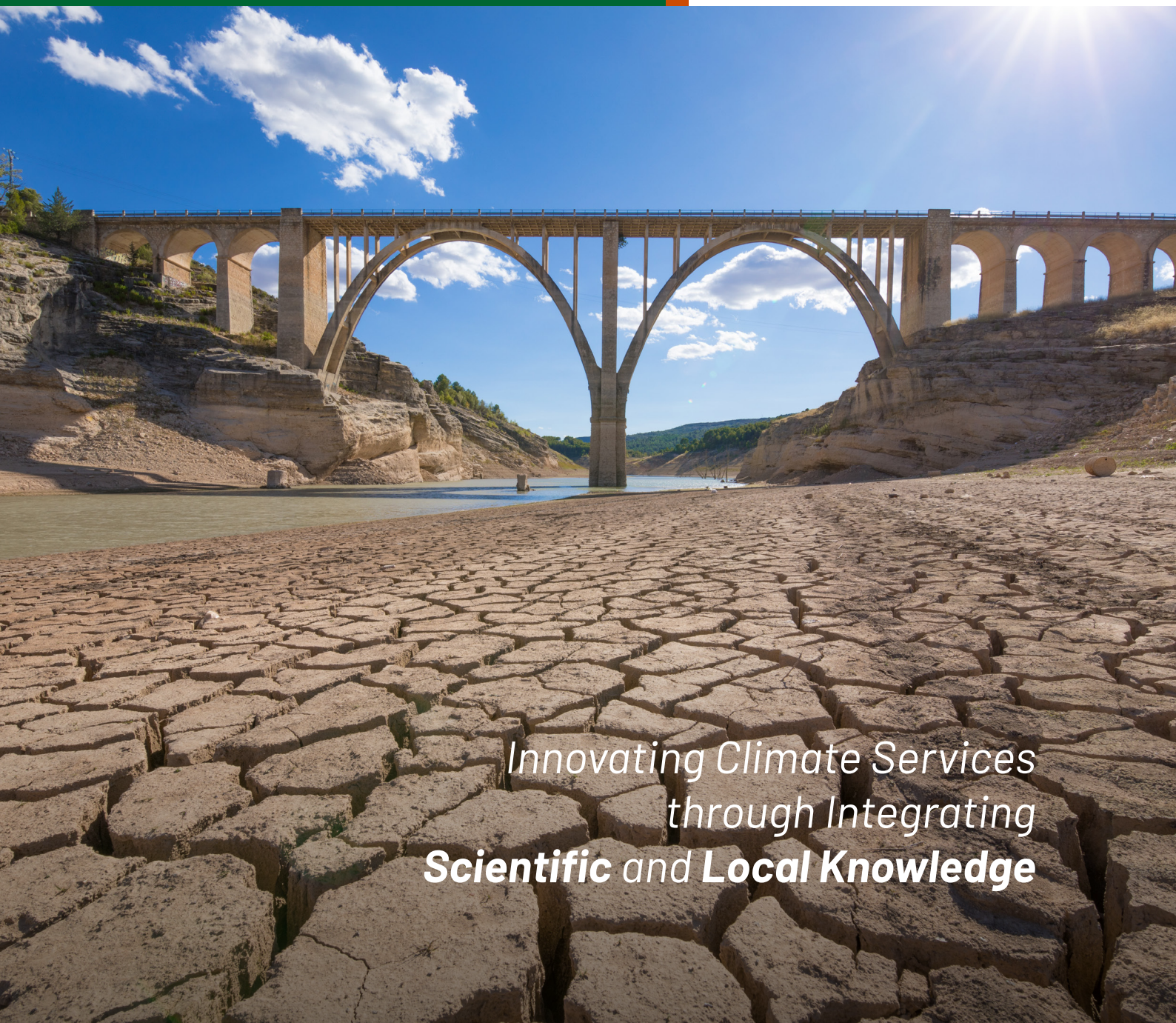
I-CISK
HUMAN CENTRED CLIMATE SERVICES

I-CISK Newsletter

April 2025 - November 2025 / **ISSUE VIII**



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

Dear colleagues and friends,

As the I-CISK project comes to a close, this final newsletter looks back at our most recent activities and highlights some of the key events, results, and achievements delivered throughout the project. Over the past years, I-CISK has brought together communities, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to co-create human-centred climate services with lasting impact.

