

SUPPORT TO THE EVALUATION OF CLIMATE-ADAPT

Service request under FWC EEA/CET/22/001

DG CLIMA

Final report

03 OCTOBER 2024

RAMBOLL

Bright ideas.
Sustainable change.



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SUPPORT TO THE EVALUATION OF CLIMATE-ADAPT FINAL REPORT

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The evaluation of Climate-ADAPT is an essential exercise designed to assess its contribution to EU adaptation policy and practice and identify pathways for enhancement. The evaluation, retrospective and prospective in nature, involved a robust methodology including desk research, consultations, interviews, surveys, and analysis of web statistics. It synthesised perspectives from stakeholders associated with Climate-ADAPT, the European Climate and Health Observatory, and the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change portal.

Climate-ADAPT's current strategy, poised to run until 2024, aims at supporting various stakeholders in adapting to climate change impacts. Its dynamic content is informed by the latest scientific knowledge and policy developments, targeting EU regions, countries, cities, and local authorities. The European Climate and Health Observatory, a subsection of Climate-ADAPT, focuses on the intersection of climate change and human health. The Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change Portal provides critical knowledge and tools for regional and local climate resilience.

Key findings regarding Climate-ADAPT (see chapter 3) include that stakeholders trust Climate-ADAPT for providing reliable data on climate change hazards, vulnerability, and adaptation. Users commend the platform for its support in adaptation planning and coordination at various governance levels. However, challenges remain, including improving user engagement and updating content to maintain relevance and actionability.

Strategic recommendations emphasise the optimisation of Climate-ADAPT's outreach, particularly towards regional and local decision-makers, potential enhancement of sectoral knowledge, and further promotion of the sub-sites such as the European Climate and Health Observatory. Concerning content updates, prioritisation processes could be improved. Furthermore, considering the alignment of Climate-ADAPT's services with the prevailing needs of European countries, regions, communities, and stakeholders is essential for future strategy development.

The European Climate and Health Observatory, as discussed in chapter 4, has established objectives that the Observatory partnership aims to fulfil by 2030, with the support of the web portal. These involve capacity strengthening, advancing policy preparedness, promoting health climate literature, and disseminating adaptive solutions for health risks.

Key findings for the Observatory highlight that it has good reach among mandated climate change adaptation and sectoral specialists, particularly health professionals at sub-national levels who recognise its utility in promoting climate-aware health policies. The Observatory's indicators and evidence-based resources are highly valued by the health community but there's scope for better integrating climate and health sectors at the sub-national level and enhancing the platform's impact for health professionals.

The findings on the Mission on Adaptation Portal (chapter 5) reveals that, while the Portal is part of the larger Climate-ADAPT platform and benefits from its traffic, integration with Climate-ADAPT could be improved, and there is potential for better synergy and consistency in information sharing between the Observatory and Climate-ADAPT. It also appears that certain adaptation sectors demonstrate more interest than others, suggesting the need for targeted resources and communication strategies. Technical recommendations include enhancing user-friendly content and accessible resources, indicating room for more strategic promotion and capacity-building initiatives for less specialised audiences.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

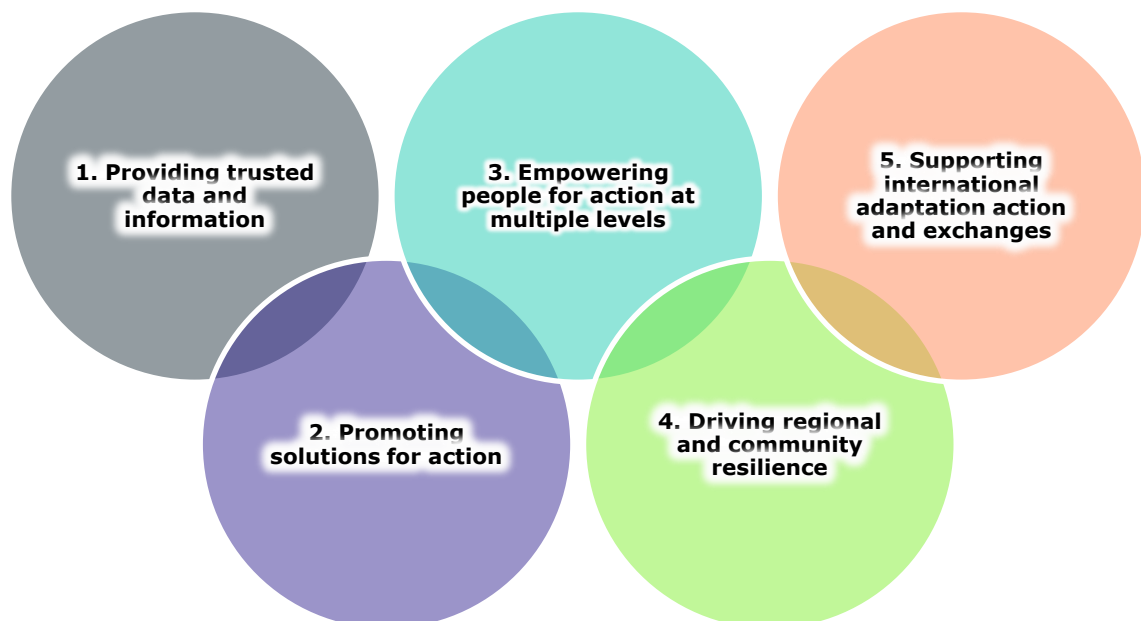
The European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) is designed to support Europe in adapting to climate change. Its main objective is to serve as first-stop-shop for information on climate change impacts, vulnerability assessments, and adaptation actions. The platform is aimed at stakeholders who are looking to share and find knowledge on dealing with the effects of climate change, as well as for policy makers creating effective adaptation strategies for their respective regions. It is designed to help users develop informed and sustainable adaptation initiatives by providing access to authoritative sources and decision-support tools. Climate-ADAPT actively supports the implementation of the EU adaptation strategy, the Commission Communication on managing climate risks, and other relevant EU initiatives under the European Green Deal.

Climate-ADAPT is managed by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in collaboration with the European Commission. The EEA plays a pivotal role by maintaining the infrastructure and overseeing the curation of the content. Additionally, Climate-ADAPT is supported by various European bodies and agencies which contribute to its knowledge base and ensure that the data and information provided are up to date, relevant, and scientifically robust. This cooperative effort ensures a level of standardisation and reliability across all information disseminated through the platform.

The knowledge platform provides databases, guidelines, case studies, and more, to illustrate practical adaptation approaches. Furthermore, it includes tools such as maps, graphs, and indicators that help to visualise climate change trends and effects. The content of Climate-ADAPT is dynamic and continuously evolving, reflecting the latest scientific knowledge and policy developments.

The current strategy of Climate-ADAPT¹ runs until 2024. The Climate-ADAPT objectives as defined in that strategy are shown in the Figure below.

Figure 1 The current five strategic objectives of Climate-ADAPT



¹ See: <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/about/climate-adapt-strategy-2022-2024-final.pdf/@@download/file>

The European Climate and Health Observatory is a subsite of Climate-ADAPT and aims to support Europe in preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change on human health. It provides access to relevant information, tools, and resources, and fosters information exchange and cooperation among international, European, national, and non-governmental actors.

The EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change Portal focuses on supporting EU regions, cities, and local authorities in building resilience against climate change impacts. It provides knowledge, data, and tools to help these regions understand, prepare for, and manage climate risks, with the goal of accompanying at least 150 European regions and communities towards climate resilience by 2030.

2.2 Objective

This evaluation report provides information that feeds into the development of the new strategy, starting from 2025, and the continued improvement of Climate-ADAPT.

In a backward-looking part, the evaluation assesses the platform's (and its subsites, the webpages for the European Climate and Health Observatory and the EU Mission on Adaptation), accomplishments from 2018 (the year of the last evaluation of Climate-ADAPT) up to 2024, and draws insights from recent years.

In a forward-looking part, the evaluation identifies opportunities, establishes pathways, and outlines specific steps to enhance the outreach, impact, and, consequently, the contribution of Climate-ADAPT and its subsites to EU adaptation policy and practice.

Regarding the balance between the two objectives, the forward-looking part is more prominently treated in the evaluation.

2.3 Data sources overview

The evaluation is based on several sources of evidence. These include:

- Desk research
 - Climate-ADAPT strategy
 - Strategic objectives of the European Climate and Health Observatory
 - Climate-ADAPT Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation (MRE) scheme
 - Other documents and reports concerning EU adaptation policy
- Web statistics
- Extracted directly from the web statistics analysis tool Matomo
 - Extracted from ETC CA Climate-ADAPT performance reports, published on Climate-ADAPT and internal EEA/ETC CA analysis
- Stakeholder consultation activities
 - Interviews with actual and potential users, contributors, and platform managers of Climate-ADAPT, the European Climate and Health Observatory, and the EU's Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change portal.
 - Survey to the public, including actual and potential users and contributors, of Climate-ADAPT, the European Climate and Health Observatory, and the EU's Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change portal.

The Table below summarises the strengths and weaknesses of each of the different data sources.

Table 1 Overview of data sources

Source of evidence	Strengths	Weaknesses
Desk research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verified and trusted sources of information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often only presents a 'snapshot' in time • Lacks user or stakeholder insight
Web statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factual picture of the use of Climate-ADAPT and its content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often only presents a 'snapshot' in time, unless data is available for several time periods for comparison • Does not offer explanation behind figures
Interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captures the opinions of stakeholders of the platforms • Allows for in-depth questioning and follow-up questions on opinions/statements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited number of interviews conducted meant not all perspectives from different stakeholder groups could be wholly taken into account
Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captures the opinions of stakeholders of the platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not representative of all stakeholders as only a limited group responded • The assessment scope was to look to Climate ADAPT and its subsites until December 2023; however, the survey took place 4 months later. While Climate ADAPT and the Observatory have mostly been stable in that period, the Mission Portal has quickly evolved, and therefore the findings for the Portal from the survey should be considered related to the period up its closing date mid-May

2.4 Overview of stakeholders consulted

In order to collect information to address the evaluation questions, stakeholder consultation activities in the form of interviews and a survey were carried out.

2.4.1 Survey

The survey contained questions for both users and contributors of Climate-ADAPT, and additional questions on the European Climate and Health Observatory and the Mission on Adaptation portal. The survey was launched on 17 April 2024 and closed on the 14 May. The survey was disseminated by the EEA to its relevant contact lists. Those lists cover national experts working on adaptation to climate change which are the EEA's partners in the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet) as well as other adaptation related stakeholders, as well as advertised on the main page of Climate-ADAPT.

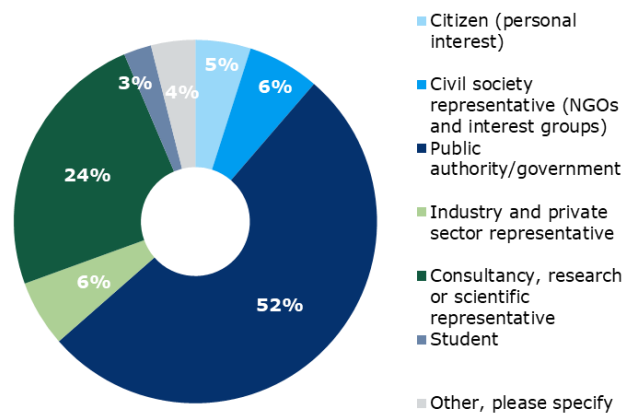
In total, 203 responses were received (145 complete and 58 partially complete²). We consider this a satisfactory number of responses; however, it is important to consider that the survey is only indicative of those who received it and who were active enough to submit a response, and that the results are not fully representative of the real breakdown of the Climate-ADAPT users and contributors (see section 3.1.1). The detailed composition of the survey respondents is described in the following.

² Partially complete responses are recorded when a respondent answers some questions but does not officially submit the survey. However, the responses to the questions can still be used. Respondents who only filled out the first questions on their background information but no other questions were not included.

Background of survey respondents

Over half of survey respondents (52%) were responding on behalf of a public authority/government. Figure 2 shows the full distribution of the profile/organisation types of respondents. 76% of responses were received from consultants, research or scientific representatives, and public authorities/governments combined, (24% consultancy, research or scientific representative, and 52% public authority/government), showing that the survey captures the opinions of the intended target audience of the platform.

Figure 2 Profile/type of organisation of respondents (N=203)



Of the public authorities/governments who responded to the survey, the majority (71%) are working at the national level and are involved into the [European Environment Information and Observation Network \(Eionet\)](#) as national experts working on adaptation to climate change (Eionet contacts) (Figure 3). Over half of respondents work at the national level (53%) (Figure 4). Around 16% of the respondents work at EU level. Transnational, global, and sub-national organisations were the least represented in the survey, making all up less than 10% of responses.

