Interreg Alpine Space

Co-funded by the European Union

ADAPTNOW

Newsletter #4

October 2024

Climate resilient and green Alpine region

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Dear Reader,

welcome to the fourth edition of the ADAPTNOW Newsletter.

In these pages we would like to highlight some achievements of our project partners and some of our news and events.

This newsletter contributes to the commitment towards a more sustainable, carbon neutral, climate resilient and green Alpine region and we hope that you find it just as interesting as we do. The consortium of 12 project partners will focus their efforts in implementing and evaluating the adaptive capacity of pilots within predominant hazards in the Alps: Heatwaves, Heavy rains/floods and Gravitation/landslides.

Follow us over the next years as we share experience, solutions, and good practices

www.alpine-space.eu/project/adaptnow/

ADAPTNOW AT A GLANCE

The main objective is to increase the risk management and adaptation capacities of Highly Affected and Exposed Alpine Territories (HAET) through different approaches coordinated by regional and local public authorities with the support of sectoral agencies and research institutes.

DURATION:
11/01/2022 – 30/10/2025

ERDF: €1.525.987,54

Read about ADAPTNOW at:

www.alpine-space.eu/project/adaptnow/

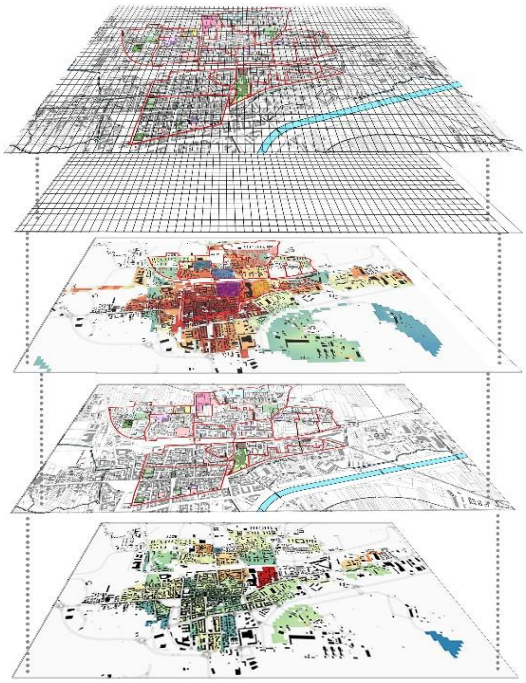
ADAPTNOW is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme

Discover our progress activities in Pilot areas

ADAPTNOW brings together regional sectoral agencies and research centers from 5 AS countries (France, Italia, Austria, Germany and Slovenia) to support Pilot Actions and help set up and run Climate Services in support of 7+ Highly Affected and Exposed Alpine Territories (HAET) in the Alps. Their efforts will be focused in implementing and evaluating the adaptive capacity of pilots within predominant hazards in the Alps: Heatwaves, Heavy rains/floods and Gravitational/landslides. **You'll find out below some of our pilots' updates.**

iiSBE Italia R&D and the Municipality of Chivasso engaged in the analysis of Climate change related risks

Thanks to the partnership agreement signed in November 2023 between the Municipal Council of the City of Chivasso and iiSBE Italia R&D, in the context of the EU project ADAPTNOW (https://www.alpine-space.eu/project/adaptnow/), the cooperation among the interested parties in the assessment of climate risk analysis has intensified. This partnership has allowed to elaborate, over the last few months, specific maps which organize, analyze and represent spatial data related to the Municipality of Chivasso through QGIS open-source software.