We invite you to explore these final updates, reflect on the outcomes achieved together, and continue engaging with the tools, resources, and knowledge generated by the project beyond its lifetime. Please feel free to share this newsletter within your networks.

Thank you for being part of the I-CISK journey.

Warm regards,
The I-CISK Project Team

About I-CISK

Climate Services (CS) play a central role in empowering citizens, stakeholders, and decision-makers to take climate-smart decisions based on solid scientific evidence, supporting sustainable economic development, environmental protection, responsible resource use, and resilience to climate change. Throughout its lifetime, I-CISK advanced a new generation of Climate Services by rethinking how climate information was used, interpreted, and acted upon. The project applied a human-centred, socially and behaviourally informed approach, integrating the knowledge, needs, and perceptions of citizens, decision-makers, and stakeholders with climate information at spatial and temporal scales relevant to them.

As climate change continues to reshape societies, economies, and ecosystems, I-CISK responded to the growing demand for tools that enable communities to adapt effectively. While scientific advances improved the accuracy of climate information, the project demonstrated that real impact emerges only when this knowledge is translated into services that people can understand, trust, and apply in practice. I-CISK therefore contributed to the development of participatory, tailored, and user-focused climate services grounded in local realities. Read more

7 Living Labs

Seven Living Labs in Europe and Africa were central to I-CISK's action-research approach. Located in climate change hotspots with distinct geographical and climatic characteristics, these Living Labs served as real-world environments where climate services were co-created with end-users from multiple sectors to address their specific climate information needs.

Across these seven Living Labs, I-CISK worked closely with water managers, farmers, service providers, public authorities, municipalities, and citizen groups. Through this collaboration, tailored climate services were co-designed to respond to key risks such as droughts, floods, and heatwaves, ensuring scientific robustness while embedding local knowledge and real-world decision-making contexts. Read more

News and Events from I-CISK

Key Achievements at a Glance

Over its lifetime, I-CISK achieved significant scientific, societal, and policy impact by advancing human-centred climate services through co-creation with users. The project maintained strong engagement with the scientific community, participating in 26 scientific events and delivering 51 conference contributions as well as over 18 peer-reviewed publications to date. These have helped strengthen international dialogue on climate services, co-creation methodologies, and applied case studies. In parallel, I-CISK actively reached non-scientific audiences through 11 non-scientific events, including 7 side events organised or co-led by the consortium, supporting uptake of project results by practitioners, communities, and decision-makers.

To strengthen the science–policy interface, I-CISK produced three policy **briefs** offering concrete, evidence-based recommendations on translating climate services into action, early warning systems, and lessons from seven Living Labs. All policy briefs are publicly available at: https://icisk.eu/resources/

A core legacy of the project is the **I-CISK Co-Creation Guide**, which mainstreams co-creation as a systematic approach to climate services innovation. Drawing on experiences from Living Labs in Europe, Africa, and the Caucasus, the guide provides practical tools and step-by-step guidance for designing, implementing, and sustaining end-user-centred climate services across diverse contexts. The full framework and toolbox are openly accessible here: https://icisk.eu/co-creation-guide/

I-CISK also achieved strong audience engagement and visibility through digital channels. More than **151 communication outputs** were shared across **15 online platforms**, while the project website attracted ap-

proximately **7,100 active users**, **26,000 page views**, **16,000 engagements**, and over **1,300 downloads**, ensuring wide dissemination among scientific, policy, and practitioner communities. In its commitment to open-science, I-CISK has published key deliverables and scientific datasets through a dedicated Zenodo community repository.