Figure 3 Type of public authority/government (N=106)

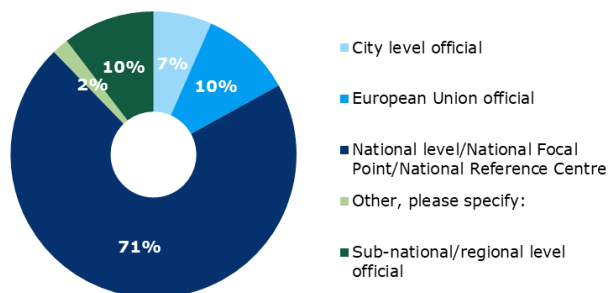
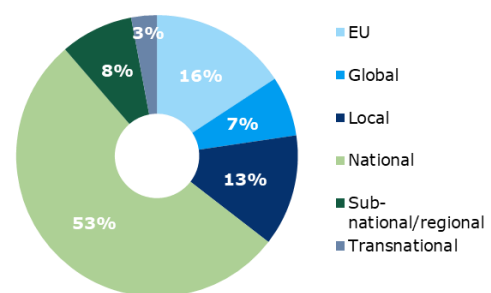


Figure 4 Governance level (N=203)



In terms of the geographic coverage of respondents, stakeholders from most European countries engaged with the survey, apart from 4 (see Table 2). At the country level, Italy was most represented (31). Countries with large population sizes were not necessarily well represented among the survey respondents (in proportion to their population) and appeared to be less engaged, such as Germany, France and Poland who corresponded to only 11, 5 and 4 respondents, respectively. In contrast, countries with relatively smaller populations, including Ireland and Austria, were among the countries with the most survey respondents (13 and 8). The full breakdown of the countries and regions of work of respondents can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2 Country/region of focus of respondents' work

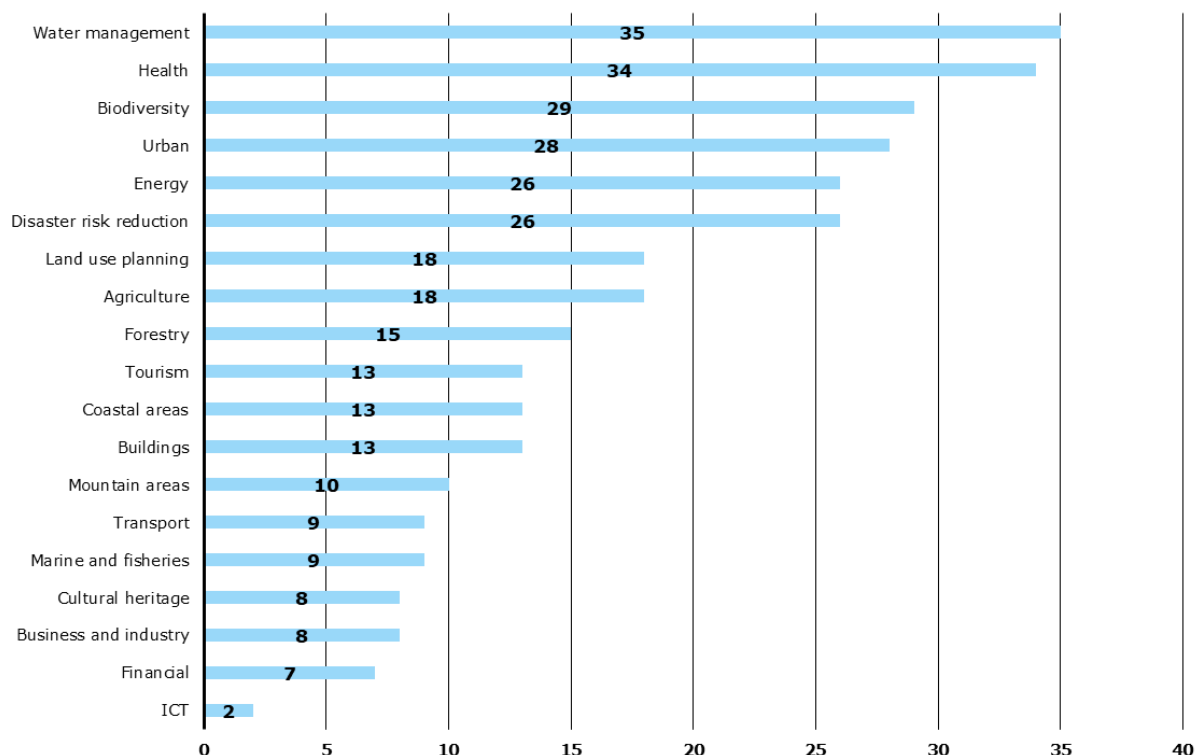
Country/ region	No. of respondents	Country/ region	No. of respondents	Country/ region	No. of respondents
Cyprus	0	Switzerland	2	Romania	6
Liechtenstein	0	Albania	3	Belgium	7
Luxembourg	0	Bulgaria	3	Portugal	7
Montenegro	0	Estonia	3	Sweden	7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	Hungary	3	Austria	8
Serbia	1	Latvia	3	Germany	11
Kosovo³	1	Norway	3	Other, please specify:	11
Czechia	2	Croatia	4	Ireland	13
Iceland	2	Denmark	4	Spain	14
Lithuania	2	Poland	4	Türkiye	17
Malta	2	Slovakia	4	Global	29
Netherlands	2	France	5	Italy	31
North Macedonia	2	Greece	5	EU-level	55
Slovenia	2	Finland	6		

The survey respondents are mostly involved in adaptation to climate change in general, rather than in specific sectors (122, N=203). However, the fields most frequently selected by respondents based on their work include water management (35), health (34), biodiversity (29), urban adaptation (28), energy (26), and disaster risk reduction (26). The total number of survey respondents who work in each sector can be seen in Figure 5⁴. 41 respondents selected 'other', indicating that they work in another field not specified in the question. Among these are waste management and climate mitigation related topics, such as air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

³ under the UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99

⁴ For visual reasons and in order to not skew the graph, 'Adaptation to climate change in general' and 'Other' are not included.

Figure 5 What field do you work in? (Select multiple if applicable)? (N=203)



2.4.2 Interviews

24 interviews were conducted as part of the evaluation. The interviewees were selected based on several criteria, with the aim of representing as diverse a group of stakeholders as possible. The criteria included representing stakeholders at every governance level, various geographic regions, different adaptation sectors, and from a range of professional backgrounds. While efforts were made to ensure that the group of interviewees well represented the intended target audience of Climate-ADAPT (and of the subsites), there were some difficulties in securing interviews with the full range of the group as originally intended. Geographic coverage in Europe, professional backgrounds, and adaptation sectors were adequately balanced considering the limited number of interviews. However, regarding the levels of governance covered by the interviews, the majority of interviewees operate at the European level (11), followed by national (5) and local (3), and only 3 interviews captured the regional, international, and transnational perspective. Therefore, the interviews do not represent each governance level to the same degree.

The following table shows the breakdown of the interviews conducted, including the geographical representation, governance level, professional background, and adaptation sector of those interviewed.

Table 3 Interviews conducted

Organisation	Country	Governance level	Professional background	Adaptation sector
European Commission (DG CLIMA)	N/a	European	EU institution/ agency	General adaptation
European Commission (DG RTD)	N/a	European	EU institution/ agency	General adaptation

Organisation	Country	Governance level	Professional background	Adaptation sector
European Commission (DG RTD)	N/a	European	EU institution/ agency	General adaptation
Europe Environment Agency	N/a	European	EU institution/ agency	Health
Covenant of Mayors	N/a	European	EU organisation	Urban
Wageningen University & Research	N/a	N/a	Research	Communication
Lancet Countdown Europe	N/a	European	EU organisation	Health
Ministry of Climate and Environment, Poland	Poland	National	Government	General adaptation
Belgian Public Health institute	Belgium	National	Government	Health
Flemish Government	Belgium	Local	Government	General adaptation
European Topic Centre on Climate Change Adaptation (ETC CA) ⁵	N/a	European	Research/ organisation	EU General adaptation
ARPA Lombardia	Italy	Local	Government	General adaptation
Forest Europe	N/a	European	Research/ organisation	EU Forestry
Milan Duomo ETS Meteorological Observatory Foundation	Italy	Local	Research	Climatology
CINEA	N/a	European	EU institution/ agency	General adaptation
Bank of Greece	Greece	National	Private enterprise	Finance
State Office for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection, North Rhine-Westphalia	Germany	Regional	Government	Urban adaptation (primarily)
Handicap International: Environmental Health Division	N/a	International	NGO	Health
Greek Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency	Greece	National	Government	General adaptation
National Adaptation Working Group in Slovakia	Slovakia	National	Research/ Government	General adaptation
Comunidad de Trabajo de los Pirineos	N/a	Transnational	Government	General adaptation
Buildings Performance Institute Europe	N/a	European	Research/ organisation	EU Buildings
Health Care Without Harm Europe	N/a	European	NGO	Health
Slovak Environment Agency	Slovakia	National	Government	General adaptation

⁵ This was a dual interview with 2 colleagues with similar roles, therefore it is noted separately.

3. CLIMATE-ADAPT

This chapter contains the replies to the evaluation questions (EQ) concerning Climate-ADAPT.

3.1 EQ1 To what extent have the objectives of Climate-ADAPT been achieved?

Key findings

- Stakeholders perceive the website highly trustworthy and rather actionable. (*Objectives 1 and 2*)
- Overall, Climate-ADAPT has been successful in delivering on its objective of providing trusted data and information on climate change hazards, vulnerability, and adaptation, as evidenced by user trust and consistent engagement metrics. (*Objective 1*)
- The platform appears primarily to reach governmental decision-makers and supporting organisations. Survey data indicates that efforts to engage regional and local decision-makers using the platform could be improved. (*Objective 3 and 4*)
- Climate-ADAPT is perceived as supportive of adaptation planning and coordination at various governance levels. (*Objective 3*)
- The platform is also used globally, promoting European adaptation approaches outside Europe. (*Objective 5*)

Recommendations (strategic)

- Increase efforts to reach regional and local decision-makers, potentially by addressing language barriers and promoting relevant content.
- Investigate and address the causes of high bounce rates to enhance user engagement and satisfaction.
- Consider developing new content on Climate ADAPT specifically supporting coordination across different governance levels (multi-level governance).
- Regularly update case studies and other time-sensitive content to ensure timeliness and relevance, addressing user feedback on outdated information.

Recommendations (technical)

- Introduction of tools/procedures to determine bots/crawlers for a good understanding of the users

3.1.1 Did Climate-ADAPT support its intended target audience? (*Climate-ADAPT mandate*)

Intended target audience

The intended target audience of Climate-ADAPT is comprised of governmental decision-makers, and the organisations supporting them in the development, implementation and evaluation of climate change adaptation strategies, plans and actions at the EU, transnational, national and sub-national levels⁶.

The number of Climate-ADAPT users increased more than threefold between 2019 and 2023. It increased from an average of 4,287 weekly visits⁷ in the first semester of 2019 to an average of 15,445 weekly visits in the second semester of 2023. The period until Q2 2024 is missing because

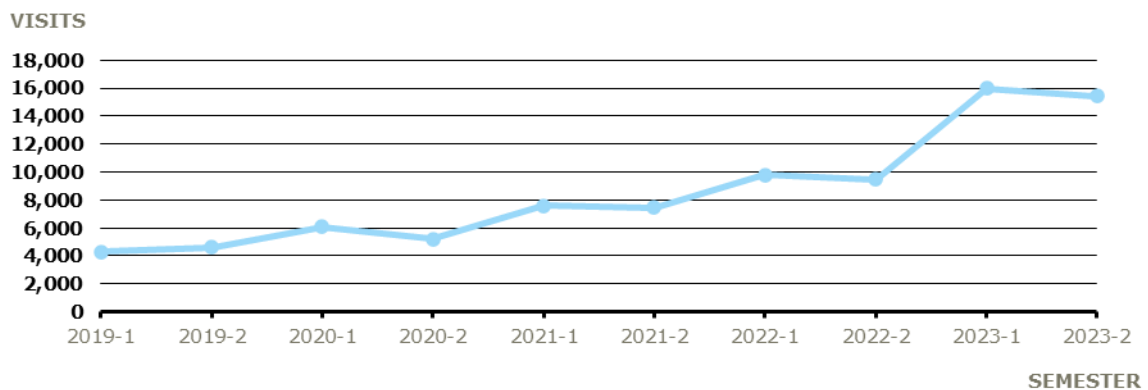
⁶ Climate-ADAPT strategy 2022-2024 (EEA, n.d.)

⁷ Visits: If a visitor comes to CA for the first time or if they visit a page more than 30 minutes after their last page view, this will be recorded as a new visit. However, this is not a Unique Visitor.

only full semesters were considered for the assessment and by the time the assessment started the first semester of 2024 was not completed.

This trend suggests an increase in the reach of the platform since the last evaluation exercise. A significant increase happened in the first semester of 2023, likely due to the launch of the EU’s Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change portal.

Figure 6 Evolution of average number of weekly visits per semester from 2019 to 2023.



Source: Overview of Web and Newsletter Indicators reported in recent years and additional information from 2023-2 reporting (from ETC CA)

The findings of the survey suggest that Climate-ADAPT is also succeeding in reaching its intended target audience. However, it should be noted that this evidence comes from the survey, since the web analytics do not capture the type of stakeholder groups using the platform.

The survey was conducted with current Climate-ADAPT users and contributors and captured opinions from a wide range of respondents, among whom three quarters were from the intended core audience of public authorities/government and consultancy/research or scientific representatives. Over half of survey respondents (52%) were responding on behalf of a public authority/government. Figure 2 shows the full distribution of the profile/organisation types of respondents. 76% of responses were received from consultants, research or scientific representatives, and public authorities/governments combined, (24% consultancy, research or scientific representative, and 52% public authority/government), showing that the survey captures the opinions of the intended target audience of the platform.

Concerning the governance levels of public authorities who responded, more than half of the respondents of the survey indicated that they are working at national level, one quarter are working above national level, while one fifth works at sub-national, regional and local level (see Figure 4).

Based on this observation (see section 2.3 on shortcomings of data collection), the distribution of the survey may suggest that increasing efforts to reach decision-makers at the regional and local levels *might* be beneficial, as *some* users of the platform also indicated during interviews.

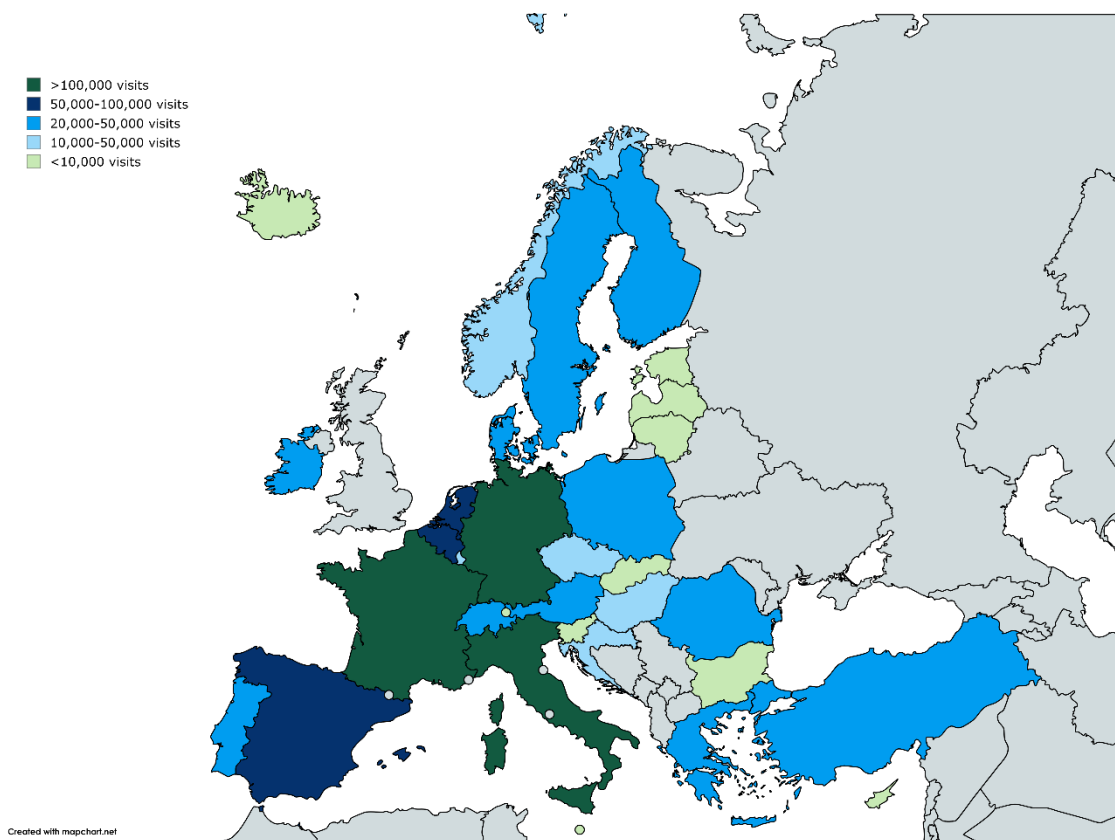
One reason for the imbalance between the many national stakeholders and the relatively few regional and local stakeholders could be that the EEA (through EIONET and other channels) has permanent working relationships with national stakeholders and that they thus may have been more motivated to reply to the survey. Another potential explanation is that national-level stakeholders are more likely to speak English, since the survey has not been distributed in languages other than English. However, those are just theories and cannot be proven.