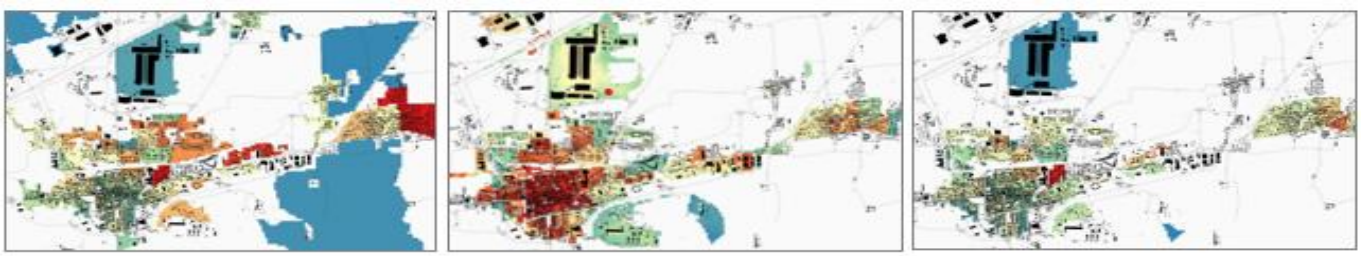


In particular the focus has been on the extreme temperature risk; related to that, the following maps has been elaborated:

- **Vulnerability Map**: it considers the Land Surface Temperature (LST) and the permeability,
- **Exposure Map**: it considers the vulnerable population (under 10 and over 65 years old)
- **Risk Map**: which considers all the elements taken into account in the previous maps.

Thanks to this in-depth analysis, discussed in detail during several meetings, also joined by the *Paglia Associated Firm*, which is the architectural firm in charge of the review of the Chivasso General Master Plan, the Municipality of Chivasso has been divided into micro urban zones, on which performance indicators will be calculated. Based on the results achieved, specific adaptation strategies will be elaborated.

An innovative approach to the identification of the climate risk, developed thanks to the EU project ADAPTNOW, that identify the Municipality of Chivasso pioneer in the activity.



Exposure map | Vulnerability map | Risk map

Energy consultants become climate consultants

Self-preparedness is an indispensable component of Climate Change Adaptation Strategies. Forward-looking adaptations to private buildings and properties can prevent damage and health hazards caused by extreme weather events.

An Advisory Service for Homeowners is being developed in Vorarlberg as part of ADAPTNOW.

The consultations will focus on preventing and protecting homes from extreme weather events, in particular damage prevention against heavy rain, storms, hail, extreme snowfall and heatwaves. In spring 2025, consultations in municipalities will be tested for the first time after the selected energy advisors have attended a training course with two evening events in autumn 2024. **From November 2025, the climate change adaptation consultations will be combined with the free energy consultation hours organised by the municipalities for property owners.**

Grenoble-Alpes Métropole _ Graduated Anticipation Plan (GAP)

Through ADAPTNOW project, Grenoble-Alpes Métropole wish to develop and improve the decision support tools.

On 21st of June Grenoble-Alpes Metropole gathered the Risk and Resilience community. **The workshop dealt with the Graduated Anticipation Plan (GAP). This tool is designed for decision support against flash floods and rely on "actions with least regrets".**

The tool defines thresholds at which decisions are taken before dikes failure or torrential overflowing. The GAP was firstly developed for Drac floods, and was later applied for the torrential water stream of the Sonnant (Gières municipality). The objective was to introduce the working principle of the Plan, and its application in crisis anticipation. The municipalities of Sessinet-Pariset and Gières, which already use the tool, introduced its applications. The meeting was held during Drac and Romanche exceptional floods, which was caused by heavy rain upstream of GAM territory, within the Oisans mountain range. Earlier this day, the event caused the destruction of Bérarde hamlet. Sessinet-Pariset municipality were concerned by Drac floods and activated its Graduated Anticipation.

Implementations in the forestry and tourism sectors in the Puster Valley pilot

After a series of consultations with stakeholders highlighted the necessity for sensitization and training for those involved in the tourism and forestry sectors in the Puster Valley, targeted measures designed to address these knowledge gaps have been formulated over the past few months in collaboration with key players in the respective industries. Engaging stakeholders from both the private sector and public administration early in the planning phase of these measures aimed not only to guarantee a focused, context-specific approach and practical applicability of the outcomes but also to facilitate timely adjustments to the structure of the measures for subsequent scaling and replication in other parts of the province and beyond. The implementation of these measures is scheduled for October 2024.

