



I-CISK
HUMAN CENTRED CLIMATE SERVICES

I-CISK Newsletter

April 2024 - November 2024 / **ISSUE VI**



*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](#)

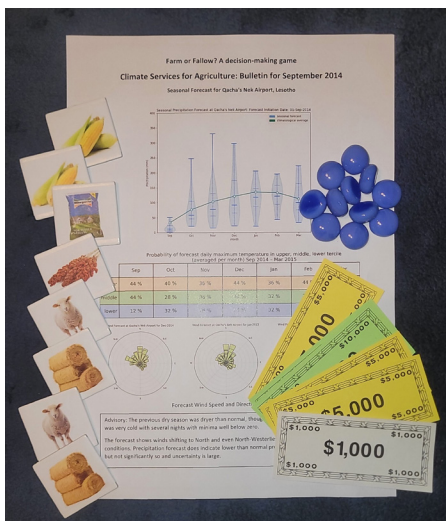
News and Events from I-CISK

I-CISK Progress Highlights: 3rd General Assembly Wraps Up in Chania, Greece



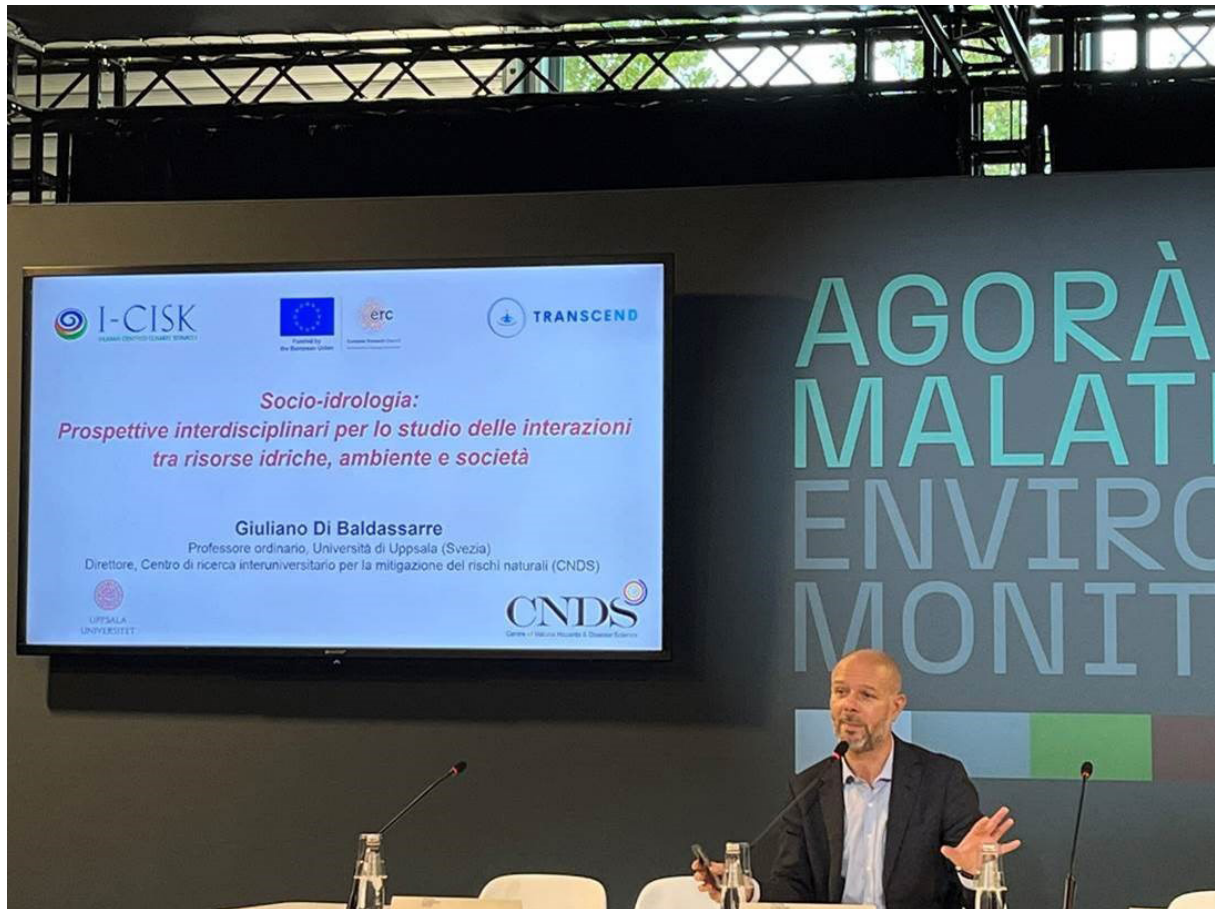
The picturesque city of Chania, Greece, played host to an important milestone for the I-CISK project as partners gathered last week for the 3rd General Assembly meeting. The event served as a pivotal platform to review the strides made in developing human-centered climate services and to address the challenges still ahead. Read more [here](#).