In education and capacity building, a major milestone was the development of the **MOOC "Innovating Climate Services Through Integrating Scientific and Local Knowledge"**, hosted on IHE Delft's OpenCourseWare platform. The course translates I-CISK's co-creation framework, tools, and climate services into accessible, open training for a global audience, supporting skills development well beyond the project's lifetime: https://ocw.un-ihe.org/enrol/index.php?id=288 Please also view our open library of resources.

Innovation in engagement was further advanced through the development of a **serious game on climate services**, applied with stakeholders in the Living Labs in **Georgia, Lesotho, and Hungary**. The game supported participatory dialogue and hands-on exploration of how scientific data and local knowledge can be combined to create usable and trusted climate services.

Finally, I-CISK showcased its real-world impact through **four mini-documentary videos** from the Living Labs in **Lesotho, Georgia, Hungary, and Spain**. These films highlight how communities, researchers, and institutions co-created climate services to address concrete challenges such as drought management, agricultural resilience, and water allocation. The videos bring the project's human-centred approach to life and are available via the project website and communication channels. Please view our open library of resources.

Together, these achievements demonstrate I-CISK's success in bridging science, policy, and practice, while leaving a strong and accessible legacy of tools, knowledge, and partnerships to support climate-resilient decision-making beyond the project's conclusion.

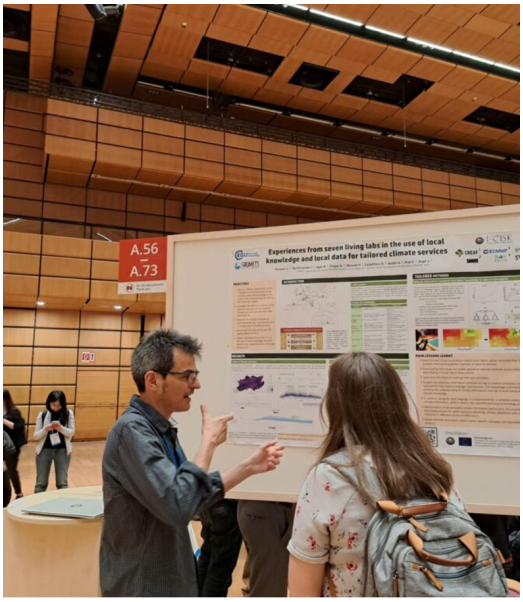
Presenting the New Climate Services and Tools for the Island of Crete, developed under the I-CISK project – A closing event workshop

In October 2025, a closing event workshop took place at Rethymno, Crete, co-organised by EMVIS and the Organisation for the Development of Crete (OAK, MAP member), hosted by the Technical Chamber of Greece– Rethymno Department. Read more here.

Closing session of the I-CISK Project in Pozoblanco (Córdoba, Spain)

On 10 October 2025, the IMPULSA 10 Centre in Pozoblanco became a meeting point for farmers, researchers, and institutions with a common objective: to share the results of the I-CISK Project and connect with other initiatives in the area to move towards the sustainability of the agricultural, livestock and forestry sector in Los Pedroches. Read more here.

The Living Laboratory's work presented at the EGU2025 conference



On 28 April and 2 May, members of CREAF and UCM participated in the European Geosciences Union (EGU 2025) conference held in Vienna, Austria, where they presented the research carried out in the Los Pedroches region as part of the I-CISK project. This international event is one of the most important gatherings for Earth sciences, bringing together geoscientists from around the world. The participation of the Los Pedroches Living Lab highlights the relevance of integrating local knowledge into climate services and helps to raise the profile of regional initiatives in a global forum. Read more here.