Geographical scope

Climate-ADAPT’s scope covers the 33 EEA member countries, including the 27 EU Member States and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey, as well as the EEA cooperating countries⁸. The UK is no longer an EEA member country and, thus content from the UK (such as case studies) is no longer updated.

Climate-ADAPT has effectively reached users at both EU level and across all EEA member countries. This is evidenced by both web visit statistics (see Figure 7) and survey respondents’ data.

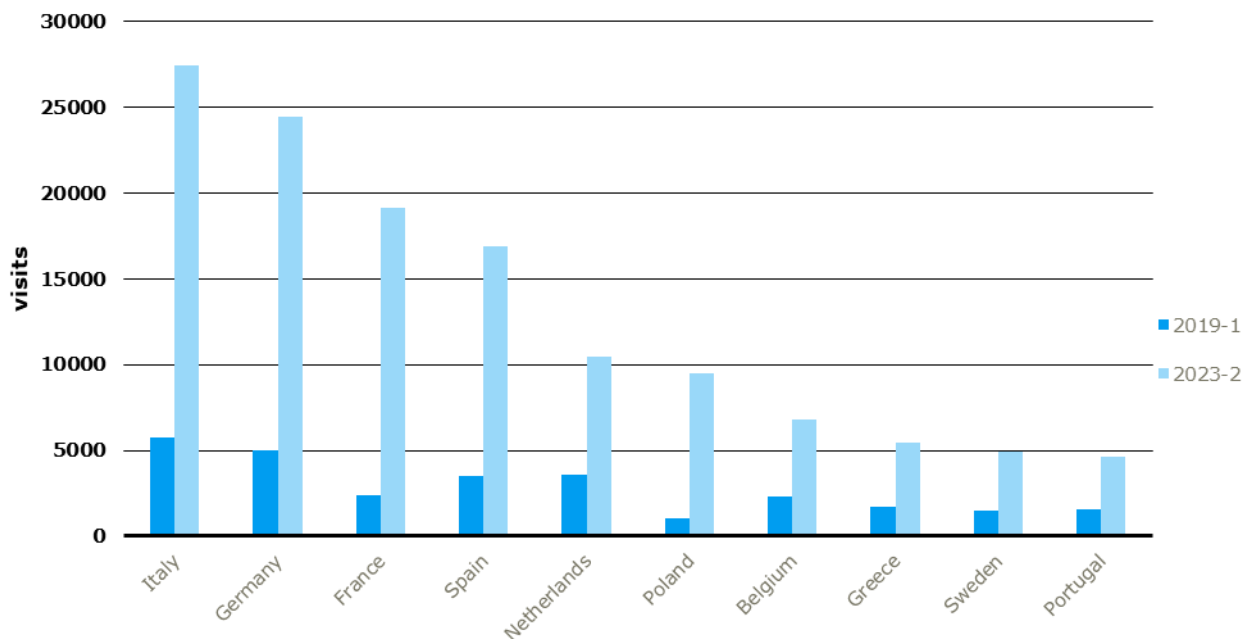
Figure 7 Total Climate-ADAPT visits in the EEA member countries for the period January 2019 to 28 May 2024



Source: Data extracted from Matomo

⁸ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99). Source: Climate-ADAPT profile (EEA, 2018)

Figure 8 Total number of visits for the top 10 EEA member and cooperating countries by the number of visits in the first half of 2019 and the second half of 2023

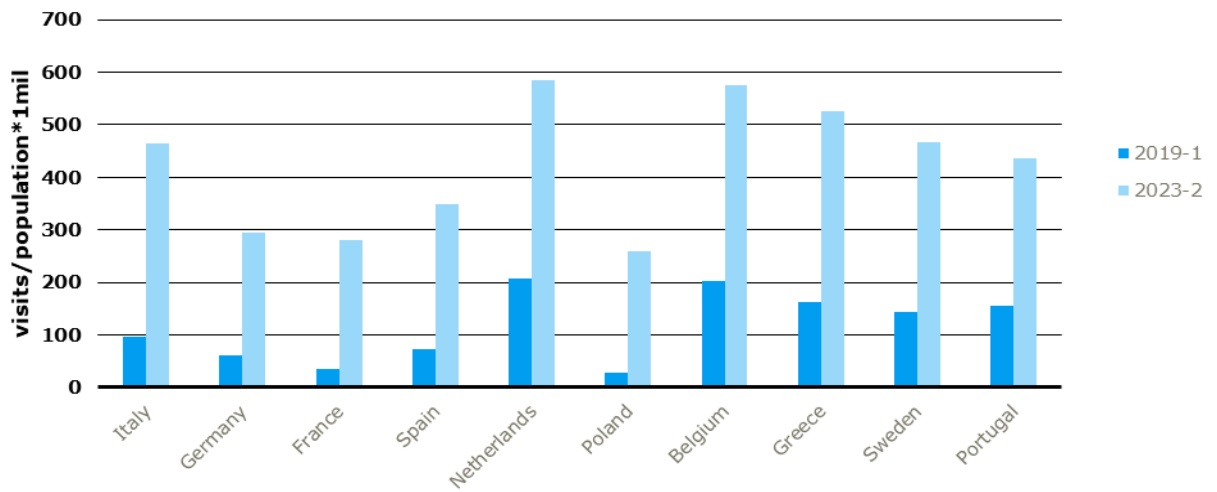


Source: Top20 Countries visits during the period 1 July - 31 December 2023 & Top 20 Visitors from Countries (Server Locations) during the period 1 January - 30 June 2019 (from ETC CA analysis 2023-2 Country visits)

The total number of visits increased significantly since 2019 across all countries (see Figure 8). Italy, Germany, and France are the top countries in terms of total views. As shown, the increase in visits between the two intervals differ significantly between countries; however, the reasons for this could not be discerned.

However, when analysing visits per million of the population, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Greece emerge as the leaders (see Figure 9). This metric provides a more precise understanding of audience distribution. Another crucial factor to consider is the relationship between visits and the populations of metropolitan cities versus other municipalities in different countries. One interviewee pointed out that in Italy, users from metropolitan cities significantly outnumber those from other municipalities, highlighting a disparity that may be relevant in other countries as well. An explanation for this disparity could be the much bigger population of the metropolitan areas. In Italy, only the 8 largest cities have a population of roughly 8 million people, which is almost 20% of the entire urban population. Another reason could be that national government agencies - core users of CA - concentrate on the metropolitan areas. In other words, the level of metropolitan users would only be another proxy indicator for the level of governmental and public administration users, and not a new finding in itself.

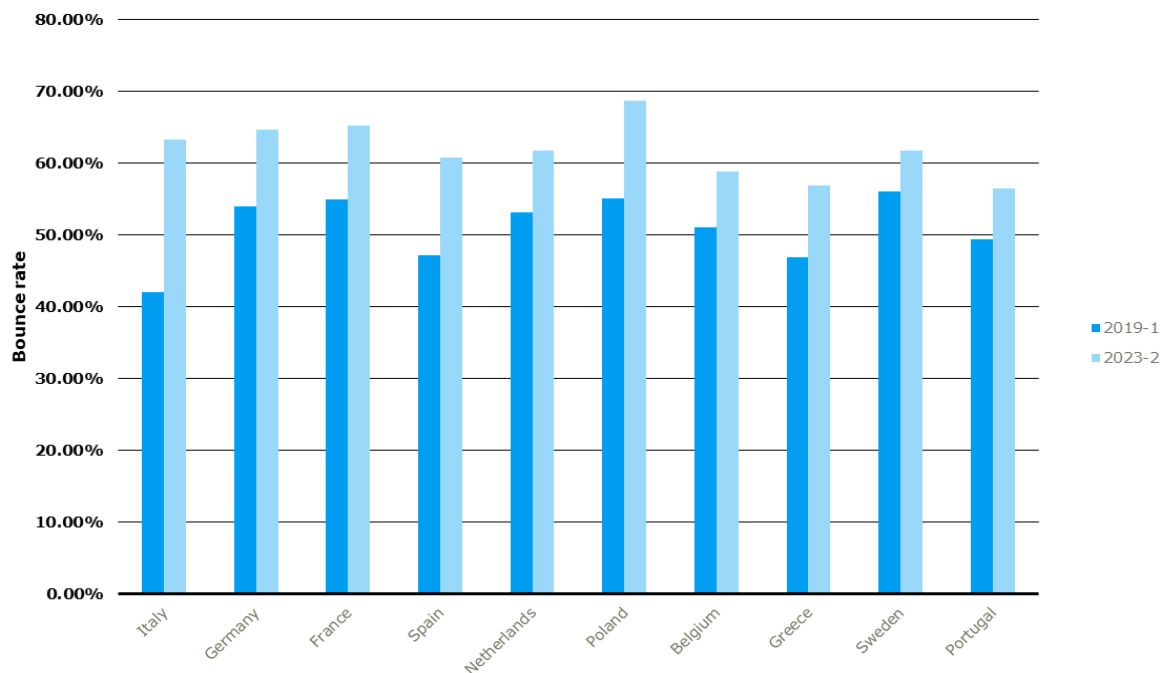
Figure 9 Total visits per million population for the top 10 EEA member and cooperating countries in the first half of 2019 and the second half of 2023



Source: Data extracted from Matomo

Another important metric for assessing user interaction with the platform is the bounce rate, which indicates the percentage of visitors who land on the platform but do not engage further. In 2019, bounce rates ranged between 40% and 60% (see Figure 10). By 2023, these rates had increased to between 50% and 70%, with the highest rates observed in Poland, France, Germany, and Italy. This could be explained by the fact that those countries have well-developed national adaptation platforms (except Italy). Generally, for content websites, rates above 60% might indicate issues with the user experience further explored in chapter 3.4.5.

Figure 10 Bounce rates for the top 10 EEA member and cooperating countries in the first half of 2019 and the second half of 2023



Source: Data extracted from Matomo and manually analysed

From the first semester of 2019 to the second semester of 2023, the website consistently attracted visitors from Northern, Southern, and Western Europe. A significant development is the emergence of Poland among the top 10 EEA countries visiting Climate-ADAPT throughout this period, likely also following the 2022 dissemination work by DG CLIMA and EEA⁹. Part of this work included a 2-year outreach and engagement campaign, intended to draw new visitors and users to the Climate-ADAPT platform, especially in Eastern and Central European countries, and to encourage them to share relevant data and information, turning more users from passive consumers of information into proactive information providers and contributors to the platform.

Targeting Eastern and Central European regions was also identified as a key action in the 2022-2024 strategy (following up on the results from the 2018 Climate-ADAPT evaluation) and the case of Poland suggests progress in these initiatives. However, Eastern and Central European countries lag behind in terms of focus of work among survey respondents. Only 16% of survey responses indicated a focus on Eastern European countries.

3.1.2 How successful has Climate-ADAPT been in delivering on its objective of providing trusted data and information regarding climate change hazards, vulnerability, and adaptation? (Objective 1)

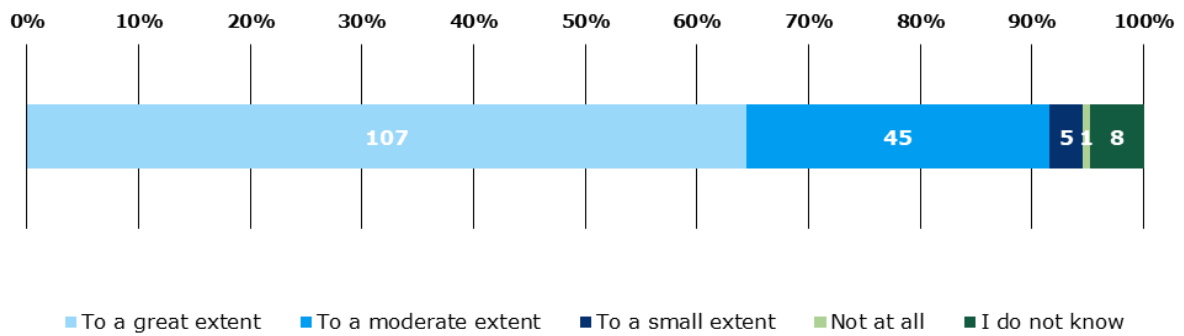
Overall, Climate-ADAPT has been successful in delivering on its objective of providing trusted data and information on climate change hazards, vulnerability, and adaptation, as evidenced by user trust and consistent engagement metrics.

The stakeholder consultation conducted for the purpose of this evaluation, suggested great trust in the data and information provided by the platform. During the interviews with both users and contributors, it has been highlighted that the platform provides reliable information, and that the credibility of sources does not need to be double-checked.

As shown in Figure 11, over 60% of respondents believe to a great extent that Climate-ADAPT is a reliable source of data and information on climate change, hazards, vulnerability, and adaptation; in total, more than 90% replied to this question with “to a great extent” and “to a moderate extent”.

⁹ See e.g. here: <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/about/outreach-and-dissemination/country-specific-climate-adapt-promotion-activities>. This activity was launched based on findings from the 2018 evaluation of Climate-ADAPT which showed that the numbers of visits from those countries were much lower compared to others. It was implemented through Service contract n° 340202/2020/839829/SFRA/CLIMA.A.3 under FWC EEA/ACC/18/001/LOT2.

