



EUROPEAN UNION



# EU MISSIONS

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE



December 2023

## EU Mission Adaptation Community

Summary of the event: Learning from each other: Identifying, assessing and selecting options.

Wednesday 13th December 2023

### 1. Introduction

This report summarises the discussion on Wednesday, December 13th 2023, as part of the EU Mission Adaptation Community event – ‘*Learning from each other: Identifying, assessing and selecting adaptation options*’. The recording of the event is available through this [link](#).

The online event had a total of 43 registrations and 28 participants, which included:

- 14 Charter Signatories
- 2 Friends of the Mission
- 12 Others (incl. one National Adaptation Contact Point; one Mission Project Coordinator; 10 members of MIP4Adapt team)

The objectives of the event covered:

- Gain valuable insights and share experiences in identifying, assessing, and selecting adaptation options.
- Talking through how participants chose adaptation options in their region.
- Identifying selection criteria, lessons learned, and challenges the regions face when identifying and selecting adaptation options.

The full agenda can be found in the Annex. Box 1 summarises the main findings from the event.

*Box 1. Main findings from the event 'Learning from each other: identifying, assessing and selecting adaptation options'.*

- Stakeholder and citizen engagement is resource intensive, although a key part of the adaptation planning process.
- The crucial aspects of stakeholder engagement are mapping, identifying, and using appropriate tools and practices to engage with and empower the stakeholders.
- Regions often need support to strengthen political leadership in support of climate adaptation.
- The selection and prioritization of criteria for selecting adaptation options (Step 4 of the adaptation planning cycle) should be clear and supported by stakeholders.

## 2. Summary of the event

The event provided a broad overview of the third and fourth steps of the adaptation planning process, which focus on identifying and selecting adaptation options.

The event included a presentation by Terry Karampini from the European Environmental Agency (EEA), who dealt with identifying, assessing, and selecting adaptation options. After an introduction to the Mission Portal and Steps 3 and 4 of the Regional Adaptation Support Tool (RAST), several key points were highlighted:

- The Adaptation Support Tools (Regional and Urban) aim to support decision-makers on the regional, national or city level to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate their regional plans.
- The RAST has six steps in total. Steps 3 and 4 are related to identifying and selecting adaptation options. These steps are taken after preparing the relevant information in the region for adaptation, setting up the governance structures, identifying stakeholders, and elaborating a vulnerability and climate risk assessment.
- The goal in Step 3 is to create a portfolio of adaptation options suitable in the region to address the key climate impacts and threats identified in previous steps and line with the adaptation objectives. To this end, regions can use resources for sourcing adaptation options, such as the Climate-ADAPT database. It also offers examples and case studies from already implemented adaptation options in regions, cities and municipalities across Europe.
- Once a portfolio is available, Step 4 deals with assessing and selecting adaptation options for the regional plan by creating an assessment factsheet of identified adaptation options. For this, informing the decision-making needs and agreeing on assessment criteria is crucial. The involvement of stakeholders and citizens is essential to ensure coordination between different actors. There are several methodologies for selecting the criteria explained in detail in the RAST, some of which are cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit analysis and multi-criteria analysis.

In the Q&A session, participants asked for more information about the adaptation options database, examples and best practices, and how to engage stakeholders and policymakers in this process. For the complete compilation of the Q&A, please refer to the Annex.

In the breakout room sessions, participants discussed experiences, challenges and lessons learned regarding identifying and selecting adaptation options.

Many of the participating regions are still in the process of identifying the most suitable adaptation options to cope with their climatic risks and reduce the vulnerability of their core systems. Essential discussion points included the need to define clear selection criteria for prioritizing the adaptation options and the integration of adaptation and mitigation in the selection of measures. Moreover, experiences in stakeholder engagement were exchanged, i.e., what the common challenges encountered are and how these can be addressed.

As closing remarks, the facilitators reminded that the next Nature-based Solutions (NbS) event will be on 23rd January 2024 and that the event's recording, presentations and summary report will be shared on the online community site.

