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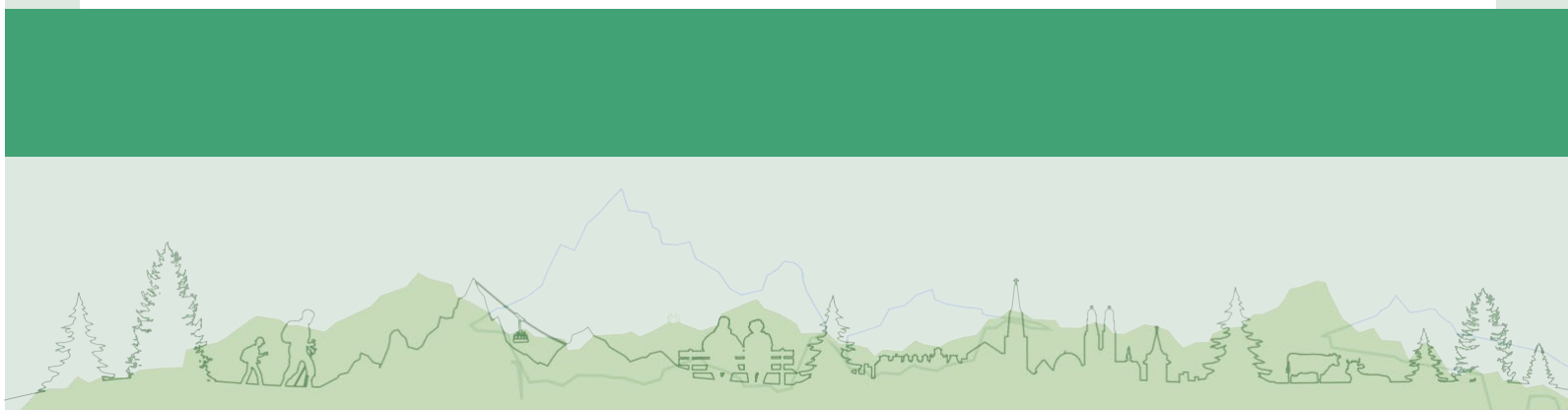


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Alpine Space

ADAPTNOW

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN THE ALPINE REGION



ADAPTNOW CONSORTIUM

Coordinated by **Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Énergie Environnement (AURA-EE, France)**, the ADAPTNOW consortium brings together 12 partners from 5 Alpine countries, including regional energy agencies, research centres, and local authorities, all committed to strengthening climate resilience in the Alpine Space.

Partners include **IRE Liguria, EURAC Research, INRAE, Universität der Bundeswehr München, iisBE Italia R&D, EZA!, EIV, ENERGAP, Grenoble-Alpes Métropole** and the municipalities of **Genoa and Selnic ob Dravi**.



INTRODUCTION

The Alpine region is one of the most vulnerable areas in Europe to climate change, with heatwaves, floods, droughts, and biodiversity loss increasingly threatening people, ecosystems, and local economies. Mountain areas face specific challenges, particularly **Highly Affected And Exposed Territories (HAETs)** where risks are more concentrated.

The **ADAPTNOW project (2022–2026)**, co-financed by the **Interreg Alpine Space programme**, supports local authorities in designing and implementing **adaptation strategies and measures**. It helps municipalities strengthen their **risk prevention culture**, build resilient services, and move **from planning to action**.

This booklet summarises the **six policy recommendations** emerging from the project's work, highlighting practical actions for stronger and more resilient Alpine communities.

The full policy recommendation study is available through the QR code at the end of the document.



POLICY 1

PROMOTE CLIMATE-RESILIENT SPATIAL PLANNING



► WHY IT MATTERS?

Climate-resilient spatial planning is crucial for enabling Alpine cities and territories to reduce vulnerabilities, protect public health, and enhance their capacity for adaptation.

► WHAT TO DO?

- Integrate climate risk assessments into planning frameworks
- Utilize spatial plans as instruments for climate-risk adaptation
- Leverage nature-based solutions to reduce risks
- Foster participatory governance by involving citizens and stakeholders

► BENEFITS

- Safer and healthier communities
- Reduced long-term disaster costs
- Enhanced protection of ecosystems, infrastructure, and public services

► PILOT EXAMPLE

Grenoble-Alpes Métropole (FR) tested participatory planning methods to integrate adaptation into urban strategies.