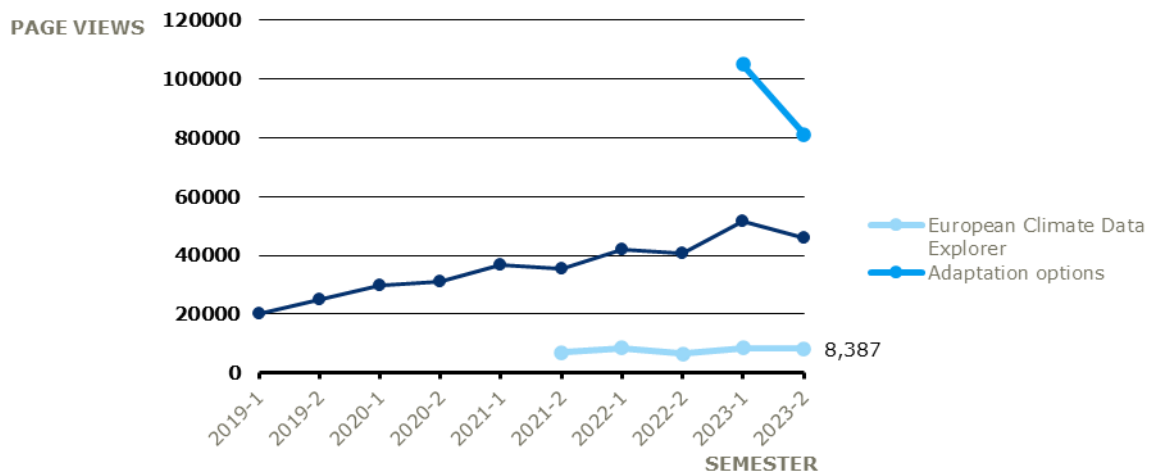
Figure 11 Survey replies to question: To what extent do you perceive Climate-ADAPT as a trusted provider of data and information regarding climate change, hazards, vulnerability, and adaptation? (N=166)



Albeit those results are mostly positive, it is noted that also roughly 25% replied to this question with “to a moderate extent”. The reasons for this cannot be deduced from the survey. It is likely that some respondents did not focus in their reply on the “trusted” aspect of the question, but rather had overarching critique regarding e.g. missing features or complex layout. Moreover, interviews conducted suggested the same idea and did not provide additional insights.

To assess the extent to which Climate-ADAPT provides data and information to users, we can also look at web statistics, which show the progress of page views over time. The *European Climate Data Explorer* was taken as an example for data pages, while the *Adaptation Options* and *Case Study Explorer* sections for policy and practice guidance. The Figure below shows the development of visits on those pages.

Figure 12 Evolution of page views per semester from 2019 to 2023¹⁰



Source: Overview of Web and Newsletter indicators reported in recent years (09012024) (from ETC CA)

¹⁰ Page views for “Adaptation Options” was not collected before first semester of 2023.

European Climate Data Explorer (ECDE)

The ECDE provides targeted and easy access to climate-related data and tools from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), specifically tailored for the needs of adaptation users with a non-technical background. Since its launch in the second half of 2021, page views have averaged between 1,200 and 1,400 per month. To assess its success, we can zoom in to data from the second half of 2023: there were a total of 8,387 page views (see Figure 12), with 603 unique downloads of the provided data on indices. The top three downloaded indices are:

- Mean temperature (84 downloads)
- Fire weather index (54 downloads)
- Flood recurrence (52 downloads)

This indicates, that on average the ECDE is visited 50 times daily, and that data sets are downloaded on average 3-4 times a day. It also shows that less than 10% of visitors use the page to download data, suggesting that most visitors may prefer to interact with the data directly on the site, access the Copernicus website for downloads, or may not understand how to use the download feature and require additional guidance, given that they are not experts with technical knowledge.

Adaptation Options and Case Study Explorer

Other policy and practice guidance pages have a higher number of page views than ECDE. The *Case Study Explorer*, for example, more than doubled its views from 20,178 in the first half of 2019 to 45,722 in the second half of 2023 (see Figure 12), with an increasing trend. Similarly, the *Adaptation Options* section had an impressive 104,999 views in the first half of 2023, when metrics were first recorded, though this number decreased to 81,136 in the second half of 2023 (see Figure 12).

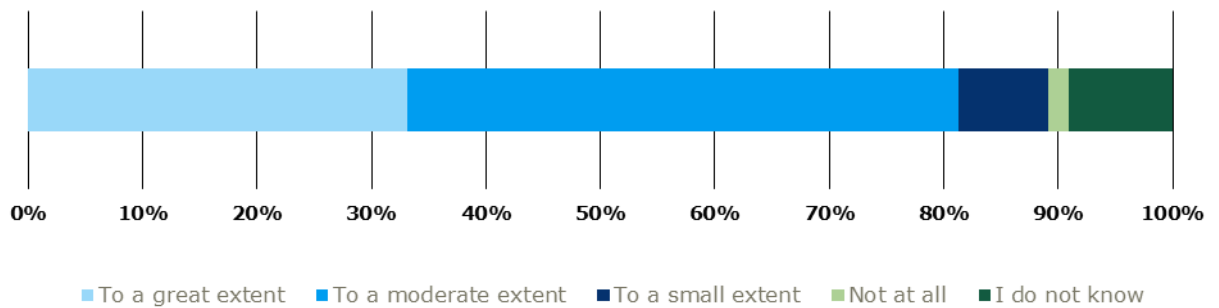
3.1.3 To what extent has Climate-ADAPT succeeded in providing actionable knowledge in a timely way that has facilitated better informed adaptation planning, policies, and practices? (Objective 2)

Public perception on actionability and timeliness of knowledge

Actions under this objective aim to enable an easy uptake of the knowledge (user friendliness) to increase the platform's use and impact. More than 80% of the respondents of the user/contributor survey perceived to a certain extent that the information provided is timely and actionable¹¹ (see Figure 13).

¹¹ In the case respondents had a good understanding of the word "actionable"

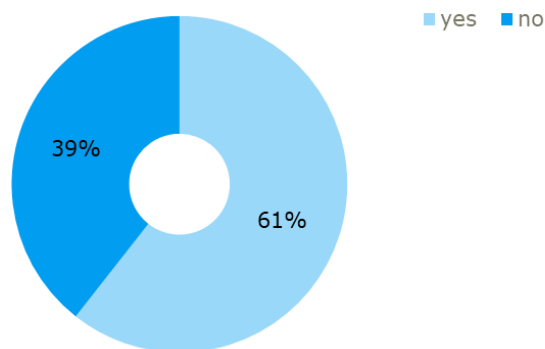
Figure 13 Survey replies to question: To what extent do you perceive the data and information provided on Climate-ADAPT as actionable and timely? (N=166)



It should be pointed out that this result, while still overall positive, it is less so than for the prior question (see Figure 12); in total, 74% of the respondents replied positively either “to a great extent” or “to a moderate extent” compared to 91% for the previous question (see figure 10); and between the two, only 20% of the respondents agreed “to a great extent” compared to 64% in the previous question.

In this context, it is also relevant to point out that 61% of survey respondents reported that they have used the information or data on Climate-ADAPT to support the advancement of adaptation planning, inform policy development, or mainstream adaptation (see Figure 14).

Figure 14 Survey replies to question: Have you used information or data provided by Climate-ADAPT (e.g. to facilitate informed adaptation planning, policies, and practices; for mainstreaming adaptation, for multi-level governance adaptation planning; others)? (N=165)



Respondents perceive the website to be trustworthy, with 61% of them indicating that they have already used the information and data on Climate-ADAPT in a practical context (see Figure 14). Interviews conducted did not provide additional insights on the topic.

Survey respondents were also asked to provide concrete examples of using information from Climate-ADAPT. The use cases of Climate-ADAPT knowledge mentioned included: to facilitate informed adaptation planning, policies and practices (20 replies); as well as for mainstreaming adaptation (24 replies), for research (5 replies), for consultancy projects (6 replies), and for methodological questions (3 replies). For the first two use examples, the main ways reported by the users are the following¹²:

¹² The same evidence is also presented in more depth and with a specific focus on multi-level governance in section 3.7.4

Facilitation of informed adaptation planning, policies and practices

- **Policy frameworks and policy coherence:** Climate-ADAPT serves as a reference for policy guidance and examples of state-of-the-art practices that inform adaptation planning efforts. For instance, Flanders has leveraged existing policies from other countries alongside frameworks detailed on Climate-ADAPT to refine their climate health action plan. The platform also provides insights into EU policies that help in drafting adaptation documents, thereby promoting policy coherence.
- **Leadership and institutional capacity:** As one (national) Eionet contact highlighted, being well-informed about relevant aspects is essential. Climate-ADAPT contributes to building institutional knowledge and leadership in adaptation by providing up-to-date information.
- **Climate adaptation data, case studies and tools:** Tools like the Adaptation Support Tool or the Regional Adaptation Support tool are used for developing and executing work programs towards regional adaptation strategies. The platform's climate adaptation data, case studies and tools aid in creating impact indicators, planning guidelines, and structuring questions for other tools are meant to support regional and municipal adaptation efforts. For instance, regional stakeholders, regularly use the platform to access municipalities' examples state of the art in climate adaptation (Climate-ADAPT case studies). The Climate-ADAPT's database offers a collection of solutions to common challenges, enabling stakeholders to review and potentially adopt strategies that have been successful in other regions.
- **Community engagement, stakeholder involvement, and inclusivity:** Practical guidelines provided by Climate-ADAPT were utilised to create an Adaptation Handbook for cities in Poland, illustrating its instrumental support in enabling city-level and community adaptation planning efforts. Resources such as the DIY communications guide¹³ are also valuable to foster stakeholder engagement and communication.
- **Supportive human and financial resources:** Feedback from the survey revealed little need for Climate-ADAPT to provide guidance for funding for adaptation, which may mean that European funding (LIFE, Interreg) is already known and being explored elsewhere, or that other financial instruments are being mobilised at other levels. However, feedback from stakeholders at transnational level suggest that a streamlined process to identify European financial aid suitable for their projects at this scale would be highly beneficial.
- **Adaptive management capabilities:** The platform aids in drafting various adaptation strategies, presenting implementation case studies, and analysing frameworks for adaptation planning, all of which contribute to improving adaptive management capabilities. The Adaptation Handbook¹⁴ for cities in Poland is a direct application of guidelines from Climate-ADAPT, exemplifying its role in enhancing adaptative management practices.
- **Coordination mechanism:** the survey results show that 60% of the options are favourable, indicating a generally positive outlook. However, the feedback is more mixed when it comes to Climate-ADAPT's support for users regarding coordination mechanisms (multi-level and cross-sectoral coordination). This could suggest there is interest in further efforts to strengthen connections between different levels of governance. These efforts are particularly important at regional and transnational levels, where Climate-ADAPT has a strong added value due to its geographic scope. Similarly, the sectoral approach to adaptation is developed in the platform within the 'Adaptation in EU Policy sectors' section. While the content for each sector is very rich (publications, case studies), adaptation in these sectors is dealt with from a European perspective and in silos (with limited vision of the interconnections between the different sectors). The issues of multi-level and cross-sectoral coordination appear to be fundamental for

¹³ It should be pointed out that this reply by the respondent likely refers to the "Do it yourself (DIY) manual for mobilising and engaging stakeholders and citizens in climate change adaptation planning and implementation" which is hosted on the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change portal and not on Climate-ADAPT.

¹⁴ <https://klimada2.ios.gov.pl/podrecznik-adaptacji-do-zmian-klimatu-dla-miast/>

the future development of Climate-ADAPT and are based on the fact that climate risks do not stop at borders, and that many adaptation issues need to be considered on a cross-border basis, for example the question of water resources in cross-border catchment areas. Recommendations are proposed in the following question.

Mainstreaming adaptation

- **Stages of the Adaptation Support Tool (AST) for structuring information:** Users refer to the stages of AST to organise information systematically, utilise country profiles for cross-country analysis, use sector pages as an introduction to sectoral adaptation contexts, and the economic loss dashboard to contextualise their reports with concrete data.
- **Country information and reporting on adaptation:** Country information is used for assessing reporting on adaptation, providing quick overviews of EU countries' National Adaptation Strategies (NAS) and National Adaptation Plans (NAP). Another respondent reported to having used the examples of adaptation models for various projects that were implemented in other countries and suggested them for the case of its country (Romania) when characteristics of the environment matched in both cases.
- **Adaptation options and case studies:** Case studies inspire practical implementation of adaptation options, although some find a lack of detailed, hands-on information on adaptation techniques. The platform offers an overview and comparison of practices among Member States, and used for fact-checking.
- **Educational use:** Climate-ADAPT's information is used to update lecture content on global climate change and as training material, providing concrete examples of good practices in the EU.
- **Sector-specific information:** Users seek examples of adaptation practices in specific sectors, though some note limitations in agricultural case studies, and gather aggregated information on subjects like land use and nature-based solutions.
- **Policy and governance:** The platform provides inspiration and leverage for informed adaptation planning and policy-making, especially for mainstreaming adaptation and addressing emerging policy priorities.
- **Climate-related hazards and trends:** Users stay informed about climate-related hazards and trends, crucial for developing adaptive strategies.
- **Building business sector awareness:** Climate-ADAPT helps build industry awareness about climate planning theories and highlights a need for more collaboration with start-up environmental initiatives.

The full overview of replies received to the question is in Appendix 1 to this report.

Adaptation Support Tool (AST) and Urban Adaptation Support Tool (UAST)

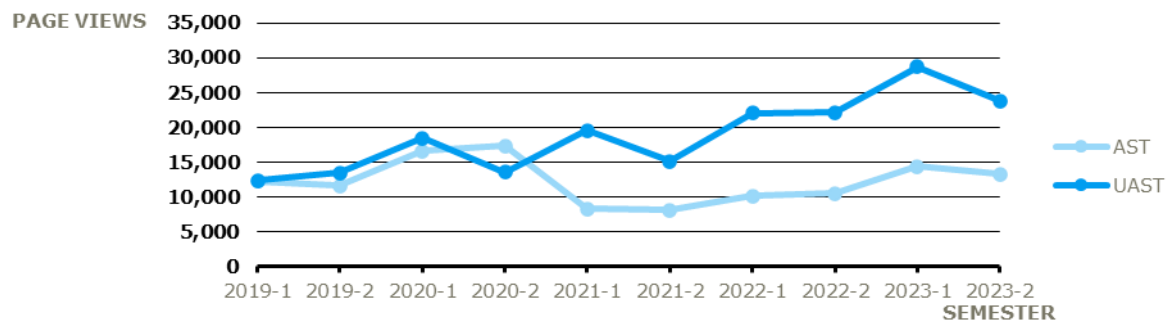
The AST and UAST are meant to assist policy makers and local authorities with guidance and knowledge on developing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and learning climate change adaptation plans at national and at local level, respectively. Therefore, the usability of these tools is a key factor in the platform's success in delivering timely and actionable knowledge.

