



Newsletter

Issue 3

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COLLABORATIVE LEARNING INITIATIVE MANAGING AND ADAPTING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Steering Group Meeting Rovaniemi, Finland

The CLIMATE project's fourth steering-group meeting was held on 21st and 22nd November 2018. Over the course of the two days, partners attended meetings, accompanying workshops and excursions which provided an opportunity for partners to work together on several project outputs including research, adaptation planning, monitoring and evaluation and communications.



Project Partners meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland.

Partners gave updates on their work since the last steering group meeting held in June in the Faroe Islands. It was clear that

a lot is happening in each region with the project progressing well and on target to deliver its outcomes.

In addition to presentations from partners, Rovaniemi Environmental Manager also shared their experience of climate change and adaptation within the municipality and gave partners a tour of the municipality to see firsthand the adaptation measures they have put in place.

Associate Partners including The International Barents Secretariat, Regional Council of Lapland, South East Iceland Nature Centre and Vatnajökull National Park also gave updates to the group on their ongoing work to address climate change, including the impacts they are facing, and the adaptation measures they are implementing to address these.



Project Partners on a tour of the municipality to see climate adaptation measures which have been implemented.

International Barents Secretariat

Roman Gokkoev, Executive Officer from The International Barents Secretariat presented to CLIMATE project partners at the Steering Group meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland. The purpose of the International Barents Secretariat is to support the multilateral activities within the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Barents Regional Council to promote stability and sustainable development in the Barents Region. The BEAC meets at Foreign Ministers' level, the Committee of Senior Officials organizes the work of BEAC and the chairmanship rotates every second year between Norway, Finland, Russia and Sweden.



Above image of Roman Gokkoev, Executive Officer of International Barents Secretariat.

In his presentation, Roman highlighted the ongoing work of the Barents Euro-Arctic Co-operation Working Group on the Environment in mitigating against the risks of climate change. An Action Plan on Climate Change for the Barents Cooperation has been produced and Environmental Hot spots identified for action.



The meeting offered an excellent opportunity to share Secretariat Working Group research & CLIMATE project outputs. Further information on the International Barents Secretariat can be found on www.barentscooperation.org

The Regional council of Lapland



Olli Rönkä from the Regional Council of Lapland presenting in Rovaniemi.

As part of the 2nd day of the steering group meeting a seminar was held with representatives of the Regional Council of Lapland Land Use & Environment Team, the Finnish Forestry Administration and the Reindeer Herders Association in order for these attendees to gain an insight into adaptation planning in other regions as well as increased risks and threats within the

Lapland area. Olli Rönkä from the Regional Council of Lapland also discussed the development of Land Use Policy in Lapland and how sustainable development and climate adaptation are key considerations. The council are now drawing on the work of the CLIMATE project in their decision making and strategy planning.

South East Iceland Nature Centre & Vatnajökull National Park

Project Associate Partners Kristin Hermannsdottir from South East Iceland Nature Centre & Steinunn Hodd from Vatnajökull National Park gave an overview of the impacts of climate change, glacial reduction & glacial flooding in South East Iceland. In particular highlighting the change in growing season, species, location, agricultural practices and effects on sea birds that climate change is already having. Flooding is also having a major impact on local people, tourism and food security with fracture in mountains & landslides also becoming increasingly more common.



Kristin Hermannsdottir & Steinunn Hodd presenting to project partners on the impacts of climate change in Iceland.



In front of Breiðamerkurjökull outlet glacier, on 3 July 1935 / Photo. Helgi Arason, 1935



Sigríður Björgevinsdóttir at the same spot, nearly 80 years later, on April 18 2015. / Photo. Snævarr Guðmundsson, 2015.

The retreat of the Breiðamerkurjökull outlet, based on a repeat photograph from July 3rd, 1935, taken by the farmer Helgi Arason from Fagurhólsmýri, of the two brothers, Sigurður and Ari Björnsson from farm Kvísker, indicates that the glacier has retreated there 0.7–1.0 km from its maximum advance moraines in 1880–1890, east of Jökulsárlón lagoon. Helgi's photograph was taken near the margin of Breiðamerkurjökull, with a view of Breiðamerkurfjall, at that time still surrounded by the outlets Fjallsjökull and Breiðamerkurjökull.

