Webinar report - ERA4CS Task 7.4 – 31st March 2017

A webinar for researchers and practitioners working on the social, behavioural and communications aspects of climate services

The objectives of the webinar which is an activity of ERA4CS additional activities (task 7.4) were to fill knowledge and information gaps related to the social dimensions of climate services in order to inform the development of a vision and implementation strategy for climate services. Two discussion questions were used to frame the webinar in the context of the challenges and the strategic mechanism set out in the JPI Climate SRIA in particular:

i) the climate decision making process;

ii) societal transformation; and

iii) connecting different realms of climate research.

There were 17 participants (see annex 1) in the webinar which commenced with an introduction to Task 7.4 and its activities. In addition, a number of invites sent written comments which are also reflected in this report. The highlights from the discussion are captured under the two discussion questions below.

Discussion question 1:

What research are you involved in (or aware of) that is addressing the social dimensions of climate decision making and / or societal transformation in the context of climate change?

- To what extent is this inter-disciplinary research that supports the development of climate services?
- Is any of this research conducted in collaboration with other research organisations or supported by a number of funding bodies? (looking to identify synergies)

Participants indicated the various research projects and initiatives they are (have been) involved in of relevance. A list of projects is included in Annex 2.

Research identified included the following most of which are interdisciplinary and collaborative research efforts:

- The role of climate services in societal transformation towards low carbon, climate resilient development
- Engaging with society to develop a shared understanding of climate change

- Communication of climate services to communities in developing countries
- Understanding barrier and opportunities for adaptation
- Climate decision making and the role of narratives, analogues and historical climate data
- Readiness assessments for climate services technology in EU member states
- Social science driven scenarios and decision making tools
- Studies into demand for long term climate services versus more frequent demand for information for near term decision making
- Communicating uncertainty and degrees of confidence – including communicating AR5 to policy makers
- Sector level differences in climate service needs
- Governance of climate services in developed and developing country contexts
- Institutional governance and the role of public and private climate service provider s
- Specific work on cities and climate services
- Emerging work on mitigation climate services
- Lots of work on understanding user needs that needs to be built on and not further duplicated

Synergies identified:

- SEI umbrella programme – adding value to relevant research projects within an organisation
- Working as part of ERA4CS projects including the newly announced joint call projects – need to make sure synergies are realised through the proposed kick-off meeting and encouraging collaboration
- Working with GFCS, IOM and COPERNICUS
- The fifth International Conference on Climate Services brought together a large amount of activity. It was also noted that worldwide multilateral development banks and bilateral donors are also supporting work on climate services. The challenge is to ensure synergies and maximise impact.
- Working within the European Research Council
- The opportunity to take on board findings, perspectives and approaches from the ISSC report, Future Earth, previous JPI climate workshop reports on science-policy interfaces and findings from new and ongoing SSH research in European and international climate service projects (e.g. within EUPORIAS, GFCS, Copernicus, and other initiatives).

Discussion question 2:

What do you believe are the priority research and knowledge gaps related to climate decision making, societal transformation and / or inter-disciplinary research?

- An ethical framework for climate services and the need to engage philosophers and ethicists in research in climate services
- The cultural dimensions of climate services and their communication, including mitigating the risk of creating tensions when new sources of information are brought into communities – continued emphasis needed on marrying traditional, local and indigenous knowledge with scientific information.
- Gaps related to the legal aspects of climate services (especially ownership and responsibility) and liabilities related to the quality and appropriate use of climate services
- Assessing and communicating the economic and non-economic benefits of climate services
- The use of narratives to develop a shared understanding of climate issues

- Widening the scope of climate services beyond adaptation to mitigation and other aspects of societal transformation. Example of mitigation climate services include[1]: information for climate finance decision making (e.g. http://greenfinancelab.in/), integrated energy and water planning (e.g. https://sei-international.org/weap), long term energy systems planning e.g. (https://sei-international.org/leap) and supply chain emission monitoring and management (https://trase.earth/).

