledge and share learning.

Two brief presentations by Matthias Themessl (Austria) and Hans Sanderson (Denmark) sharing their experiences (presentations attached to this mail) serve as input for discussion in the following breakout groups.

Experiences Austria

- First National Dialogue with 60 participants (30 providers and 30 users); first day only providers, second day providers and users; a more general discussion
- Regional Dialogues in Styria with an **impact focus** – heat (since there was an extreme heat event the year before); invitation of a journalist, who was a kind of “translator” between providers and users
- Several speed expert workshops; approx. 10 minute interviews held at conferences etc.; participants are asked questions they could not prepare on, what lead to good results.
- National Dialogues as **discussion support system** to enable / facilitate networking

Recommendations

- Do not send invitations by e-mail. They called esp. the users, often several times to make clear the added value of participation (with respect to the first National Dialogue)
- Establishment of a web-based discussion forum to continue the dialogue was not used and was shut down

Experiences Denmark

- Doing stakeholder consultations since 2006
- Different networks for different stakeholders, e.g. www.klimatilpasning.dk for municipalities
- Difficult to distinguish providers and users since they are purveyors in most cases
- Only limited user-induced demand of climate services
- No public-private partnerships in provision of climate services



- For business companies (e.g. consultancy companies) near term horizon often more important than long term → DRR vs. climate change adaptation
- How to deal with uncertainties is often discussed on National Dialogues
- Many communication barriers along the tiers in provision of climate services (see slide 9 of presentation), which require a strong and well established dialogue to talk about uncertainties, costs etc.

Breakout Group 1:

Challenges associated with National Dialogues and how to address them

Knowledge / Evidences resulting from National Dialogues

- Understanding of who a climate service provider is differs not only from one country to another, but sometimes also between providers and users within one country. This depends of the understanding of what a climate service is / should be.
- Users often do not specifically know their needs
- National Dialogues could address providers and users in general, could address specific sectors, regions or impacts (see esp. presentation by Matthias Themessl)

Challenges

- Because of bullet points 1 and 2
 - there will be no one size fits all solution of a National Dialogue. This on the other hand makes the sharing of experiences and lessons learned more important.
 - It is difficult to start the process
 - Who should be invited
 - How should they be addressed
 - Who is the right person to contact / invite from relevant institutions
 - For the organization of a European Dialog it poses the question, whom to invite in which country
- How to keep the started process / enabled networking alive? As Matthias Themessl stated, they set up a web-forum that was shut down because it was not used.
- Setting up National Dialogues in south and east Europe is difficult since there are financial and/or political restriction, e.g. in Spain (see also the chapter on the Autumn Workshop on page 10)