In 2015, the location of the image was sought, and the task repeated nearly 80 years after Helgi took the photo. As of 2017 the retreat of this outlet ranges between 6.3–8.2 km.

These images clearly highlight the drastic impacts of climate change on the landscape in Iceland. An increase in temperature is resulting in the glaciers retreating at an accelerated rate and will continue to retreat unless we work to adapt to our changing climate.



Adaptation Planning



CLIMATE programme manager, Cathy Burns discussing the adaptation planning process with partners.

During the recent project steering group meeting in Rovaniemi, Programme Manager Cathy Burns updated partners as to the progress Derry City & Strabane District Council are making in developing their adaptation plan. So far work has focused on engaging Council teams with the process and collecting evidence of the impacts of climate change on services and estates.

A dedicated working group is now in place to develop the plan with a recent workshop held on 13th November. The next step in the process is to assess the risk from future climate projections and begin developing adaptation options for the Council.

5th Nordic Conference on Climate Change Adaptation

The CLIMATE Swedish partners attended the 5th Nordic Conference on Climate Adaptation (NOCCA), 23rd-25th October 2018 in Norrköping, Sweden. The conference title was "Nordic solutions for robust societies" and provided a number of interesting talks and interactive engagement for attendees.

Topics that the partners attended included:

- The challenges of climate change in the Nordic region
- State of play on the EU strategy on adaptation – how do the Nordic countries compare?
- Adapting the Icelandic power sector to a changing climate
- A strategic approach with a local perspective
- From adaptation to transformation: Evaluating the state of adaptation science
- Visualization and gaming – making adaptation real
- The future of food in and from the Nordic countries
- The role of the citizen in adapting to climate change: how to engage residents in developing robust, attractive and low-carbon societies.

The conference was organized by CLIMATE Associate partner, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, the Municipality of Norrköping and the University of Linköping with Formas co-financing the event.



Photo taken by Daniel Johannsson (Municipality of Härnösand): From the left in the photo, Joakim Bergsten (Municipality of Sundsvall) and Jennie Sandström (Mid University) trying out an interactive touch screen showing the effects from sea level rise in Norrköping, Sweden.



NI Local Government Award



CLIMATE Programme Manager, Cathy Burns collecting the NI local Government Award for Excellence in Environmental Sustainability by a Local Authority on behalf of Derry City and Strabane District Council, of which the CLIMATE Project and development of the first adaptation plan by a council in NI was recognised.

This is a great achievement for both Derry and Strabane District Council and for the CLIMATE project. This provides great motivation and encouragement that climate adaptation will soon be embedded in all future decision making within local councils.

IN OTHER NEWS

- Partners from Derry City and Strabane District Council travelled to Powerscourt, Co. Wicklow in August to visit the Cool Planet Experience. This provides an interactive journey for both adults and children alike to discover what climate change is all about. Through immersion, gaming and competition, you can experience the highs and lows of our changing climate whilst discovering exciting innovations and solutions to solve the problems. This was a really useful visit with partners taking away ideas which can be used during the community engagement element of the CLIMATE project.
- One year on from the devastating flooding of the North West of Ireland, CLIMATE programme manager featured on a local radio station to discuss the aims of the CLIMATE project and our plans to build resilience in relation to climate change in our local communities.
- CLIMATE project's Adaptation Plan was included on a poster for a UK Case Study, which was displayed at 'Marine Climate Change Impact Partnership' Conference in November. This helps increase the publicity of the project and promote stakeholder engagement.
- The CLIMATE communications team from RAPID attended a community engagement event with the Woodland Trust on 4th December to promote the work of the Faughan Valley Treescape project. This project aims to deliver landscape scale woodland creation and ancient woodland restoration initiatives extending to 1,000 acres of accessible woodland within The Faughan Valley in north west Northern Ireland over the next number of years. The project will particularly focus on creating a landscape that is resilient to the threats of the present and the future such as climate change and to protect and enhance its valuable habitats for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Green Infrastructure and Climate Change Conference

A Climate and Green Infrastructure Conference is currently being planned for 12th March 2019 in Derry. This will provide an opportunity to launch the GI Plan and will be the first GI and Climate Action conference held by any council in Northern Ireland and will provide a platform to showcase GI in the city and district and the work of the CLIMATE project.

