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ADAPTNOW

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND FINANCING TOOLS

Topic Brief

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1. INTRODUCTION

Short description: ADAPTNOW: ADAPTation Capacity Strengthening for Highly Affected and Exposed Territories in the Alps NOW will work on strengthening the adaptive capacity of HAET by implementing and evaluating the available climate adaptation and risk mitigation management tools and practices, assessing the Climate Adaptation Plans and developing Climate Services to support the territories and their local public authorities. Ultimately, ADAPTNOW aims at making risk and adaptation planning more integrated, collaborative and inclusive. This will be reached through a more dynamic, agile and participatory planning process in which all local stakeholders need to be involved.

Project website: <https://www.alpine-space.eu/project/adaptnow/>

Introduction to the Topic Briefs

In order to strengthen their adaptive capacity, local municipalities must identify methodologies and strategies able to promote and facilitate the development of the climate adaptation measures within the territories, verifying their implementation feasibility and identifying appropriate financial and funding mechanisms to finance the implementation of climate adaptation measures.

This series of **topic briefs** has been developed to support municipalities, policymakers, and other stakeholders in integrating Nature Based Solutions, Integrated Planning and Financing Tools, Community Engagement and Communication Methods, and Extreme, Compound and Cascading events solutions into local planning and risk management strategies. Each brief provides concise, evidence-based insights, highlighting their relevance, benefits, and practical applications in different contexts. The objective is to bridge the gap between scientific research and real-world implementation, ensuring that decision-makers have access to actionable knowledge.

The topic briefs can be used in multiple ways:

- **Strategic Planning** – Municipalities can leverage these resources to inform urban planning, infrastructure development, and climate adaptation strategies.
- **Policy Development** – Policymakers can integrate these principles into local and regional policies to enhance ecosystem resilience and reduce disaster risks.
- **Stakeholder Engagement** – The briefs serve as a tool for raising awareness and fostering collaboration among government agencies, private sector actors, and local communities.
- **Project Design & Funding** – Practitioners can use the insights to design projects that align with funding opportunities and international sustainability frameworks.

By providing concrete examples, case studies, and key recommendations, these topic briefs empower local actors to take informed action, ultimately contributing to more resilient and sustainable territories.

You may find the other Topic Briefs in the EUSALP [CAPA Platform](#).

2.THEMATIC WORKSHOP 2 - INTEGRATED PLANNING AND FINANCING TOOLS

1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE CONCEPT

Workshop description

The aim of the workshop was to highlight all the possible **methodologies and strategies able to promote and facilitate the development of the climate adaptation measures** within the territories, **verifying their implementation feasibility** and **identifying appropriate financial and funding mechanisms** to finance the implementation of climate adaptation measures. To guarantee a circular integrated approach to the overall methodological process, **the monitoring of the implementation process** of climate adaptation measure has been discussed during the workshop.

