



I-CISK  
HUMAN CENTRED CLIMATE SERVICES

# I-CISK Newsletter

November 2022 - April 2023 / **ISSUE III**

*Innovating Climate Services  
through Integrating  
**Scientific and Local Knowledge***

**Dear colleagues and friends,**

In this newsletter you will find some interesting updates on the EU-funded I-CISK project's latest activities and a series of inspiring events, which we have the pleasure to invite you to keep an eye and get involved. Feel free to share this newsletter and stay tuned for further news!

Sincerely,

**The I-CISK project team**

## About I-CISK

Climate Services (CS) are crucial to empowering citizens, stakeholders and decision-makers in taking climate-smart decisions that are informed by a solid scientific evidence base, that contribute towards a sustainable European economy, lifestyle, environmental protection and resource use, and that are resilient to climate change and compatible with achieving climate neutrality. I-CISK's ambition to innovate how climate information is used, interpreted and acted on through a next-generation of Climate Services that follow a human centred, social and behaviourally informed approach; integrating the knowledges, needs and perceptions of citizens, decision makers and stakeholders with climate information at spatial and temporal scale relevant to them. [Read more](#)

## 7 Living Labs

Seven Living Labs in Europe and Africa are central to the action-research approach. These are located in climate change hotspot with specific geographical and climatic settings, where climate services are co-produced with end-users from multiple sectors to meet their climate information needs.



In I-CISK we take an action research approach to fast-track research to impacts by co-developing a framework for human centred climate services in and with the users of seven Living Labs in Europe and Africa. Each living lab is located in a climate change hotspot with specific geographical and climatic settings, and with a focus on key socio-economic sectors. [Read more](#)

## News and Events from I-CISK

### Los Pedroches living lab at the XII Iberian Congress of Water Management and Planning



The I-CISK project overall approach and objectives, as well as the progress of Los Pedroches living lab, were presented at the XII Iberian Congress of Water Management and Planning organized by the New Water Culture Foundation on January 25-27, 2023 in Murcia (Spain). Read more [here](#).

### The Italian Living Lab 2023 Workshop – another step in shaping a sustainable future of water resources management

Thanks to all the Stakeholders and invited speakers joining the successful Italian Lab on Water Resources Workshop held on 29th March 2023!



While Italy is preparing to another year of severe drought the workshop featured insightful discussions on water resource management, climate change scenarios, and possible interventions, supported by an innovative Climate Service on water availability forecast. Expert speakers from CMCC, GECOSistema, and ISTAT shared their expertise on topics such as drought impacts and water stress, economic models, and related decision-making processes. Read more [here](#).

### Bringing the stakeholders closer to the project partners – Crete's LL hybrid multi-stakeholder meeting



The Crete Living Lab (Greece) lunched a wide, open hybrid multi-stakeholder platform meeting on November 11th 2022. The meeting was a great success, bringing together a diverse group of individuals from across various industries to discuss the creation of a climate service for the tourism sector. Five organizations were represented by ten participants, gathered in the coastal city of Rethymno, at the Municipal Port Fund, which hosted the meeting. Read more [here](#).

## Identifying leverage opportunities with the Hellenic Tourism Organization



In a meeting with the Hellenic National Tourism Organization's (HNTO) Head of Tourism Coordination and Programming Department, on February 15th 2023, details about the project progress were shared. The future contribution of EOT served as the focal point of the conversation, exploring opportunities for leveraging the Climatic Service development outcomes and reaching out to the whole country. HNTO identifies I-CISK as a project with the potential to support tourism sustainability, marketing and promotion of the Touristic product. Read more [here](#).

## Taking a decision-timeline exercise targeted to the water sector



On March 14th 2023, an on-line meeting was held with the Hydraulic Works division of the Development Organization of Crete (OAK), in order to work together on a decision time-line exercise which is undertaken in close collaboration with other Work Packages of the project, as a part of a series of meetings organized within the Greek (Crete) LL. Read more [here](#).

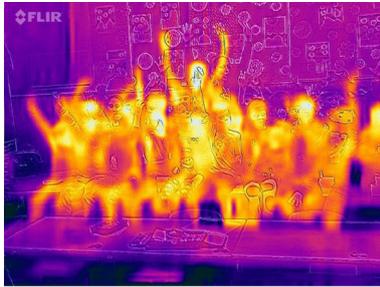
## Living Lab Rijnland brings stakeholders together and identifies user stories



Since our last update in November 2022, the Rijnland Living Lab, together with Water Authority Rijnland, has made great progress in co-creating a climate service with representatives from agriculture and water recreation sectors.

