



**Climate
ADAPT**

SHARING ADAPTATION
KNOWLEDGE FOR
A CLIMATE-RESILIENT
EUROPE

Experiences from European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) – 2024 challenges and lessons learnt

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**Supported by the European Topic Centre on Climate Change Adaptation and
LULUCF (ETC/CA)**



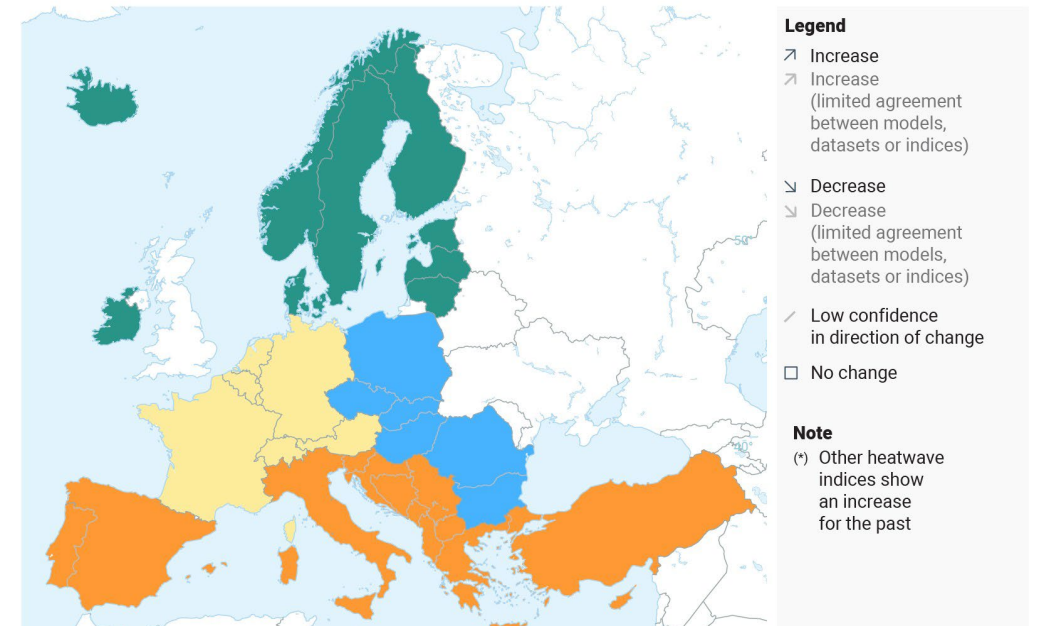
1) New EU Adaptation policy context

Implications of first European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA) (European Environment Agency 2024)

Climatic risk drivers are accelerating in all regions

- Risks and impacts outpace us: action must be faster, smarter, more systemic
- Most major climate risks are co-owned by the EU and its Member States: need for all-of-government effort
- EU Member States to ensure adequate capacities to address risks & but stronger EU action also needed
- Risks can be managed but risk owners at all levels (including regional and local) must have greater agency: better access to data and tools, continued need for capacity building etc.

Land regions	Northern Europe		Western Europe			Central-Eastern Europe			Southern Europe			European regional seas	Past	Future	
	Past	Future		Past	Future		Past	Future		Past	Future				
		Low	High		Low	High		Low	High		Low				High
Mean temperature	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	
Heat wave days	☐(*)	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	
Total precipitation	↗	↗	↗	↗	↘	↘	↗	↗	↗	↘	↘	↘	↘	↘	
Heavy precipitation	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	
Drought	↗	↘	↘	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	



Changes in key climate risk drivers for four European macro-regions **Source:** [EUCRA, EEA \(2024\)](#)

1) New EU Adaptation policy context

UNFCCC:

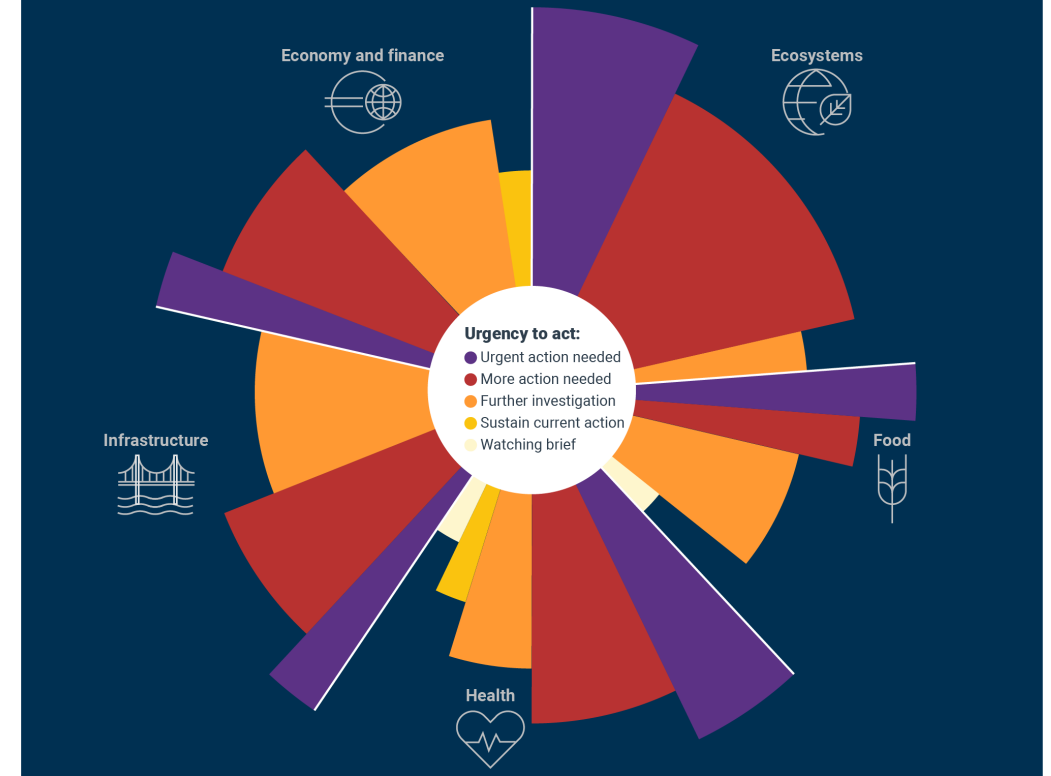
Global goal on adaptation: Belém process on indicators