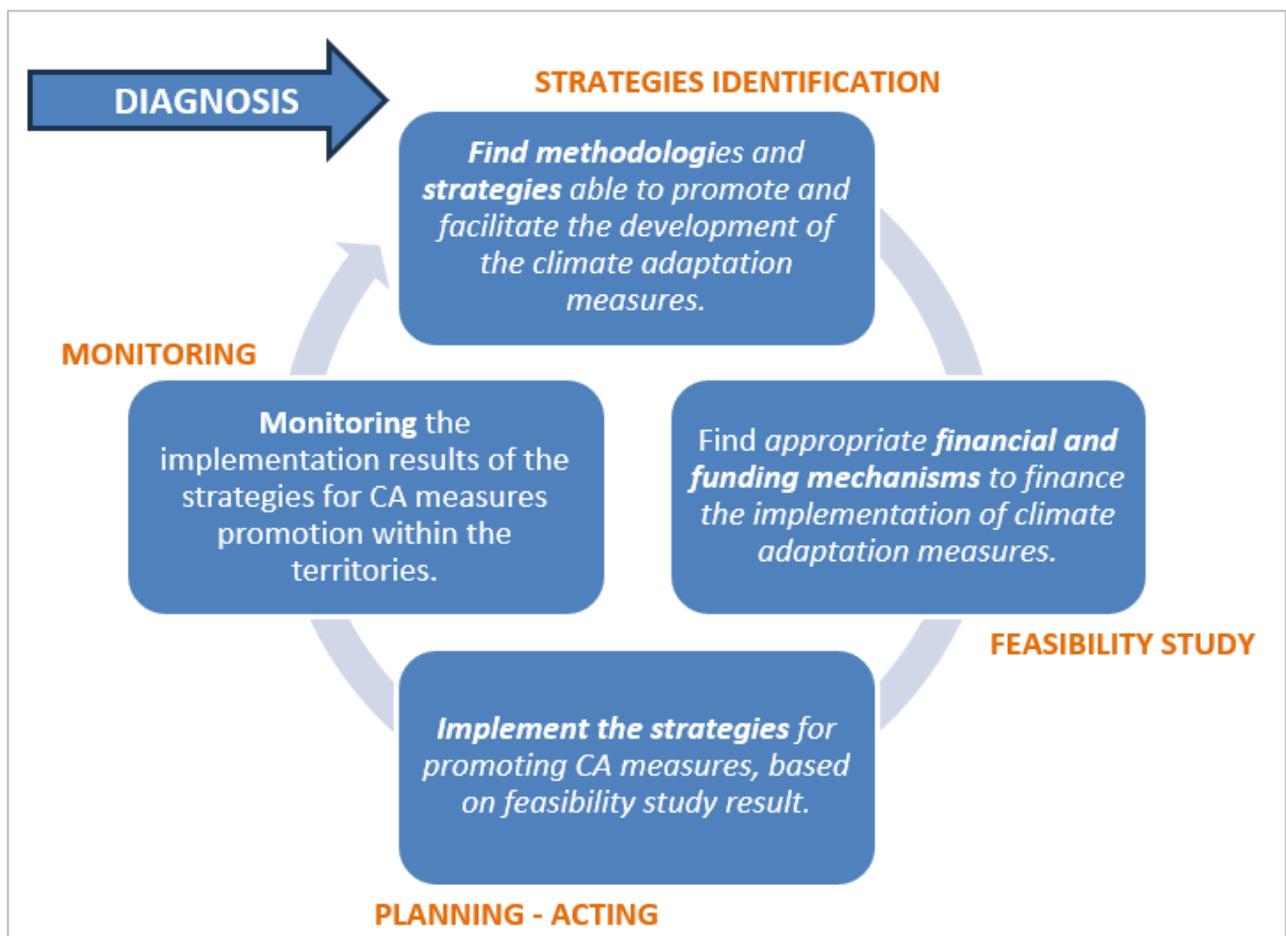


Fig. 1 Circular integrated approach to climate change adaptation.

The workshop has been organised using the **“Sprint workshop approach”**, a dynamic and interactive way to collect feedback and share/discuss them among the participants. The participants were divided into groups

of 5-6 persons; each group discussed and exchanged opinions guided by key questions aimed at finding out the best approaches and methods able to foster the development of the climate adaptation measures. The Sprint session ended with a short plenary session summarizing the outcomes from each group.

METHODS AND TOOLS FOR AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Session 1a

- *What kind of methods and tools do you consider more effective to raise the capacity of local authorities to act in favor of climate adaptation?*
- *Is it necessary to develop new tools or methods? Which ones?*
- *What are the main barriers to overcome for a real uptake and use of climate adaptation tools and methods by local authorities?*

“Awareness” is the key word to overcome the existing barriers to the real uptake and use of climate adaptation tools by local authorities. The improvement of the awareness about the importance of the climate change adaptation must be applied transversally, starting from the citizens, up to SMEs, local and regional authorities, public administrations, private agencies, certification bodies; stakeholders aware are better motivated and confident in applying an integrated approach to climate change adaptation. Indeed, it is not easy to estimate what it means not to be adapted to climate change from a social, economic and environmental point of view, and too frequently local adaptation actions occurred after disasters happened. The implementation of a “certification on local adaptation level” can be a good balance for local authorities to act, being aware of the risks affecting the local context and, for private certification companies, to stimulate the adaptation certification market. This new generation of adaptation certification systems can start from the inclusion, within the already existing sustainability certification systems, of indicators and qualitative aspects related to the adaptation level of the buildings.

The “qualification of the stakeholders” working in the field of climate change adaptation is fundamental for the reliability of the integrated approach process and for its local uptake through the governmental authorities.

“Visible and quantifiable results” are always the best way to capture the attention of the public and private sectors, to be credible in outcomes achieved and, consequently, to be replicated throughout the overall process by other local authorities. To ensure more visibility to such adaptation tools, they must be displayed online, taking advantage of official local channels, in order to be better disseminate and known among public and private sectors.