The evolution of the total semestrial page views of the AST and UAST shows a mixed picture (see Figure 15). Both tools had more views at the end of the period than in the beginning, which the UAST, however, only very recently surpassing its initial views (by approximately 1,000) after an intermediate dip.

From 2021 onwards, UAST seems to perform better than AST, after a considerable drop in AST page views. This sustained upward trajectory indicates the lasting utility of both tools, even as circumstances evolve over time. At the same time it should be noted that the overall page views of

Climate-ADAPT have increased stronger over the same period (see Figure 6) than the increase of views of the tools; in other words, while absolute visits to the tools have increased, their relative shares of the overall views declined. At the same time, this may also well be explained by the increase of products and information on the platform over the period.

Figure 15 Evolution of page views per semester for Adaptation Support Tool (AST) and Urban Adaptation Support Tool (UAST) from 2019 to 2024



Source: AST & UAST figures derived from ETC CA Overview of Web and Newsletter Indicators reported in recent years.

Case studies

Case studies focus on providing actionable knowledge to inform adaptation planning, policies and practices. As of June 2024, out of the total number of 134 case studies that can be explored in the platform, a significant proportion (40%) are focused on *policy instruments, management and planning, or coordination cooperation and networks*. Case studies were mentioned in several interviews as the most used section of the platform, additionally case studies were reported to inform adaptation policies. It was also highlighted that additional forestry case studies would be welcomed. Furthermore, in 6 out of 56 open responses to the survey question about how data and information from the platform were used as valuable resources. However, one respondent noted that some case studies were outdated, suggesting that more attention could be given to keeping them current.

The most recent assessment of performance indicators was conducted for the first semester of 2023 and reveals the following case studies as being the most visited¹⁵:

- Barcelona: supporting urban greening and social justice
- Economics of managing heavy rains Copenhagen
- Sand Motor Netherlands
- Green roofs Basel
- Amphibious housing in Maasbommel

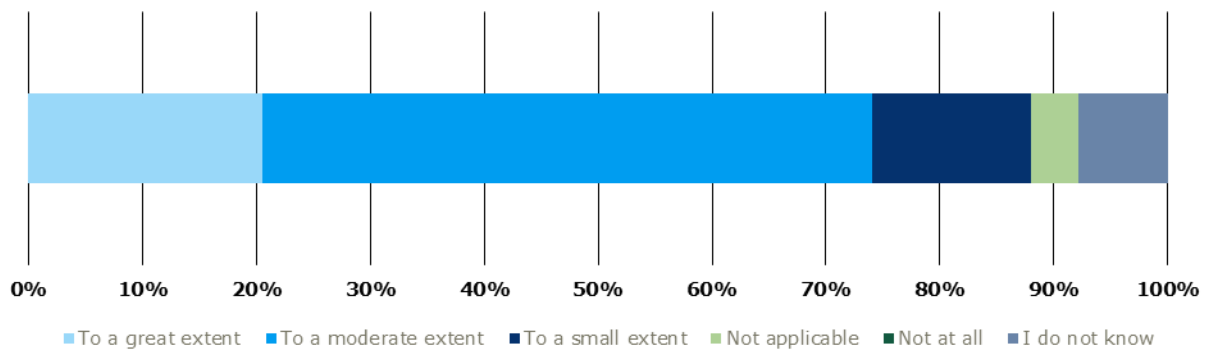
¹⁵ https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/about/outreach-1/performanceindicators_2023-1_2023-12-07.pdf/@@download/file

3.1.4 Is there evidence that Climate-ADAPT supported more coherent and effective adaptation policies at all governance levels (multi-level governance) and in all policy sectors (mainstreaming of adaptation) in Europe? (Objective 3)

Support to adaptation planning

The user/contributor survey results indicate that Climate-ADAPT is perceived as a valuable tool for supporting adaptation planning and coordination at various levels, with most respondents expressing moderate to great satisfaction with its contributions.

Figure 16 Survey results for question: To what extent do you think that Climate-ADAPT supports coherent and effective adaptation planning and implementation, in line with your needs? (N=166)

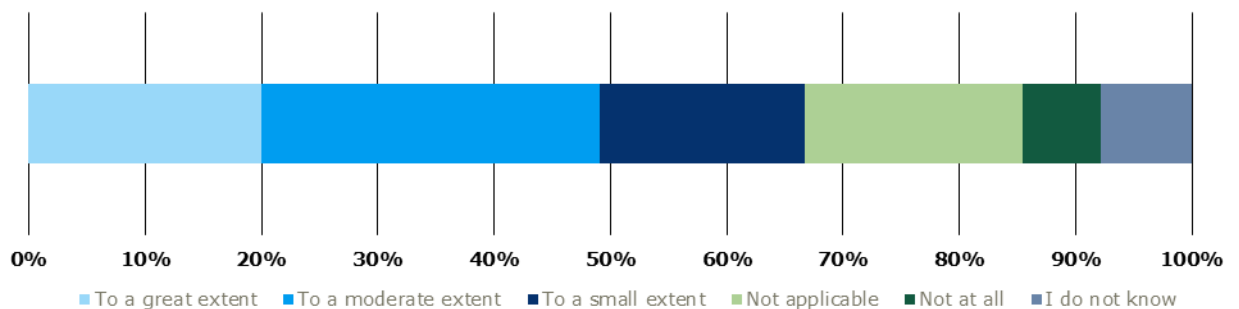


Most respondents (75%) believe that Climate-ADAPT supports coherent and effective adaptation planning and implementation to a great or moderate extent, indicating a high level of confidence in the platform's effectiveness in meeting their needs (see Figure 16). More nuance is provided in the sections below.

Governance levels

The mostly positive perception is also true regarding the multi-level governance objective of Climate-ADAPT; however, the share of positive responses is notably lower here as shown in the next Figure.

Figure 17 Survey results for the question: If applicable, to what extent has Climate-ADAPT supported coordination between your governance level and others? I.e. has the platform helped you to find information at EU and national level, if you work at the regional, and vice versa? (N=165)



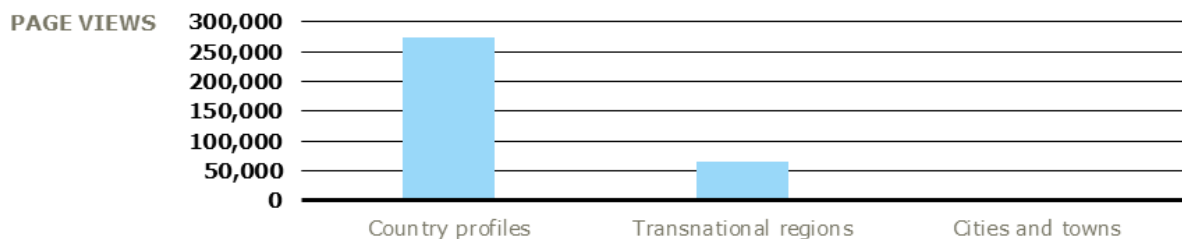
This could be linked to the fact that most respondents were from national level organisations/administrations and that they use the information on Climate-ADAPT mostly for

national-level insights rather than at regional level. The share of different governance levels of survey respondents is shown in Figure 4.

If we look at survey respondents as a representation of the platform’s visitors, we can observe that the majority works at a national governance level and higher. Local and regional governance levels are underrepresented. One reason mentioned several times during interviews and open questions was the language barrier: local authorities would be better represented if information on the platform would be translated in national languages. Therefore, it seems that the platform facilitates coordination between governance levels but mostly from national authorities directed to local and regional authorities. As before, the remaining interviews did not provide additional insights for further analysing the reasons for this disparity.

Lastly the web statistics shown in Figure 18 show that within the “Transnational, National and Local” menu, the *Country profiles* are by far most visited. The page *Cities and towns* received very few page visits with 2,530 page visits over five years. Therefore, most evidence¹⁶ suggests that a greater focus could be placed on engaging authorities at local and regional level, and at transnational level.

Figure 18 Total page views of entries in the "Transnational, National and Local" menu from 2019 to 2023



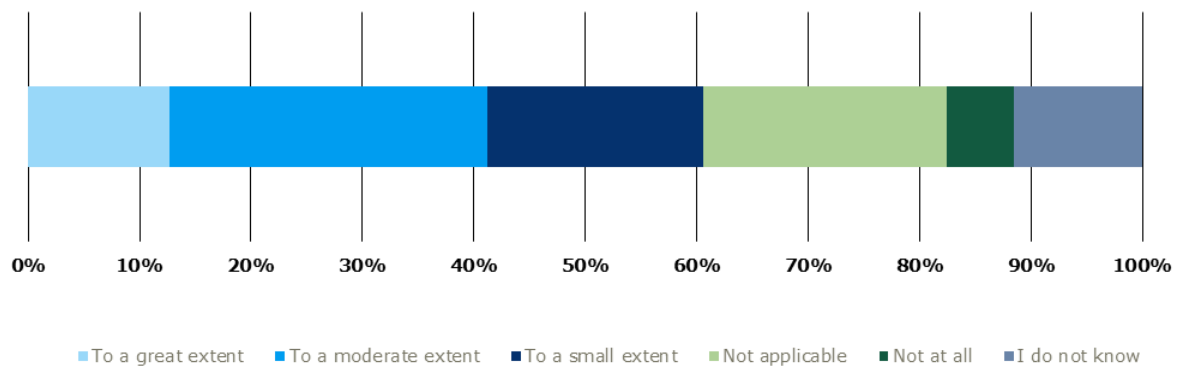
Source: derived from ETC CA Overview of Web and Newsletter Indicators reported in recent years

Adaptation in EU Policy Sectors

For cross-sectorial coordination, less than 50% of respondents believe Climate-ADAPT has been effective to a great or moderate extent (see Figure 19).

¹⁶ Except for the page visits of the Urban Adaptation Support Tool which were higher than for the general Adaptation Support Tool as shown in Figure 15. One reason for this could be that the Urban Adaptation Support Tool has a clearly defined target group (urban) while the other one may come across as too generic. Another reason could be that most page visitors interested in using one of the support tools actually come from urban level, given that this is the governance level where most of the on-the-ground adaptation is planned and implemented.

Figure 19 Survey replies to question: If applicable, to what extent has Climate-ADAPT supported cross-sectorial coordination (between policy sectors/fields of work)? (N=165)

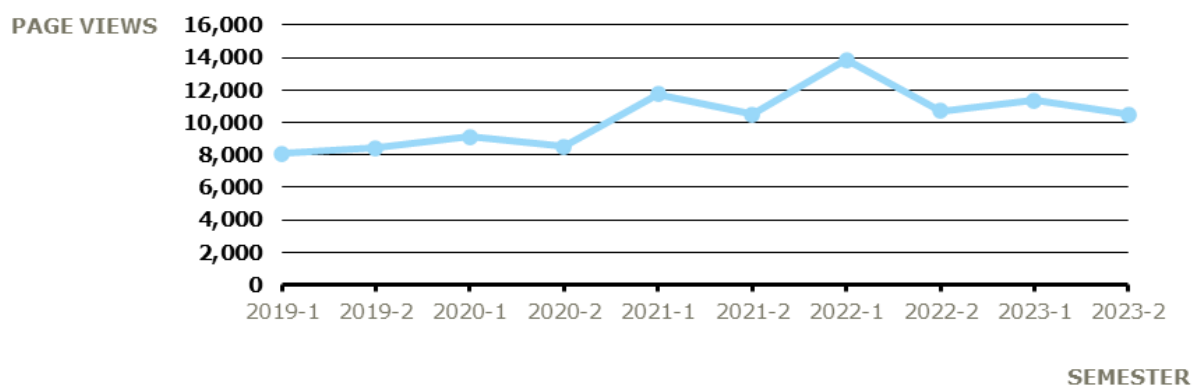


This suggests that stakeholders see room for improvement in facilitating cross-sectorial coordination. The positive sentiments (those reflecting great and moderate extents) towards this question were generally lower than those for the multi-level governance aspect.

This is also somewhat reflected in the number of page views per semester. Figure 20 depicts a positive trend in page views for the "Adaptation in EU Policy Sectors" from the first semester of 2019 until the first semester of 2022, when it reached a peak. Following this peak, the views decreased to a bit above 10,000, indicating that the section remained relevant over time, but against the context of overall increasing page visits over this period, it also indicates decreasing interest in the sectorial sites.

The sectoral approach to adaptation is developed in the platform within the 'Adaptation in EU Policy sectors' section. While the content for each sector is very rich (publications, case studies), adaptation in these sectors is dealt with from a European perspective and in silos (with limited vision of the interconnections between the different sectors). The issues of multi-level and cross-sectorial coordination appear to be fundamental for the future development of Climate-ADAPT and are based on the fact that climate risks do not stop at borders, and that many adaptation issues need to be considered on a cross-border basis, for example the question of water resources in cross-border catchment areas.

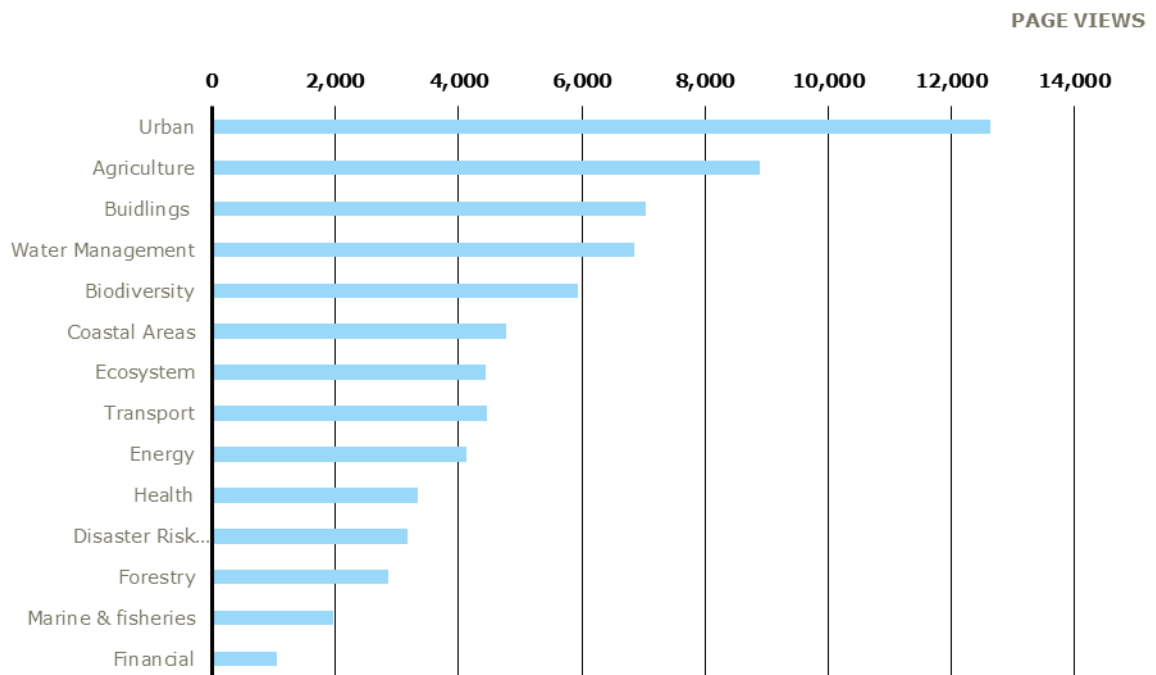
Figure 20 Evolution of total page views per semester for "Adaptation in EU Policy Sectors"



Source: derived from ETC CA Overview of Web and Newsletter Indicators reported in recent years

The next Figure breaks this further down and shows the total page views of the different policy sector sites over the period 2019 – 2023.