European Union

- Review and possible revision of EU's legal and policy framework (European Climate Law & EU Governance Regulation, 2021 EU Adaptation Strategy)
- European Climate Adaptation Plan 'to support Member States notably on preparedness and planning and ensure regular science-based risk assessments'
 1. Need to step up work on climate resilience and preparedness
 2. Mapping risks and preparedness needs
 3. Need for data and early warning systems
 4. Linked to a new European Civil Defense Mechanism and European Water Resilience Strategy

Priorities for EU policy on climate adaptation

EUCRA evaluates the urgency of major climate risks for Europe



Source: EUCRA, EEA (2024)

2) Findings from the external evaluation of Climate-ADAPT

Methodology of the external Climate-ADAPT evaluation

Carried out by

External contractor (Ramboll)

Focus

Climate-ADAPT, Health Observatory, EU Mission portal

Evaluation period

2018-2024, building on the 2018 Evaluation

Desk research

Policy/practice context

Web statistics analysis

Limited number of indicators

Capturing feedback from stakeholders

Actual and potential users/contributors, and platform managers

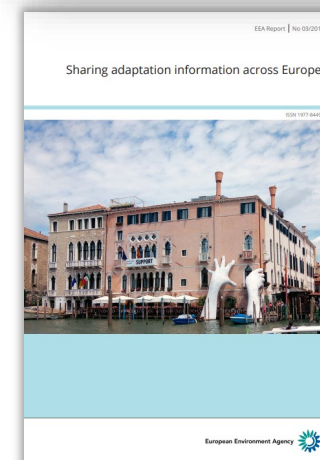
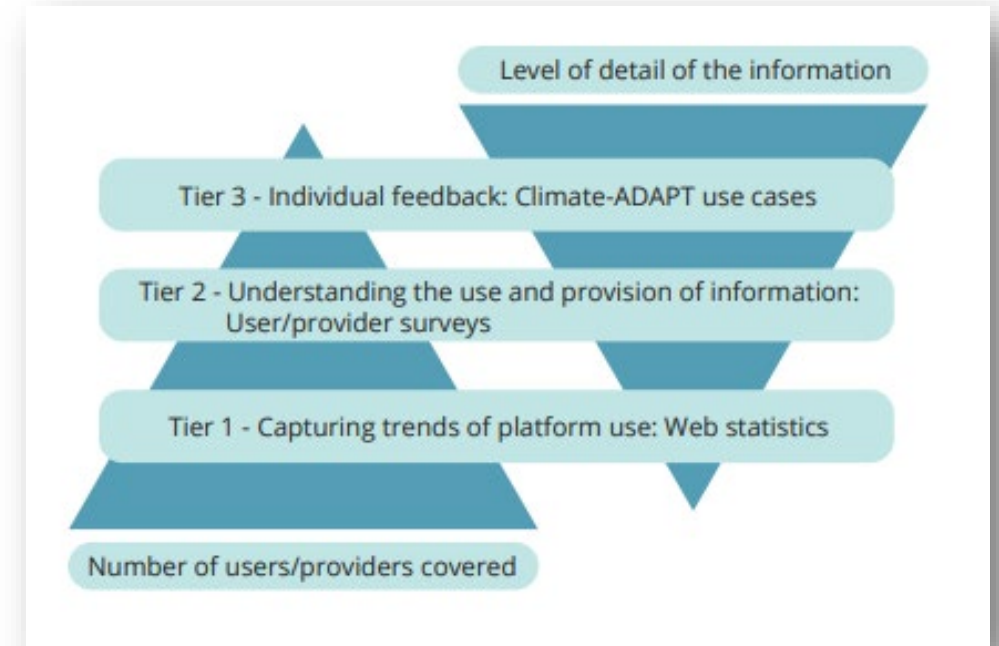
a) Online user/provider survey

- 17 April – 13 May (4 weeks duration)
- 203 responses in total (145 complete and 58 partially completed)

b) Interviews

- May to July 2024: 17 interviews
(International: 1, EU: 8, National: 4, Regional: 1, Local: 2, Multiple: 1)

Evaluation methodology: Opportunities and limits



Source: [_EEA 2018 \(Evaluation report\)](#)

2) Findings from the external evaluation of Climate-ADAPT

Understanding the actual user audience

Findings overall outreach (*web statistics*)