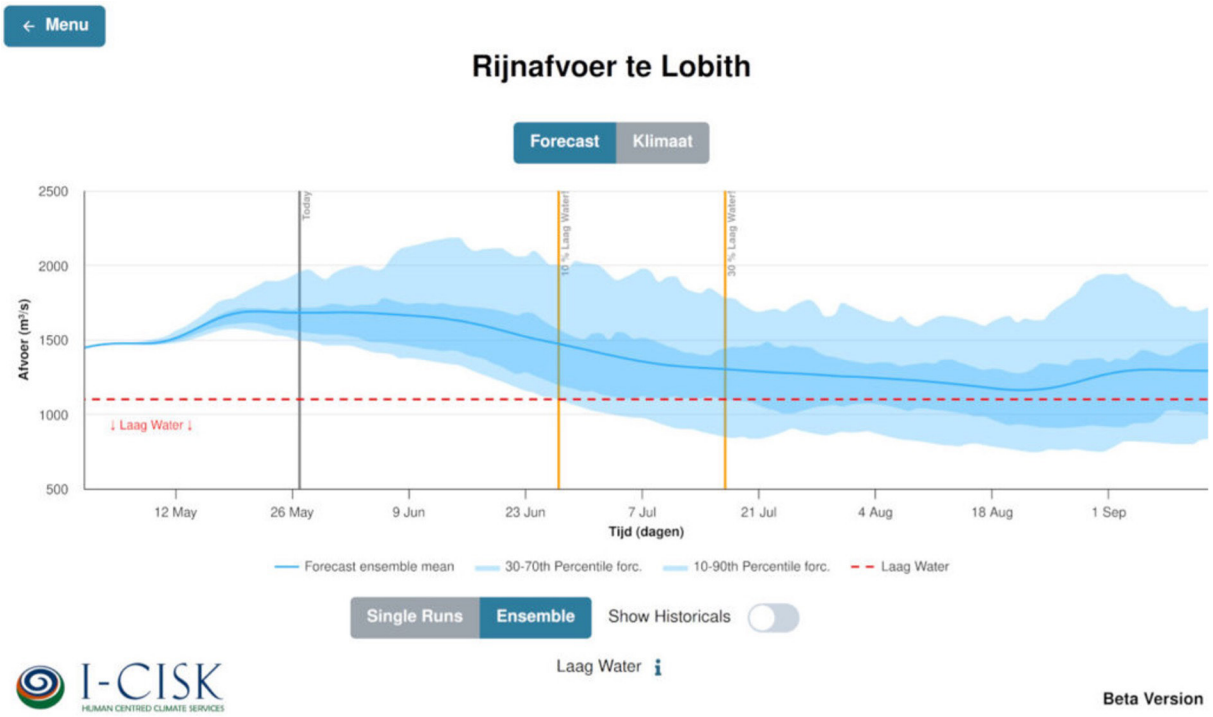
Closing the Loop in Venice: Collaboration Powering Water Resilience

In October 2025, the final I-CISK workshop took place in Venice, marking a key milestone for the Italian Living Lab and the project as a whole. The event gathered around 15 participants, including researchers, practitioners, and representatives from public agencies in the water sector, to review the project's progress and outcomes. Read more here.

Budapest LL wins the Disastropedia category at the Be-prepared Hackathon

The IDEAS Science team, representing the Budapest Living Lab, competed in the Be-prepared project's international hackathon series and won the Disastropedia category at the Budapest round. The event addresses disaster resilience and preparedness by mobilising innovators and problem-solvers. It took place in multiple countries in parallel: 13 September (Luxembourg), 18–19 September (Budapest), and 24–25 September (Limoges). IDEAS Science participated at the Budapest event. Read more here.

The Future of the Climate is Now?!

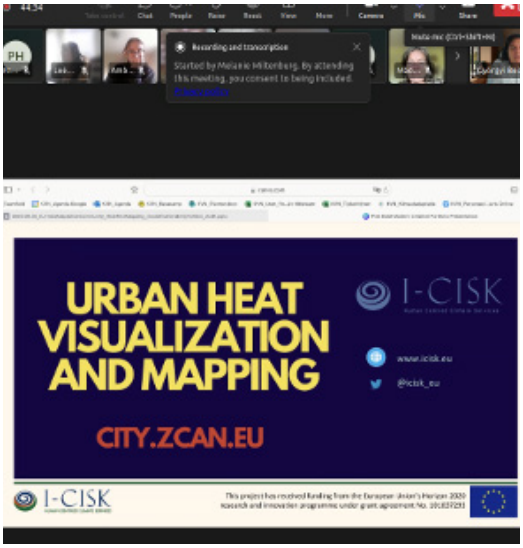


Have you ever found yourself reading about climate change and wondered to what extent you or someone you know might be impacted? How your community might be impacted? And then, how you could find out this information? As global emissions rise and the state of our climate becomes increasingly uncertain, questions like these are common, and you would not be alone in asking them. That's why projects like I-CISK aim to create open-source, interoperable, scalable, and user-friendly platforms to provide information on the risk of severe weather events and the effects of climate change to users, just like you. The following use case showcases how climate information can be accessible, and informative, within the respective project's labs. Read more here.

