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To: Bjorn-Vidar.VANGELSTEN@ec.europa.eu
Subject: Newsletter on research on Climate Change and Environmental Risks

Please find below the first issue of the newsletter providing information on recent research on Climate Change and Environmental Risks.

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Newsletter No. 01/2007

Research on Climate Change and Environmental Risks

Introduction

The newsletter gives information on current research issues on climate change, on natural hazards and on risks to health from the environment.

The target audience is researchers, public authorities, students and others who are committed to or interested in the areas covered by the newsletter. Please forward the newsletter to anyone you believe will have interest in receiving it. Contact point for registering or cancelling your registration for the newsletter is given at the bottom of the page.

In focus

Future Climate, Impacts And Responses

An International Symposium on the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report & EC Integrated Climate Research was held on 19-20 November 2007 in Brussels. [more info](#)

Workshop on adaptation to climate change

A workshop was organized on research on adaptation to climate change in Brussels on 18 October 2007. The meeting gathered experts from EU funded climate change research projects, staff from DG RTD and other Commission Services dealing with adaptation to climate change. By presenting recent findings and results from the research projects and providing input to a DG RTD discussion paper, important progress could be made to identify priorities for future research on adaptation to climate change.

European research: Focusing on polar changes

The International Polar Year 2007/08 is the largest internationally coordinated research programme in 50 years. A special Thematic Supplement of *CORDIS focus* illustrates the key European contributions to research in the polar regions, especially in the field of climate change [more](#)

Publications

[European research on Polar Environment and Climate - Results and information from FP5 and FP6 projects](#)

[Arctic sea ice thickness – past, present & future. International workshop proceedings on Arctic sea ice thickness, held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 8-9 November 2005.](#)

[European research on Natural Hazards : catalogue of selected FP5 and FP6 projects](#)

[EU Research on](#)

EU-symposium celebrating the International Polar Year (IPY)

The European Commission celebrated the launch of IPY with a symposium on the Polar Environment and Climate in early March 2007. The symposium was organised by DG Research and brought together around 160 participants from 21 countries. It addressed topics such as the climate system, health of polar populations and the natural and socio-economic impacts of climate change as well as research infrastructure in the polar areas. [more](#) + [proceedings](#)

EU-Japan Workshop on Climate Change Research

The fourth EU-Japan Workshop on Climate Change Research was held in Brussels on 12-13 March 2007. The main objective was to promote closer links and collaboration in the field of climate change research between European and Japanese agencies and institutes, such as the successful collaboration between the Japanese Kyosei project group and the ENSEMBLES integrated project. See [joint statement](#) from the workshop for more.

EU-funded research on carbon cycle and GHGs: current state-of-the-art and future research needs

On the 5th of October, an expert consultation workshop entitled 'EU-funded research on carbon cycle and GHGs: current state-of-the-art and future research needs' took place in Brussels. The workshop was organised by the Directorate Environment Unit I5, and brought together leading European scientists and related EC staff with the aim to (i) provide a brief overview of current activities, results and their potential impact to policy making and (ii) discuss key uncertainties, future research needs, within the research strategy under FP7 and the wider political commitments of the EU. A document outlining the key results of the workshop will be available shortly.

Parliament wants more money and an 'EU force' for natural disasters

In a joint resolution adopted on 4 September, Members of the European Parliament insisted that the EU must adapt its solidarity instruments in order to deal with increasingly common "extreme phenomena", such as the violent floods in the UK and the devastating forest fires in Greece and elsewhere [more](#)

First session on the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva on June 5-7

The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, in his capacity as chairperson of the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR), launched a consultative process in 2006 to strengthen the ISDR system and better support Governments to meet their commitment to implement the *Hyogo Framework for Action*. As a result, the multi-stakeholder Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction has been set up. It is the main consultative forum on disaster risk reduction at the global level. It brings together a wide range of actors in the various sectors of development and humanitarian work, and in the environmental and scientific fields related to disaster risk reduction. The first meeting was held in Geneva on June 5-7. [more](#)