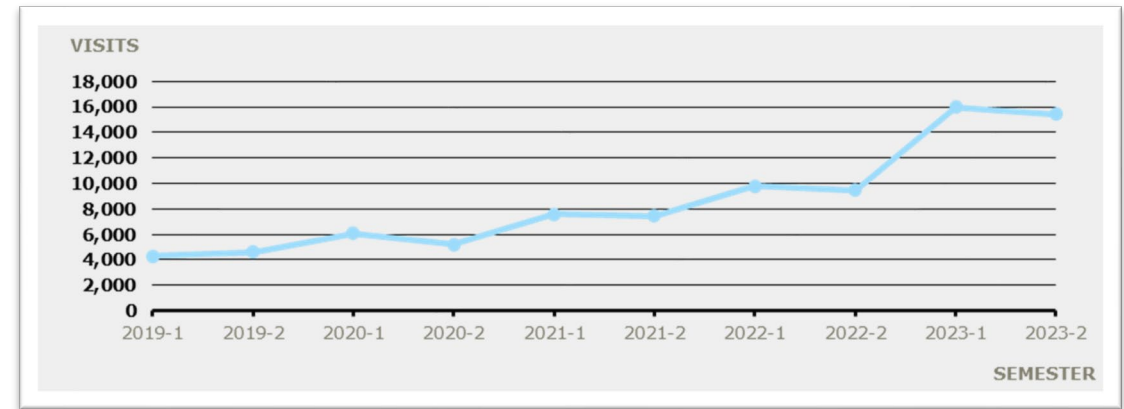
- Threefold increase of average weekly visits 2019 - 2023 (4,287 weekly visits in semester I of 2019 to 15,445 in semester II 2023)
- All European regions attracted, but still less from Central and Eastern European countries

Findings outreach to intended target audience (*Share of survey responses*)

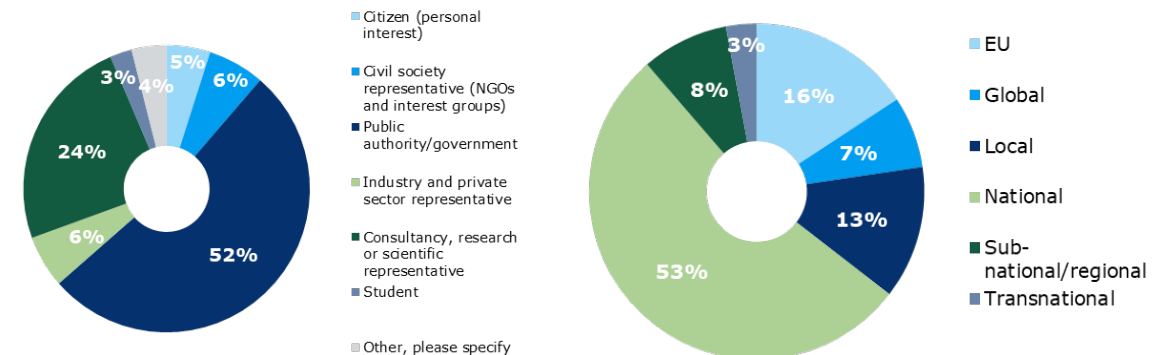
- Used by intended target audience (2/3)
- High share of organisations supporting governmental decision-makers (52 %)
- Underrepresented users: citizens, students, industry and private sector
- Primarily used by national-level stakeholders, lower engagement of regional/local levels (21 %)
- Language barrier key challenge, particularly for regional and local stakeholders

Recommendations

- Increase efforts to reach regional/local decision-makers: encourage national stakeholders to reach out to regional/local partners to raise awareness of the platform, especially relevant for countries lacking national climate adaptation platforms
- Potential new target audiences: : citizens, students, private sector, including industry



Evolution of average number of weekly visits per semester 2019-2023



Engagement in survey by type of organisation and governance level (N=2023)