A natural limit of the adaptation strategies is their long-term results visibility, in contrast with the, often, large economic resources needed. Indeed, the “economic feasibility” is a practical barrier which can be faced by local authorities in implementing climate adaptation methods locally. The involvement of private company can be an answer to the problem but it’s essential to create attractiveness and interest toward the certification on local adaptation level.

Since uncertainty often characterises adaptation measures, a better understanding of the topic is needed but, also, a better “transversal governance” can overcome the uncertainty, ensuring trust in adaptation measures to be funded. An effective governance avoids silos approaches by improving communication

among local actors, sharing a short- and long-term action perspective, establishes common goals taking into account the citizens perspectives and needs.

Session 1b

- *In your opinion, what is an “integrated approach to climate change adaptation”?*
- *What are its key elements?*
- *What factors need to be better integrated?*

The key elements on which the integrated approach to climate change adaptation are based on:

- **The participatory approach:** bring together the stakeholders that usually not work together on climate adaptation measures, from different background and with various expectations. However, they are all directly concerned by the results of the climate adaptation measures put in place.
- **The multi-level governance:** ensuring the dialogue among all the actors involved in the adaptation process in order to give trust in the measures foreseen. Multi-level governance can overcome the uncertainty related to the adaptation measures, ensuring that they are subsidized.
- **The multi thematic approach:** taking into consideration the different aspects which centre around adaptation theme, balancing natural, environmental, technical, social and economic effects.
- **Data Integration:** improving the communication among the different sectors at local and regional level which have the information and the relevant data is the first step. It is not necessary to create something new but to integrate what already exists, ensuring greater interdisciplinarity.
- **Effectiveness:** the integrated approach allows to easily identify the “optimal scenario” for adapting to climate change a specific local contest, taking into account local specificities highlighted through the application of the certification of the adaptation level.
- **Monitoring:** monitoring the implementation of the measures foreseen in the local context in order to meet the expected results, in the estimated timeframes, with the planned resources is fundamental.
- **Double vision:** allows to get the short-term and the long-term viewpoint in identifying adaptation measures and actions in a clear way, with the right temporal perspective for the execution.

FINANCIAL AND FUNDING MECHANISMS FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Session 2a

- *In your opinion, what are the optimal funding mechanisms for the implementation of climate adaptation measures at local level?*
- *In what ways can local public authorities leverage international and national funds and grants to enhance their ability to finance and implement climate adaptation strategies in their communities?*

Long term funding mechanisms for the implementation of climate adaptation measures at local level are the most suitable because adaptation measures need time to be implemented and benefits resulting from their realisations are not always apparent immediately.

Private companies can be good financiers but it's necessary to raise awareness and increase knowledge among citizens and decision makers on the importance of actions preventing climate disasters through adaptation measures. Revenues resulting from adaptation measures deployment are mainly related to social and environmental aspects, also because it's not easy to economically estimate the impact of climate disaster prevention. Risk insurance companies can be attracted by this procedures but penalties must be introduced if they do not respect agreements. Once again, raising the lack of a "building/urban certification on local adaptation level" which would stimulate the funding mechanisms for the implementation of climate adaptation measures at local level.

Session 2b

- *What role can public-private partnerships play in funding and implementing climate adaptation projects, and how it is possible to encourage their formation and success?*
- *How can innovation and local collaboration to develop creative and sustainable financial solutions for climate adaptation, actively involving communities, businesses and the public sector be promoted?*

Public-private partnership can positively accelerate the implementation of climate adaptation at local, regional, national and transnational level, without distinction since this cooperation can work at any spatial level. A fruitful partnership is based on long-term needs that impact on surroundings, which take into account community requirements and sector-based demands on climate change adaptation. Having the different roles played by the private part and the public one clear is fundamental to guarantee a long-term cooperation; in most cases the private component raise the economic capital starting the process while the public subject is responsible for ensuring the revenues due to the actions implemented. Obviously, spreading and raising awareness on climate adaptation strategies, on benefits and potential coming from them, is fundamental to guarantee a proactive cooperation, trust and visibility on climate actions to be implemented. This trustworthiness grows when adaptation strategies are implemented immediately after catastrophic weather events, since they are immediately recognised as essential for the territory; anyway, the trust in climate adaptation actions is also strictly connected to the degree of awareness of all the interested parties, citizens included.