POLICY 2

ESTABLISH CLIMATE ADAPTATION MONITORING



► WHY IT MATTERS?

Climate adaptation monitoring is crucial for tracking the effectiveness of adaptation measures, ensuring that policies remain responsive to emerging climate risks.

► WHAT TO DO?

- Develop indicators and dashboards to track adaptation progress
- Continuously monitor progress and report results with transparency
- Share lessons learned with other municipalities to foster collaboration
- Link monitoring to funding conditions to ensure accountability

► BENEFITS

- Enhanced effectiveness of public spending
- More informed, evidence-based decision-making
- Increased trust and engagement from citizens and stakeholders

► PILOT EXAMPLE

Chivasso (IT) tested tools for monitoring local adaptation measures and integrating them into municipal strategies.

POLICY 3

ENGAGE AND EDUCATE COMMUNITIES AND STUDENTS



► WHY IT MATTERS?

Citizens' awareness and involvement are essential for the success of adaptation. If people are not informed, measures may fail or lack legitimacy.

► WHAT TO DO?

- Launch local awareness campaigns on climate risks
- Involve citizens in participatory planning and co-design
- Integrate climate education in schools and youth activities
- Promote serious games and interactive learning tools

► BENEFITS

- Stronger local ownership of adaptation strategies
- Safer, healthier and more resilient communities
- Empowered young generations ready to act

► PILOT EXAMPLE

Baronnies en Drôme Provençale (FR) used the ClimaSTORY® serious game to raise awareness among schools and local communities.

POLICY 4

STRENGTHEN MUNICIPAL CAPACITY TO ACT



► WHY IT MATTERS?

Many Alpine municipalities are small and lack staff, resources, or expertise. Without support, they cannot fully implement adaptation measures.

► WHAT TO DO?

- Provide training for municipal officers on adaptation
- Set up one-stop-shops for climate services
- Integrate adaptation into all local policies (health, energy, water, land use)
- Encourage inter-municipal cooperation to pool resources

► BENEFITS

- More resilient local administrations
- Better implementation of adaptation measures
- Long-term institutional knowledge and expertise

► PILOT EXAMPLE

Selnica (SLO) provided a regional adaptation climate center for 25 municipalities in the region.

POLICY 5

PROVIDE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND FUNDING MECHANISMS



► WHY IT MATTERS?

Adaptation is often seen as costly, but the cost of inaction is higher. Municipalities need dedicated financial tools to move from planning to action.

► WHAT TO DO?

- Create dedicated funds for climate adaptation
- Provide tax incentives or subsidies for local adaptation projects
- Use public-private partnerships to finance large measures
- Consider local taxes (e.g. tourism tax) to fund adaptation in vulnerable areas

► BENEFITS

- More resources available for municipalities
- Reduced reliance on emergency funds after disasters
- Stronger engagement from private and civil society actors

► EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

The CLIMATEFIT EU Project unveils resilient investment avenue and co-creating innovative strategies.

POLICY 6

MAKE DATA-DRIVEN DECISION-MAKING POSSIBLE



► WHY IT MATTERS?

Access to climate data is uneven across Alpine municipalities. Without harmonised and shared data, decisions risk being fragmented or ineffective.

► WHAT TO DO?

- Harmonise climate data and scenarios across the Alpine Space
- Ensure equal access to data for all municipalities
- Support open platforms and data-sharing agreements
- Use evidence-based policies to reduce inequalities

► BENEFITS

- Smarter and more targeted adaptation measures
- Better cross-border cooperation
- Equal opportunities for small and large municipalities

► PILOT EXAMPLE

Genoa (IT) used climate data analysis to support urban adaptation and inform its municipal action plan.

CROSS CUTTING MESSAGES

- Transnational cooperation is essential: climate impacts do not stop at borders.
- Clear communication makes adaptation understandable to citizens.
- Municipalities must move from planning to implementation.
- Small municipalities need support in terms of funding, expertise, and staff.

CONCLUSION

Climate adaptation is not a cost but a strategic investment. It protects citizens, safeguards ecosystems, strengthens social cohesion, and sustains Alpine economies. Acting now will ensure that Alpine territories remain safe, resilient, and attractive places to live for future generations.



For more details, scan the QR code below to access the full deliverable



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