

Who builds Climate Services in Belfast & Cork?

An exploration of the players that make climate services used at city level.

Sadhbh Gaston | sadhbh.gaston@ucc.ie, Dr. Niall Dunphy | n.dunphy@ucc.ie, Dr. Alexandra Revez | alexandra.revez@ucc.ie, CPPU Group, Sustainability Institute, University College Cork

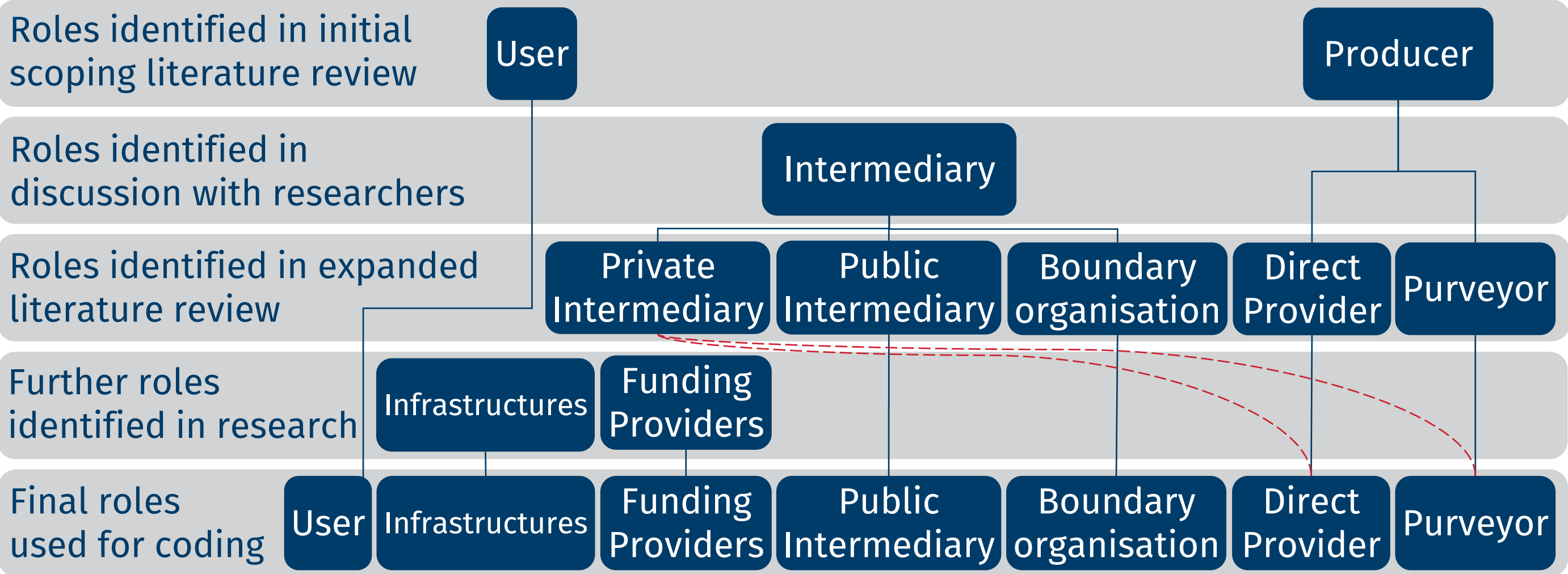


“Climate services are the provision and use of climate data, information and knowledge to assist decision-making.”
(WMO, 2024, p16)

Who delivers climate services?

Early examples in literature from the 1970’s conceptualised climate services as those provided by producers to users.

Since then co-creation has been acknowledged as essential to ensuring that climate services support decision-making in practice.



- Users** are organisations or individuals who act or make policy based on climate services.
- Public Intermediaries** are public organisations that work in a large network to connect researchers and knowledge to users and the public.
- Boundary organisations** are organisations that work as a bridge between researchers and users to co-produce climate services.
- Direct Providers** produce their own data for a climate service they provide.
- Purveyors** apply knowledge and expertise to existing data and use this to provide a climate service.
- Infrastructures** are organisations or services that provide access to data either produced by the organisation or collected from other sources.
- Funding Providers** are organisations that provide funding to enable the creation of climate services or support the engagement of users, public intermediaries, boundary organisations, direct providers, purveyors or infrastructures in the creation and maintenance of climate services.

Why expand the terminology?

- The language of “users” and “producers” can guide actors to engage with the co-production process in limited ways.
- Public intermediaries and boundary organisations can support users in ways that are outside of the skillset of direct providers and purveyors.
- Infrastructure and funding providers have influence on climate service production and access, not describing this gives an incomplete picture.

A view of Belfast City and Cork City.

