

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT** (Max. 3 pages; to be completed in English)**Project title:** Climate Change Community Response Portal.....**Objectives:**

The objectives of this project, in decreasing order of importance, are:

- to raise awareness about global climate change and its implications for Finland
- to communicate scientific information in an understandable way to the general public on climate change, its impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation response at the community level
- to offer guidance to local decision makers, especially at the municipal and regional level, on integrating climate change information into their planning and decision making processes
- to assist the Finnish municipalities and regions in meeting their national and EU responsibilities for sustainable development, including the achievement of targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- to improve the adaptation capacity of Finland's environment and society to avoid the adverse effects of climate change and to make use of its potential benefits
- to enhance the networking of key national institutions working to disseminate climate change information and to raise awareness
- to create a common platform for different institutions to deliver climate change information in an integrated manner to various target groups and the general public

**Actions and means involved:*****Climate Change Community Response Portal (CCCRP)***

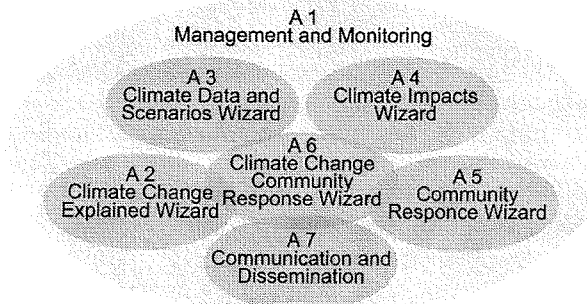
There is a large and growing body of information about climate change available on the internet. However, the quality of this information is highly variable, with reliable, peer-reviewed research results to be found alongside other material that is less rigorous and in some cases highly misleading. For the layperson, i.e. anyone without scientific training, including many decision-makers, it can often be very difficult to access reliable and relevant information. Moreover, even the reliable sources are often widely dispersed and may be too scientifically orientated to be applied directly in practical planning and decision making. This project seeks to address these problems by designing and implementing a common, one-stop national web resource for Finland entitled Climate Change Community Response Portal (CCCRP) through which key national research institutions and projects can disseminate their information in a user-friendly way.

CCCRP is a web portal that guides a potential user to a number of tools (referred to as "wizards") that are designed to address different aspects of the climate change issue. The basics of climate change are explained using eLearning methods in the "Climate Change Explained Wizard". Two additional tools provide: (i) detailed localized information on Finland's present-day and anticipated future climate under different scenarios of future emissions of greenhouse gases in the "Climate Data and Scenarios Wizard" and (ii) information about the impacts of ongoing and future climate change on different sectors at regional scale in Finland in the "Climate Impacts Wizard". These provide users with background information for their region on the climate changes to be expected and the potential impacts of these changes. The severity of these impacts will depend on how society responds to climate change through mitigation and adaptation efforts. Local decision makers have a vital role to play in both of these activities, and the main target group chosen for this project is decision makers operating at the municipality level (LAU level 2 in EU notation). Thus a fourth tool will include practical approaches to both adaptation and mitigation in the "Community Response Wizard". Each of these wizards will be operated by the different institutions participating as beneficiaries in the project.

Following the completion of this project, if there is interest in extending the Portal to broaden the range of available tools and other features, the core consortium of the three beneficiaries: The Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) (coordinating beneficiary), The Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (YTK), can be expanded to embrace new information providers and target groups.

***List of the main project actions******Action 1 - Management and monitoring***

As the coordinating beneficiary, the Finnish Meteorological Institute will be responsible for the overall management of the project. FMI will appoint a full time project manager from the staff of FMI to take care of the administrative, technical and financial management and the required reporting to the EU.



Organisation and co-ordination of the project, showing the relationships between different actions and the integrating role of the web portal (A 6).

A steering group (SG) will be appointed to supervise, monitor and evaluate the project. SG will meet every third month during the first two years of the project and three times during the last year. FMI will chair the SG. A project team takes the responsibility for the technical implementation of the activities. There will be six members in the project team, one for each action less Action 1.

All actions start at the project starting date 1.1.2009 and the project evolves in three phases: preparatory phase 1.1. – 31.10.2009, implementation phase 1.11.2009 – 31.12.2011

and evaluation phase 1.1. – 31.12.2011.

#### *Action 2 - Climate Change Explained Wizard*

The target group of the project consists of different actors in national municipal policy, and the contents of the eLearning component proposed for this action must be especially formulated to be easily assimilated by people having only lay knowledge of climate change science. Action 2 aims to provide general knowledge on climate change and thereby help the people involved to understand and make the most of the tools to be developed in other Actions.