Based on that, the introduction of a "new generation of climate resilience urban and building certificates" at regional and national level, **can speed up the recognition of the importance of climate adaptation strategies and stimulate the private market in financing this kind of measures**, by increasing the knowledge on that topic, it makes it more familiar and easily recognized.

These procedures can generate tax discount for citizens but also for the private sectors involved in the process. Clearly, **misleading communication and greenwashing must be completely prevented** to ensure an active involvement of the private companies together with the citizens, and the development of a sustainable financial solutions.

Session 2c

- *How can authorities establish effective mechanisms for revenue generation at the local level to support climate adaptation efforts, without imposing undue financial burdens on residents or businesses?*

Local authorities can **leverage on transnational funds** to support climate adaptation efforts since, in most cases, funds available for small municipalities are very low and, unfit to support climate actions. It is paramount **to educate and make local municipalities aware on how to get and use the existing available funds**, at regional and national level, due to potential misinformation and lack of awareness about financing opportunities.

Further obstacles on accessing national funds might be the lack of human resources at local level. **Improving the municipal task force in quantity and, above all, in quality** can increase the possibility to get economic resources to accomplish adaptation efforts without imposing taxes on residents.

Another virtuous solution to avoid undue financial burdens on residents for climate commitment might be to **get revenues from the installation of energy efficiency devices in public spaces** (for example: Led public lighting, PV panels on public buildings, etc.). The cost resulting from energy savings can serve as promoter of climate adaptation strategies at local level, avoiding further cost for the municipality inhabitants.

Anyway, **private companies interested in climate adaptation improvement, can also represent a valuable source of capital to support climate adaptation strategies at local level.**

2.1 WHAT ARE THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP?

It is clear that the improvement of the awareness about climate change adaptation must be applied transversally since we are all affected by it. Both from the methodological side and the financial one, the implementation of a “certification on local adaptation level” can be a good balance for local authorities to act, being aware about the risks affecting the local contest and, for private certification companies, to stimulate the adaptation certification market, to date poorly developed and known. This new generation of adaptation certification can speed up the recognition of the importance of climate adaptation strategies and stimulate the private market in financing adaptation measures.

Climate change adaptation methodologies and strategies must always be based on an integrated approach following multi-level governance, multi thematic approach, data integration procedures and an effective implementation monitoring; always verifying the implementation feasibility and identifying appropriate financial and funding mechanisms to finance their execution.

Concerning financial schemes, long term funding mechanisms for the implementation of climate adaptation measures at local level are the most suitable because adaptation measures need time to be implemented and benefits resulting from their realisation are not always apparent immediately. Local level authorities must be educated and aware on how to get and use the existing available funds, both at regional and national level, giving also the possibility to leverage on transnational funds.

A virtuous solution to avoid undue financial burdens on residents for climate commitment can be represented by the possibility to get revenues from the implementation of adaptation strategies. The cost savings resulting from the introduction of the measures can serve as promoter of climate adaptation strategies at local level, avoiding further cost for the municipality inhabitants. This mechanism is known as intracting or Energy Savings Fund (ESV). More information on how get trained on intracting is available through [Prospect+](#) and Prospect CUBE.

Clearly, a fruitful private-public partnership is based on long-term needs that impact on surroundings, which considers community requirements and sector-based demands on climate change adaptation.

3.1 HOW CAN MUNICIPALITIES USE THIS INFORMATION TO INCREASE/IMPROVE/DEPLOY THE SHOWCASE ACTIONS/TOOLS/METHODOLOGIES IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE WORKSHOP?

Suggestions revealed during the workshop, focused on methodologies and strategies, allow municipalities to locally promote and facilitate the development of the climate adaptation measures within their territories. Thanks to the hints highlighted on financial and funding mechanism, municipalities can use the input on how to establish effective mechanisms for revenue generation at the local level to support climate adaptation efforts, without imposing undue financial burdens on residents.

Public-private partnerships have also been deepened; municipalities got information on how to guarantee a long-term and fruitful cooperation between the two.

4.1 WHAT FORMAT SHOULD BE USED TO PRESENT CONCLUSIONS TO MUNICIPALITIES (AT REGIONAL EVENTS)?

The best way to present results of the workshop is by producing a short and concise brochure, including the key hints and recommendations highlighted during the opinion exchange activity.

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