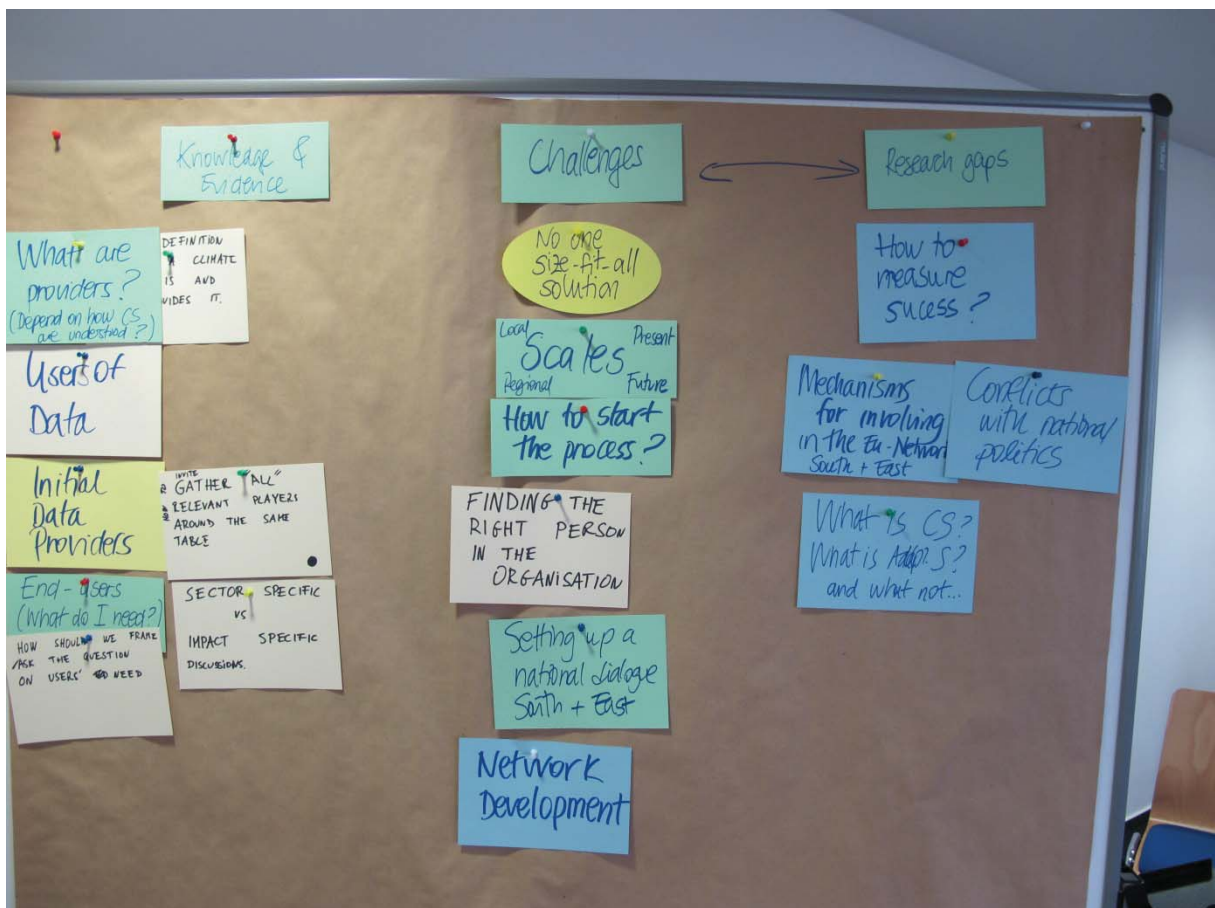


- Time and spatial scales were considered an issue since users mostly plan / act in shorter time periods (decision-makers in politics and business) as the research community; e.g. DRR measures and climate adaptation → how should the bridge be gapped?

Research gaps

Some of the identified research gaps are closely related to the challenges mentioned above.

- Work on mechanisms for involving stakeholders in southern and eastern Europe, which also has to take political conflicts and financial restrictions on national levels into account.
- What is a climate service, what an adaptation service? (Even though it was mentioned, that this is an academe question and not very relevant for users)





Breakout Group 2:

Lessons learned and encouraging other to undertake National Dialogues

Lessons learned

- Participants influence the type of dialogue, and thus the results and on the ongoing discussion within the member states. The results are different if the National Dialogues are more provider or user dominated etc.
- It is important that the 'brief' is available upfront and people know why they are in the dialogue, need to set the scene.
- We need to better listen to the users and to understand what they need; it is not about what research (and other providers) is offering → get the providers together before the users dialogue so to get them in the mood to really listen to users
- We need to make clear what the **added value** of participating in National Dialogues is. This is important to encourage esp. users to participate. It is also important, because these users could be multipliers to encourage other users in their community
- get the right user representation: technical people, budget people, expert users with technical background (if the user group are people with technical background, science can come in sooner)
- dialogues takes longer than expected because users do not know well what they precisely need and how to use the info. There is a lot of conversation needed to understand needs, what the users asking for. People coming from a different community have to give the info to the end user and maybe the users use/ communicate it wrong.
- Direct communication is important; try to avoid sending e-mails, call stakeholders or send letters. This is more personnel
- National Dialogues should not be single events. Since knowledge, needs, and requirements evolve over time, National Dialogues should be organized continuously.
- Define responsibilities on who is doing what in order to
 - Better manage / organize National Dialogues
 - Manage expectations of participants
 - Communicate the purpose of National Dialogues and why it is important for stakeholders to participate
- On a European level, better structuring of work to avoid duplication of activities
 - Some countries do not organise a research dialogue because they believe users' needs are already known
 - Other countries dialogue type things are ongoing but fragmented and not structured
 - If a country believes no dialogue is needed it would anyway be important to report on the situation: needs and its context so as to inform research



