CLIM'ABILITY DESIGN : NEWSLETTER NO. 1

MAY 2020

All the latest news from the Clim'Ability Design project!

Three times each year, we'll be publishing this trilingual newsletter on the European Clim'Ability Design project. We'll be telling you the latest news from the project, sharing technical information on the impact of climate change on the Upper Rhine region, and presenting operational solutions to help you adapt and future-proof your business.

Promoting stronger cross-border cooperation to address the challenges of climate change

By Florence Rudolf, Scientific coordinator of the projet

How are businesses in the Upper Rhine region adapting to cope with the **crisis caused by COVID-19**? What problems are they facing, and what resources are they using to deliver **new forms of communication and new ways of working** and getting things done? When we think about it, we realise that these considerations are not all that different from those addressed by the operational research project carried out by **Clim'Ability and its partners in the Upper Rhine region under the EU-funded Interreg programme**.

Over the past five years, this programme has brought together around fifteen institutes of higher education and research and public bodies from both sides of the Rhine with small and medium-sized enterprises and industries (SMEs and SMIs) from numerous sectors of the economy. Together, they have developed and refined **tools to identify the areas in which businesses are vulnerable to the effects of climate change**. Armed with this open-source toolbox, the original participants and their newer partners decided to launch the **Clim'Ability Design project**, also supported by the Interreg V Upper Rhine programme, in order to accelerate progress in enabling the economy of the Upper Rhine Region to adapt to climate change.

As we deal with the **current crisis, our team is organising meetings** to discuss the upheaval and challenges we face, and to share all the tips, best practices and new ideas which are coming out of this experience. Clim'Ability Design is offering a **"feedback" service for businesses** to help them prepare for the future and to learn more quickly from the current challenges. To get involved in such a free-flow exchange**, please contact the Clim'Ability Design team!**

Contact (*French / English*) :

Pr. Dr. **Florence Rudolf**
INSA Strasbourg
florence.rudolf@insa-strasbourg.fr

Contact (*German / English*) :

Pr. Dr. **Rüdiger Glaser**
University of Freiburg-im-Breisgau
ruediger.glaser@geographie.uni-freiburg.de

CLIM'ABILITY DESIGN : NEWSLETTER NO. 1 MAY 2020

Showcasing one of the results of Clim'Ability: What are the climate change challenges for tourism in the Vosges mountains and the Black Forest?

A case study has been conducted for the Clim'Ability project by the Alsace Eurométropole Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI AE), Alsace Destinations Tourisme, the University of Upper Alsace and the University of Freiburg. Its aim was to study the **repercussions of climate change on the tourism sector in lower mountain regions** and to consult local stakeholders on ways to **adapt and ensure a sustainable future**.

The number of visitors to the **ski stations in the Vosges mountains and the Black Forest** is heavily dependent on levels of natural snowfall. These levels are expected to become lower at these altitudes in decades to come. It is therefore vital that stakeholders in the tourism sector begin to **diversify their programme of winter activities** so as to offer choices which don't depend on snowfall. Operators offering summer activities also need to think about diversifying their range of services, since lower mountain regions are likely to be affected by ever **longer and more intense heatwaves**. A whole **new approach to mountain activities** needs to be identified, supported and promoted.

In order to help stakeholders put their heads together on this topic and **come up with new shared strategies** for adapting to climate change, Clim'Ability Design organises **creative-thinking workshops** for interested players (hoteliers, ski station operators, ski schools, tourist offices, etc.). The themes covered are the following:

- Mobility (valley to ski station / town to ski station / car-parking facilities, etc.).
- Management of services across an entire mountain region.
- Communication on the mountain all year round.
- Diversification and enhancing the value of free activities.
- Mountain accommodation.

Interested stakeholders should **contact CCI Alsace Eurométropole**, specifying which themes they are particularly keen to work on.

Contact (*French / English*) :

Amandine Amat
Officer for Climate Change and Water, CCI AE
a.amat@alsace.cci.fr

Contact (*German / English*) :

Nicolas Scholze
Geographer, University of Freiburg-im-Breisgau
nicolas.scholze@geographie.uni-freiburg.de

CLIM'ABILITY DESIGN : NEWSLETTER NO. 1 MAY 2020

Clim'Ability Design: Helping businesses in the Upper Rhine Region adapt to climate change


© S. Altmeyer

The **Interreg V Upper Rhine Clim'Ability Design project** was officially launched on 5th December 2019 during the Cycl'Eau exhibition in Strasbourg. Clim'Ability Design **follows on from the Clim'Ability project** (2016-2019) and brings together **partners from Switzerland, Germany and France**.

