



Integrated Risk Governance in the Mediterranean Region: Climate Change, Democracy, and Growth

A conference organized by the European Climate Forum (ECF)
on behalf of the CIRCE project and the GSDP network

Date: April 28-29, 2011

Venue: UAB Casa Convalescència in Barcelona, Spain

Contact: Jakob Müller (mueller@european-climate-forum.net)

Outline:

On the southern shores of the Mediterranean, the Arab spring of 2011 has created opportunities for win-win strategies to tackle social, economic, and environmental challenges with a perspective of sustainable development. On the other hand it has also led to the possibility of risk cascades that can only be avoided by developing and using new methods of risk management and governance. On the northern shores, the global financial crisis has left wounds that will not heal easily. Across the Mediterranean, developing new levels of cooperation has become a fascinating and daunting task. With respect to the climate challenge it seems obvious that all Mediterranean shores would profit from enhanced cooperation.

In the CIRCE project, methods of Bayesian Risk Management have been elaborated in view of the uncertainties involved in climate change and climate policy. These methods shall help practitioners and scholars to improve their assessment of what to expect and what to do. In this spirit, we will look at the tasks of risk governance in the Mediterranean region. We will start from climate risks and climate policies, while acknowledging that these cannot be dealt with in isolation.

The conference will explore this situation through a combination of short inputs, structured debates, and practical exercises. On the basis of the conference, a paper on the state of the art in risk and resilience in times of globalization will be produced, taking lessons from the Mediterranean region.

Structure:

The two-day conference is structured through 4 panel discussions and 3 working group sessions. Thereby, we focus on what practitioners interested in the Mediterranean region can learn about options such as the Desertec concept, reforestation schemes, and Bayesian Risk Management.

Panel discussion

Each panel will host 2-3 experts and one moderator. After a short introductory statement of each panellist a discussion through the outlined topics will follow. The audience is welcome to participate with questions and statements.

Working group session

For the working group sessions the participants will join 3-4 working groups. The working group assignments will be given during the conference. Each working group will start with a short input by the moderator; the discussion in the group should take stock of key insights as well as controversial issues of the given topic. Their results will be presented in a joint poster session on the second day of the conference.

Conference agenda:

Thursday, April 28, 2011

12:00 – 12:30	<i>Welcome reception</i>
12:30 – 12:45	Introduction (<i>Carlo Jaeger</i>)
12:45 – 13:30	Panel discussion: Climate risks and uncertainties (<i>Alan AtKisson, Ilan Chabay, Armin Haas</i>) Moderation: <i>Gerd Leipold</i>)
13:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 – 14:45	Assignments for the working groups <i>Diana Mangalagiu</i>
14:45 – 16:15	Working group session I: Mediterranean perspectives a) Democratic challenges (<i>David Tábara</i>) b) Economic options (<i>Antoine Mandel</i>) c) Climate impacts (<i>Klaus Hasselmann</i>)
16:15 – 16:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:45 – 18:15	Working group session II: Problems and methods a) Non-violence (<i>L. Jamila Haider</i>) b) Resilience (<i>Diana Mangalagiu</i>) c) Bayesian risk management (<i>Armin Haas</i>)
18:15 – 19:30	Panel discussion: New options in mitigation (<i>Sebastian Gallehr, Peter Höppe, Mouldi Miled</i>) Moderation: <i>Salvador Samitier Martí</i>)
20:00 – open end	<i>Dinner at Casa Convalescencia</i>

Friday, April 29, 2011

9:00 – 10:00	Panel discussion: Adaptation and reforestation (Millán M. Millán, Marc Palahi, Ramon Vallejo Moderation: Areti Kontogianni)
10:00 – 11:30	Working group session III: Towards solutions a) Migration and social tensions (Michaelis Skourtos) b) Reforestation (Alba Cabañas tbc) c) Renewables (Peter Schmidt)
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee Break
12:00 – 13:15	Working group synthesis (Diana Mangalagiu)
13:15 – 14:00	Drinks and sandwiches
14:00 – 15:15	Panel discussion: Trans-Mediterranean cooperation (Bahija Mghari, Carlo Giupponi, Jürgen Scheffran Moderation: Louis Lemkow tbc)
15:15 – 15:30	Conclusion (Carlo Jaeger)
15:30	End of formal meeting
16:00 – 17:30	Informal editing session in view of possible publications