Source: Ramboll, 2024

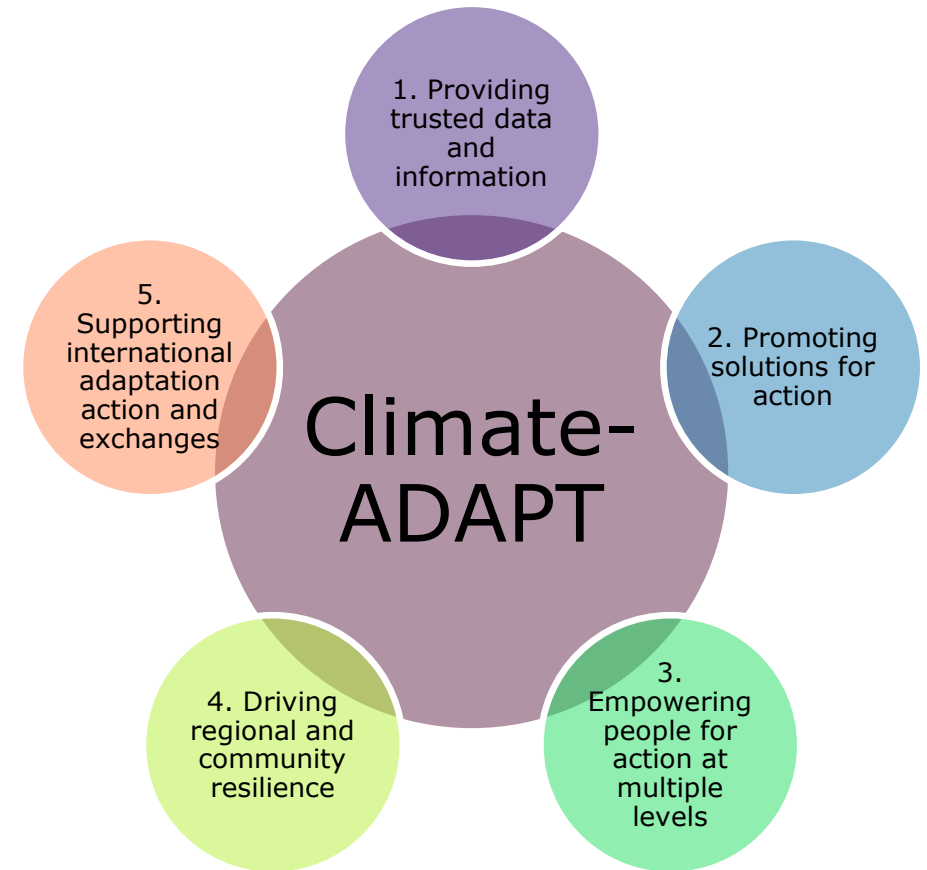


2) Findings from the external evaluation of Climate-ADAPT

Look back: to what extent have the objectives of Climate-ADAPT been achieved?

Key findings

- Perceived as highly trustworthy and actionable (Objectives 1, 2)
- Successfully delivering trusted knowledge on climate change hazards, vulnerability, and adaptation (Objective 1)
- Primarily reaching governmental decision-makers and supporting organisations. Survey indicates to better engage regional and local decision-makers (Objective 3 and 4)
- Perceived as supportive of adaptation planning and coordination at various governance levels (Objective 3)
- Used globally, sharing European adaptation approaches outside Europe (Objective 5)



2022-2024 Climate-ADAPT objectives of Climate-ADAPT

2) Findings from the external evaluation of Climate-ADAPT

Key findings:

Climate-ADAPT very relevant in new EU Adaptation policy context with growing complexity of adaptation

Key recommendations

Climate-ADAPT

- Consider developing new content specifically supporting coordination across governance levels (multi-level governance)
- More regularly update case studies and other time-sensitive content
- further promote subsites (European Climate and Health Observatory and EU Mission on Adaptation Portal)
- Increase efforts to reach regional and local decision-makers

Health Observatory:

- Focus on capacity building and translating knowledge on the Observatory portal to stakeholders
- Target sectors outside of health: agriculture, education, biodiversity

EU Mission on adaptation portal

- Accelerate monitoring to validate the Portal's impact.
- Enhance user-friendly content and accessible resources to reach broader audiences; invest in promotion and capacity-building.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Climate-ADAPT website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the European Union logo, the text 'An official website of the European Union | How do you know?', and 'Environmental information systems'. The main header features the 'Climate ADAPT' logo and the tagline 'SHARING ADAPTATION KNOWLEDGE FOR A CLIMATE-RESILIENT EUROPE'. Below this is a navigation menu with links for 'About', 'Transnational, National, Local', 'EU Policy', 'Knowledge', and 'Networks'. A language selector is visible in the top right corner, showing 'English EN' as the selected language, with other options like 'Deutsch DE', 'Français FR', 'Español ES', 'Italiano IT', and 'Polski PL'. The main content area has a dark blue banner with the text 'Discover the key services, thematic features and tools of Climate-ADAPT' and the subtitle 'Sharing adaptation knowledge for a Climate-Resilient Europe'. Below the banner is a row of icons representing different services: 'Key Services', 'Adaptation in sectors', 'Case studies', 'Adaptation support tool', 'Country profiles', and 'Resource catalogue'. The bottom section features four featured content blocks: 'EU Mission on Adaptation' (with a sub-header 'EU MISSIONS ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE'), 'European Climate Data Explorer', 'European Climate and Health Observatory', and 'European Climate Risk Assessment'. Each block includes a brief description of the service.



2) Findings from the external evaluation of Climate-ADAPT

Examples of detailed recommendations (all objectives)

Objective 1:

- Enabling gradual standardisation of climate risk analysis practices at all governance levels practices feeding into EUCRA
- Address case study gaps (mountains, transboundary, use of NbS)
- Improve access to adaptation knowledge for policy sectors