Encouragement

- No take home message besides demonstrating the added value of participation to stakeholders

Engaging Stakeholders and feed-back from the EC WS 'Towards a European Market of Climate Services'

Key messages of presentations held by Roger Street

Engaging Stakeholders – Users, providers and the climate science community

- Climate services are data + information + knowledge
- Credibility of service providers is a critical attribute for users
- Improving decision-making not the information itself
- Need of demonstration projects: knowledge transfer resulted from good / best practices is needed / needs to be enhanced to bridge the gaps between users, providers and the climate science community
- Climate services have to fit in decision-makers processes, otherwise the best climate services are of limited use
- Climate service providers are well organized on European and national levels, users are not
 - National Dialogues could facilitate network building amongst users, if users are appropriately addressed and encouraged to participate
 - Need for mechanisms to support development of skills to work in inter- and trans-disciplinary contexts
- Engagement, however, is costly in terms of people and money

Towards a European Market of Climate Services

- H2020 as a framework to develop a European market for climate services → research and innovation programme that addresses societal challenges and that will stimulate business
- Definition of climate services within H2020: Transformation of climate related data into customised products, counselling on best practices, development and evaluation of solutions and other services in relation to climate that may be of use for the society at large



- Establishment of this market with support of private companies, esp. SME (need to be part of project proposals under H2020, which is completely new compared to FP7) → potential launch of user-driven demonstration projects
- We need users but who are the users and what are their needs?! This is a tremendous challenge, since users mostly could not articulate their needs.

Stakeholder engagement in the context of National Dialogues and broader

As the stakeholder engagement and related challenges are discussed in previous sessions, this session focusses more on the “broader” aspects of Stakeholder engagement.

- Who are stakeholders of JPI Climate (which is not completely clear); identified are the following but there could be more not considered in our discussion.
 - Users and providers of climate services in the broadest sense (as discussed in previous sessions)
 - Research Community in general → e.g. the European Climate Service Partnership
 - Funding bodies on the national and European level
 - Other governmental bodies
 - Other JPI modules!
- From funding bodies point of view
 - Combine national activities and pool funds to avoid duplication of work and enhance exchange of experiences → fireplace idea.
 - Gather information on national levels and analyze those
 - JPI experts as consultants providing their knowledge, expertise to the funding bodies; give recommendations on knowledge / research gaps.
 - Modules (not working groups!!!) of JPI Climate are supposed to collaborate to define relevant research questions and support funding bodies in prioritizing → launch of joint JPI calls
 - Purpose of these calls: improve decision-making on local levels and **bridge the gap between research and users, so the research projects funded by JPI Climate must have impacts beyond the research community!**
 - Important: JPI is not doing own research!!! It only identifies research gaps and formulates research questions.
 - JPI member states have to agree upon a research plan taking into account the advice provided by JPI experts as well as user needs, because output must have impacts