- Designing climate services to respond to dynamic vulnerability and to be responsive to both short term development needs as well as longer term development planning. The role of CS in supporting decision making over time and in the context of change.
- Translating climate services information to the wider community through collaboration with social and economic research groups – moving beyond 'risk' to understand how CS can open up benefits and opportunities.
- Climate risks and climate communications and public engagement
- Iterative and participatory methodologies and inclusion of user perspectives to reflect different type of value and to include opportunities for social learning.
- Institutional strengthening to develop and use climate services and to ensure sustainability of climate services. Includes the governance, process and structure of climate services.
- The role of intermediaries (purveyors) in climate services provision and the need to ensure the quality of climate services
- Evaluation of climate services, quality assurance and standards of services – what is salient, credible and legitimate in the science and users' communities
- Co-development of climate services research by social and natural sciences – to move away from social sciences being merely consulted as part of a project.
- There is a need for increased funding for enhanced consolidation, collaboration, mobility, and the possibility to help frame funding calls in ways that are inclusive of and enable social science and humanities (SSH) researchers to address critical questions and perspectives in ways that help to overcome the fragmentation of SSH research on climate change/climate services.
- Climate services related to climate related migration and displacement
- How to make use of the significant body of research on user needs and determining next steps and how to add value
- What are the roles of experts and scientific knowledge? How are salient and legitimate climate services being produced – role of experts and those picking up the services for decision making. What is the role of social scientists and how do they find their space (or conversely how can social scientists be engaged) in developing climate services?
- Roles of different players in the development and provision of climate services, including intermediaries and the role of the public versus private sector
- The roles for climate indicators within climate services, but also how can climate services requirements inform the development of indicators
- The need to differentiate between 'instrumental' and 'critical' social science and humanities (SSH) participation in climate service research projects where on the one hand, involvement of social scientists is seen as essential to enhance the legitimacy, salience, and utility or uptake of climate information/models and products developed by the natural science community (so a role that in effect does not challenge the positivist epistemological and ontological perspectives to knowledge production that underpin this approach), and more

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[1] With thanks to Greg Vulturius, SEI for examples.

constructivist and plural approaches to knowledge production that inform 'bottom-up' and critical SSH approaches[2].

[2] Not all SSH research takes such an approach, e.g. main strands of economics and some strands of sociology and political science take more positivist approaches to knowledge production.

Next steps:

- Webinar report shared with all participants and posted on ERA4CS website
- Task 7.4 events and activities at the [Climateurope festival](#), Valencia 5-7 April 2017
- Webinar with researchers working on climate services and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Information analysis and report writing – May 2017
- Task 7.4 Final Report June 2017: based on all evidence gathered and will inform vision and implementation strategy (Task 7.5). The findings will help to define the priorities for the first JPI Climate Scoping Forum planned for end of 2017/beginning of 2018 which will inform the next JPI Climate Implementation Plan.

Annex 1 - Participants

Suraje Dessai, Uni leeds

Jennifer West, CICERO

Joanna Post, UNFCCC

Tiffany Hodgson, UNFCCC

Conor Murphy, NUIM, Ireland

Elisabeth Worliczek, Austria

Marta Soares, Uni Leeds

Sukaina Bharwani, SEI

Gregor Vulturius, SEI

Barry O'Dwyer, UCC, Ireland

Harilaos Loukos, Climate data factory

Petra Manderscheid, JPI Climate

Alexandre Fernandes, JPI Climate

Andrea Sharpe, NERC

Roger Street, Uni Oxford

Margaret Desmond, EPA Ireland

Marc Kierans, EPA Ireland

Tara Shine (chair)

Annex 2 : Information on research projects shared by participants (and written comments from invitees unable to participate in the webinar)

EUMACS http://eu-macs.eu/

MARCO http://marco-h2020.eu/

ICAD: - http://www.icad.leeds.ac.uk/ (website will close soon, but outputs and information will be available here: http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/research/sri/climate-change-adaptation-group/)
EUPORIAS - http://www.euporias.eu/ finished in January 2017

SECTUER - http://www.the-iea.org/projects/secteur/
QA4Seas – https://climate.copernicus.eu/quality-assurance-multi-model-seasonal-forecast-products

Other ongoing projects under Copernicus Climate Change
service: http://climate.copernicus.eu/sectoral-information-system

PLACARD: http://www.placard-network.eu/about-us/our-work/

BRIGAID: http://brigaid.eu

Climate Science for Service Partnership – China -
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/newton/cssp-china/wp5

UMFULA: http://www.futureclimateafrica.org/project/umfula/
CCCEP: http://www.cccep.ac.uk/case-study/institutions-climate-services-and-adaptation-water-resource-planning-under-uncertainty-in-the-cauvery-river-basin-in-karnataka/ ;
http://www.cccep.ac.uk/theme/managing-climate-risks-and-uncertainties-and-strengthening-climate-services/

TEN project https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/research/social-and-economic-transformations/sustaining-communities/projects/transformative-education-network-ten-hunger-project

Projects share by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) of the UK :
ESRC funds or co-funds the following investments:

CCCEP
The ESRC Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy (CCCEP) brings together some of the world's leading researchers on climate change economics and policy, from many different disciplines. The Centre is hosted jointly by the University of Leeds and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and is chaired by Professor Lord Stern of Brentford.

JPI Climate European Perceptions on Climate Change led by Nick Pidgeon
More information

Greenhouse Gas Removal from the Atmosphere – NERC led consortiums and topic specific submissions, (awards not yet announced)
The programme will undertake research to improve our knowledge of the options for removing carbon dioxide (CO_2) and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere at a climatically-relevant scale, giving interdisciplinary attention to the environmental, technical, economic, governance and wider societal aspects of such approaches on a national level and in an international context.

