NORD-STAR and the insurance industry join forces: research of options and development of a web-based tool VisAdapt™
The project on climate change adaptation and insurance in the Nordic countries is a collaboration between the Nordic insurance companies If, Gjensidige, Trygg-Hansa/Codan and Tryg Insurance, and the Top-level Research Initiative the Nordic Centre of Excellence (NCoE) NORD-STAR. The project started in January 2012, and is expected to last for two and a half years.

Together, the insurance industry and NORD-STAR are working on designing and implementing a web-based visualisation tool (VisAdapt™). VisAdapt™ will allow homeowners to assess potential climate related risk factors that may have an impact on their living conditions, and thereby enable them to adapt to a changing climate.

Extreme weather events

In the last couple of years, the Nordic countries have experienced tremendous damages caused by weather related events, such as flooding. As a result, insurance companies have had a great increase in the number of compensation payments made to homeowners. The prognosis for the upcoming years is that the payments will rise even more throughout the Nordic region.

“From now on the insurance companies need to work even more actively to prevent damage, both individually and together, as well as in cooperation with researchers and homeowners”

- Tom Anders Stenbro, Tryg Insurance.
Key challenges for climate adaptation in the Nordic countries

Increased mean temperatures can increase:

- Number of days with extreme high temperatures (heat waves)
- Annual precipitation but in fewer days (heavy rain)
- Variation in water run-off and levels (more flooding some places, dryer areas other places)
- Sea level along populated coastal areas
- Coastal erosion
- Number of landslide events
- Number of days with strong wind

VisAdapt™

The web-based interactive tool VisAdapt™ uses visualisation to increase individuals’ capacity to understand the potential effects of climate change. Users can apply this tool to identify and determine climate risks at a chosen location.

VisAdapt™ is developed mainly for private homeowners, but other groups such as land-use planners and property managers may also find it beneficial.

VisAdapt™ will help homeowners to anticipate vulnerability and climate related impacts and to reflect on possible measures to adapt.
NORD-STAR is the Nordic Centre of Excellence for Nordic Strategic Adaptation Research. It has been awarded NOK 30.5 million in funding by the Norden Top-Level Research Initiative sub-programme ‘Effect Studies and Adaptation to Climate Change’.

Further information

Professor Björn-Ola Linnér or Assistant Professor Jimmy Johansson, Linköping University, email: visadapt@liu.se

@NORDSTARncoe
nord-star.info
info@nord-star.info