Risk assessment of indoor air quality

The Scientific Committee for Environmental Health Risks (SCHER) of the Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO) has published an opinion on risk assessment of indoor air quality [more](#)

Possible effects of electromagnetic fields on health

The Scientific Committee for Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENHIR) of the Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO) has published a preliminary opinion on possible effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF) on human health [more](#)

[Environment and Health - Results from FP5 Projects](#)

[EU research on Environment and Health: Expanding Knowledge to Improve Our Well-Being](#)

[Commission Research in action: Tackling the Hormone Disrupting Chemicals Issue – Results from FP5 projects](#)

EU project highlights

CarboAfrica: Better understanding of the fluxes and pools of GHGs in Sub-Saharan Africa

Africa is the least well-covered region by studies on climate change and greenhouse gases. CarboAfrica is a 3-year project funded by the European Commission under FP6. The goal of CarboAfrica is to set up a first attempt of a greenhouse gases (GHGs) fluxes monitoring network of Africa, in order to quantify, understand and predict GHGs emissions in Sub-Saharan Africa and its associated spatial and temporal variability. The kick-off meeting took place on 23-25 October 2006 in Pieve Tesino, Italy. More on [project website](#).

Climate change impacts in the Mediterranean area

CIRCE (Climate Change and Impact Research: the Mediterranean Environment) is a 4-year large scale integrated project involving 64 participant institutes from Europe, Middle East and Northern Africa. The kick-off meeting was held on 3-4 May 2007 in Bologna, Italy. The project aims at developing an assessment of the climate change impacts in the Mediterranean area, see [project website](#).

Risk Mitigation for Earthquakes and Landslides

The Final Workshop of the FP6 Integrated Project LESSLOSS "Risk Mitigation for Earthquakes and Landslides" took place in Belgirate, Italy on 19-20 July. The workshop was dedicated to present the results of the LESSLOSS project, in particular the deliverables developed during the final year relating to dissemination and synthesis of the project. See the [Lessloss project website](#) for further information.

MICRODIS kick-off meeting

MICRODIS (Integrated Health Social and Economic Impacts of Extreme Events: Evidence, Methods and Tools) an integrated project involving 20 partners from Asia and Europe held its kick-off meeting on April 18-19 in Brussels [more](#) + [project website](#)

HENVINET: Linking researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders

The project will address directly the Action 6 of the E&H Action Plan: 'Target research on diseases, disorders and exposures' and aims to improve knowledge of the links between environmental exposures and four priority diseases: allergies/asthma; cancer; neurodevelopmental disorders and endocrine-mediated effects. The launch event took place in Oslo on 27-29 November 2006. More on [project website](#).

Science meets policy

A network of European National Platforms and Focal Points for Natural Disaster Reduction

A network of European National Platforms and Focal Points for Natural Disaster Reduction has been initiated by France, Germany and Switzerland. Among the objectives is to facilitate and improve the exchange of information on good practices and experiences within Disaster Risk Reduction, become a partner to the European Union as well as provide substantive input to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (see separate item above). More on the [website of DKKV](#)

FLOODsite: A contribution to the upcoming directive on flood risk assessment

The largest ever EU flood research project, FLOODsite (9.68 M€ grant, 37 partners), is developing integrated flood risk analysis and management methods. The Integrated Project is delivering advances in several areas of direct relevance to the three main activities of the proposed EU directive on flood risk assessment – preliminary flood risk assessment, the preparation of flood risk maps and the preparation (and implementation) of flood risk management plans. More on [FLOODsite home page](#)

**Environment & Health Action Plan:
Midterm review**

The midterm review of the E&H Action Plan is completed. It was presented as a Commission Communication to WHO inter-ministerial meeting in Vienna June 13-15. See [full review](#)

Contact information:

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