NERC led consortium (including NERC, ESRC, EPSRC, BEIS, Met Office)

UK Drought and Water Scarcity – programme is in its last 2 years.
More information

NERC led (including collaboration from ESRC, EPSRC, BBSRC and AHRC)

'Centre for the Evaluation of Complexity Across the Nexus'- CECAN
The 'Centre for the Evaluation of Complexity Across the Nexus', is a national research centre hosted by the University of Surrey, which brings together a unique coalition of experts to address some of the greatest issues in policy making and evaluation. This centre is led by Prof Nigel Gilbert.
CECAN will pioneer, test and promote innovative evaluation approaches and methods across nexus problem domains, such as biofuel production or climate change, where food, energy, water and environmental issues intersect.

Co-funded by ESRC, NERC, DEFRA, BEIS, UK Environment Agency and UK Food Standards Agency.

GCRF Building Resilience (NERC, AHRC, ESRC)
The Building Resilience research programme will take an interdisciplinary approach to understanding what causes environmental dangers like droughts, land degradation, volcanoes, earthquakes and flooding, and build in preparedness to help countries cope. Further information (NERC, AHRC, ESRC)

STEPS centre
The ESRC Social Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability Centre has a research theme around climate change and energy More information

From CIPRA Austria:

- CIPRA is involved in the Elaboration of a "Green Economy Action Programme" for the Alpine Space (including Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Slovenia). This involves collaboration with consultancies from Germany, with administrative bodies from all Alpine States (via the Alpine Convention) and also with different research bodies. One of the key topics of greening the economy in the Alpine Space is climate change (mitigation and adaptation). Between June 2017 and December 2017 several stakeholder workshops will be held, one of them probably dealing with climate change issues. The intention is to bring in the issue of climate services into that process ... and by doing so to help to build bridges from research to political decision making and vice versa.
  This activity is funded by the German Umweltbundesamt.
  Austria is setting up KLAR regions (climate change adaptation model regions). Their intention is to roll out the national climate change adaptation strategy at regional level. It is not known what the links will be to research.
- Austria and some other European countries are preparing Bio-Economy strategies. These strategies could have strong link to climate services ... if there are co-ordinated procedures at transnational level.

From **Catherine Vaughan, International Research Institute for Climate and Society,** Earth Institute, Columbia University

IRI — along with CCAFS, Practical Action, Mercy Corps, Catholic Relief Services, Winrock, ICRAF, WMO/GFCS, and Clark University — is involved in a USAID-funded project to develop and advance on a "learning agenda" for the evaluation of agricultural climate services in Africa.

This involves two streams of work — one is more engaged with developing metrics to assess climate service providers, while the other focused on assessing the access, use, and impact of climate services. Both projects are due to wind up in 2018, with the consolidation of information regarding good practice in terms of evaluation both in Africa and more generally.

https://iri.columbia.edu/

From CICERO, Norway:

Project name/acronym	Funding Source	Focus	Outputs
GFCS APA: Global Framework for Climate Services Adaptation Programme in Africa	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ NORAD	Evaluate user needs for and satisfaction with climate information and services in selected regions of Tanzania, research on integrating indigenous and scientific information and co-production of climate services; institutional and policy contexts shaping climate services development	Baseline report: http://brage.bibsys.no/xmlui/handle/11250/2382516 Institutional analysis: http://brage.bibsys.no/xmlui/handle/11250/2360430 Policy inventory: http://brage.bibsys.no/xmlui/handle/11250/2367251 Project webpage/information: http://www.gfcs-climate.org/Norway_2 http://goo.gl/mXFJyA
IPCC AR5	JPI Climate/Norwegian Research Council	The project analyzes how key messages from the IPCC AR5 reports are communicated, inform and are used by policy makers in different European countries (Norway, UK, Poland, Spain	Policy Briefs and main findings: http://cicero.uio.no/en/jpi Project webpage/information: http://cicero.uio.no/en/posts/projects/ipcc-ar5-in-europe