In the forestry sector, foresters' training (3rd – 4th October in Brunico and Monguelfo) focused on artificial reforestation utilizing climate-resilient tree species alongside experts from the Alpine region. Building on an informative segment about anticipated climate scenarios, their implications for growing conditions, and consequently the composition of tree species in the pilot area, the training content will further explore climate-smart (re)afforestation practices. Through a theoretical module followed by a practical component at selected representative sites, foundational knowledge on aspects such as site evaluation, tree species selection, and planting techniques will be both demonstrated and applied. While foresters, who will later serve as key multipliers for forest owners through advisory roles, received immediately applicable knowledge, a significant emphasis have been placed on the processes and decision-making steps involved.

In the tourism sector, an introductory module (15th October) aimed at raising awareness among service providers in the pilot region will first outline the anticipated climatic changes, their effects on tourism-relevant factors such as snow cover or extreme weather events, the pertinent climate risks for the sector, and the fundamental options available for adaptation. **Following this, an in-depth module (21st October) will feature external experts presenting best practice examples for adapting to specific climate risks identified in collaboration with stakeholders**. During a facilitated group session, these examples will be tailored to the local context based on the current situation, and necessary steps will be identified for successful and timely adaptation to local climate risks. Given the diverse nature of the tourism structure within the pilot region, the primary objective is to create a practical process and replicable steps for planning and decision-making for tourism stakeholders, in addition to results that are directly relevant to the context, to facilitate the early incorporation of climate risks and corresponding adaptation strategies in investment and intervention processes, irrespective of local conditions and activities. This will be accomplished through the development of a replicable roadmap, which will be created based on the findings from the in-depth module.

The outcomes of the co-design phase over the past few months were presented on 23rd – 24th September during a conference addressing the significance of social sciences in Civil Protection in Rome, which was organized by the Italian National Civil Protection Department.

Municipality of Genoa and their Municipal Civil Protection Plan

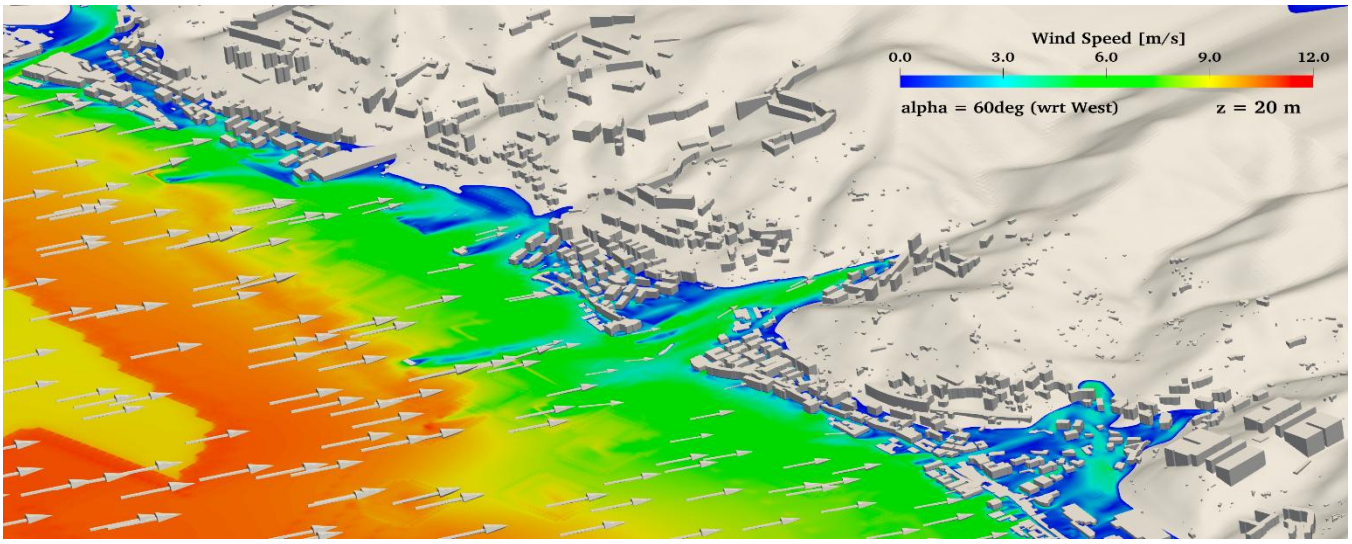
The Municipal Civil Protection Office with the technical collaboration of the **Chemical, Civil and Environmental Engineering Department (DICCA**) **of the University of Genoa**, is working on the development of thematic hazard maps for windstorms, sea storms, and heat and cold waves at the municipal scale.

