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Initiatives toward climate services in France and in the European Community

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Many initiatives to establish National Climate Services are presently taking place within the European Community, given the fast growing demand for climate scenarios to support climate change national and regional impact and adaptation plans. There exist already some web portals providing climate information and services in several European Community countries, such as the UK Met Office UKCIP, the KNMI Climate Explorer, the Santander Meteorology Group DAD, etc. Within Europe, the European Network for Earth System Modelling (ENES) is developing, within the FP7 EC-funded IS-ENES European project, a prototype of a pan-European impact portal designed to bridge the gap between the climate modelling community, the climate impact community, the climate effect community, practitioners and decision makers for developing adaptation and mitigation policies. This European portal does not aim at replacing existing national data portals, but it is rather designed to propose standard workflows, structure, common tools, documentation, support system, etc. to access federated data repositories using standardized technologies such as OGC, ESG, and THREDDS, among others. The methodology adopted in IS-ENES has consisted in gathering several case studies performed by the partner institutes. 17 national and representative use cases have been selected. They have been analyzed and combined in order to propose a first draft of an "ideal process". It includes 7 steps: collection, analysis and validation of the requests; definition of proceeding instructions; planning; data processing; quality assessment; documentation; data packaging and data release. Typical use cases show that the impact community has needs for highly customized and tailored data, which can hardly be compiled by an automated process. The e-impact portal can play a central role in being the information broker where the impact community and climate modelling community can come meet and develop initiatives. This initiative is pushing national data portals to use the same set of standard technologies, common tools and protocols and hence, being accessible from the IS-ENES e-impact portal. In France, there is already a strong synergy between the IS-ENES e-impact portal being currently designed and the future national climate services data portal. The latter is developed within the DRIAS (Providing access to French Regionalized climate scenarios for the Impact and the Adaptation of our Societies and environment) project, led by MÈtÈo-France, gathering the main French agencies dealing with climate, funded by the GICC (Management and Impacts of Climate Change) programme of the French Ministry of Sustainable Development. Its aim is to deliver data and products, as well as user support, such as a hotline, training material, and support discussion forum, focusing on regionalized climate simulations prepared by the French climate modelling groups. A multidisciplinary users committee representing different sectors concerned by climate change is providing recommendation to the project team. This poster will present key aspects of these climate change impact portals.