Objective 3

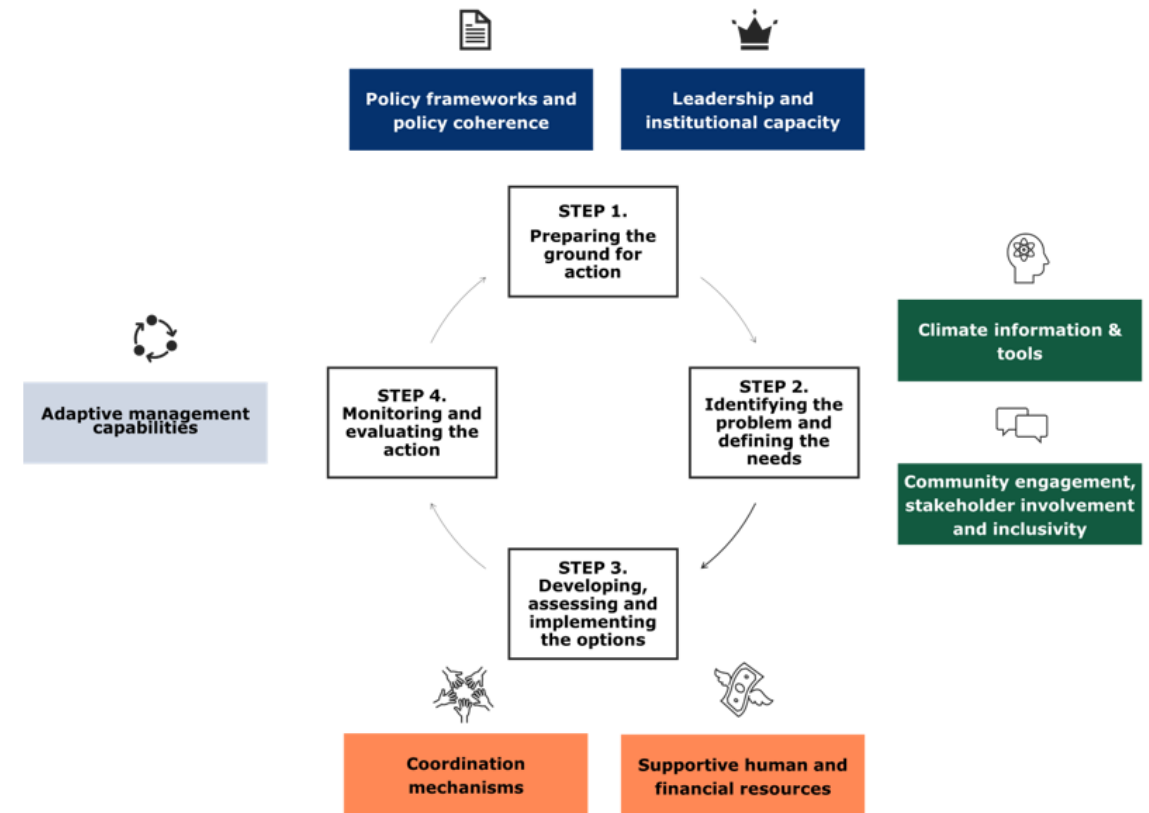
- Strengthen connections of governance levels, mostly at local/regional and transnational levels
- Particularly support cross-border coordination for (e.g. for water management in cross-border catchments)
- Access to EU funding for cross-border projects
- Improve interconnections between sector knowledge to overcome silos

Objective 4:

- Better access to resources for regional/local users (Urban Adaptation Support Tool)
- Costs of implementing adaptation measures/communication talking points for stakeholder dialogue for adaptation mainstreaming (insurance, financial sector)

Objective 5

- Support capacity building for international stakeholders to improve global adaptation from the European perspective
- Engage international cooperation organisations as contributors



Adaptation policy cycle and associated knowledge needs
Source: Ramboll, 2024

2) Findings from the external evaluation of Climate-ADAPT

How to improve the content of Climate-ADAPT? (objective 1)

Key findings (survey responses, %, numbers)

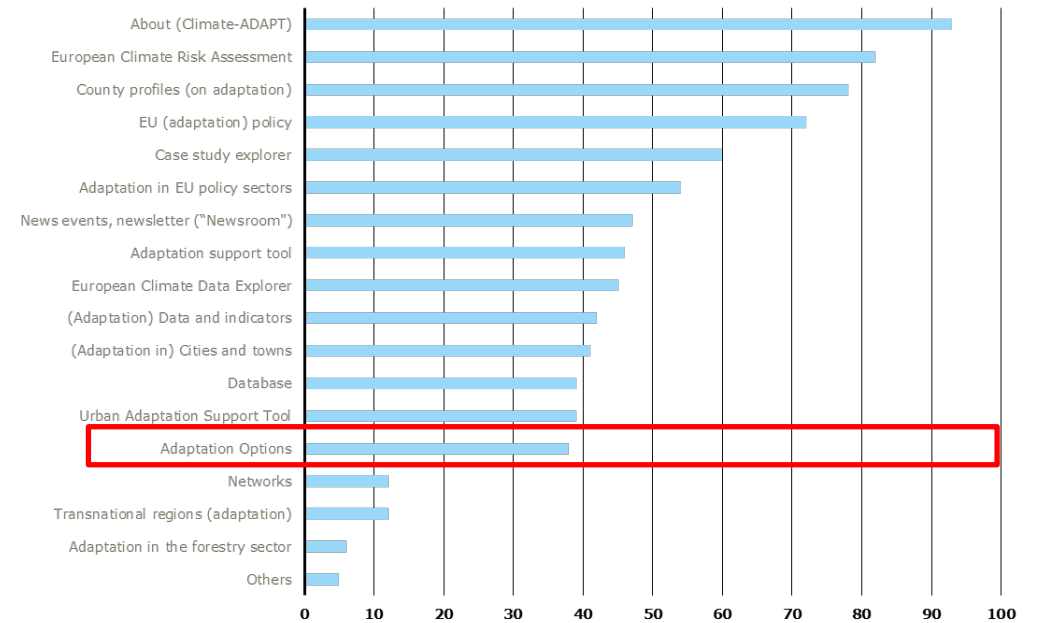
- over 60% of respondents believe to a great extent that Climate-ADAPT is a reliable source of knowledge
- 26 % of the survey respondents did not perceive the content as timely
- Redundant content (case studies (10), indicators (4), sectorial policy overviews and country profiles (both 4))