The conference will be aimed at NI Local Authority Officers, Government Departments, NGOs, internal stakeholders, relevant business communities, cross border stakeholders and relevant community groups/ representatives



Lead Partner Seminar, Inverness



CLIMATE project partners attending the NPA Lead Partner Seminar in Inverness.

The CLIMATE lead partner team attended the recent NPA Lead Partner seminar in Inverness Scotland. This was an opportunity to meet members of the NPA Joint Secretariat as well as representatives from other projects.

The team had the opportunity to hear and learn from other projects across the NPA region, including those with a focus on climate mitigation. The Programme Manager and Finance & Administration Officer also attended a workshop explaining financial requirements within EU regulations.

Adaptation Workshop, Derry



Derry City and Strabane District Council Staff collaborating during the workshop.

On 13th November, the second in a series of 5 workshops was held with staff from Derry City and Strabane District Council. This was hosted by Climate programme manager with Climate Northern Ireland assisting in facilitation. This workshop followed on from the initial workshop held in April 2018 and involved;

- providing an overview of climate policy,
- an introduction to the Adaptation Planning cycle and;
- group exercises to explore the current climate impact on council service areas and existing adaptation measures.

This workshop proved to be extremely useful, with staff from numerous service areas coming together to share ideas on climate adaptation. Having an input from these various departments is crucial to the Adaptation Planning process as climate issues need to be embedded in the everyday planning of departments to holistically tackle the issues.

A report of workshop findings will be available to view in December 2018. A third workshop will be held at the end of January 2019 to continue to build on the work to date and plan for the future.



News from Härnösand, Sweden

Project partners in Sweden gathered on 5th October with part of the working group to inform them about the Climate project and to initiate the work ahead for Härnösand municipality to create the adaptation plan based on the best practice model from the Climate project.



(L-R) Per Jonsson, Contingency Coordinator, Daniel Johannsson, Sustainability Strategist and Project Manager Climate for Härnösand Municipality, Maja Nordmark, Comprehensive planner, Linnéa Mothander, Water Strategist (Municipal energy and environment company Hemab) Staffan Gilliusson, Project Manager Infrastructure.

They also looked into some extreme weather events from the near past and discussed existing actions taken and planned to prevent them from happening again. They also began the dialogue on the need for more investigations to identify activities that need to be implemented in the future.

In Other News

Project partner Daniel Johannsson, Härnösand Municipality was invited to speak at a seminar on 28th November 2018 Clarion Hotel Post, Gothenburg – welcomed by Swedish Geotechnical Institute (SGI) in cooperation with the County Board Administration Västra Götaland.

The theme of the seminar was "Sustainable ground construction in a changing climate" and Daniel discussed the challenges and development needs for Härnösand Municipality and also promoted the CLIMATE project and how it supports their work in the field of climate adaption.

This seminar was attended by over 50 people and present were a diverse range of professionals (Skanska, Sweco and other geotechnical consultants) and also individuals from municipalities, county boards and national authorities.

On 4th December, a network meeting was held with the County Board of Västernorrland's climate adaptation network with theme land-use planning and comprehensive plan. The meeting group was increased with resources from the municipalities responsible for planning. Sundsvall and Härnösand gave presentations on the Climate project and the work that each partner do in Climate. Attendance in the range 20-30 people.



Joakim Bergsten, Sundsvall Municipality presenting at the network meeting.



Daniel Johannsson, Sustainability Strategist and Project Manager Climate for Härnösand Municipality presenting at the network meeting.

Also, on the 5th December Härnösands Municipality welcomed the National Conference on Food Tech and Food Security for the future in collaboration with SSEC. The conference is part of Härnösand Municipality's membership in the network (SSEC) Swedish Sustainable, intensive, circular and mutualistic primary production of fish and vegetables.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To keep up to date with the progress of the CLIMATE project, you can follow us on our various Social Media Platforms;

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClimateNPA/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ClimateNPA>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/climate.npa/>

Website: <http://climate.interreg-npa.eu/>



CLIMATE
Adapting to Change

COLLABORATIVE
LEARNING
INITIATIVE