DICCA performed meteorological data-collection and data-processing phases, and next built a statistical model to identify the mean value associated to different return period for each hazard and each meteorological station on the territory. Meanwhile, it built a 3-dimensional model of the urban canopy of the city so to allow the simulation of local effects of hazards.

By combining the wind-data statistical model and the 3-dimensional model of the urban canopy, DICCA provided to the Civil Protection Office of Genoa Municipality sample wind hazard maps for example area of the city – particularly the western part. The same process is being used to develop heat and cold waves hazard maps. Civil Protection Office is working now on the possible applications of the so-developed hazard maps, figuring out the most interesting return periods to be chosen to apply the models on the whole city and to compute the maps at the municipal scale.

With respect to sea storm hazard, University of Genoa gathered historical data and developed a sample sea storm hazard maps highlighting the most hazardous stretches of coastline. Again, Civil Protection Office is working now on figuring out the most interesting return periods to compute the maps.

At the same time, **Municipality of Genoa has the necessity to involve citizens in decision-making processes**, in order to know specific needs with respect to risk knowledge and awareness, trying to develop the most acceptable solutions. For this reason, in collaboration with IRE S.p.a., the Civil Protection Office organized and will organize working tables with stakeholders of tourism, health and infrastructure sectors, and is updating a risk perception questionnaire targeted on the abovementioned risks to be shared among population. Furthermore, dissemination events at the local or regional level must be organized to share expected results of the project and their possible applications. The first of them is being organized by the Civil Protection Office and IRE S.p.a. involving stakeholders at the regional scale – scientific, environmental and administrative/political sectors among all – and will take place in October in Genoa. Results deriving from these participatory activities will be used to assess the most effective risk mitigation and adaptation actions to be embedded in the Municipal Civil Protection Plan.



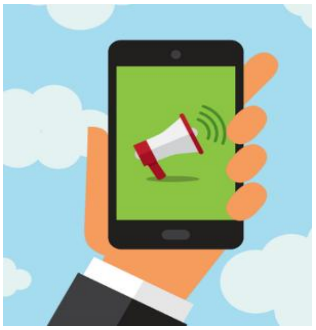
Heat action summer in Kempten: Sun detectives and drinking fountains

As part of the city's 'Heat Action Summer', the pupils from two local primary schools took center stage at the information stand on the weekly market in Kempten. As 'sun detectives', they have been measuring temperature curves in their classrooms since March, working out how to behave correctly in the heat and how to cool rooms properly. The pupils presented their findings with homemade posters, UV bead bracelets and a climate quiz – in cooperation with the urban planning department and the local health for future group.

Furthermore, Kempten installed a new drinking water fountain in the city center – two more are planned to be installed this year.

In November, a workshop on climate change related risks will take place in one of Kempten's secondary schools, which has already been honored as „Bavarian climate school". Climate ambassadors of the school will discuss with members of the city council on climate adaptation measures in the city of Kempten.