To produce an efficient, interactive awareness raising package, the contents will be established on a suitable eLearning solution labelled "Climate Change Explained Wizard". The objective of the Wizard is not only to present awareness raising information about climate change, but also to provide possibilities for users to participate in web-seminars, progression surveys (self assessment of knowledge assimilated at the beginning, middle and end of the project period), web courses and tutoring on climate change and even discussions with climate change specialists. FMI will be the responsible beneficiary of Action 2 which consists of the following tasks:

- analysing the needs and priorities of key stakeholders (preparatory phase)
- designing the contents and user interface of the eLearning solution (preparatory phase)
- installing and configuring the selected software (implementation phase)
- preparing and incorporating the content of the Wizard (implementation phase)
- testing and initial evaluation of the Wizard (implementation phase)
- assessing the quality and usability of the eLearning component (evaluation phase)
- implementing revisions of the Wizard based on the evaluation results (evaluation phase)

#### *Action 3 - Climate Data and Scenarios Wizard*

There are a number of data servers in Europe that provide climate scenario data and fewer offering observational data. Many of the existing services are primarily targeted towards experienced users such as researchers, and thus the utilization of these services demands substantial data processing skills. On the other hand, there is a shortage of information and data services directed towards climate change applications for the general public. The proposed easy-to-use Wizard will be designed to address this shortfall by offering detailed localized information on Finland's present-day and anticipated future climate under different scenarios of future emissions of greenhouse gases. FMI will be the responsible beneficiary of Action 3. This Action will have similar preparatory, implementation and evaluation tasks as Action 4.

#### *Action 4 - Climate Impacts Wizard*

In Action 4 an extension of the existing research platform, FINESSI, will be converted into an awareness raising web tool, the Climate Impacts Wizard (CIW), for communicating scientific understanding about observed and possible future impacts of climate change in different regions of Finland in a user-friendly manner. The impacts will be matched with climate observations and scenarios defined in Action 3. The responsible beneficiary of the Action 4 is SYKE. Action 4 consists of the following tasks:

- selecting relevant impacts and scenarios (preparatory phase)
- defining the presentation format (preparatory phase)
- converting available impacts research results into user-friendly format (implementation phase)
- programming the Climate Impacts Wizard (implementation phase)
- communicating impacts research results by releasing the CIW web tool (implementation phase)
- evaluating the use and usability of the Climate Impacts Wizard (evaluation phase)
- implementing revisions of the Wizard based on the evaluation results (evaluation phase)

#### *Action 5 - Community Response Wizard*

Action 5 will develop a tool to facilitate local decisions relevant for addressing the challenges of climate change, the Community Response Wizard (CRW). The CRW will address both mitigation and adaptation concerns, with a focus at the municipal / regional spatial scale. It will draw upon the earlier research results and training experience of the beneficiaries, adding value to previous activities through increased practical applicability and societal impact. YTK will be the responsible beneficiary of Action 5 which consists of the following tasks:

- mapping the needs and priorities of key stakeholders (preparatory phase)
- planning the format and technical options of the wizard (preparatory phase)
- designing a step-by-step pathway for adaptation and mitigation decisions (implementation phase)
- testing and initial evaluation of the Community Response Wizard (implementation phase)
- evaluating the use and usability of the Climate Response Wizard (evaluation phase)
- implementing revisions of the Wizard based on the evaluation results (evaluation phase)

#### *Action 6 – Climate Change Community Response Portal*

Action 6 will implement the development and launch of the web portal, provisionally referred to as the Finnish Portal for Climate Change and Community Response. This will be the entry point for potential users of the tools described under Actions 2-5, offering a web site that is independent of the institutions providing the tools and therefore amenable to possible extension in the future. The Portal will host information and features designed to link and to integrate the individual Wizards. FMI will be the responsible beneficiary, with input from all beneficiaries. Action 6 consists of the following tasks:

- design of the layout and functionalities of the portal and consistency checking with the four Wizards (preparatory phase)
- programming the portal (implementation phase)
- testing and initial evaluation (implementation phase)
- publication of the portal (implementation phase)
- evaluating the use and usability of the portal (evaluation phase)
- implementing revisions of the portal based on the evaluation results (evaluation phase)

#### *Action 7 - Communication and Dissemination*

The proposed web portal and the information contained within it will be of little value unless it is properly described and marketed to the target audience. Action 7 focuses on communication and dissemination, with FMI as the responsible beneficiary, the Action comprises the following tasks:

- preparing and implementing the launch of the portal
- marketing the portal in the national media
- organising information seminars for the main target group
- preparing a layperson's report describing the web portal

The most important dissemination effort will be the use of the portal itself, and providing prompt responses to user-feedback on its effectiveness.

#### **Expected results (quantified as far as possible):**

1. raised awareness about the implications of climate change among the main target group
2. a better understanding of scientific information about climate change, its impacts, and options for adaptation and mitigation at the community level in Finland
3. an enhanced capability of the target group to integrate climate change information into their planning and decision making processes
4. offering a focus for improved networking among key national institutions providing climate change information, and a common platform to deliver this information in an integrated manner to various target groups and to the general public

The first three results will be quantified by surveys among the main target group. Qualitative information will be acquired by collecting case studies where the portal has assisted planning and decision making at local and regional level. The fourth result will be quantified by monitoring the use of the web portal and its individual components, and by conducting a survey of key Finnish institutions not involved in the project to determine their interest in participating in the future development of the portal.