Climate change is certainly having a **growing impact on business in the Upper Rhine region**. In 2018, for example, barges operating on the Rhine had to reduce their cargo load by 20% to 30% because of low water levels. And, since 1960, Alsace has seen a 14% increase in the amount of electricity used for air-conditioning each decade, a figure which has only been partially offset by a 6% fall per decade in the amount of energy used for heating).

The primary purpose of Clim'Ability Design is **to provide diagnostic tools to help businesses identify their weak and strong points** when it comes to climate change, and then support them in **developing a strategy for coping with climate change** and enhancing wellbeing at work. Clim'Ability Design works **hand-in-hand with businesses to design innovative strategies**. As Clim'Ability did before, it facilitates contact and exchange between businesses and researchers to sketch out **new ways of working**, create **new jobs and production facilities**, think out **new business models**, and develop **plans for adapting** to change.

Clim'Ability Design offers services such as **observation campaigns and meteorological and climatic monitoring** on industrial sites across the region, coupled with **surveys** to gather feedback on employees' experiences. These services can be **adapted to suit demand** and tailored to fit different companies – depending, for example, on whether they want **innovative new concepts**, or **help in dealing with critical situations**.

Key points

- **Project carrier** : INSA Strasbourg
- **Project period** : from 01/09/2019 to 31/08/2022
- **Participating countries** : Germany, France and Switzerland, at the scale of the Upper Rhine region

Partenaires cofinanceurs / Kofinanzierende Partner

Partenaires associés / Assoziierte Partner

«Dépasser les frontières, projet après projet»
„Der Oberrhein wächst zusammen, mit jedem Projekt"

CLIM'ABILITY DESIGN : NEWSLETTER NO. 1 MAY 2020

MoBiMet: Installing thermal stress sensors to identify the vulnerability of businesses across the Upper Rhine region to climate change

In the Upper Rhine region, climate change is making itself felt most strongly through the **increased frequency of heatwaves**. **Thermal stress** in the workplace can upset people's concentration and reduce their productivity and output.

In order to limit the negative effects of heatwaves, it is important to **minimise thermal loads on the workplace** and on critical processes by finding appropriate ways to adapt. With this in mind, **the University of Freiburg and the German Meteorological Office (DWD)** have developed a **new automatic network of MoBiMet** (Mobile BioMeteorology) **systems**.

Measuring temperature, air humidity, radiation and wind, MoBiMet systems are installed in **appropriate workplaces**, inside and outside – for example warehouses and production facilities, air-conditioned or not. **Between 6 and 12 sensors can be used for each business**, of which at least one needs to be outside. The **data collected** is **encrypted and sent in real time** to the MoBiMet server at the University of Freiburg. The MoBiMet system can also send **weather warnings to businesses**.

As well as measuring thermal loads in different workplaces within a company, the system will also be able to **generate specific thermal load forecasts and climatic projections** for the company for the period 2021-2050. MoBiMet will thus help businesses to **better evaluate the occurrence of thermal stress situations** and to work together to find ways of adapting.

During the **pilot phase (2020-2022)**, the businesses testing the MoBiMet system will share their feedback on it. The MoBiMet sensors will be **installed free of charge** on the premises of participating businesses during this period. **SMEs and very small businesses in the Upper Rhine region who would like to participate in the programme should contact us straight away!**

Contact (*Germany*) :

Markus Sulzer
PhD Student, University of Freiburg-im-Breisgau
markus.sulzer@meteo.uni-freiburg.de

Contact (*France*) :