### 3. Lessons learnt and outputs

The discussions in the breakout rooms led to the identification of several lessons learned from some of the participating regions, which were very much aligned with some of the core points in the EEA presentation:

- The importance of bringing together different stakeholders to capture the various dimensions of climate impacts. Collaboration between other departments and stakeholder engagement can strengthen sustained political support for adaptation planning. Community engagement platforms can be valuable tools to support sustained engagement.
- Regions are interested in having further spaces where they can learn from each other on ways to engage their citizens and critical stakeholders. Knowing what has been done regarding adaptation measures and discussing all options with the stakeholders are relevant points for more effective adaptation planning.
- Identifying and selecting adaptation options must address economic aspects, social justice and biodiversity conservation/restoration. Climate-ADAPT provides valuable resources to support this process.
- The definition of criteria for the prioritization of adaptation measures needs to be transparent and well justified. As a next step, it is recommended to carry out a multicriteria assessment to select adaptation options (starting with simple criteria). Stakeholder involvement is critical to the effectiveness of this process.

At the end of the sessions, participants were asked about their main takeaways from the discussions. Figure 1 shows some of the key takeaways identified by the participants through the Slido software:

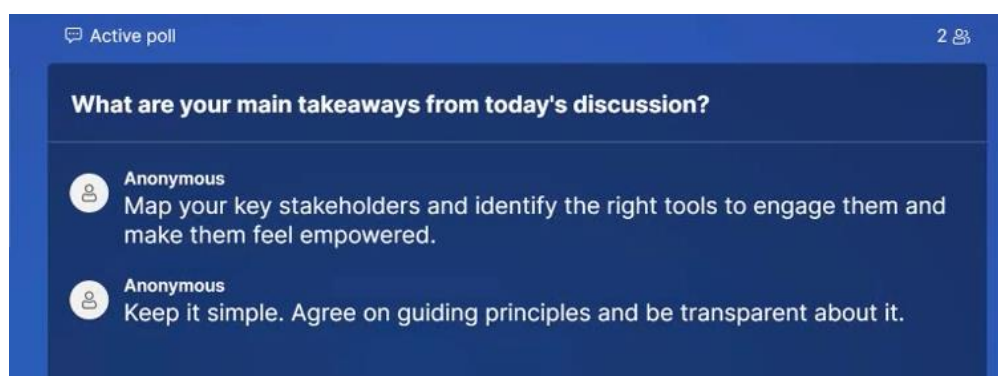


Figure 1. Takeaways from the breakout rooms' discussions.

Furthermore, participants were strongly interested in sharing experiences, materials and outputs.

For example, one of the participants expressed interest in accessing the multi-sectoral adaptation strategic plan produced by another participant region, as it would help them at the stage they are at, i.e., by learning from what others have already done. As another example, the link to a [tool](#) produced by the Swedish MET Office was shared to showcase an easy-to-use tool that can help raise awareness among citizens and stakeholders about the importance of identifying and selecting effective adaptation options.

#### 4. Feedback on the event

During the event, participants were asked about their perspectives on the opportunity that the event provided for discussing key adaptation topics with other members of the Community of Practice. In a ranking scale from 1 to 5, participants provided an equal distribution of responses, with an average score of 4 over 5.

Following the event, a satisfaction survey was issued via email and the online EU Mission Adaptation Community site. Only two responses were received, which is a too small sample to make meaningful conclusions. However, the feedback was positive overall, with the majority indicating the event met or exceeded their expectations, and they were satisfied with the exchanges and facilitation made throughout (average score of 4.5/5).

Some lessons learned for future events:

- The number of participants was limited in comparison to previous events. A potential explanation is that the event happened close to the holiday break and the end of the year, which is often a hectic period for regional administrations.
- However, the discussion in the breakout rooms was very fruitful, and Charter Signatories were very keen on discussing, sharing and learning from each other.
- Stakeholder engagement arose as a core discussion topic. This aspect has already been observed in previous events.