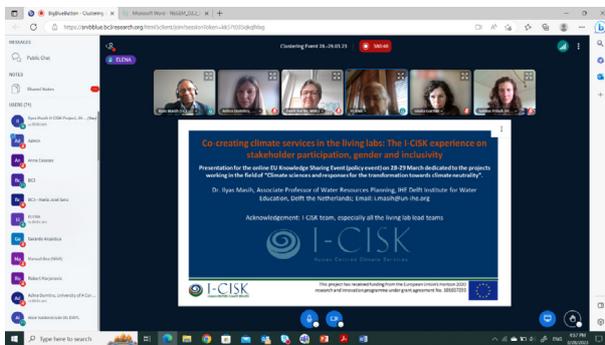
Earlier stakeholder workshops/meetings were mono-discipline oriented, but since November, we have chosen a multi-discipline approach where the representatives from the agriculture sector and the water recreation sector participate in workshops together. This was an important step, as these sectors have been identified to have differing interests during droughts. For example, during drought the supply of fresh water is essential to the agricultural sector, however, this (amongst other factors) can be affected by the opening and closing of sluice gates, which is essential for water recreation. Read more [here](#).

## Engaging local actors in Erzsébetváros in the work of the Hungarian LL and educating children on thermal heat



The Hungarian Living Lab focuses on the problem of urban heat islands and urban heat stress in the inner district of Budapest. The Living Lab is working on educating people on the urban heat phenomenon, the mapping of urban heat islands, and the co-development of climate services. Read more [here](#).

## The I-CISK project participated the EU Knowledge Sharing Event



The I-CISK project coordinators, Dr. Micha Werner and Dr. Ilyas Masih, participated in an EU policy event held online on 28-29 March, 2023. This 1st climate change clustering event was the fifth edition of the EU Knowledge Sharing Event, organised by CINEA in cooperation with DG Research and Innovation and DG Climate Action. The event brought together Climate projects to share their recent policy-relevant insights and provide an opportunity to exchange views with EU policy makers.

It also aimed at spurring closer cooperation between EU projects and facilitating synergies between different projects. Read more [here](#).

## The I-CISK project participated the UNESCO International Conference on Climate Risk, Vulnerability and Resilience Building



We are very happy to share that from 19 – 21 April, 2023, staff of IHE Delft – Micha Werner, Ilyas Masih and Sumiran Rastogi (PhD Candidate) participated in the '[UNESCO International Conference on Climate Risk, Vulnerability and Resilience Building](#)'. The conference attracted a large number of audience from different countries, with about 175 participants attended in person at UNESCO-HQ in Paris and over 700 joined online. Read more [here](#).

## Fieldwork in the Andalucía-Los Pedroches Living Lab uncovers impacts of drought



On the week of April 24-28, 2023, members of the UCM I-CISK team Lucia De Stefano and Nikoletta Ropero visited the Andalucía-Los Pedroches Living Lab (ALPLL) to collect data on groundwater levels and interview farmers and residents in the region. This information will help improve understanding of the local hydrology and its response to the evolution of climate and uses, one of the climate services co-identified for the LL. Read more [here](#).

## Fieldwork and preliminary assessment of water resources and distribution in the Alazani-Iori Basin



Since the upstream of the Alazani River basin is not regulated by the reservoir, the main goal of the Alazani Living Lab is to establish a proper streamflow prediction system, which will improve the efficiency of the irrigation system during the dry season. Since March 2023, in the Kakheti region of Georgia, field work commenced to evaluate the condition of the irrigation system's main canals located in the Alazani-Iori Basin. Read more [here](#).

## I-CISK resources

### Integrating scientific and local knowledge to tackle climate challenges now and in the future

The European Green Deal seeks to support efforts by citizens, governments and businesses to adapt to change, while working towards a carbon neutral EU by 2050. As part of the Research and Innovation actions that underpin the Green Deal, the innovating climate services through Integrating Scientific and local Knowledge project, I-CISK in short, aims to bridge this gap by innovating how Climate Services are developed, through co-producing these with local stakeholders and citizens. For example, forecasting drought is a climate service that is useful to water dependent sectors such as tourism, but also to agriculture, though each of these sectors may be impacted differently, and the sector specific needs and knowledges will influence how climate information is used, interpreted and acted on. [Read more](#)

### Partners and contact information

I-CISK brings together a highly specialised and multi-disciplinary team of experts from 13 consortium members: IHE Delft, The Netherlands (coordinator); European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF), United Kingdom; Sveriges Meteorologiska och Hydrologiska Institut (SMHI), Sweden; Free University Amsterdam; The Netherlands; CREAM, Spain; Uppsala University, Sweden; Red Cross 510, The Netherlands; GECO-Sistema, Italy; Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN), Georgia, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain; 52°North Spatial Information Research, Germany; IDEAS-Science, Hungary; and EMVIS, Greece.

For more information and questions, please send an email to Dr. Micha Werner, Project Coordinator ([m.werner@unihe.org](mailto:m.werner@unihe.org)) and Dr. Ilyas Masih, Deputy Project Coordinator ([i.masih@un-ihe.org](mailto:i.masih@un-ihe.org)).

## The I-CISK project team sent this information

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This newsletter is produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the I-CISK project and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union. The I-CISK project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101037293



Funded by  
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