I-CISK launches a climate services game combining local and scientific knowledge



Recognising both local knowledge and scientific knowledge in climate services, and combining these different knowledge is essential to developing climate services that are credible, salient and legitimate; and important to more effective uptake and use of climate services. But how can this knowledge practically be combined? And does the considering of these different knowledges really lead to better decisions? To help answer some of these questions, I-CISK is proud to announce the launch of a serious game through which the role of local knowledge in Climate Services can be explored. Read more [here](#).

I-CISK Project Findings Presented at ECOMONDO 2024: Insights on Human-Climate Interactions



From November 4-7, 2024, ECOMONDO – The Green Technology Expo – was held in Rimini, Italy, as a central event for the green and circular economy, attracting industrial leaders, stakeholders, policy makers, researchers, and local authorities from across the EU. On November 8, Professor Giuliano Di Baldassarre from Uppsala University’s Department of Earth Sciences, and Director of the Centre of Natural Hazards and Disaster Science (CNDS), presented significant findings from the I-CISK project. Read more [here](#).

Tailoring Climate Forecast Services for Effective Water Management in Emilia-Romagna



The Italian Living Lab has been focused on refining a climate forecast service prototype to support effective water management. Throughout 2024, a series of one-on-one interviews and technical sessions were conducted with stakeholders, including ARPAE, Emilia Central Reclamation Board, Burana Reclamation Board, IRETI, and AREN-EP. These meetings aimed to align the service functionalities with the diverse needs of water management bodies, addressing everything from visual design to operational decision support. Read more [here](#).

Lesotho Living Lab visit: strengthening relationships and advancing Climate Services



In summer, representatives from the I-CISK project gathered in Maseru (Lesotho) to advance the development of climate services and enhance anticipatory action capabilities in the Lesotho Living Lab. The group included Daniele Castellana and Emie Klein Holkenborg from the Netherlands Red Cross' data and digital team, 510, Balbina Nyamakura from IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, and Katherine Egan from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), with the visit hosted by Sebongile Hlubi of the Lesotho Red Cross Society. Read more [here](#).

CREAF and Partners Present Climate Services Co-Design at Geographic Information Technologies Congress



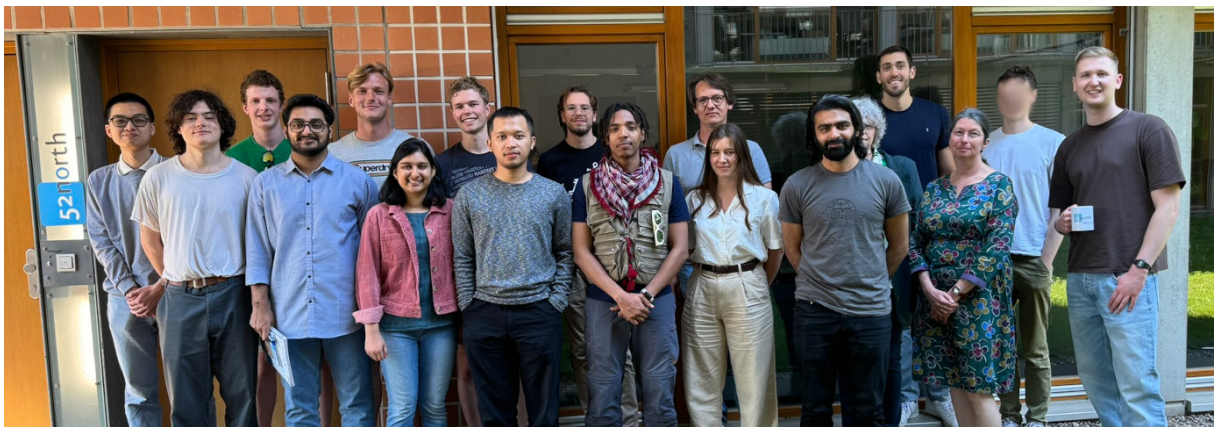
Lluís Pesquer from CREAM participated in the XX Congress of Geographic Information Technologies held in Palma de Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain, from October 14 to 16. The congress, titled 'Geographic Information Technologies for the Construction of Smart Territories', gathered experts to discuss the role of geotechnologies in advancing smart and sustainable regions. Read more [here](#).