CENN Organised Field Day in Maradisi to Promote Climate-Resilient Agriculture

On May 16, 2025, CENN, within the framework of the EU-funded I-CISK project and in cooperation with the French Embassy in Georgia, organised a Field Day in Maradisi aimed at strengthening local capacity for climate-resilient agriculture. The event brought together beneficiaries from Bolnisi Municipality and the Alazani-Iori Basin, including members of the Alazani Multi-Actor Platform (MAP) and local farmers. Participants visited the Maradisi Cooperative, where they learned about environmentally friendly and sustainable agricultural practices designed to enhance resilience to climate change. Read more here.

IDEAS Science Presents I-CISK Project and Budapest Urban Heat Visualization at European Heat Adaptation Community Meeting

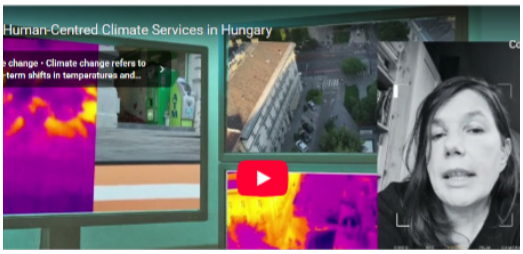


On October 1, 2025, Györgyi BELA from IDEAS Science represented Hungary at the European Heat Adaptation Community's monthly meeting and presented the latest results of the I-CISK project, highlighting urban heat visualization work carried out in the Budapest Living Lab. The session gathered researchers, policy experts, and project leads from across Europe to exchange ideas on managing heat risk in urban environments. Read more here.

CENN and IHE Delft Presented Alazani Basin Drought and Streamflow Prediction System to the National Environmental Agency

On June 24, 2025, CENN, in collaboration with representatives from IHE Delft, presented the working version of the Alazani Basin Drought and Seasonal Streamflow Prediction System to the National Environmental Agency (NEA) of Georgia. Read more here.

New Videos Showcase Human-Centred Climate Services Across Europe and Africa



The EU-funded I-CISK project is proud to announce the release of four new mini-documentary videos capturing the stories, innovations, and people behind its Living Labs in Lesotho, Georgia, Spain, and Hungary. Each short film brings to life how scientists, local communities, and decision-makers have worked together to co-create the next generation of human-centred climate services — tools that make climate information more usable, actionable, and impactful. Watch them here.

Digital Guideline on Sustainable Agricultural Practices in Georgia

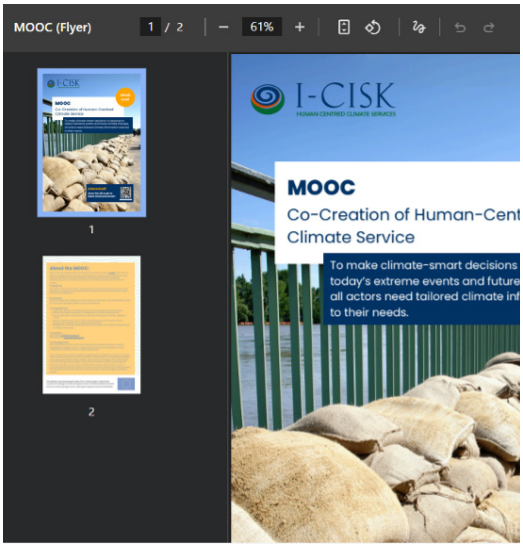
CENN, within the I-CISK project, developed a digital guideline on sustainable agricultural practices. The document thoroughly discusses the impact of drought on agriculture in Georgia, taking into account climate change projection scenarios. Read more here.

