
Climate Change - Adapting to The Impacts, by Communities in Northern Peripheral Regions

Clim-ATIC Project – Climate Change Adaptation Information, Training and Advice Services Network

Business Plan Framework

Set out below is a framework of the proposed five year business plan detailing key areas of the plan together with a brief description of the content of each area.

1. Executive Summary

The business plan is a five year strategic document detailing the development and delivery of networked training programmes, information, and advice services to support Climate Change adaptation activities. The services are designed to assist with social and economic development and will be available to public administrations and businesses across the Northern Periphery.

2. Background

Clim-ATIC is a three-year (2008-11) project funded primarily through the European Commission's Northern Periphery Programme (NPP). The project is coordinated by the UHI Millennium Institute in Scotland, with partners in Finland, Greenland, Norway, Scotland, and Sweden. The stated overall objective of Clim-ATIC is to "develop, and create a sustainable, self-financing service to disseminate knowledge to support the sustainability of rural communities across the Northern Periphery, enabling them to adapt to likely direct and indirect impacts of climate change". As stated in the project document, such a service would build on existing structures and institutions as much as possible, as part of the delivery mechanism.

Previous discussions, including the meeting held at the European Environment Agency in Copenhagen on 17 February, and an online feasibility survey have shown a significant diversity of knowledge and information is available in different countries. In some countries (Finland, Norway, Sweden, UK/Scotland), a well-developed information system exists; in others (Ireland), it is being developed; in others (Greenland, Iceland, Northern Ireland), it is only being talked about (though always regarded as desirable). In addition, the European Commission is developing a clearinghouse.

The key issue is generally not lack of information, but how to make sure that it can be accessed and used by a wide range of users. Feedback from most countries noted interest among their users in having access to, and being able to share, information and best practices from other countries. However, the content of this information service has to be of direct relevance to users, and must be in the respective national languages, and transformed into usable local knowledge. With regard to training, a few relevant courses exist, but most are academic; only a few are targeted at stakeholders such as public administrations and businesses.

3. Service Profile

The information, training and advice services network will be coordinated at the national and trans-national level to address social and economic climate change adaptation issues across the Northern Periphery. The services will be financially sustainable because they will:

- Be delivered by institutions with an existing remit.
- Bring together the best available information regarding climate change adaptation underpinned by adaptation case studies relevant to Northern Periphery countries.

- Inform businesses, local government agencies and other organisations through the delivery and sign-posting of information, and advice activities.
- Develop and deliver training programmes to facilitate successful climate change adaptation for businesses and community groups and local government.

The aim of this new network is to bring together knowledge and expertise from across the NPP to collectively contribute to a greater understanding of the impact and adaptation issues associated with climate change, with the additional purpose of complementing existing national and trans-national training, information or advice services. And, to build capacity to deliver three distinct outcomes:

- develop a critical mass of information on climate change adaptation issues,
- provide a national and trans-national network and a practical context within which a wide range of community members and stakeholders can work with each other to address climate change adaptation issues,
- create a gateway and process that will draw together existing information and knowledge on climate change adaptation as well as new knowledge generated from other related climate change issues.

4. Joint Operating Model

It is envisaged that the joint operating model to provide these services will be a 'Hub' and 'Node' configuration using an open source delivery structure.

The Hub will be an existing knowledge hub with an international remit eg Finland's Climate Change Community Response Portal (CCCRP) or the EU Climate Change Clearinghouse.

The Nodes will be existing or emerging climate change advice service providers in each Northern Periphery region; Greenland, Sweden, Norway, Scotland, Finland, Iceland, Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Faeroes that can be accessed directly or via the central Hub. There is no limit to the number of nodes that could be part of this shared knowledge network. The coordination of all training, information and advice activities will be undertaken initially by the Clim-ATIC Hub services coordination team and channelled through the Hub to form links with the partner Nodes; these activities will again be transferred on completion of the interim period to the new service delivery partners.

An implementation plan to integrate these services into participating partner websites, and operational activities, will be incorporated into the business plan and will detail two distinct phases:

- **Interim phase** – this phase will be coordinated by Clim-ATIC partners and run until February 2011. It will involve the identification of the national and trans-national partner networks, the development of the pilot training programme, and the coordination of services available from networked partners.
- **Transfer/implementation phase** – this phase will see the formalisation of the national and trans-national partner network and the handover of the operational activities, maintenance of the network together with the delivery of identified services to one or more Northern Periphery partners.

5. Participating Partners

Meetings and other communications have been held with Clim-ATIC partners, and relevant national organisations and all would support the development of this service. Details of all support partners would possible include existing or emerging climate change advice service providers in each Northern Periphery region initially identified and invited to the Copenhagen meeting.

6. Services

The proposed range of services available at the national and trans-national level would include:

Training – Access to an 'off the shelf' training course, including materials and training plan, together with identified opportunities for focusing on specialist themes.

Potential topic areas: climate change risk management; tourism and energy security; adaptation decision making; social scenarios; climate change monitoring, vulnerability assessments and evaluation of regulatory approaches (including economic instruments).

Information - communities shape the choices and experiences of people living in them and these sources of information will provide local solutions and cases of best practice to encourage climate change adaptation activities and stakeholder support activities.

Potential topic areas: climate change impact on communities and regions; impact on transport and accessibility; impact on food and farming and the built environment.

Advice - there is much interest in developing new models of economic activity and innovative public service delivery that satisfy human needs without creating socially and ecologically unsustainable outcomes.

Potential topic areas: Climate change adaptation measuring and monitoring models, face to face processes to support vulnerability assessments; analysis and adaptation decision making and strategy development.

7. Coordinating Structure

The coordinating structure for the services network will be detailed during the interim phase and as part of the implementation process.

8. Marketing Strategy

Use will be made of existing feasibility study outputs to identify customers, gaps in the provision of services, delivery mechanisms, national subject areas.

To further enhance the aims of the services network, the partners of the Clim-ATIC project would develop strategic partnerships with a number of public and private sector organisations to promote and to deliver training, information and advice activities.

In addition, to raise awareness of the existence of these climate change adaptation services, pre February 2011, it is intended that the project website (www.clim-atic.org), along with newsletters and leaflets, and an international conference will allow a continuous delivery of services to a global audience. Post February 2010, the new service delivery partner/s will utilise their existing websites.

Furthermore, it is envisaged that extensive use of information and communication technology will be made to deliver training programmes and provide information and advice in an effective manner to national and trans-national audiences.

9. Operational Costs

The implementation of the information, training and advice services will incur costs to service delivery partners at the trans-national level (hub) and the national level (nodes):

- Knowledge transfer – research, collation, assessment and re-presentation of new and existing knowledge for dissemination – staff costs, material costs
- Training costs – venues, salary, equipment, promotion, materials...
- Advice costs – travel, salary
- Marketing – website, leaflets, newsletters
- Administration - bookings, accounting, evaluation, funding reports

10. Income Generating Opportunities

The implementation of the information, training and advice services will offer partners at the national level the opportunity to generate a range of their own income-generating opportunities and thereby access a range of potential income streams such as:

- Training Programmes: delivery of pilot climate change adaptation training programme and build capacity with the promotion and delivery of existing or future related training programmes.
- Membership Fees: Create a membership organisation and provide information, advice, workshops, seminars conferences to keep the membership up to date with a range of climate change issues, best practice and solutions, personal and professional development.
- Consultancy Services: Create tendering and contracts services to enable consultancies to engage with clients seeking climate change adaptation support.
- Knowledge Transfer Activities: Engaging, on a consortium basis, to delivery projects through nationally funded and European Union (EU) funded programmes.