Visiting an old friend – 52°North at ITC



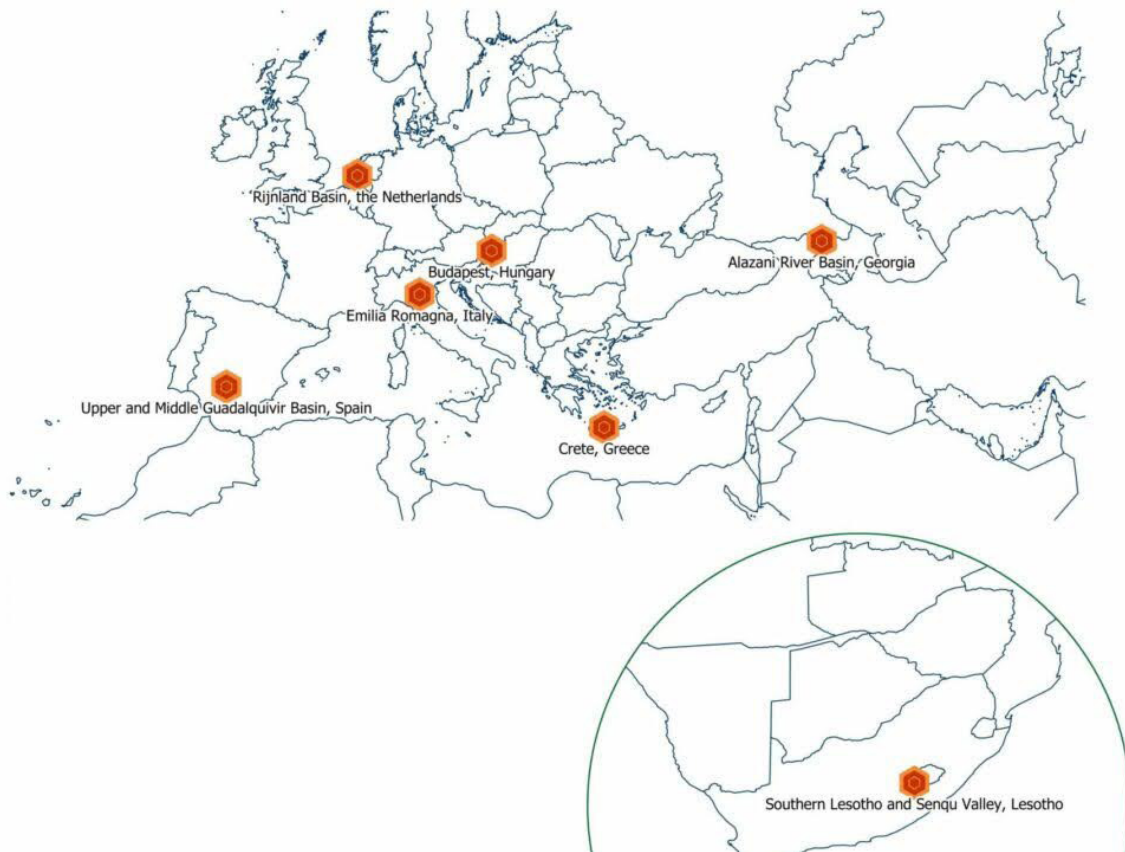
Several colleagues from 52°North travelled to our Dutch founding member, the ITC of the University of Twente, for a joint symposium. We had not been to the ITC since it moved to a new building. To grasp the dimensions of the Langezijds building, we were given a guided tour of the departments and labs. 52°North and the ITC departments gave an overview of current projects and research topics in preparation for the discussions on further joint activities and to identify commonalities and complementarities. Read more [here](#).

52°North Welcomes Uni Twente Master Students



52°North recently opened its doors to a group of 12 international students and two staff from the University of Twente, The Netherlands. The students are involved in a two-year program, in which they learn to address large-scale and complex societal challenges by combining technical and socio-economic knowledge with a strong spatial data analysis and modelling basis. At the end of their first year, they complete a study tour throughout Europe, visiting institutes, universities and companies active in Spatial Information Science, Technical Engineering and Spatial Planning & Governance. Read more [here](#).

User-Based Solutions Toward an Integrated and Resilient Future



The I-CISK project bridges the gap between people, climate, and disaster risk by developing user-centered climate services that empower individuals and authorities to make informed, climate-resilient decisions. Whether it's a civil protection authority managing a sudden urban flood or a farmer adapting to erratic rainfall, the need for centralized, reliable climate information is clear. Read more [here](#).

Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in the Alazani and Iori Basins: Challenges and Strategic Solutions



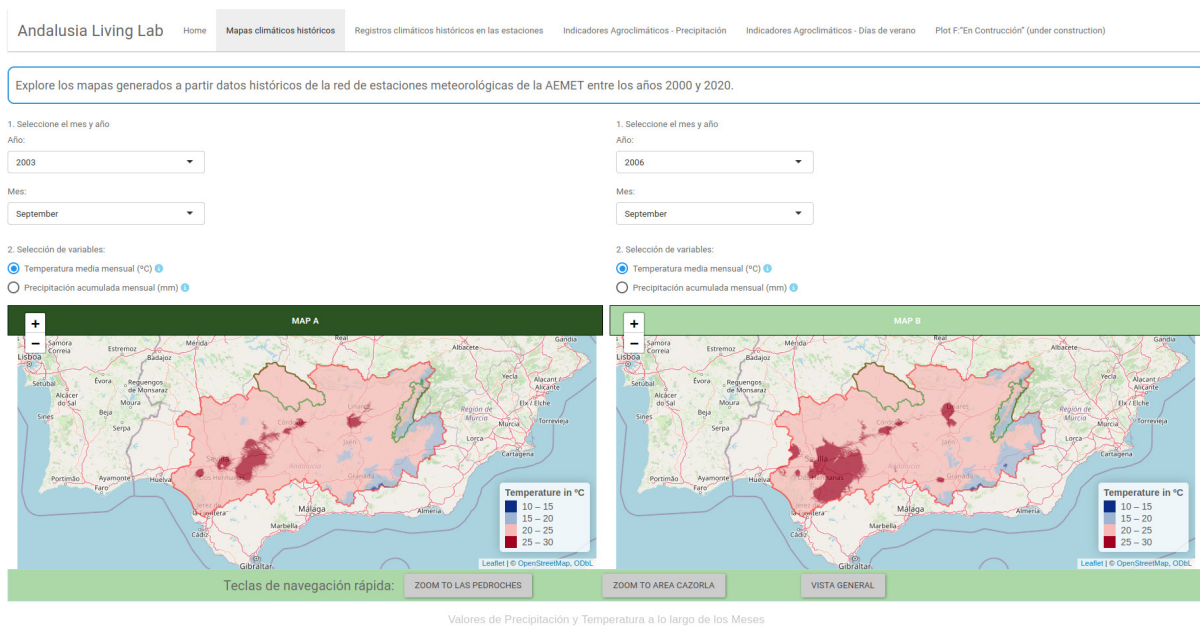
The research conducted in the Alazani and Iori basins thoroughly assessed the condition of melioration systems, specifically focusing on agricultural water distribution trends and the challenges impacting resource efficiency. Extensive fieldwork uncovered numerous water management issues, including pollution from wastewater, illegal water intakes, blocked channels, and especially the poor condition of the distribution network. Read more [here](#).

Los Pedroches Residents Regain Potable Water After Year-Long Ban; Survey Launched to Study Impacts



Inhabitants of Los Pedroches, home to the Spanish Living Lab, endured a year without access to potable drinking water from April 2023 to April 2024 due to prolonged drought and poor water quality. This ban was lifted following abundant rainfall in the spring of 2024, which significantly replenished water levels at the Sierra Boyera Dam, the region's primary drinking water source. In June 2024, the Spanish Living Lab initiated an online survey to assess the social impacts of the drinking water ban. Read more [here](#).

Andalucía-Los Pedroches Living Lab Advances Climate Services Platform with Stakeholder Input



In spring 2024, CREAM and UCM conducted three online meetings with seven members of the Multi-Actor Platform (MAP) to present visualization proposals for climate services developed for the Andalucía-Los Pedroches Living Lab. These bilateral sessions aimed to showcase the design and functionalities of the climate services platform under the I-CISK initiative and to assess its practicality for end users. Read more [here](#).

ICISK Project Showcased at OLIPE Technical Conference on Olive Sector Innovations



In spring 2024, Lluís Pesquer took part in the Technical Conference organized by the OLIPE Cooperative, which gathered experts and professionals from the olive sector to discuss key topics related to olive grove cultivation and olive oil production. During the event, Lluís presented the collaborative work developed under the I-CISK project with the cooperative and other Multi-Actor Platform (MAP) partners. 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) and Dr. Ilyas Masih, Deputy Project Coordinator (i.masih@un-ihe.org).

The I-CISK project team sent this information

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