Alazani River Basin Stakeholders Concluded I-CISK Project with Focus on Resilient Water and Agriculture in Kakheti Region

On September 30, 2025, the concluding meeting of the Alazani Multi-Actor Platform (MAP) took place in Tbilisi, bringing together more than 25 local stakeholders, researchers, and international experts to reflect on the results achieved under the EU-funded I-CISK project. Read more here.

IHE Delft launches open online course on co-creation of human-centred climate services

We are excited to announce the launch of our Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Co-Creation of Human-Centred Climate Services, developed by partners in the I-CISK project. Hosted on the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education Open Courseware Platform, this free and open-access course invites learners worldwide to explore how climate services can be designed and tailored to meet the needs of society. This course provides participants with the opportunity to explore innovative approaches to tailoring climate services to meet the needs of society. Read more here.



The I-CISK project and Telavi State University collaborate on streamflow prediction and irrigation system improvement

I-CISK collaborated with Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University. The cooperation focused on two areas: university representatives actively participated in the Alazani Multi-Actor Platform and contributed to the development of a streamflow prediction system for the Alazani–Iori Basin, and a Master's student, Tsisana Kolotadze, completed her Master's thesis in Ecology within the project framework, addressing hydrological monitoring and evaluation of the irrigation system in the Alazani–Iori Basin in the context of climate change. Read more here.

Advancing Streamflow Prediction: CENN and Alazani MAP Deepen Collaboration

CENN and the Institute for Water Education (IHE Delft) unveiled the working version of the Alazani Basin drought and seasonal streamflow prediction system to MAP members on 25 June 2025. A structured, experiential learning activity allowed participants to explore how the climate service can be applied in practice, understand its potential value, and provide feedback based on their experiences. Read more here.

Transforming Climate Data into Action: I-CISK Takes the Stage at ECCA 2025

The I-CISK project was proud to be part of the European Climate Change Adaptation Conference (ECCA 2025), held in Rimini, Italy from 16–18 June, where we co-organised a high-level scientific session together with our sister projects LOCALISED, ReachOut, and RethinkAction. Read more here.

I-CISK resources

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

The European Green Deal set out to support citizens, governments, and businesses in adapting to climate change while progressing towards a climate-neutral European Union by 2050. As part of the Research and Innovation actions underpinning this ambition, the Innovating Climate Services through Integrating Scientific and Local Knowledge (I-CISK) project sought to address a critical gap in how climate services are developed and used.

Throughout its implementation, I-CISK advanced a co-production approach, working closely with local stakeholders and citizens to develop climate services that respond to real decision-making needs. The project demonstrated that climate services such as drought forecasting can support multiple water-dependent sectors, including agriculture and tourism, while recognising that these sectors experience climate impacts differently. By integrating sector-specific needs, local knowledge, and scientific information, I-CISK showed how climate data can be better interpreted and applied to support informed, context-sensitive adaptation actions. Read more

Partners and contact information

I-CISK brought together a highly specialised, multidisciplinary team of experts from 13 consortium partners, whose close collaboration made the project's achievements possible. The consortium was coordinated by IHE Delft (the Netherlands) and included the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF, United Kingdom), the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI, Sweden), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (the Netherlands), CREAF (Spain), Uppsala University (Sweden), Red Cross 510 (the Netherlands), GECO-Sistema (Italy), the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN, Georgia), Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain), 52°North Spatial Information Research (Germany), IDEAS-Science (Hungary), and EMVIS (Greece).

The project team would like to sincerely thank all partners, Living Lab stakeholders, and collaborators for their commitment, expertise, and active engagement throughout the project. Their contributions were essential in co-creating innovative, human-centred climate services and ensuring that I-CISK's results are both scientifically robust and practically relevant.

For further information or questions about the project and its outcomes, please contact Dr. Micha Werner, Project Coordinator (m.werner@un-ihe.org), or Dr. Ilyas Masih, Deputy Project Coordinator (i.masih@un-ihe.org).

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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
the European Union

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