Amandine Amat
Officer, CCI AE
a.amat@alsace.cci.fr

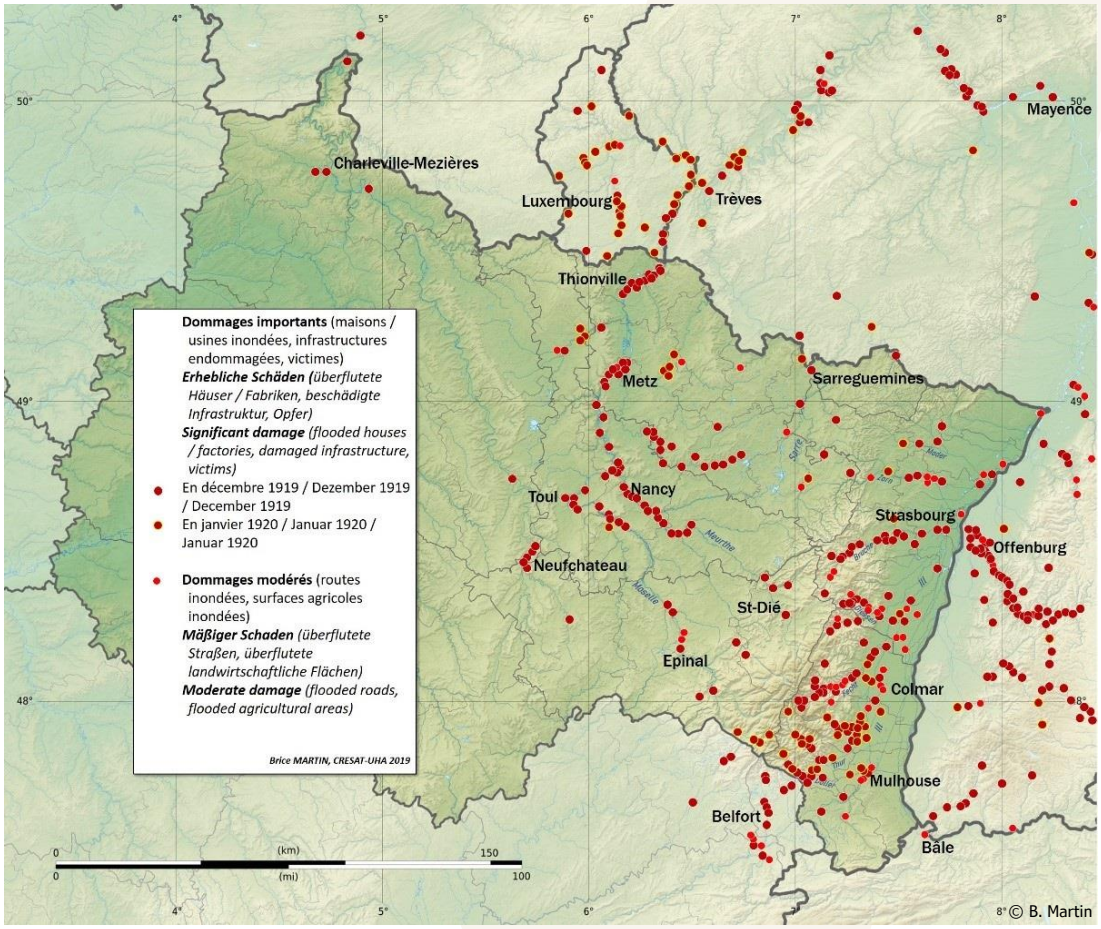
Sophie Roy
Climatologist, Météo France
sophie.roy@meteo.fr

Contact (*Switzerland*) :

Pr. Dr. **Tina Haisch**
University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland
tina.haisch@fhnw.ch

To go further

The role of risk culture in coping with climate change – a look back at the floods which hit the Upper Rhine region in 1919-1920



On Christmas Eve 1919, the Rhine basin was battered by torrential rain, causing snow to melt off of the mountains and all the watercourses in the Vosges and the Black Forest to rise alarmingly. Bridges, roads and railway lines were washed away, factories and homes were flooded, and considerable damage was suffered by communities in the valleys, on the Alsacian plain and along the Rhine. On Christmas Day, many towns (including Mulhouse, Colmar, Strasbourg, Offenburg and Heidelberg) found themselves under water. Although people managed to pick themselves up from this disaster, further violent flooding occurred on 12th January 1920. Almost 30 people lost their lives – a very heavy toll for the region.

CLIM'ABILITY DESIGN : NEWSLETTER NO. 1 MAY 2020

Coming up at Clim'Ability Design

Do you want to better understand the hidden impact of heatwaves on your company's performance? **Take part in one of the free workshops organised by the CCI** and:

- Identify the local impact of climate change on your business;
- Work with others to find operational solutions to future-proof your business;
- Access the services offered through the Clim'Ability Design programme (diagnostic assessment of the climate sensitivity of your business, installation of thermal environment sensors, etc.).

Participation is free, but registration is required. The number of places per session is limited to 10. To find sessions scheduled for later in the year at companies in Haut-Rhin (68) and Bas-Rhin (67), please visit the CCI website.

More information

Let's keep in touch!

To learn about us:

Visit our website: **clim-ability.eu**

Email us at **climability.eu@gmail.com**

and our social networks:

To suscribe to the newsletter:

Click here or send us an email at **climability.eu@gmail.com**

Clim'Ability Design is cofinanced by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as part of the Interreg V Upper Rhine programme.

Cofinancé par l'Union européenne
Fonds européen de développement régional (FEDER)
Von der Europäischen Union kofinanziert
Europäischer Fonds für regionale Entwicklung (EFRE)