

Background document
**Break-out group discussions - part 1 (6 June): Climate-ADAPT: new
developments based on evaluation results**

Recent policy and knowledge developments

The EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, adopted in 2013, prioritises specific activities to promote action by Member States, to support better-informed decision-making and to promote adaptation in key EU vulnerable sectors. The Strategy identifies the European Climate Adaptation Platform [Climate-ADAPT](#) as a key element to be further developed in order to provide the best available climate adaptation information at the EU level.

Climate ADAPT is co-managed by the European Commission and the European Environment Agency. Specifically, the objectives of Climate-ADAPT include: a) to facilitate the collection, sharing and use of information on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and build a consistent and updated knowledge base; b) to assist an effective uptake of the relevant knowledge by decision-makers; and c) to contribute to a greater level of coordination among sectors and institutional levels.

The European Commission is currently evaluating the EU Adaptation Strategy, planned to be completed by the end of 2018. The evaluation follows the standard framework for evaluation of EU policies and examines the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and EU added value. As a contribution to this evaluation, the EEA, supported by the ETC/CCA, has carried out an evaluation of Climate-ADAPT.

Background information EEA and ETC CCA activities

The EEA, supported by ETC/CCA, develops the regular management of Climate-ADAPT in a continuous way, with activities such as uploading appropriate content and quality control, promoting communication with users and facilitating collaboration.

In 2017-2018 EEA, supported by the ETC/CCA, has been working on the evaluation of the platform, with a wide participatory approach and a methodology that has combined both internal elements of Climate-ADAPT content and functionalities as well as elements that collect external feedback of the platform. The participatory process has included a webinar, several surveys, individual user feedback and an EIONET consultation to review the draft report. The final evaluation report of Climate-ADAPT is planned to be published in May/June 2018.

The findings from the evaluation provide essential information on how the growing knowledge on adaptation in Europe has been captured and shared in the platform, how Climate-ADAPT has been used in adaptation policy and planning, and how the platform is contributing to more collaboration across governance levels and among sectors. The EEA evaluation showed that the intended users are reached, meaning governmental organisations and those who support these, which are developing and implementing adaptation policies. The evaluation identified five core content elements (EU policy; country strategies and actions; adaptation support tools; database; case studies and adaptation options) that are and should remain a focus also for future developments of the platform. Country pages will need to be updated with information to be reported under the MMR (2019). The evaluation showed there is a need for further inclusion of key outcomes from EU funded projects (e.g. LIFE; Interreg; H2020). It also showed that more effort is needed for dissemination, communication and involvement of users that are currently least reached, including in Eastern European countries and in specific sectors (e.g. agriculture, energy). Such activities should be performed by the European Commission, as well as EEA. In addition the structure of the web site and various IT functionalities should be improved.

The evaluation provides the basis to assess the progress of Climate ADAPT to its objectives and to define elements and actions for future improvements. For the 2018 work the evaluation outcomes have already been taking into account and 2018 Climate-ADAPT developments include:

- Updating of all web pages and continuing to enhance the Climate-ADAPT database;
- New IT development: usability, layout and structural coherence.
 - o Improvement of Climate-ADAPT layout, aiming to increase the usability and user-friendliness of the platform
 - o Reformulation of the Climate-ADAPT structure, aiming to streamline the conceptual framework of the platform, enhance its coherence and improve the navigation scheme

Further revisions, based on the evaluation outcomes, will be included in the 2019-2021 Climate-ADAPT Work Plan, being developed by EEA, in collaboration with DG CLIMA. This planning instrument –following the 2013-2018 Work Plan- will be the framework for the development of Climate-ADAPT in coming years. As part of it, there are particular elements with a high strategic value:

- o Mechanism for a regular Climate-ADAPT updating, that sets up the systematic procedure to keep the contents of the webpages up to date, defining workflow and frequency.
- o Climate-ADAPT Dissemination Strategy: to structure and identify actions regarding communication, participation and coordination issues.
- o Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation scheme for Climate-ADAPT.

Following up on these activities, the EEA would like to brief and discuss with the NRC's and other partners on the main results from the Climate-ADAPT evaluation, the ongoing IT development for the new layout and the set of new planning instruments that will define the Climate-ADAPT strategy and management in coming years.

Questions for the discussion

1. What are your general views on the evaluation of Climate ADAPT, in terms of process and results?
2. Are you currently carrying out/planning an evaluation of your national/regional/thematic adaptation platform? If this is the case, how the EEA evaluation of Climate-ADAPT can inspire your own process of evaluation?
3. What are your views on the Climate-ADAPT new structure and layout? Have you been and/or do you want to be involved in the testing of this Climate ADAPT new layout?
4. In order to meet the needs of users to take action, additional services are needed to support the practical implementation of knowledge, e.g. further dissemination material; training; and workshops. Which additional activities to promote the further use of Climate ADAPT, e.g. also in countries with currently least use and in specific sectors (agriculture, energy etc) do you feel are most needed?
5. What elements from the set of the planning instruments (see above) for Climate-ADAPT do you feel are more relevant?
6. What options do you see to enhance the complementarity between Climate-ADAPT and national/regional/thematic adaptation platforms and how best to collaborate with Eionet with this aim?