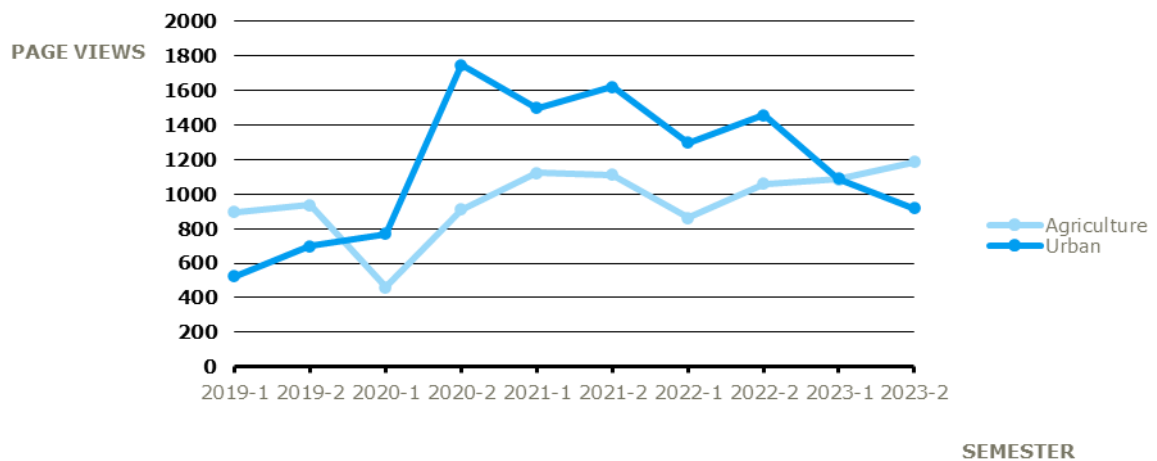
Figure 21 Total page views by policy sector from 2019 to 2023



Source: analysis conducted by Ramboll by looking into the sector policy options, filed under Sector Policies part of EU Adaptation Policy menu in Matomo

The most visited site by far was the one on urban adaptation, followed by agriculture, buildings and water management. The least visited ones were financial, marine & fisheries, and forestry. A detailed overview of the policy sectors agriculture and urban can be found in the following figure.

Figure 22. Unique page views for the policy sectors agriculture and urban



Source: derived from ETC CA Overview of Web and Newsletter Indicators reported in recent years

Potentially, this hierarchy could be explained to a certain extent by the number of publications and reports for each sector. The sectors with most page views have also the highest number of publications and reports. For example, the number of publications is 228 in the urban adaptation policy sector, 166 in agriculture, while it is 99 in marine and fisheries, and 89 in the financial sector.

In addition, it may reflect the number of stakeholders which are actually involved in those sectors. This could also reflect a limited recognition in those sectors about the need to adapt. Finally, it could also be due to limited awareness of the website among those sectoral stakeholders and because those sectoral audiences could not be prominently addressed with distinctive entry pages directly on the Homepage.

The survey also asked respondents which of the EU policy sector sites they had used; the Figure 5 in section 2.4.1 shows the results.

In the survey, the sectors that were mentioned most by survey respondents included water management and urban adaptation; however, there are notable differences, e.g. with disaster risk reduction being among the most mentioned in the survey, while page visits for this page were among the lowest. A potential explanation for this is again the high number of national respondents of this survey, and that e.g. the responsibility for disaster risk reduction might be situated at national level in the countries. Sectors which have ranked at low ranks in both cases include marine & fisheries, financial, and forestry.

3.1.5 Is there evidence that Climate-ADAPT has provided direct knowledge support to at least 150 European regions and communities under the EU mission on adaptation to climate change to become climate resilient by 2030? (Objective 4)

See replies to EQ10 in section 5.1 (as this objective was specifically added the Climate-ADAPT Strategy in 2021 when the Mission for Adaptation was launched to reflect this new engagement).

3.1.6 How effective has Climate-ADAPT been in increasing climate resilience globally by fostering cooperation and exchanges on climate adaptation at various levels? (Objective 5)

Although Climate-ADAPT is designed for adaptation experts in Europe, the platform is used at global level and outside Europe, which offers opportunities to promote EU adaptation approaches at the global level. The website has been accessed from a wide range of countries in different continents and survey respondents reporting working both at global level and outside Europe. Specifically, respondents reported being active in other continents, such as Australia and Africa.

The proportion of website visitors from outside Europe has decreased in 2023 compared to 2019 as shown in Figure 23 and Figure 24, respectively.

Figure 23 Climate-ADAPT total site visits in 2019-1 by continent



Source: Based on data provided by the ETC/CA

Figure 24 Climate-ADAPT total site visits in 2023-2 by continent



Source: Based on data provided by the ETC/CA

This indicates a high interest of non-European visitors in Climate-ADAPT. The exact reasons for those high numbers from outside Europe are not known. However, there are possible explanations.

The second- and third- highest page visit numbers are from Asia and North America during both depicted time periods. While this very likely partly shows the interest in those regions, it also should be noted that high visit numbers from those continents are very common on websites and can be partly credited to in the US due to Google-related bots and crawlers, as well as in Asia to bots and crawlers from Russia and China (and to some extent Vietnam).

Visits from crawlers and bots from Africa, Oceania and South- and Central America are not common occurrences and thus it can be expected that those numbers fully represent genuine interest in the contents of Climate-ADAPT.

3.2 EQ2 How can the platform increase its outreach/impact amongst new users?

Key findings

- Underrepresented user groups: While public administrations and consultancies are well represented among users of Climate-ADAPT, other groups like citizens, students, industry and private sector representatives appear not yet to be sufficiently engaged.
- Potential target audiences: Potential new users of the platform include citizens, students, and the private sector, including industry.
- Geographic distribution: The platform is less used by stakeholders in eastern and central European countries, with Slovakia, Slovenia, and Romania showing particularly low engagement.
- Governance level: The platform appears to be primarily used by national-level stakeholders, with significantly lower engagement from regional and local levels. Language barriers are a key challenge, particularly for regional and local stakeholders.

Recommendations (strategic)

- Expand Target Audiences: There is potential to expand target audiences to engage more citizens, students, industry, and private sector users; however, choosing this option comes with challenges.
- Address geographic and governance disparities: Continue efforts to improve outreach to underrepresented regions, particularly in eastern and central Europe, by enhancing visibility and accessibility for these users. Encourage national stakeholders to reach out to their regional and local partners to raise awareness of the platform, while also addressing potential language shortcomings. This could be especially relevant for countries lacking national climate adaptation platforms (e.g. Slovenia).

3.2.1 Who are the main groups that would benefit from the platform but are not using it (sufficiently) yet? How can they be characterised in terms of geographic, professional, governance level, language and technical and content knowledge capabilities?

General target audiences

While not perfectly representative (see section 2.3 on potential shortcomings of the survey), the survey provides insights into the user groups of Climate-ADAPT. The Over half of survey respondents (52%) were responding on behalf of a public authority/government. Figure 2 shows the full distribution of the profile/organisation types of respondents. 76% of responses were received from consultants, research or scientific representatives, and public authorities/governments combined, (24% consultancy, research or scientific representative, and 52% public authority/government), showing that the survey captures the opinions of the intended target audience of the platform.

Figure 2 in section 2.4.1 provides an overview of those groups. As can be seen, the main target groups of public administrations and consultancies are well represented.

Other stakeholder groups which are not specifically a target audience of Climate-ADAPT, but which replied to the survey, include citizens, students, industry representatives and students. Each of those groups represent only a small share of the respondents and it could be considered if it is relevant to include them as potential future target audiences.

Regarding citizens, as climate change and its impacts become more pronounced (e.g. increase in heatwaves and riverine and flash floods), it is likely and desirable that also they take private measures to protect themselves. This could be a potential large target audience which, taking

actions based on information provided on Climate-ADAPT, could become more resilient and thus increase Europe’s resilience. However, there are challenges regarding their inclusion as target groups:

- Firstly, the majority of them is very likely to search for information on climate change adaptation measures they can take in their national language. Thus, while Climate-ADAPT now is multi-lingual, it is less likely to show prominently on online search websites (e.g. google) if the search key words used are not in English.
- Secondly, even if they find the website, it should be kept in mind that the provided translations are not done by professional translators, but rather automatically¹⁷. Thus, there are mistakes and mistranslations. For a citizen/layman that searches for reliable (or trustworthy, in line with Climate-ADAPT’s objective) information, this may be perceived negatively if they are not aware of the quality assurance processes behind the information provided, and thus may consider the provided information as not trustworthy.
- Finally, specific new sections on the website would need to be created which is not in line with the ambition to trim it down and make it more manageable.

Regarding students (university or school pupils within programmes touching upon climate change), this could also be a potential new target audience. School pupils (or rather the teachers) could be relevant as potential new target audience since they are somewhat easy to reach (by contacting schools) and have the same potential interests as mentioned for citizens above, namely private adaptation measures. Teachers aiming at including adaptation into the curriculum are likely not adaptation experts and thus might struggle to find reliable information within the vast pool of information on the internet; Climate-ADAPT could be relevant here, since it is reputable and can be seen as reliable source by teachers (provided that the information is available in the local language). However, also governments within the EU provide such guidance materials already.

University students within programmes touching upon climate change could also be a relevant target group; however, unless their study focus is practice-oriented, they are likely not interested in best practice examples or trusted adaptation measures and processes, but rather in the latest developments and innovations in this field. Thus, catering to them would entail to change the overall focus of Climate-ADAPT; this is also picked up further in section 3.7.2 in the context of the discussion if the objective of providing trusted information is still relevant.

Finally, regarding industries and private sector organisations, this could be seen as a relevant and promising new target audience. As for active citizens, they are likely to take action since climate change impacts are becoming more pronounced. In addition, new developments such as the EU Taxonomy or the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive focus private companies on climate change adaptation. Thus, it could be considered if they should be catered for as specific target group (as is already partially done, e.g. by the policy sector websites on forestry and agriculture).

Geographic distribution

Already the 2017 Climate ADAPT evaluation found that the website “is less used by eastern and central European countries” and, consequently, the 2019-2021 and the 2022-2024 strategies included actions on continuing to improve outreach to users from eastern and central European countries.”

Current page visit statistics show that two out of those identified countries have now caught up in page visit numbers (Romania is now among the top 20 EEA countries with most visits (3,762 visits in second half of 2023) and Poland even among the top 10 EEA countries (see Figure 8). However,

¹⁷ Providing Climate-ADAPT in languages other than English was a recommendation coming out of the 2018 Climate-ADAPT evaluation which was subsequently implemented via this translation feature.

Bulgaria (1,163 visits in the same period), Slovakia (1,329 visits), and Slovenia (1,247 visits) still have low numbers of page visits.

Governance level

Figure 4 above had shown that the survey respondents from national level had a much larger share (71%) than respondents from regional (10%) and local (7%) level – despite the much larger number of regions and cities as compared to countries. A potential reason for this is language barriers for stakeholders working at regional and local level, as highlighted during interviews (e.g. mentioned in Slovakia). This is currently being addressed by Climate-ADAPT through the automatic translation feature (implemented through an official and quality assured EU tool). However, the same challenge as mentioned for the citizens applies here – an automatic translation has shortcomings, and local and regional stakeholders who are not aware of the reputation of the website might be turned away by questionable language. Thus, it might be considered to ask national stakeholders to reach out to their regional and local partners, make them aware of the newly translated content, while also mentioning the potential language shortcomings and their reasons (automatic translation). This might be more relevant for countries which do not have own national platforms, and where thus stakeholders (national, regional and local) are more reliant on the information provided by Climate-ADAPT (e.g. Slovenia).

3.3 EQ3 How can the platform increase the number of contributors of knowledge and information?

Key findings

- While a majority of Climate-ADAPT users are aware of the possibility to make contributions to the platform, a significantly smaller proportion have done so.
- Users see the potential for a wide range of groups to contribute to the platform, including multilateral organisations; EU institutions and research projects; national, regional, and local authorities; as well as universities and research institutes.
- The case studies on Climate-ADAPT are very robust: users of the platform appreciate the structure and content and find them highly useful. This makes them a strong resource for users, but also means they can be challenging and time-consuming for potential contributors to develop. Additionally, the existing templates and guidelines may not be suited to a wide range of uses.
- Some users noted a potential bias in the platform's content (particularly case studies) towards Central Europe, as well as a general focus on the regional level rather than the local.
- Language barriers may also present a barrier for outreach to potential contributors.

Recommendations (strategic)

- Keep in mind the mission of Climate-ADAPT to *complement*, and not *duplicate*, information that already exists on national platforms. This applies for potential contributions, but also web links and connections to other platforms: these should clearly point to complementary information in a manner that encourages click-through. Consider simplifying the process for development and uploading of case studies, in order to attract a wider range of contributions. This may involve revision of existing templates and guidelines. In this process, it will be important to consider the balance between standardisation and flexibility.
- To further diversify contributions to the platform (e.g. geographically or with respect to spatial scale), but also generally increase participation on the platform, explore the potential for improved translation support.
- Communicate the value proposition of contributions to the platform: highlighting impacts related to knowledge sharing, advancing research, and fostering collaboration.

3.3.1 Who are the main groups that could contribute with their knowledge and information to the development of Climate-ADAPT, but are not doing it (sufficiently) yet?