- beyond research community. But there is only little knowledge about user needs available.
- Every member state than decides, if the questions agreed upon are of national interest and funding should be made available
 - How are the results disseminated to have impacts beyond the research community?
- Concerns mentioned with respect to funding of joint JPI calls
 - Only research institutions from funding countries could participate in JPI calls. This funding design might exclude researchers. If, for example, Germany is not giving money (for whatever reason) for a joint call, than no German research institution is able to participate, even though is it *the* European expert on this topic.
 - Are institutions / researchers allowed to participate in calls, which addresses the research questions raised by them? Are there possible conflicts of interest?
 - The funds for a research institution will only be granted in the height of the national budget. If a country spends 250.000 Euros and an institution applies for 300.000 Euros, they could not participate (even though their contribution could be of importance).
 - Additional points mentioned:
 - Workshops could be helpful to bridge the gap between providers, users and the research community but must be used more effectively
 - See experiences from Austria (direct contacts) and Denmark (continuous process)
 - Make clear, what the added value is, e.g. visibility of providers, but for users?
 - Better communicate what JPI and its role is
 - Within the JPI modules
 - And other stakeholder



Discussion on Planning the Autumn Workshop

The aim of the next work shop is to build upon the first workshop (Hamburg 8/5-14) to map and support the network of European Climate Services providers and the mapping hereof in the climate-knowledge-hub. The aim of the second workshop will be to expand the network and also to expand the appreciation of the user's community across Europe and to further explore their needs in relation to research gaps.

The suggested topic of the next workshop is to have an interactive workshop with the aim of furthering the development of the European Climate Services market, by detailing and elaborating on the European Commission Road-Map for developing the Climate Services market. We will moreover, discuss the development of the ERAnet on Climate Services and update participants on these developments and discuss these. We will develop workshop activities for the workshop, e.g. further sharing of national dialogue key findings across Europe and suggest key features and next practices for national dialogues in support of delivering Climate Services. Planning and delivering these workshop activities should be done including the other modules of JPI Climate as module 2, in addition to exploring users' needs and mapping providers for its own purposes, is leading these task within the JPI-Climate Implementation Plan (IP) for the benefit of the entire IP.

Key questions to be addressed at the forthcoming workshops include e.g.:

- Defining who are currently not Climate Services costumers, but who should have an interest in the services
- Experiences with successful users engagement
- How to effectively translate Climate Services information to user relevant decision-making input
- Methods of communicating climate related risk information
- Integrated mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction assessments and communication

The proposed venue is Prague in conjunction with the EMS meeting (6-10/10-14). We will seek to have a special half day workshop after the main Climate Services sessions have ended at the meeting. We will after the workshop evaluate the need for 1-2 follow-up workshops e.g. one in the Baltic region and one the Balkan region, on essential the same topics as above, as well as more regional specific objectives and aims.

We will need to identify key-persons and institutions and invite them to the above activities, e.g. via the ECSP. We will define the location, responsibilities, available resources, and overall activities at a first conference call (skype) on this 15/5 at 9:30AM



Annex I - List of Participants

Name	Institution	Country
Matthias Themessl	Climate Change Center Austria	Austria
Hans Sanderson	Aarhus University	Denmark
Marianne Sloth Madsen	Danish Meteorological Institute	Denmark
Maria Manez	Helmholtz-Center Geesthacht, Climate Service Center	Germany
Jörg Cortekar	Helmholtz-Center Geesthacht, Climate Service Center	Germany
Insa Meinke	Helmholtz-Center Geesthacht, North German Climate Office	Germany
Roger Street	University of Oxford, UK CIP	UK
Chris Hewitt	UK Met Office	UK
Carlo Buontempo	UK Met Office	UK
Jane Strachan	UK Met Office	UK
Martine Vanderstraeten	Belgian Federal Science Policy Office	Belgium
Dominique Fonteyn	Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy	Belgium
Hans-Martin Füssel	European Environment Agency	Denmark
Roland van Oss	KNMI	Netherlands
Erik Kjellström	SMHI	Sweden
Stefan Sobolowksi	University of Norway	Norway
Torill Engen Skaugen	Research Council of Norway; ERAnet TF	Norway