

OVERVIEW OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH ON CLIMATE AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT

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European climate research addresses key questions on the functioning of the Earth-system, the human interference, its impacts and consequences. It aims to quantify not only global but also local impacts of climate change in the most sensitive regions of Europe and worldwide, and it supports further policy options. Moreover, research on climate change promotes technological improvement, innovative management practises (e.g. adaptation and mitigation strategies), new business models and services, and behavioural changes.

Internationally, the considerable research outcomes of the varied range of European funded projects in the climate change area have contributed substantially to the IPCC activities, and they are expected to feed as well into the current preparation of the 5th Assessment Report.

Since Framework Programme 5 and during Framework Programmes 6 and 7, the European Commission has been leading international efforts to investigate major processes of climate change and its impacts on our marine ecosystems. Research has been conducted in all European geographical areas, from the North Atlantic to the Mediterranean, and by an integrated approach that includes observation, monitoring, modelling, and management.

All relevant results and outcomes collected in more than 10 years of EU-funded research in this field constitute a remarkable patrimony of knowledge, upon which future activities can be planned and policy actions can be strengthened.

The European Commission is committed to continue its support to research and innovation, and ultimately to EU's ambitious policy objectives, through the Horizon 2020 Framework, which will start in 2013.

As underlined in the Green Paper issuing the Horizon 2020 Framework, the objectives are to raise the excellence and the innovation of the research base, to boost competitiveness, and to tackle grand societal challenges, such as climate change and resource efficiency.

Within this long-term agenda, research on marine environment, and specifically on impacts by climate change on marine ecosystems, will continue to play a prominent role, always favouring the dialogue among researchers, policy makers and European citizens.