

Climate services for the German society with focus on adaptation

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The Climate Service Center (CSC) in Hamburg was established in 2009 by the German Federal Government at the Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht and is mainly funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). CSC supports decision making for adaptation to climate change by providing science-based knowledge to society. The information provided is sector specific and tailored to the needs of customers, i.e. decision makers in economy, politics and administration. CSC is an interface between climate related research and application in Germany. It brings research institutions, and business and policy partners together in a joint network and is developing partnerships with other German climate service facilities. To understand the needs of national stakeholders a user needs analysis was carried out in two pilot economic sectors, water and agriculture / food. Questionnaires were sent to policy- and decision makers in governments, local authorities and large companies as well as service providers and NGOs. The feedback indicates major interest in, and demand for, climate services in Germany. One of the current tasks is to give advice and support to the multidisciplinary joint projects from the KLIMZUG-Programme (Managing climate change in the regions for the future). These projects examine how local impacts of climate change in different regions of Germany may be dealt with and develop possible strategies of adaptation to changed climate conditions. During the five year project period the projects are supported in different stages according to the CSC model chain: supply of regional climate model data - help with handling and interpreting data - answering questions regarding the operation of impact models, the development of adaptation measures and strategies - communication of related proposals to decision makers from industry, economy and politics. Within the KLIMZUG-network and in exchange with other projects and stakeholders, possible synergies are identified and promoted. In its facilitating and coordinating role, CSC is supporting Germany by adapting to climate change. Examples for services relevant for dealing with and adaptation to climate change are: - documentation of statistical tools to be used in the analysis of climate and climate impact data, - advise on the current options and challenges in coupling climate model data with impact models (ecological, hydrological, and socio-economic), and future requirements, - initialization of 'Climate Navigator', a web-platform provided by more than 40 partners which offers a survey of climate knowledge and current discussions for customers and society.