#### 5. Next steps

The recording, presentations, and a compilation of the questions received during the event with their specific answers were shared after the event via the online EU Mission Adaptation Community site by using the forum discussion: "[Identifying, assessing and selecting adaptation options](#)". Furthermore, six forum discussions are open within the EU Mission Adaptation Community site, one for each step of the RAST. Charter Signatories and Friends of the Mission are invited to continue engaging via those forums to exchange experiences and practice within each step of the adaptation process.

The next event on Nature-based Solutions is scheduled for January 22.

Peer-learning classes are set to be launched in January. Our online community site will provide detailed information regarding the schedule, topics, and registration process at the beginning of January. More details about the upcoming events can be found on the [EU Mission Adaptation Community site](#).

For any queries from members of the Community of Practice on associated activities and events, specific concerns about your climate adaptation planning process, communications and press releases, and IT technical issues with the website, contact us via the [Helpdesk form](#).

# Annex

## 1. Agenda

Event Agenda
Welcoming & opening remarks
Identifying, assessing and selecting options
Q&A session
Breakout session for sharing experiences
Closing remarks

## 2. Compilation of Q&A asked during the workshop

### 1. Could you provide an example of adaptation options and how they address vulnerability and exposure to climate-related hazards and potential impacts?

There are many examples. You can get familiar with them through the Mission Portal. This portal has a link to the [adaptation options database](#) from Climate Adapt. To access it, you must select “knowledge and data”, then “[Regional Adaptation support tool](#)”, and finally, in Step 3, you will find a link to this database. This database offers a compilation of helpful information with additional website links that can assist you in understanding what the adaptation options are according to the scientific bibliography. Moreover, the mentioned webpage (‘Adaptation options’) also offers a tool that can assist you with a list of adaptation options once you have done your risk assessment and identified your climate threats and objectives. For example, if we search for NbS adaptation options for droughts in the agriculture sector, the tool provides detailed information, including case studies of identified options.

### 2. Can we also suggest new adaptation options to the database from our own experience?

The adaptation options database is being updated quite often, so it is possible to enrich this with new adaptation options and case studies of the adaptation options. However, including new adaptation options is a bigger piece of work since they must be based on reliable information and evidence and must have been tested in several places.

### 3. Are there any common templates a community could use for good stakeholder engagement, especially for engaging politicians and policymakers?

This is a very important question. This issue has already popped up in previous discussions with some communities. From the EEA, we may have to consider developing a session explicitly talking about the engagement of policy decision-makers to see how to raise the budget and get resources for working on the topic.

#### **4. How can experts and stakeholders be involved in the identification of adaptation options? Could you elaborate on best practices or examples of successful collaboration with experts and stakeholders?**

Stakeholder and citizen engagement is an essential element in the policy cycle, which needs to be strategically planned (thought out and formed at the beginning of the process). Moreover, we are striving to increase coordination, e.g., one person coordinating several officers within a local authority to work on adaptation. These aspects require political will and leadership in general.

Regarding stakeholder engagement, the first step is stakeholder mapping, which identifies relevant stakeholders to include in the discussions—updating this list of stakeholders after the climate risk assessment is recommended. Stakeholder engagement assists your decision-making and enables shared learning. Furthermore, it would be best to have their perspective and approval, which is very important in any project's political and social part.

A customary practice for stakeholder engagement is to carry out workshops, where you can present and discuss your adaptation options to select some of them based on clear criteria, e.g., cost, benefits, perspectives, etc. You can later carry out subsequent workshops where you continue different and most concrete consultations regarding the selected options.

These aspects are also described in the Missions' [Do-it-yourself manual](#) on stakeholder and citizen engagement. This is a guide on how to engage the stakeholders and citizens throughout the different steps of the adaptation planning cycle. It provides specific examples of tools that you can use, examples of where this has worked out, and lessons learned.