Promoting Organizations are selected



The call for the identification of the ADAPTNOW Promoting Organisations closed on the 15th of May. **Partners selected 7 Promoting Organisations** that will have the opportunity to participate in a joint exchange with one of ADAPTNOW expert partners in climate adaptation and risk mitigation in order to test the replicability of tools and practices, climate service and policy recommendation to ensures that Highly Affected and Exposed Alpine Territories (HAET) in the Alps can strengthen their adaptation capacities. **Below is the list of pairs for ADAPTNOW exchange activities. Exchanges will take place until April 2025.**

ADAPTNOW PARTNER	ADAPTNOW PROMOTING ORGANISATION
AURA-EE	Communauté de Communes des Baronnies en Drôme Provençale (France)
EIV	NÖ Energie- und Umweltagentur GmbH (Austria)
ENERGAP	RRA Podravje – Maribor (Slovenia)
EURAC	KLAR! Region Natioanlparkgemeinden Obers Mölltal (Austria)
EZA!	Energiewende Oberland (Germany)
IRE	ANCI Liguria (Italy)
iiSBE	UNCEM Piemonte (Italy)

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ADAPTNOW News & Events

ADAPTNOW at the INTERPRAEVENT conference in Austria

The ADAPTNOW project with Ivo Baselt, Dr. from University of the Bundeswehr Munich has contributed to the INTERPRAEVENT conference in June 2024 in Vienna, Austria with scientific contribution “Climate Change Adaptation in the Alpine Territories: risk perception, obstacles and adaptation strategies”. You can read the article **HERE**.

ADAPTNOW promotion on the 12th night bio-market of the University Community of Neubiberg

The event was held under the motto: Water is life. The Bundeswehr University Munich presented its natural hazard model and provided information on the effects of climate change and possible adaptation strategies for small pre-alpine municipalities such as Neubiberg. **MORE**

Project meeting in Bregenz, Austria

From 16th until 18th of April 2024, project partners met at the 3rd project meeting in Bregenz, Austria to review the progress of the project. On the second and third day the workshops and study visits were organized. All project partners were present. **The theme of the 3rd workshop was on the Community Engagement and Communication in behalf of Climate Change Adaptation. More about the interactive workshops and conclusions you can read HERE**.

ADAPTNOW Exchanges with GO Altbau Project

In July, the ADAPTNOW and GO Altbau project meet in Dornbirn as part of the GO Altbau annual meeting.

GO Altbau actually deals with communication around the topic of refurbishment. However, the afternoon was dedicated to the topic of climate change adaptation. In addition to EZA! the Bundeswehr University Munich was also invited to give a presentation. In this context, **ADAPTNOW partners were able to talk about the plans for their service to raise awareness of damage to property and explain to the Bavarian and Tyrolean energy institutes the steps they would like to take in Vorarlberg to introduce consultations for private homeowners.** The other institutes then decided to send a member of staff to their training modules for energy advisors in the autumn so that they could set up similar training in their own regions.

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What is new on the ADAPTNOW website?

Our project website was launched in January. It is constantly updated with new information.

Follow us on https://www.alpine-space.eu/project/adaptnow/

Project partners

- Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Energy Environment Agency
- Regional Agency for Infrastructure development, building Renovation and Energy of Liguria – IRE spa
- EURAC Research
- National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment
- University of the Bundeswehr Munich
- iiSBE Italia R&D S.r.l. - I.S
- Energy and Environmental Centre Allgaeu
- Energy Institute Vorarlberg
- Energy and Climate Agency of Podravje
- Municipality of Genoa
- Municipality Selnica ob Dravi
- Grenoble-Alps Metropole

LET'S STAY IN CONTACT!

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This Newsletter provides information about the Interreg Alpine Space project ADAPTNOW as well as other information about news, events and initiatives in thematic areas covered by or connected with the project and the Alpine Space programme.

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