Of the 155 respondents to the survey, 109 (70%) were aware that users are encouraged to make contributions to the platform. At the same time, only 50 of the respondents (32%) had done so. When asked about groups that could further contribute to the platform, a very wide range of responses were gathered. Some multilateral organisations such as the OECD, IAEA, FAO, and WMO were mentioned. At the EU-level, participants mentioned the European Commission, the Joint Research Centre, and Horizon research projects, some of which already contribute in a limited manner. One respondent noted that different Directorate Generals should have a more prominent presence and highlighted the currently out-of-date information on adaptation measures for agriculture. Numerous respondents also pointed to universities and research institutes, as well as more generally national, regional, and local authorities covering topics like the environment, public health, and biodiversity. It is important to note that the mandate of Climate-ADAPT aims to complement, rather than duplicate, national level platforms and information. As such, information from these sources needs to be carefully considered, and effective web links and connections between national platforms and Climate-ADAPT should be prioritised to contribute to better coordination and multi-level governance support.

3.3.2 How can these groups be motivated and enabled to provide their contributions in the most convenient and efficient way?

Respondents to the survey stated that there was a lack of a formal established procedure for uploading information on Climate-ADAPT. This can lead to duplicated information or can raise questions about the quality of the contributions. The recent redesign of the Climate-ADAPT homepage has pushed the information and FAQ regarding information sharing to the front, making it much more visible. Improving the dashboard interface for information providers (one user noted that the save vs submit buttons are not clear) and implementing email notifications for new content were also suggested to enhance user experience and engagement with the platform.

The case studies on Climate-ADAPT are very robust, meaning they can be quite challenging and time-consuming to develop, with some studies taking up to six months to complete. Improvement is needed to make the process faster and less robust. There is also a need for clearer coordination of responsibilities, especially regarding updating material (e.g. case studies).

The templates and guidelines provided for case studies are currently not suited to a wide range of uses. For example, one interviewee noted that the template for case studies is more suited to examples operating on shorter timelines (e.g. agricultural systems), and is thus less applicable to longer timelines, such as those dealt with in forestry systems. More standardised templates could improve the potential for comparability across case studies, but of course there is a challenge balancing standardisation with flexibility. Furthermore, the guidelines for case studies could be improved to specify the expected scope. Such improvements would streamline the process for potential contributors.

Some interviewees also note a potential bias towards Central Europe in the platform's case studies, as well as a general focus on the regional level, rather than the local. An effort to diversify users and contributors could be a positive step in encouraging the platform to work towards a more comprehensive picture of adaptation. This connects also to the issues surrounding language barriers and translations, which could help in this effort.

Language barriers also present a problem for outreach to potential contributors. Translation of materials is a time-consuming process that may be too much of a barrier given the voluntary nature of contributions. Improved translation support could facilitate the process for potential contributors and lead to broader participation on the platform.

In general, given the voluntary nature of contributions, it is important to effectively communicate the value proposition to potential contributors. It would be useful to highlight meaningful impacts, for example in terms of facilitating knowledge sharing, advancing research, and fostering collaboration. Emphasising the tangible benefits, such as enhanced visibility or networking opportunities, could incentivise contributors to invest time and effort, thereby making translation efforts more justifiable.

3.4 EQ4 How can the functions/operability of Climate-ADAPT be improved to become more efficient?

Key findings

- Resource-intensive updates: Updating the extensive and evolving content on Climate-ADAPT is resource-intensive due to the large number of pages and external links.
- Redundant content and features: Duplicated pages and features (e.g. elements of the adaptation support tools) increase resource use without adding value, indicating a need for optimisation.
- Broken links: Broken links degrade user experience and are a significant maintenance burden.
- Balanced policy and user needs: Content on Climate-ADAPT is often driven by policy needs determined by EU priorities, which helps to maintain the relevance of the platform, but evidence shows that it also largely aligns with user needs.
- General usability: Stakeholders find the platform generally functional but identify areas for improvement, such as interactivity, visual appeal, and navigation.
- Database usability: The database is valuable but needs a more user-friendly search function and visual navigation.
- Content relevance and updates: Regular updates are essential, especially for case studies and sectoral policy pages.

Recommendations (technical)

- Optimise redundant content: Streamline or combine duplicated pages and features to reduce resource use and enhance usability.
- Reduce number of external links (e.g. through prioritisation) and optimise maintenance: Minimise external links to decrease the maintenance burden and improve user experience, while maintaining the use of key links needed to minimise text on Climate-ADAPT. Prioritise the use of automated tools to detect and flag broken links for more efficient maintenance.
- Enhance interface, navigation, and visual appeal: Simplify layout/navigation for better user experience, e.g. by reducing the number of different navigation bars on the homepage. Use more graphics/images/interactive tools to make content more engaging.
- Improve database functionality: Make the database more intuitive by enhancing the search function and adding additional filter options.
- Implement interactive feedback features: Introduce chat boxes which pop-up on specific pages/tools for instant user feedback and support.
- Sectoral content organisation: A potential alternative structure could be to organise content by sector, similar to the 'Adaptation in forestry' landing page. This could involve dedicated sector pages under a main "Sectors" tab, incorporating both policy and practical content.
- Improve cross-sectoral links: Enhance the sectoral approach by incorporating better links between related sectors to support a cross-sectoral adaptation approach.
- Enhance comparison tools: Develop tools that allow users to compare adaptation information across multiple Member States, leveraging Climate-ADAPT's strength in providing structured and comparable data.

Recommendations (strategic)

- Content prioritisation: Use web statistics, user feedback, and policy needs to prioritise updates for the most valuable content.

3.4.1 What is the internal governance and management structure of Climate-ADAPT?

The internal governance and management structure of Climate-ADAPT is designed to facilitate collaboration and effective management between various stakeholders and organisations involved in climate adaptation. The platform is jointly managed by the European Commission (DG CLIMA) and the EEA. Their specific roles and responsibilities are as follows:

DG CLIMA

- Chairs the Climate-ADAPT Advisory Group
- Sets platform objectives, provides strategic direction, ensures alignment with EU policies, and manages high-level coordination and funding
- Ensures policy alignment with EU Member States
- Coordinates input from various Commission Directorates-General, including RTD, JRC SANTE, ECHO, ENV, MARE, AGRI, REGIO and agencies such as CINEA.
- Provides funding for IT development and support.

EEA

- Hosts the platform and quality assurance of the platform's content and functionalities.
- Manages regular IT operations and content development
- Works with organisations sharing adaptation knowledge across Europe
- Sets priorities for annual activities through the ETC-CA (European Topic Centre on Climate Change Adaptation) annual action plans and more recently also through EEA framework contracts
- Promotes the platform's knowledge and functionalities via webinars, newsletters, and conferences to increase its uptake
- Collaborates with Eionet to ensure that each organisation informs policy, planning and practice according to its role from a multi-level governance perspective

Other partners/collaborators and their roles

- ETC CA: Supports the EEA in operational management, maintaining the Climate-ADAPT database and web content, and supporting dissemination, monitoring, reporting, evaluation, and IT-related work.
- EEA Contractors: Contributors of content to the platform, e.g. case studies, use cases, etc.

Other governance elements

As a requirement under Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, every 2 years, Member States must provide information on their national adaptation actions. This is reported for each EU Member State and voluntarily by EEA Member countries under Reportnet and afterwards presented under the '*Country profiles*' section of the platform via automatic retrieval.

3.4.2 What is the process of updating content on the platform and how is content prioritised for updating? Can this process be optimised?

Current process for update and prioritisation of content

Climate-ADAPT shares a broad range of information on adaptation in Europe and beyond, and therefore it is not surprising that the platform itself has grown extensively and holds a very large number of pages. Climate adaptation policy in Europe is evolving fast, and the wealth of climate adaptation knowledge in Europe is constantly being revised, added to, and created, based on the pace at which climatic challenges are emerging, and as more and more people are affected by them. As a result, to fulfil Climate-ADAPT's objectives of providing up-to-date knowledge on climate change hazards, vulnerability, and adaptation, it must be frequently updated.

Generally, each of the individual pages within Climate-ADAPT house important information, alongside weblinks to other resources, often external to the platform. Due to the large number of pages, keeping this information and these links up to date poses a challenge. Resource-wise, this is a very demanding task, and as ETC CA and framework contract support for the platform is limited, it is important to consider how the process of updating content can be optimised.

Currently, the EEA and ETC CA are responsible for updating the content on the platform, with limited contribution from external contractors. Updating the database (resource catalogue) is resource intensive considering the effort involved in creating content and verifying sources of information. Since 2022, the ETC CA contribution to the platform's content is requested on an ad-hoc, rather than a regular basis, in order to prioritise content.

Optimisation of the process

In order to decide the frequency of updating different content, a prioritisation could be done of the most used and most 'valuable' content. To assess which content is the most 'valuable' and worthy of frequent updating, web statistics and user feedback (e.g. survey results and interviews) can be used to determine what content people are using.

Please also see Section 3.4.4 'Which parts should be prioritised (taking different user groups into account)?' for an assessment of specific content which could be prioritised for frequent updating and vice-versa.

As discussed in the Section 3.4.3, duplicated pages and features are also a resource drain. This section details areas which could be reduced or combined due to their similarities, and subsequently helps in optimising the process for updating the site's content.

Another key factor to consider regarding the resource-intensity of the maintenance of the website, and one which was continually raised by stakeholders, is the presence of links, internal and external, on Climate-ADAPT. This was raised primarily in relation to these links being 'broken' and non-functioning, which was a complaint from both users and platform managers of Climate-ADAPT. Links play a vital role in the platform, as one important aspect of its purpose is to direct users to the most relevant services and knowledge on adaptation, which often includes redirection to other sites and webpages. With that in consideration, reducing the number of links where possible is one immediate way to optimise and make content updating more efficient.

In 2024, Climate-ADAPT has decreased the maintenance effort by no longer including database entries and reducing the text for individual LIFE and Horizon projects featured on the platform. Instead, the platform now refers to these other websites, and specifically to their own well-functioning search tools for interested users to explore.

The use of tools to assist in monitoring and updating existing content on Climate-ADAPT could help increase efficiency. Broken links which lead to an error message or a non-existent page, result in a dead-end for users and significantly degrade their user experience. Currently, a procedure is in place by the ETC CA to check for broken links and to repair them. However, this is challenging for certain sections of the platform, primarily the country pages, as the links are provided by Member State reporters, and are therefore out of the control of the EEA and ETC CA.

It is understood that Climate-ADAPT uses a tool to automate the detection and flagging of broken links which makes the process more efficient. This use of this tool should be emphasised to continue improving the usability of the platform. A quick check of the platform on one free website detected 300 broken links within 3000 of Climate-ADAPT's pages (*the free function from this site was limited to 3000 pages only*).

3.4.3 Which parts of Climate-ADAPT could be trimmed down to make the platform more manageable and less resource-intensive in the future (taking also into account the effectiveness of the different parts/functionalities)?

This question is highly dependent on the outcomes of other Evaluation Questions related to the use of the different pages of Climate-ADAPT. While the platform should give a broad overview of adaptation across various governance levels and policy sectors, some aspects of the platform may have greater value and utility for users and should therefore be prioritised. The pages and features which we identify as some of the least used, could be considered for removal or reduction in their extent. Maintaining an infrequently used page requires resources and attention, particularly when external links are included which can frequently become outdated. Alternatively, pages identified as the least used could be flagged for increased awareness-raising efforts, as it is likely there is still a need, whether policy or user-driven, for this content.

In order to make the platform more manageable and less resource-intensive, it is worth looking at what pages, content, and features are potentially duplicated or too similar. These potential redundancies are increasing resource use without bringing added value and therefore could be 'trimmed down' or streamlined. Additionally, it is important to note that content is regularly archived to keep the platform relevant.

Determining what to reduce and what to prioritise in the future should involve identifying the target audience and understanding their needs. The EEA should dedicate efforts to identify these needs, particularly in the context of evolving knowledge requirements in adaptation processes. Being proactive in delivering knowledge well ahead of emerging needs is crucial. For instance, while Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation (MRE) was previously a high-need topic, areas such as transformative adaptation with co-benefits and the links between mitigation and adaptation may become increasingly important.

The remainder of this section elaborates on assessing parts of the platform in order to reduce the resources needed to maintain the platform.

Duplicated pages

An aspect of the site which could potentially cause confusion and decrease usability for users, is the duplication of entry ways to the same page or feature. This is most prominently seen on the home page of Climate-ADAPT, where there are two main drop-down menu bars. A primary one at the top of the page, and a secondary one below in the middle of the page.

As assessed by a senior design strategist working as part of the contracted team, one standout feature is the separate 'landing page' for 'Adaptation in the forestry sector', separate to the policy page on the forestry sector. This page has a good level of 'teasers' showing what information is available regarding forestry and adaptation. However, this landing page itself is rather hidden, as it has to be accessed through the 'knowledge' tab. It is important to note that the dedicated forestry landing page is primarily aimed at practitioners, whereas the policy page on the forestry sector informs specifically on relevant EU policies supporting forestry. There is a risk that users do not understand or notice this distinction and that some may think the 'forestry' policy sector page is the one and only forestry resource, considering it is also where people may be drawn to first as it is more prominently to the left of the page and amongst a drop-down list of all the other sectors. Ultimately, it could be considered to integrate the pages on forestry, or to make the distinction between the two clearer.

Duplicated features

One survey respondent indicated that there may be overlaps between case studies and information provided on the EU Mission on Adaptation Portal, and that it will be important to ensure that there is no duplication of information to reduce the information 'overload' some organisations/networks face. However, , since the EU Mission on Adaptation Portal focuses more on one specific group of the Climate-ADAPT target audiences, i. e. the local and regional actors it can be assumed that this will not be perceived as an overlap by the majority of users of each platform.

Another survey respondent mentioned that there are 3 different pages covering the 'data', i.e. the Database, Data and Indicators, and the European Climate Data Explorer, and how the lack of differentiation between the three may cause redundancies. More specifically, another survey respondent questioned the value of having climate hazard indicators both in the European Climate Data Explorer and the Adaptation dashboard.

The tools housed on Climate-ADAPT, namely the Adaptation Support Tool, Urban Adaptation Support Tool, and the Regional Adaptation Support Tool, have all been designed for different audiences, and therefore have unique features and uses. However, it was mentioned in survey responses and in interviews that the tools are quite similar and could potentially be merged to avoid unnecessary overlaps, particularly the latter two. The added value of having these as 3 separate tools was not apparent for some respondents and interviewees.

One survey respondent indicated confusion regarding the difference between the case studies and other projects presented on the site. They are likely referring to the LIFE and INTERREG projects which can be searched separately through those landing pages. They could instead be integrated into the case study explorer, with a separate filter and colour indicating that these projects are not typical Climate-ADAPT case studies. Alternatively, as mentioned in Section 3.4.2, Climate-ADAPT no longer updates the LIFE database entries. This was chosen after concluding that this feature could be reduced as the partner site (LIFE's own database) offers a more up-to-date version of their own database. Therefore, interested users can still opt to navigate from Climate-ADAPT to the LIFE platform without much hassle, and therefore also reducing the maintenance burden for Climate-ADAPT.