Recommendations

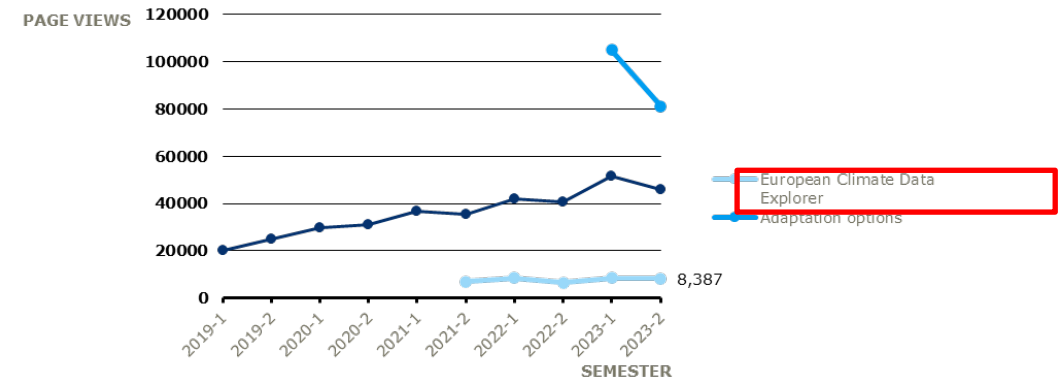
- Prioritise content and remove redundant and less used sections/pages
- Organise sectoral content in dedicated sector pages, incorporating both policy and practical content

Limitations:

- Time disparities between web statistics and survey findings (2024)
- Contradictions between web statistics and survey findings



Which Climate-ADAPT content have you used? (select multiple if applicable) (N=203) **Source:** Ramboll, 2024



Evolution of page views per semester from 2019 to 2023 **Source:** Ramboll, 2024



2) Findings from the external evaluation of Climate-ADAPT

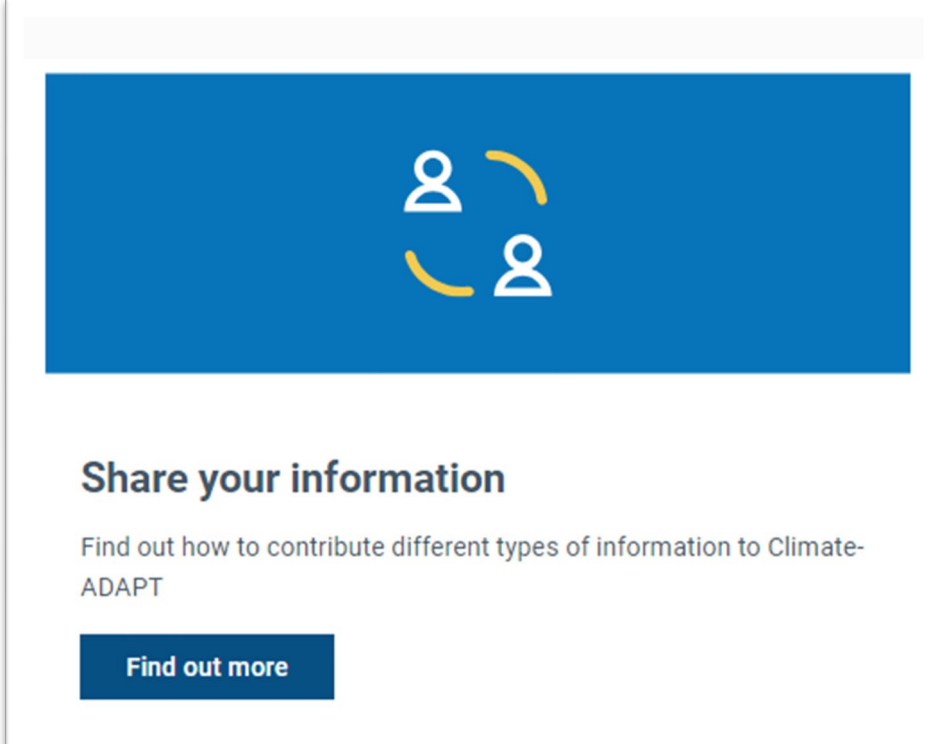
How to increase the number of contributors to Climate-ADAPT? (Objective 2)

Key findings (Survey, interviews)

- 70 % of survey respondents aware of possible contributions, while significantly smaller proportion (32 %) has done so
- Case studies valued as strong resource, but challenging and time-consuming for contributors to develop
- Potential bias in the content (particularly case studies) towards Central Europe, as well as general focus on regional rather than local level

Recommendations:

- Communicate added value of contributions to the platform
- Improve translation support to diversify contributions
- Improve content sharing process, e.g. better options to update dynamic content like reports and events
- More explicitly include Climate-ADAPT in future calls for EU research funding proposals



The screenshot shows a blue banner with two white person icons and two yellow curved arrows forming a circle. Below the banner, the text reads: "Share your information", "Find out how to contribute different types of information to Climate-ADAPT", and a blue button with the text "Find out more".

2) Findings from the external evaluation of Climate-ADAPT

**Uptake of knowledge for more impact (Objective 2):
For which products or processes is Climate-ADAPT being used?**

Use in processes	Adaptation aspects/products supported	Climate-ADAPT features used
Informing adaptation policy and planning documents	Ensuring policy coherence between local and national/EU levels	Country profiles European Climate and Health Observatory
Building institutional knowledge and leadership in adaptation	Stay informed about essential adaptation aspects through up-to-date-knowledge	Not specified
Developing and implementing regional adaptation strategies	Developing impact indicators, planning guidelines and enhancing adaptation management practices	AST, RAST, adaptation information, case studies
Support community engagement, stakeholder involvement, and inclusivity	Practical guidelines for cities (e. g. Adaptation Handbook for cities in Poland)	Practical communication guideline at the EU Mission on Adaptation Portal"



Processes/products supported 2013-2017
Source: 2018 Climate-ADAPT evaluation

Source: use cases, survey (Ramboll, 2024)