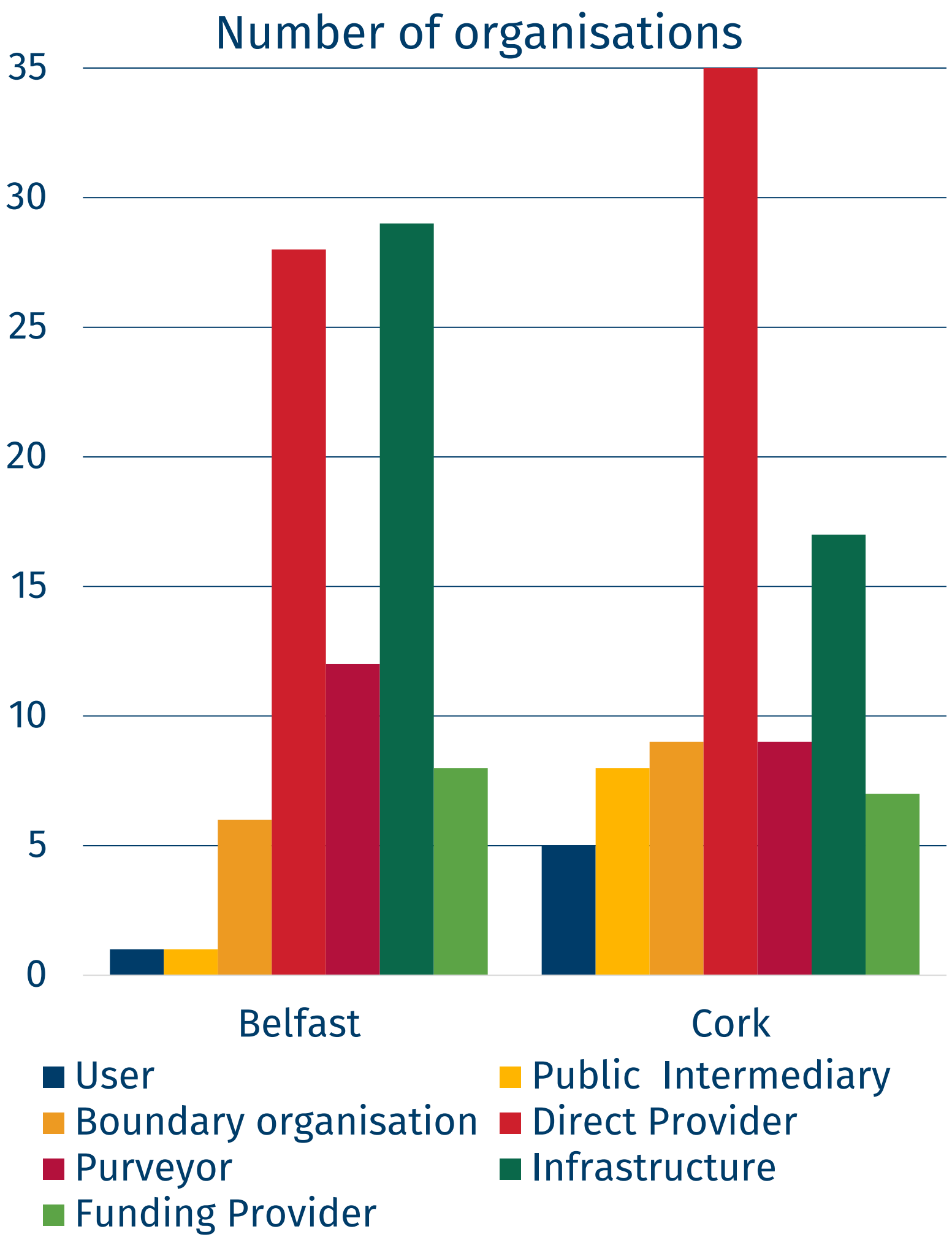
By examining climate policies that apply to the work of Belfast and Cork City Councils a range of organisations related to climate services were identified.

In Belfast a wider range of infrastructures was identified. Many of these were operated at UK level and a far larger proportion of these were third sector organisations with databases created by citizen scientists than were found in Cork.

In Cork policies, particularly those produced at local authority level, identified direct working relationships with other users, public intermediaries, and boundary organisations than were discovered in Belfast.

Next areas for study.

- What are the impacts of the terminology we use to describe actors within the process of creating climate services?
- Do the terms applied to actors in the process of climate service creation impact how they engage?
- May expanding the understanding of who is part of climate service creation assist in creating climate services that better support decision-making **and** action-taking?



JustCities Hub is an EPA-funded research project delivered by a multidisciplinary team in the Environmental Research Institute at University College Cork. Within JustCities Hub we are investigating how justice, resiliency and vibrancy can be embedded in cities work towards climate goals. At its core the project is about imagining city life in a way that embraces the challenges of climate action and promotes stable, just, and healthy urban environments. We are primarily working in two cities during this project, Cork and Belfast.



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