



Newsletter

Issue 2

28/09/18

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING INITIATIVE MANAGING AND ADAPTING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Steering Group Meeting Faroe Islands

The Faroe Islands hosted the CLIMATE project's third steering-group meeting, which was held on 4-7 June 2018. The meeting was a great success both with respect to the technical side of project research and development and also the trips, excursions and social events planned by our Faroese partners.



Project Partners at Sornfelli Metrological Station in the Faroe Islands

The meetings and accompanying workshops and excursions provided an opportunity for partners to work together on a number of project outputs including research, stakeholder engagement, and communications.

The meetings also enabled discussions and exploration of how to develop the best practice adaptation model and support tools to be used by Derry City & Strabane District Council, Sundsvall Municipality and Harnosand Municipality in the development of their adaptation plans. The meetings were well attended with representation from all full partner organisations.

In addition, a further workshop was held with representatives from across the Faroe Islands in order to share research and knowledge from the project. This served to increase awareness of the issue of climate change on the islands and suggested approaches from across the partner organisations.



Project Partners working to progress the development of Adaptation Plans.

Cloudburst Strategy & Heatwave Guidelines – Sundsvall

Partners from Sundsvall presented their work surrounding cloudbursts and heatwaves. The cloudburst model and strategy will be used to inform flood risk assessment, development planning, water management, and adaptation planning. The strategy is currently undergoing consultations before final approval by the municipality.

Sundsvall Municipality have also completed guidelines for periods of heatwaves. These guidelines will be used for social / group housing in the city of Sundsvall with 40 properties selected for trial. The steering group involved in the development of this are to meet soon to start the consultation process with the guidelines due for ratification early 2019.

Faroe Islands Climate

An extract of modelled wind data in the Faroe Islands made the basis of a presentation held by the Faroese team. The main conclusion of this presentation is that while mean annual wind speeds have increased very little – almost nothing – during the last 60 years, the severity and frequency of extreme wind-speed events (using ≥ 25 m/s as a criterion) have soared particularly from the late 1980s and onwards.

A further workshop was held for relevant public agencies and institutions from the Faroe Islands. Participants were given an overview of the CLIMATE project, its aims and objectives and also gained an insight into adaptation planning in other regions as well as increased risks and threats within the Faroe Islands

Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

Workshops were held to explore and share experiences of different approaches to stakeholder engagement including how to effectively map relevant stakeholders, the importance of understanding stakeholder motivations and how to effectively engage them.



Project Partners RAPID delivering a presentation on Stakeholder Engagement



CLIMATE Partners also had the opportunity to explore the Islands, learning about extreme weather which the Islands are facing and the impacts on their homes, livestock and transport.

Above image of Partners at Sornfelli Metrological Station in the Faroe Islands.

Adaptation Planning

Research partners presented updates on the development of the adaptation planning model. A workshop provided opportunity to provide input for future development of the model. Partners broke into small groups to analyse other adaptation tools including Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, Climate Ireland and SECAP.



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Workshop held in Sweden

April 2018

On 20th April, a workshop was held in Sundsvall, Sweden and was attended by 32 participants across seven municipalities, the County of Västernorrland, Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute and other service providers.

Details of the CLIMATE Project, its aim and objectives were presented to the attendees by Jennie Sandstrom of Mid Sweden University. Joakim Bergsten from Sundsvall's Municipality presented their work with cloudbursts and heatwaves to give examples on climate adaptation planning to inspire other communes.

This was followed by a presentation from Anna Jonsson, National climate adaptation expert, who presented the new guide/tool that aims at facilitating the climate adaptation work in small/medium-sized communes.

Participants learnt how the guide was developed: in total 15 "test-communes" throughout Sweden were involved and they had several opportunities to give input during the process. Viveka Sjödin from the County Administration gave a presentation about their new, revised climate adaptation plan (regional).



Participants at the workshop sharing ideas on the obstacles faced when working with Adaptation Plans.

During the workshop, participants broke into smaller groups and focused on discussing obstacles/difficulties when working with climate adaptation plans. The main outcome from this was that most of the organizations are already working with climate adaptation somehow but they need more knowledge and resources to improve the planning. Obstacles identified included difficulty knowing how to prioritize, lack of coordination and lack of knowledge about specific impacts from future climate change. This was really useful in helping to understand the needs of decision makers when incorporating climate adaptation measures into their work.



Jennie Sandstrom, Mid Sweden University, presenting at the workshop.

