

Keywords

Abstract

This research outlines the benefits of meteorological information services provided by the Finnish Meteorological Institute. The services provided either publicly or on a commercial basis are analysed from the viewpoints of transport, logistics, construction and facilities management, energy production and distribution and agricultural production. The main emphasis was on transport. This research is a part of the EVASERVE project, which develops more efficient tools for the evaluation of information services.

The socio-economic benefits of information services provided by the Meteorological Institute generate annual benefits of around 260–290 M€, to the extent that the benefits could be given a monetary value in this research. In other words, each euro put into the services produces a benefit of a minimum of five euros to society each year. This is a minimum estimate since many significant sectors, such as defence and public safety, were not included in the analysis. For instance, authority activities and services based on utilising meteorological information increase the efficiency of major accident management and natural disaster preparedness, thus diminishing the damages caused by them. The importance and need of met-information services will most probably increase in the future due to global warming and the exceptional weather phenomena resulting from it.

The meteorological information services are extremely useful and beneficial to society and are worth investing in. Since the Finnish meteorological observation network is by and large completed and functioning well, considerable additional benefits can be achieved at reasonable marginal cost when investing in various service systems.

The wide-reaching know-how of Finnish meteorological expertise is unique in the world. In very few countries are there such clusters to be found where high-quality service organisations, equipment producers, research institutions and technology providers have common denominators in the field of meteorology. This creates opportunities for the export of service solutions on a global scale.