2) Findings from the external evaluation of Climate-ADAPT

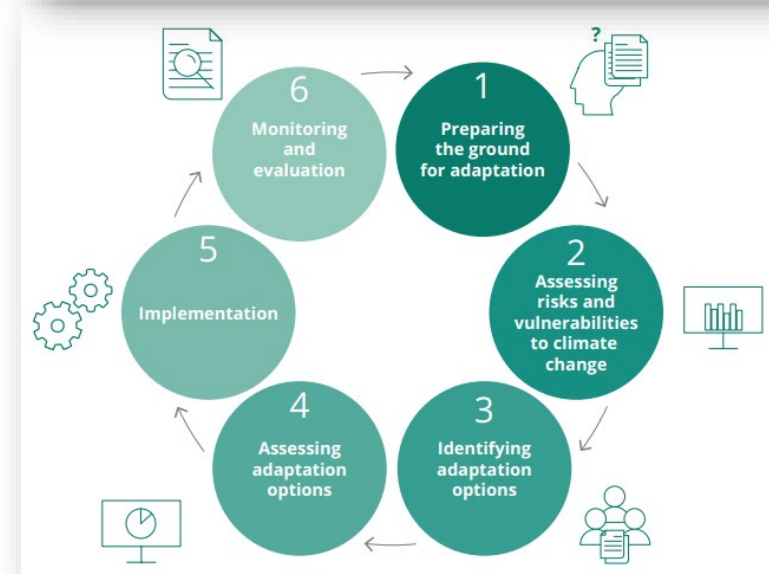
How can the uptake of Climate-ADAPT become more effective?

Key findings

- Content presentation often driven by policy rather than user needs
- Technical improvement suggested by survey and interview respondents:
 - Content updates are very resource intensive;
 - Redundant features and content;
 - Broken links;
 - Improving interactivity, visual appeal, and navigation;
 - Database usability

Recommendations:

- Better balance policy needs and user needs
- Technical improvements:
 - Reduce number of external links (e. g. through prioritisation) and optimize maintenance
 - Implement interactive feedback features
 - Organise content by sector and improve cross-sectoral links
 - Enhance comparison tools (e.g. across Member States)



3) Towards the 2025-2027 Climate-ADAPT Strategy

Using further information as input to the 2025-2027 Climate-ADAPT Strategy

- Specification of new policy needs (European Commission)
- 2024 European Court of Auditors (ECA) (publ. 16/10/2024)
- Findings of Eionet workshop on adaptation platforms in Europe (08/09 October 2024)
- Further analysis of Climate-ADAPT web statistics (ETC CA)
- EEA analysis (EEA case study briefing, other policy assessments...)

ECA 2024:

77 % of surveyed local authorities not aware of Climate-ADAPT and its tools



Special report 15/2024: Climate adaptation in the EU – Action not keeping up with ambition (europa.eu)



[Preparing society for climate risks in Europe - lessons and inspiration from Climate-ADAPT case studies](#)



3) Towards the 2025-2027 Climate-ADAPT Strategy

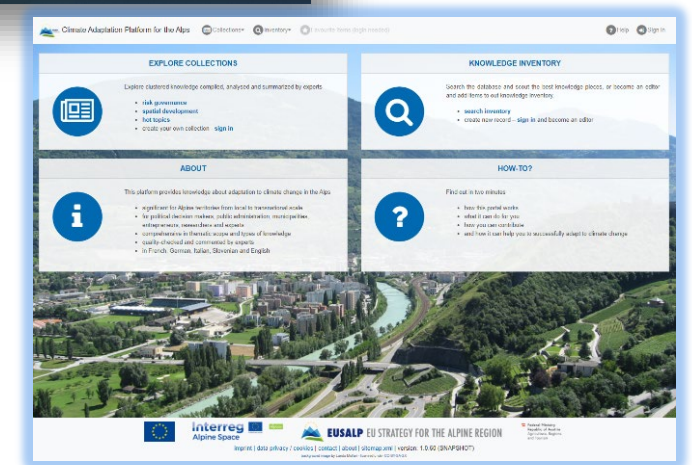
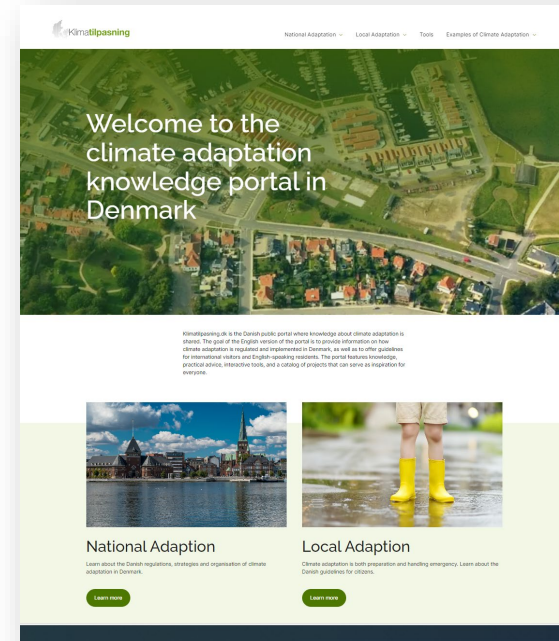
Findings from Workshop with national/transnational platform managers (08/09 October 2024)

Roles of adaptation platforms in Europe

- National platforms targeting national and regional/local experts, sectors, business and citizen
- Citizens addressed via education material for teachers (PL, PT) and guidance for individual household adaptation (DK)
- Only few platforms with strong governance systems (DE, TR, DK) to interact with knowledge providers, including from sectors
- Stakeholder engagement, training and helpdesk functions (DE) via personal interaction most important success factors for impact at local/regional levels
- Transnational regions need EU level support due to twofold role: a) ensure delivering key ecosystem services for Europe under changing climate conditions and b) supporting local level implementation with similar climate risks (Carpathian, Baltic Sea).