FUTURE WORKSHOPS

CLIMATE Project partners will continue to host a number of workshops with their municipalities/local authorities. These workshops will be dedicated to increasing awareness of the impacts of climate change, informing participants on adaptation methods and promoting the incorporation of climate issues into policy.

It is the aim of the CLIMATE project to mainstream climate adaptation and have it embedded in the minds of future decision makers.

Republic of Ireland News

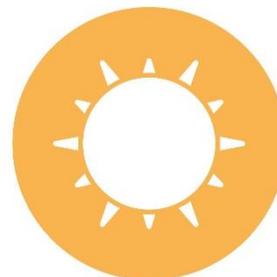
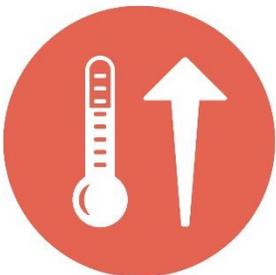
University College Cork recently presented the CLIMATE project at the UCC Climate Lab Open Day in Cork. The event involved researchers from across the University involved in Climate Research, allowing each to do a flash presentation of their work. This helped to raise awareness of the CLIMATE project and engaged with other members of staff who may be working on research which could be useful to this project.



Sophie Power, UCC, presenting at the UCC Climate Lab Open day in Cork.

IN OTHER NEWS

- Staff in Sundsvall, Sweden are also working on other climate adaptation measures including the management of storm water. Currently they are developing a process map showing where the decisions for measures handling storm water are being taken within the municipality. The results of this will be used to improve the management of storm water in the future.
- CLIMATE project partners are currently preparing for the next steering group meeting which will take place in Rovaniemi, Lapland in November. This will be a great opportunity for partners to meet face to face and discuss the ongoing work of the project. A series of workshops for partners and external stakeholders will be held to promote the project and encourage future collaborations.



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Adaptation Workshop, Derry



Jane McCullough, Climate NI, presenting to Derry City and Strabane District Council Staff

On 17th April, a workshop was held with staff from Derry City and Strabane District Council. This was facilitated by CLIMATE project manager, Climate NI and Climate Ireland. This workshop introduced the aims and objectives of the CLIMATE project to Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) departments. It specifically aimed to:

- Identify and engage key council staff in the CLIMATE project, including development of an adaptation plan for the council area,
- Increase awareness and understanding of the expected impacts of climate change across Northern Ireland
- Facilitate council staff to consider the vulnerability of their region to current and projected climate change, and
- Identify relevant existing council plans and policies.

A total of 22 participants provided representation across most service areas. The approach taken by the workshop organisers was to use previous events as a tool to encourage discussion and evidence gathering about impacts experienced, evidence recorded. The next stage will move thinking from being linked to historic events to strategically planning for the future based on scientific evidence.

Irish and Northern Irish Heatwaves

July 2018 saw Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland experience a heatwave which resulted in Ireland being declared as in 'a state of absolute drought'.

An absolute drought is defined as 15 or more consecutive days of less than 0.2mm of rainfall. With temperatures soaring into the 30s, demand for water increased by 30% and resulted in a hosepipe ban being implemented for almost three weeks across Northern Ireland. High demand combined with high levels of evaporation caused by the uninterrupted sunlight has caused significant depletion of rivers, lakes and reservoirs, some of which may take months to recover.

Gorse fires were also reported in a number of areas with emergency services struggling to contain the blazes due to the relentless high temperatures and the arid nature of the landscape.

Forest Fires, Sweden



Photo Credit: Fredrik Edlund - Emergency Services, Medelpad.

In July 2018, Sweden had to call for emergency assistance from its partners in the European Union to help fight a large number of wildfires which had broken out across a wide range of its territory and prompted the evacuation of four communities.

Tens of thousands of people had to remain inside and close windows and vents to avoid smoke inhalation with hundreds also being evacuated from their homes. Rail services were also widely disrupted. There have been huge fires in the past in Sweden, but not over such a wide area. The major fires covered around 19,000 hectares in total, across the municipalities of Gävleborg, Dalarna, and Jämtland. The sparks come from a variety of sources: BBQs, cigarettes and increasingly lightning, which is becoming more frequent as the planet warms. Bans on starting fires had to

be introduced -- including bonfires and barbecues, in some areas even in private gardens.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

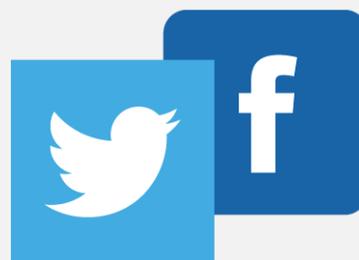
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