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The project AMICA

1) An introduction

AMICA (Adaptation and Mitigation - an integrated Climate
Policy Approach)

The aim of the European project AMICA is to develop local
and regional strategies which adopt a comprehensive approach
to climate change. The European Secretariat of the Climate
Alliance is the coordinator of the project. AMICA is an
integrated climate policy approach which combines the
measures necessary to protect the environment by preventing
climate change while promoting adaptation. The project is
funded by the EU Interreg III C West. Project Partners are
Dresden (D), Hespul (F), Upper Austria (A), Province of
Ferrara (I), Stuttgart (D), Venice (I), and the national
Climate Alliance coordination offices in Austria, the
Netherlands, and Italy. These partners are working on key
themes such as river and coastal flooding, drought in rural
regions and overheating in urban centres.

2) Workshop dates

The next thematic working group meetings are at:

13 - 14 March 2006 in Frankfurt am Main
Second working group meeting "Overheating"

6 - 7 April 2006 in the Netherlands
Second working group meeting "Flooding / Rural Areas"

4 - 5 May 2006 in Vienna
Expert workshop on adaptation measures (during the Climate
Alliance Annual Conference)

15 - 16 June 2006 in Lübeck, Germany
Second working group meeting "Flooding / Coasts"

Examples

3) Venice

Centre for forecast of tide level and high water alerting

The Venetian lagoon can be considered a system highly vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise. The Centre for Forecast of Tide Level and High Water Alerting was founded in 1981. The centre is responsible for monitoring the tide and the meteorological parameter, forecasting the tide level, informing citizens of high tides, and ground elevation services. In this capacity the centre continually monitors and provides updates regarding the tide level through a variety of mediums to the citizens of Venice. In case of high tides the citizens are informed by a call manager, alarm system, and phone system. On a daily basis citizens can stay informed by visiting the website and calling the answering service; graphic displays and faxes are also provided.

4) Upper Austria

Less heating oil in flood areas

In many houses in Upper Austria, the 2002 floods caused inundation of heating-fuel tanks and hence contamination of flood water, despite the introduction of legislation to prevent this scenario. An evaluation programme undertaken subsequently found that groundwater had not been adversely affected, but even after the oily substances had been removed, there was a lingering problem with offensive smells. As a result of falling subsidies and increasing fuel costs, the proportion of subsidised oil-fired heating systems being newly installed in family houses in Upper Austria fell from 30 percent to below 1 percent within a few years. More than two-thirds of homes are now heated with biomass, heat pumps, and local and central district heating.

5) Stuttgart

Green roofs for a better city climate!

In Germany, the city of Stuttgart - the capital of Baden-Württemberg - has been promoting green roof-planting on private buildings within the city limits for almost 20 years. Unlike the monotonous gravel, bitumen or tin roofs, roof greening benefits the climate, filters out harmful substances and, above all, evens out temperature extremes throughout the year. With a green roof, heat in summer and frost in winter do not penetrate the roof surface, or do so only to a limited degree. These roofs can continually improve the climate, filter pollutants, and save heating energy.

6) Netherlands

Living with water

Experience in the Netherlands has shown that adaptation measures which work against the natural conditions - such as higher dykes and larger pumps - are not sufficient in the long term. The Dutch therefore base their measures on the principle: "Living with water - not fighting against water". The national programme launched in the Netherlands prioritises measures such as widening river beds, restoring rivers to a more natural state and forming temporary flood plains. Instead of battling against the water, floating houses, greenhouses and even floating roads are being planned in high-risk areas.

7) Dresden

Connecting new adaptation steps with previous climate protection for emission reduction!

The city of Dresden is taking many measures to ensure that the severe flooding of 2002 doesn't repeat. One desired goal is to create a synergy of intensified afforestation and nature related woods reorganisation in the headwaters of rivers. This includes intensified wood provision, water retention at strong precipitations, and increased water storage of forest soils.

Information

8) Further info and contact

For further info visit the Climate Alliance website:
<http://www.climatealliance.org/english/municipal/amica-contents.htm>

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