Delivery models of adaptation knowledge platforms

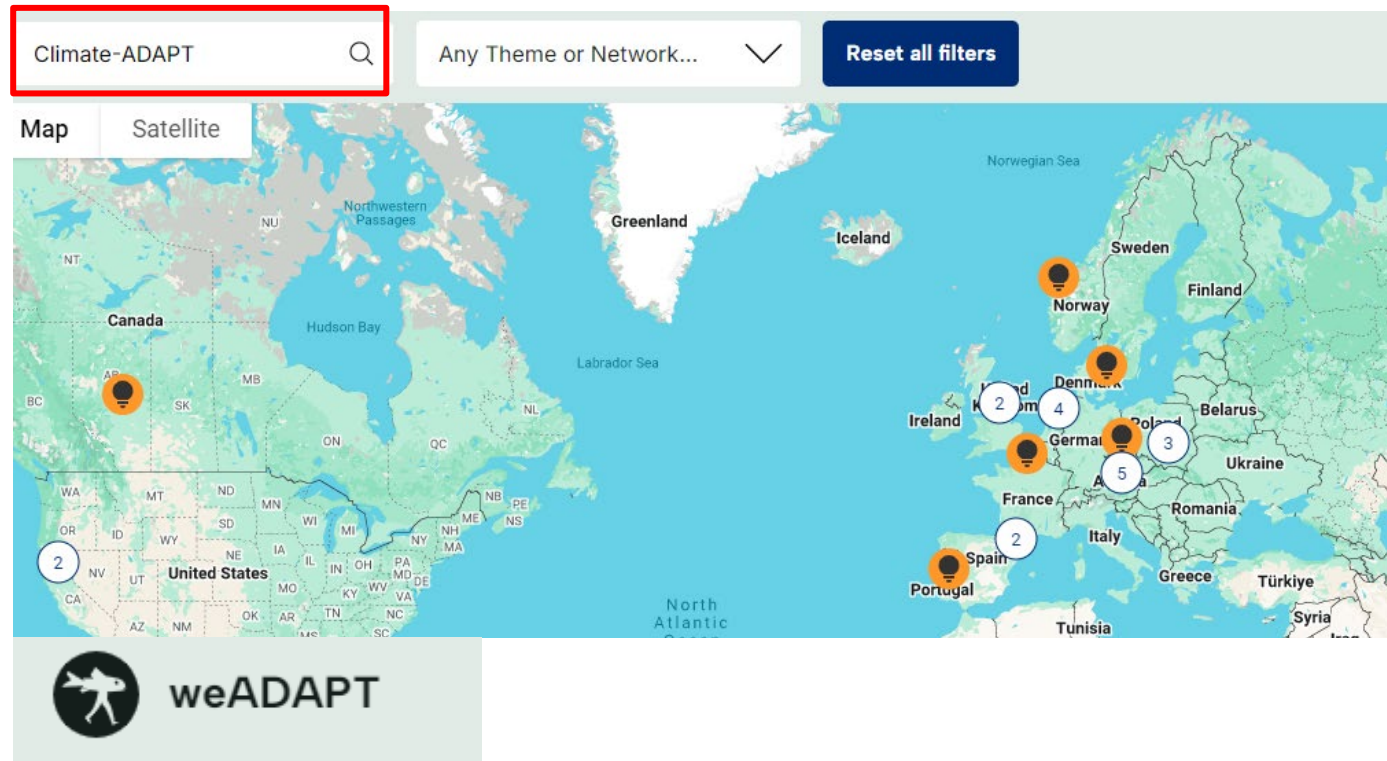
- Almost all platforms: databases with metadata pointing to other resources and trying to keep those up-to-date
- Mature platforms (e. g. DK) become too heavy and are being revised/relaunched or complemented with adaptation services (e.g. DE)
- Platforms must bridge between providing solid CRA methodologies for local/regional/sectoral and quick solutions for implementation (e. g. for recent floods)
- AI tools, build in adaptation knowledge platforms, can become a game changer in platform management and connectivity between platforms (MT) but carefully considering privacy implications (MT).
- Transnational platforms forced to constantly change their delivery model for showing innovation to get project funding for their maintenance



3) Towards the 2025-2027 Climate-ADAPT Strategy

Indicative ideas for new strategy

- Adjusting core focus of Climate-ADAPT for new policy needs:
Support EU Adaptation Plan, assist national governments
- Consolidate content for more actionable and timely knowledge
- Better balance policy and practitioner's needs in access to content
- Explore options for cooperation with other platforms (Eionet, transnational, WeAdapt,...)
- Improve performance and user friendliness through completing the migration to new CMS
- Completing multilanguage sections and/or explore embedding AI tools



Thank you for the good discussions!

Climate-ADAPT

<https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/>

New Climate-ADAPT newsletter subscription:

<https://subscriptions.eea.europa.eu/newsletter-subscription-climate-adapt>

Feedback/questions:

climate.adapt@eea.europa.eu

European Climate and Health Observatory

<https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/observatory>

EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change Portal:

<https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission>

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