

28 – 29 January 2013, Lille
Adaptation to Climate Change
in North-West Europe
Final Conference



Summary of workshops, 29 January 2013

As part of the final conference, four workshops focussed on themes of the Cluster's recommendations highlighting exemplary activities of cluster projects and discussing them with delegates:

Workshop A: Flexibility in planning and design of Infrastructure – Dealing with uncertainty organised by the projects WAVE and FRC

Workshop B: Understanding adaptation to climate change through improved communication; organised by the projects ALFA and C-Change

Workshop C: Galvanising integrated action: overcoming barriers to develop adaptation strategies for climate change impacts; organised by the projects Future Cities and IMCORE

Workshop D: Tools! – a platform to present different tools and to think about possible evaluations; organised by the projects AMICE and ForeStClim

Workshop A: Flexibility in planning and design of Infrastructure – Dealing with uncertainty

By Steve Dury, Somerset County Council, UK (WAVE-project)

After some scene-setting we had three presentations from the WAVE and FRC projects that illustrated different approaches to decision-making under uncertain conditions. We then split up into three groups and discussed peoples' experiences in dealing with uncertainty. Here is a synthesis of the presentations/discussions:

We need to ensure that adaptation decisions made today are resilient to a fast-changing and uncertain climate. The uncertainties in climate risk projections are particularly problematic for planning large-scale, long-lived and costly adaptation projects. We therefore need to integrate a 'risk management approach' whereby we:

- Realize that there are uncertainties;
- Explain these uncertainties;
- Determine the impact/importance of an uncertainty;
- Implement control measures to reduce accept and/or cope with this uncertainty;
- Appraise risks and opportunities.

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Transparency and communication are considered to be very important. Effective communication between science and policy is often hampered by the phenomenon of uncertainty in the science. It is important to be able to articulate uncertainties to the general public, stakeholders and politicians, to gain support for actions deemed to be necessary. The way this is communicated is very important – expression of uncertainties should NOT be seen as a weakness, and thus used as an excuse for inaction. The importance of participatory planning and early stakeholder engagement is seen as important. We must accept that fact that you cannot convince everyone; focus on the benefits of taking actions.

Flexibility was another common theme. The need to use measures that are suitable over a broad range of climates (including extreme events), or sequencing the implementation of different measures over time. Given that there are uncertainties, we need to recognize the value of ‘no regrets’ or ‘low regrets’ and ‘win-win’ adaptations in terms of cost-effectiveness and multiple benefits. We need to avoid actions that foreclose or limit future adaptations, or restrict adaptive actions of others. Profile raising element: telling stories of what we have done.



Workshop B: Understanding adaptation to climate change through improved communication *By Anita Konrad, Groundwork London, UK (C-Change)*

Climate change is often perceived as an abstract concept, which is far removed from the people’s everyday life. In the workshop four short presentations from the projects ALFA and C-Change illustrated a range of specific approaches for communicating climate change to different stakeholders – professionals as well as the wider public including children and young people – which are also geared towards stimulating practical action on adaptation. In smaller groups and pairs personal “to-do lists” were developed which revealed some important points for action.

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- 1) A comprehensive plan to communicate all aspects of climate change relevant to the project and include all relevant stakeholders in the process is a key deliverable and as important as any of the other actions and investments. Therefore, it needs to be developed from the outset, reviewed regularly and updated as necessary.
- 2) We all need to make better use of existing information and resources to avoid duplication of efforts. This includes ongoing engagement with the networks we have all developed as part of INTERREG and our wider work.
- 3) Communication around climate change needs to be tailored to its target group. Where information is too technical, it should be translated into messages and examples that are close to the audience's everyday experiences.
- 4) A peer-to-peer approach to climate change communication tends to be very effective and is proven to lead to lasting behaviour change, e.g. young people, planners or health care professionals acting as Climate Change Ambassadors.
- 5) We need to find effective ways for communicating uncertainty and risk relating to climate change. This will help professional stakeholders and the wider public understand the need for flexibility in planning for and investing in adaptation and mitigation.

Workshop C: Galvanising integrated action: overcoming barriers to develop adaptation strategies for climate change impacts

By Jeremy Hills, Ctl Consult, UK (IMCORE)

The workshop started with an elaboration of the “G” (Galvanise) and “I” (Integrated). Galvanise was considered at all levels from improving coordination between EU Directives, triggering and strengthening co-ordination across sectors, and promotion of sustainable procurement rules. Integrated management and monitoring was related to sustainable management strategies which foster structural and non-structural measures, improved risk management and monitoring of results.

An example of “Galvanise” was presented from Future Cities which was the “Adaptation Compass”. This tool is a five-module computer-based guidance process to help develop climate-proof cities; this tool has already been tested in a number of NW European countries. An example of “Integrated” was presented from IMCORE which involved the development of a local adaptation strategy for Cork Harbour (Ireland) using an expert-couple partnership approach between the local authority and a research institution and the development of future scenarios.



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The workshop then carried out two group work sessions using two separate groups:

Group work I: identification of barriers and constraints for predefined dimensions (PEST) Political, Environmental, Social and Technical. The outcomes of this session were that there were a range of barriers coming from all the PEST domains. It was apparent that there were distinct commonalities in these barriers between then different institutions / countries represented although terminology and nomenclature were different.

Group work II: *SIC adapt!*-approaches (and others) to overcome the barriers identified and linkages between approaches. Based on the outcomes of the first group work, the second session focussed on progressing a climate response and finding integrated ways forward to overcome these barriers. It was noticeable that there was quite a range of experiences within the groups to overcoming such barriers thus reinforcing the value of trans-institutional / transboundary discussions and working. The workshop concluded that a useful way to overcome barriers is through the use of participatory tools, such as the Adaptation Compass, which help to structure and communicate information, promote involvement and help decide which climate resilient route to take in the maze of possible futures.



Workshop D: Tools! – a platform to present different tools and to think about possible evaluations *By Martine Lejeune, RIOU, BE (AMICE)*

The aim of the workshop was to present different tools developed within the Cluster and to think about possible evaluations of tools. To achieve this goal, five tools were presented in a market place setting. The workshop started with a short introduction on the goal of the session and the procedure. In the marketplace every tool was presented during 10 minutes, including answering the questions how the outworked knowledge will be transferred and to whom. After these 10 minutes participants were asked to evaluate

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the tool with the AMICE “spider web” method. “Spider webs” were put on the walls and participants were given coloured sticky dots.



Criteria for evaluation were: Applicability/feasibility, transferability, easy understandable (clarity), performance under uncertain conditions and easy combination with other tools.

Tools which were presented and evaluated:

Tool	Developed within the project:	Presented by
Adaptation Compass	Future Cities	Eveline Huyghe, WVI
Website tool to show outputs	FloodResilienCity	John Blanksby, Sheffield University
Participatory Scenario & Vulnerability Assessment	IMCORE	David Green, Aberdeen University
Flood crisis management platform and database; Hydraulic Modelling and flood risk maps	AMICE	François Hissel, CETMEF and Gille Morel, Compiègne University
SME (Spatial Multicriteria Evaluation)	ForeStClim	Paul Nolan, Mersey Forest

After one hour the whole round was finished and everybody had an idea of all the tools presented. The workshop ended with presenters and participants giving their view on the workshop.

More information on these and further tools which were developed within the Cluster-projects, can be found on the Cluster’s Knowledge Platform “Tools & Measures”.

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**SIC
adapt!**
Adaptation to the Spatial
Impacts of Climate Change

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VERBAND**



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Investing in Opportunities



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