



Interdisciplinary work and climate research

some experiences from
a “ Tailoring”-project



“Tailored” climate information

Objective of the project:

- Inventarisation of required data in various sectors: type of data, presentation, etc.
- Inventarisation of possibilities to deliver the required data
- Assistance in using the climate data, e.g. how to deal with uncertainties

Requests from:

- Water management (urban, rural, rivers, drinking water)
- Energy (fossil, wind)
- Industry
- Ecology
- Agriculture
- Housing and infrastructure
- Financial sector
- Tourism
- Health

Problems

- People don't ask what they need/they don't know what they need exactly
- Incorrect assumptions during use of climate data
- Different interpretation of the same data
- Unrealistic expectations of what can be delivered
- Differences in objectives
- Confusion about terms

Climate research

Specific aspects:

- Requests from wide range of disciplines
- Data for research and “practice”
- Some times friction between what is scientifically the best approach and what is considered possible “in practice”
- A lot of media attention: what is true and what not?
- “Close” to policy makers
- Concern about how climate information is used and presented by others
- Differences in objectives

Requirements for interdisciplinary work

- Thorough disciplinary knowledge + broad interests/knowledge
- Critical and open mind
- Good communication and transparency
- Do not think always: “we can do it ourselves”
- Agreement on objective and final product
- Interdisciplinary review