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AMICA Newsletter - March 2007

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#### The AMICA Project

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- 1) Experiences with Mitigation Scans

The AMICA Mitigation Scan provides a plan outlining potential measures to be taken in the fields of climate policy, urban development, energy, transport, agriculture and forestry, public procurement and north-south cooperation. It includes strategies for developing a consistent and comprehensive climate policy and suggests different levels as targets for acting municipalities. It forms the basis of the AMICA Mitigation Scan methodology for analysing local authorities' climate protection programmes.

At the AMICA Steering Group meeting from 31 January to 1 February 2007 in Frankfurt, AMICA partners exchanged their experiences to date of Mitigation Scans set up as part of the project and presented the advantages and disadvantages in a "Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities" matrix. Particular advantages of the scans are the relatively short time it takes to get a good overview of all the relevant spheres of work and activities of the organisations involved, and the

facility for data collection from all areas of local government. In addition to this interdisciplinary approach, the benefits of international collaboration on Mitigation Scans were also highlighted, thereby giving participants from other towns and cities on the spot insight into certain regional problems and facilitating an exchange of views with local experts. The Climate Scan also gives a quick overview of possible courses of action that individual regions, towns or cities have not yet taken, or have only taken to a limited extent. This simplifies formulation of climate protection measures recommended for a particular municipality or region.

The matrix was originally set up for towns, cities and municipalities, but when used in individual fields of work it was sometimes necessary to adapt it for a particular region. There was also a certain amount of work involved in adapting the "European" matrix to specific characteristics within a national framework. The Mitigation Scan was considered to be very useful for working on quantitative descriptions at the same time as using qualitative indicators (e.g. CO<sub>2</sub>/per capita, percentage of renewable-energy resources, cars/per capita and percentage of organic farming in an area). Mitigation Scans can be used to provide valuable recommendations for each town or city, and to provide examples of measures that can be taken by partners. They also provide opportunities for developing and making greater use of the relationship of each political field to other spheres of local government, and give local politicians reasons to implement climate protection measures locally. There are also opportunities for using Mitigation Scans to explain practical climate protection measures to the general public and thus strengthen support for relevant political decisions.

Download the AMICA Mitigation Tool. On the website you will also find the AMICA Mitigation Scans for Upper Austria and Dresden. Further background information with details of the aims and approach of Mitigation Scans, is available in the brochure "Cities in Change" (only in Spanish, Italian and German).

<http://www.amica-climate.net/mitigation.html>

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## 2) AMICA Expert Hearing in Zurich

From 9 to 11 May 2007, the 15th International Climate Alliance Conference with the motto "Strategies for a Climate Compatible Society" will take place in Zurich. At the conference, AMICA will host an Expert Hearing on 10 May entitled "Climate Protection and Adaptation". It will demonstrate the need for climate protection measures and adaptation to climate change in view of the increased frequency of extreme weather events in Europe. The Hearing will focus on the economic aspects of integrating these political fields at local level. The speakers will be AMICA Professor Gunther Stephan, of the Department of Economics at the University of Bern and Andy Deacon, Strategy Manager for Climate Change, Air Quality and Energy of the Greater London Authority.

The complete programme for the Climate Alliance Annual Conference in Zurich is available on the Climate Alliance website at:

<http://www.climatealliance.org/english/association/mv2007-uebersicht-en.htm>

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### 3) AMICA Best Practice: Floating House "Living on Water"

Due to their method of construction, floating houses and arks can provide a solution to the more readily solvable problems of global climate change, problems which will become increasingly evident in the sphere of hydrology. Worldwide there are at present only a few examples of floating houses that demonstrate ways to tackle climate protection.

An ark is the perfect place for people to see the connection between their individual consumption patterns and global environmental change, since the use of energy and resource-efficient alternatives draws attention to sustainable survival. In order for floating houses to lead the way on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by implementing sustainable consumption patterns and behaviour, other energy-saving measures are required and a complete transfer to renewable energies is called for so as to reduce dependence on oil and gas. At the global level, climate protection is the concern of every society, and requires a zero-emissions approach.

The "Living on Water" examples in the Netherlands and Kiel, Germany, impressively demonstrate the strategy "from knowledge to action".

<http://www.amica-climate.net/397.html>

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### 4) Adaptation Tool online

The AMICA Adaptation Tool has been developed by the four AMICA working groups with scientific support from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Potsdam, Germany.

The main components of this tool are:

- Matrix of Adaptation Measures and
- List of Evaluated Practice Examples

The matrix is a tool for exploring the various ways of adapting to climate variability and climate change at local to regional level. The matrix contains over 40 adaptation measures of four impact types and nine categories of measurement. By clicking on an individual measure you are directed to a webpage containing a detailed description of the measure, and to other links and material for downloading. Around 30 of these measures are considered to be "evaluated practice" and are to be found on a separate list.

[http://www.AMICA-climate.net/adaptation\\_tool.html](http://www.AMICA-climate.net/adaptation_tool.html)

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Information  
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5) EU Green Paper on Adaptation

In the last Newsletter we announced publication of the EU Commission Green Paper on Adaptation. This Paper is due to be presented at a conference in Brussels. The conference has now been postponed, due to a delay in administrative adoption procedures. Information on the new date for the conference is available at:

<https://www.synergyregistrations.com/registrations/eccp/>

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6) 4th ESPACE Technical Conference in April

The 4th ESPACE Technical Conference will take place on 18 April 2007 in Tutzing near Munich, Germany.

Following the EU Presidency events, ESPACE will be holding its 4th ESPACE International Conference on 18 April in Tutzing, Germany. This conference is the last in a series of four conferences that have taken place across north-west Europe and aims to review how well the planning system in Germany is delivering adaptation to climate change and explore new ideas on further action to be taken in Germany and across Europe.

To book your place at the conference, please send a e-mail to [jill.cook@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jill.cook@hants.gov.uk).

For further information on the conference go to:  
<http://www.espace-project.org/conf4invite.html>

The final ESPACE conference will take place on Friday 29 June at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre in London. Following an opening address by Jacqueline McGlade of the European Environment Agency, the final ESPACE strategy will be launched which will include recommendations on how adaptation to climate change can be incorporated into the planning system. A full programme with a booking form will be sent out shortly.

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7) AMICA Working-Group Meeting in May

This semester, AMICA will examine the topics of adaptation and mitigation particularly with regard to the fields of energy, land use, planning and construction. AMICA has arranged working group meetings for this purpose in Zurich, Lyon and Ferrara. The first meeting entitled "Integration of Adaptation and Mitigation in the Field of Energy" will take place on 3 May 2007 in Ferrara. Taking part in the meeting will be AMICA partners and also local experts who will provide external input to the discussions.

On the same day as the working group meeting, a conference discussing local effects of climate change will take place in Ferrara. AMICA will give a presentation at this conference. In addition, the "CinemAmbiente" film festival has been scheduled for 3 to 4 May 2007. This is organised by the Province of Ferrara and the main theme is climate change.

Further information on the AMICA meeting is available from Dr. Andreas Kress <a.kress@climatealliance.org>. The Ferrara conference programme will be published on the AMICA homepage as soon as possible.

You will find more information on the "CinemAmbiente" film festival at:  
<http://www.cinemambiente.it>

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8) Further information on AMICA:

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