		and the Netherlands)	
ClimINVEST: Tailored Climate Information for Investment Decisions	ERA4CS – Topic A	The primary aim of ClimINVEST is to co-design and co-produce tailored information on climate change with investors.	The secondary aims are 1) to feed climate information into the various risk framings of financial decision-makers; and 2) to add value to investor decisions through the co-development of tools for transferring and communicating climate information. The envisioned impact is a contribution to capacity building on mitigating and adapting to climate change for investors, improved communication between climate researchers and the financial community, and value-added to facilitated investment decision-making that accounts for physical climate risks, with a potential to increase investment e.g. in climate-resilient infrastructure.
CoCLIME: Co-development of CLimate services for adaptation to changing Marine Ecosystems	ERA4CS-Topic A	The CoCliME project will co-develop and co-produce a set of regionally focused climate services to address key impact areas including human health, aquaculture, fisheries and tourism across the regional seas of Europe.	The developed services, and associated decision support tools, will empower and support vulnerable coastal sectors to accelerate adaptive decision-making and feed into key governance mechanisms such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Marine Spatial Planning, and local, national and European adaptation planning.
TRANSFORM: Local transformation towards a low-emission society	Research Council of Norway	The project investigates the role for Norwegian municipalities to contribute to a transformation towards a low-emission society.	The project examines how municipalities, as key social actors, public service providers, planning authorities and social entrepreneurs, can contribute to a transformation to a low carbon society. We will also examine how such restructuring processes are understood at the local level and how current policies, plans and priorities reflect this perspective and investigate the radical and fundamental forms of changes required to transition from a fossil-based economy to a low-emission society, from the perspective of municipalities. The goal is to gain insight into possible ways that municipality can contribute to a green shift, the opportunities and barriers they face in doing so, and to further

			understand the transferability of different solutions between municipalities. Project website (Norwegian): http://www.cicero.uio.no/no/posts/prosjekter/transform-hvordan-kan-kommunene-omstille-seg-til-lavutslippssamfunnet
HICAP : Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Norway); SIDA (Sweden)	HICAP will generate knowledge of climate change impacts on natural resources, ecosystem services, and the communities depending on them, contributing to policy and practice for enhanced adaptation.	Geographically, the project focuses on five sub-basins of major Himalayan river systems: two sub-basins of the Brahmaputra and one each of the Indus, Ganges, and Salween-Mekong. The project aims to contribute to enhanced resilience of mountain communities, particularly women, through improved understanding of vulnerabilities, opportunities, and potentials for adaptation. Project Webpage/information/outputs : http://www.icimod.org/hicap
Power from the people	Research Council of Norway and private sector "user" partners	The main objective of the project is to identify the driving forces and hindrances behind Norwegian households becoming prosumers.	Sub-objectives: 1.Improve our understanding of differences and similarities in the prosumer policies in the UK, Germany and Norway. (WP1). 2.Understand why some households in Norway decide to become engaged as prosumers, what their experiences are, how they use energy at home and how they respond to regulations and solutions offered by central stakeholders. (WP2). 3.Improve our understanding of how emerging prosumer participation in the energy system is perceived and handled by central stakeholders. (WP3). 4.Provide perspectives to policymakers, energy suppliers and relevant industry actors on the conditions for increased participation of prosumers in the Norwegian energy system. (WP4). Link to the project (Norwegian) http://www.cicero.uio.no/no/posts/prosjekter/strom-fra-folket
ShareON		Project objectives:	The sub-objectives are: 1.To provide an overview of how motivations

		The main objective is to provide recommendations to policymakers, businesses and communities on how sharing schemes could be designed to stimulate low-carbon lifestyles in Norway.	for and barriers to participation in the sharing economy might vary with social structural factors and value orientation 2.To investigate the motivations for participating in sharing schemes within different sectors, and the climate effect of the resulting changes in consumption choices 3.To investigate how motivations and climate effects might differ across different types of sharing schemes 4.To derive recommendations from the project results for policymakers, businesses and communities on how sharing schemes may be designed and organized to stimulate low-carbon lifestyles Link to the project (Norwegian): http://www.cicero.uio.no/no/posts/klima/kan-vi-dele-oss-til-et-bedre-klima
JPI Action Group proposal on SSH in CS research	JPI Climate Norway/CICERO	Proposed by CICERO, ULeeds and SEI. Decision at the last JPI Climate GB meeting to develop the terms of reference for the group with Norway and Netherlands leading and Sweden, UK and other countries expressing interest. Terms of reference being developed for the GB meeting in May.	The aims of the proposed Action Group are threefold: 1) To offer an opportunity for European social scientists to share, reflect on and learn from experiences, approaches and findings from their engagement in climate services research, and to ensure that this learning actively informs the evolving interdisciplinary research agenda of JPI Climate and other organizations; 2) To develop a COST action aimed at identifying key social science questions and knowledge gaps related to climate services that are not yet adequately addressed in existing European research; 3) To make concrete recommendations on how to promote and strengthen interdisciplinary climate services research in Europe, with a view not only to addressing existing knowledge gaps but to working towards equal capacities for natural and social sciences. Current challenge: How to take on board the feedback received from the GB so far on the aims and scope of the AG, while meeting the needs of SSH researchers who proposed the AG. - Whether to narrow or broaden out the focus (all of climate change research, or focus on climate services) - Whether to make it specific to SSH or include natural scientists (for example, in a reference

			group)
			- Whether and how to follow-up on previous JPI WG activities (and which ones)