Replies to survey

In the survey, respondents were asked to provide insights on which functionalities they consider redundant. The majority of respondents (64) replied that they do not consider any functionalities to be redundant or that they don't know (17). Others mentioned that they find the following functionalities redundant: case studies (10), indicators (4), sectorial policy overviews and country profiles (both 4). The full overview of replies to this question are presented in Appendix 2.

3.4.4 Which parts should be prioritised (taking different user groups into account)?

In order to assess which parts of the platform should be prioritised, several factors should be considered. Much of the content of Climate-ADAPT is added in response to policy needs and not user needs alone¹⁸, yet both are important aspects to maintaining the usefulness and relevance of the platform.

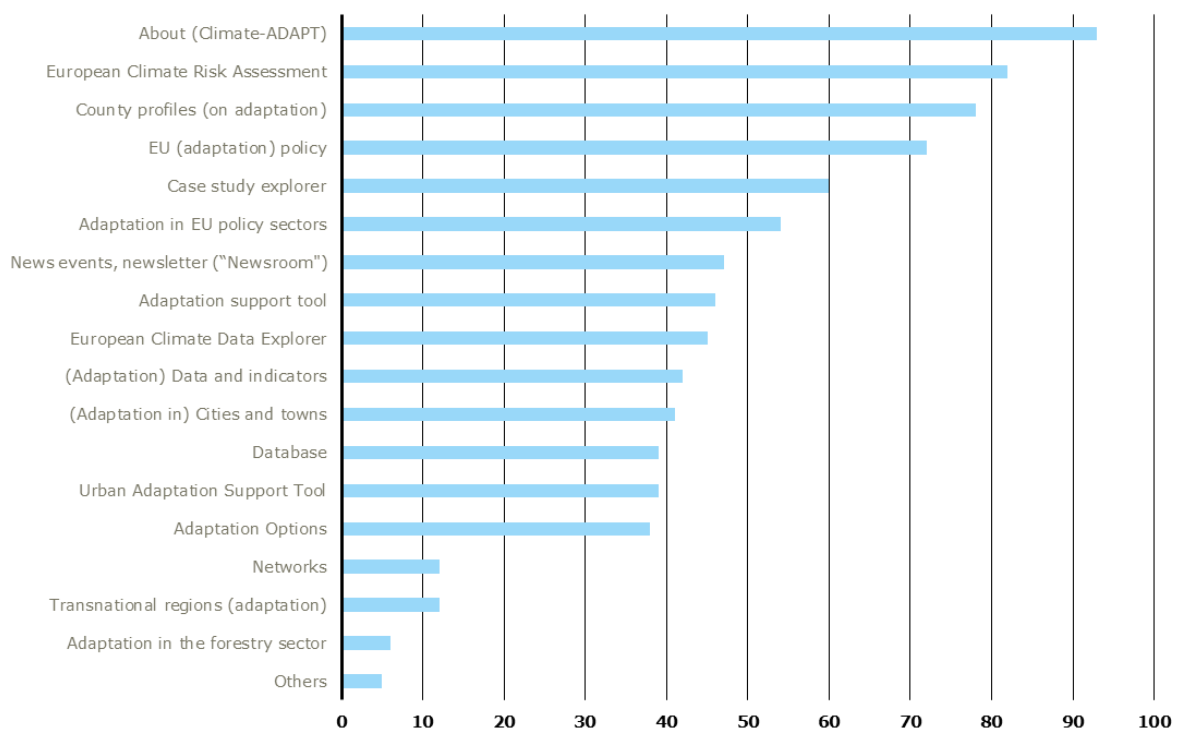
Taking user needs into consideration to decide which content should be prioritised involves assessing what areas of the platform users are actually using according to the web statistics, as well as how users are reporting their own use, which is information we gathered through the survey.

¹⁸ Although it could be considered that policy needs are likely in line with user needs in the field of adaptation.

The use of the survey results gives additional insight into the opinions of different user groups, as there are no web statistics collected on this.

Figure 25 shows the results of the survey regarding the question on which content the survey respondents had used in the past. As can be seen, the top 5 most used are, according to survey respondents, 'About climate-ADAPT' (93 respondents), 'European Climate Risk Assessment' (82 respondents), 'Country profiles (on adaptation)' (78 respondents), 'EU (adaptation) policy' (72 respondents), and the 'Case study explorer' (60). On the other hand, the web statistics show that the Adaptation Options (104,999 page views), case studies (51,625 page views), Adaptation and Urban Adaptation Support Tools (43,111 page views), and the Country profiles (on adaptation) (39808) were the most used pages on the platform in the first 6 months of 2023¹⁹.

Figure 25 Which Climate-ADAPT content have you used? (select multiple if applicable) (N=203)



The two sources align regarding the popularity of the case studies and country profile pages, however, one obvious discrepancy between these two sources is the popularity of the European Climate Risk Assessment, which was heavily mentioned by users in the survey, but only received 1661 views in the first half of 2023. This is due to the fact that the EUCRA was released in March 2024, and was therefore topical and well-known during the time of the survey dissemination. The page in early 2023 existed only to inform users that DG CLIMA and the EEA had initiated the preparation of the first EUCRA.

Of the survey respondents who indicated their use of the European Climate Risk Assessment page, 45 users were from public authorities or governments and 22 were consultancies, researchers, or scientific representatives, with the remainder of respondents split across the other user groups. This is generally in line with the overall breakdown of respondent user groups as seen in Figure 2

¹⁹ Page views are only for the first semester (6 months) of 2023 as this was the most recent data available and it is the closest period to that of the survey, and can therefore be more accurately compared to it.

which shows that over half of survey respondents (52%) were responding on behalf of a public authority/government (Figure 2 shows the full distribution of the profile/organisation types of respondents). 76% of responses were received from consultants, research or scientific representatives, and public authorities/governments combined, (24% consultancy, research or scientific representative, and 52% public authority/government), showing that the survey captures the opinions of the intended target audience of the platform.

49 public authorities or governments said they used the 'Country profiles', compared to 17 consultancies, researchers, or scientific representatives, 6 (half) of the civil society representatives (NGOs and interest groups) and a small number of the other user groups. Of the public authorities or governments, 34 work at national level, 8 at the EU level, 4 at sub-national/regional level, and 3 at the local level. Considering Member States must report this information, it is understandable that national level users make up the majority of users of this page.

A similar ratio of user groups also made up the respondents of 'EU (Adaptation) policy' and the 'Case study explorer'.

The 3 least used²⁰ Climate-ADAPT content, according to respondents, are the 'Adaptation in forestry sector' (6 respondents), 'Transnational regions' (12 respondents), and 'Networks' (12 respondents)²¹. However, this information is only representative of the views of the 203 survey respondents, particularly considering that the 'Adaptation in forestry sector page' is relatively new.

A 'content heavy' area of the platform is the 'Adaptation in EU policy sectors' pages. These are plentiful and cover a broad range of sectors. However, it could be considered, in order to reduce resource burden, that some sector pages should be prioritised over others. This would involve more detailed and more frequent updating invested into more frequently used and popular pages, compared to other. Of the different sectors included as part of the 'Adaptation in EU policy sectors', survey respondents answered which they have used as had been shown in Figure 25 above. The most used sectors were 'Water management' (42 respondents), 'Urban' (42 respondents), 'Biodiversity' (42 respondents), 'Disaster risk reduction' (41 respondents), and 'Health' (34 respondents).

Figure 21, in Section 3.1.4, shows the total page views by policy sector from 2019 to 2023. The most viewed page is 'Urban', while 'Water management' is the fourth most visited page. It is important to also consider that the sectors most represented in the survey, in terms of which field of work respondents self-identified with, are (in descending order) water management, health, biodiversity, and urban (Figure 5), which likely influences the survey responses and distorts the analysis when assessing the survey results alone.

Respondents least used the sector pages for 'ICT' (6 responses), 'Business and Industry' (8 responses), 'Marine and fisheries' (11 respondents), and 'Financial' (12 responses). 37 respondents said that they use "None of them". Several of these sectors, including ICT and financial, represent current crucial knowledge needs in adaptation, and are a good example of how policy needs priorities should also be reflected when deciding which content to prioritise. It should also be noted that these are newer sector pages, added since 2022. This is also reflected in the fact that 'Financial' and 'Marine and fisheries' are among the least viewed sectors in the web statistics as well.

It could be considered that the most viewed sectors from the web statistics and the most selected sectors within the survey are those with the most interest, and therefore they should be prioritised over the least used sectors. However, this does not take into account Climate-ADAPT's responsibility

²⁰ 3 categories were discussed rather than 5 as these 3 had significantly lower responses than the next lowest which were more representative of the mean responses.

²¹ The actual least selected option when survey respondents were asked 'Which Climate-ADAPT content have you used? (select multiple if applicable)' was 'others' (5 respondents)

to also align with and support EU adaptation policy needs. The platform should also inform and drive adaptation policies by increasing awareness where it might be lacking, and thus hindering the development or improvement of related policies.

Another interpretation of the usage of the policy sector pages, as well as the overall areas of work of survey respondents, is identifying sectors and stakeholders which are not currently using Climate-ADAPT and could benefit from it. This is discussed more in depth in EQ2 and Section 3.2 where potential new user groups are discussed.

3.4.5 How can the usability be improved?

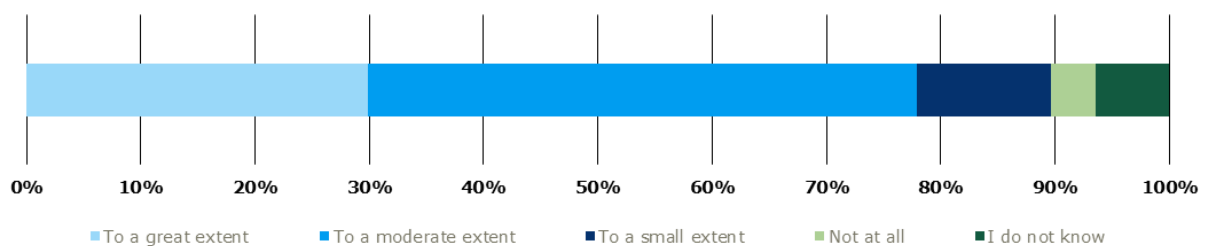
In general, stakeholders consulted through the consultation activities (survey and interviews) were somewhat positive about the functionalities and interfaces of Climate-ADAPT. In the survey, 30% of respondents agreed to a great extent that the website is intuitive and user-friendly and over 40% agreed to a moderate extent (Figure 26).

When asked to elaborate on this, many respondents answered that generally all the functionalities and interfaces work well (18 respondents) or that they do not know (20 respondents). Specific areas they mentioned as being well functioning were the case studies and the case studies explorer (7 respondents) and the country profiles (5 respondents).

However, they also mentioned areas where improvement is needed. 6 respondents said that the platform’s interface could be improved, more specifically to be more interactive (chat/queries feature); to be more graphically and visually appealing; and to improve the site navigation and layout with clearer tabs and sub-tabs and naming of content areas (for example, the fact ‘Tools’ are hidden under the ‘Knowledge’ tab). The full replies to this survey question are in Appendix 3.

These points, and more, are elaborated further on in this section.

Figure 26 Survey replies to the question: To what extent do you find the website itself intuitive and user-friendly? (N=154)



Platform homepage

An important aspect of usability for website users, as generally accepted in the field of website design and strategy, is the time it takes to reach their desired resource/page from when they first enter the site. When a user lands on a website, they should be able to immediately understand what the website is about and what it offers within a few seconds (typically under 5 seconds). Users should be able to identify navigation options and main sections of the website almost instantly. For general inquiries, users should be able to find the information they are looking for within a few clicks (typically 3 or fewer). However, it is important to consider the Climate-ADAPT mandate, which aims to serve a wide range of audiences from the EU level to local stakeholders, and from those interested in general adaptation to sectoral experts. This broad mandate necessitates addressing the needs of a diverse audience, resulting in many experts accessing the same content from different landing points.

A lengthy or convoluted path from the home page to a desired page discourages users from making the effort to reach the final page or make use of that information. This was confirmed by one survey respondent who emphasised that while the site functions reasonably well, the number and variety of different information offerings, such as entry paths and functional sections, can tend to be overwhelming.

By considering the diverse audience that Climate-ADAPT serves, from EU policymakers to local sectoral experts, **it is crucial to ensure that navigation is intuitive and streamlined for all users, regardless of their entry point.** Incorporating stakeholder feedback is essential in refining the site to meet these varied needs, ensuring that users can efficiently access the information pertinent to their specific context and requirements.

Ultimately, there is evidence (from the survey and interviews) that the site should be streamlined to reduce this burden on the user.

An initial assessment of the webpage, taking into account input from stakeholder consultation activities and the senior design strategist, suggests that some enhancements could be made to improve user experience:

- First and foremost, a more user-friendly layout is important; one which emphasises intuitive navigation that can better cater to user needs. This was reiterated by one survey respondent who said that a better navigation menu is needed to help them find relevant information.
- The current placement and size of the language settings, 'help' and other features on the top left of the page are too prominent and distracting and they should be repositioned to a slightly more hidden location, preferably smaller and more to the right side of the top of the page.
- The organisation of content, specifically regarding the EU sector policies, case studies, country profiles, and the Adaptation Support Tool, should be more coherent; the multiple access points to reach these pages, which presently include a top menu tab and a landing page main body option, need to be streamlined into one consistent structure to eliminate any confusion and provide a seamless user journey throughout the site.
- The hierarchy of several of the main tabs has been deemed confusing by some survey respondents. They specifically mentioned that the subheadings and available content under the 'EU policy' section and 'Knowledge' section is not clear, that it is a mixture of different things and makes it difficult to quickly see where to find certain information.

Layout of text and imagery

The use of text is important in order to convey the relevant information on a topic; however, readers' attentions are not maintained by large passages of text. Instead, they are drawn by blocks of text and images. Text and images should be strategically integrated and used in conjunction to enhance the user experience, rather than solely relying on text. This approach increases accessibility and international comprehension since images transcend language barriers. It is important to also note the use of links as a method to avoid long passages of text. This tactic is frequently used across Climate-ADAPT, and should be continued in a balanced way, to also ensure links are not so numerous that they become difficult to maintain.

Visual elements such as graphics and photos can quickly capture user attention, serving as an effective tool to spark interest and engage visitors. Complex information is often more easily conveyed through visual aids like photos, illustrations, and diagrams. Further, imagery can evoke emotions, amplifying the message of a website and creating an emotional connection with the audience. The mood of a website can be established through carefully chosen images that resonate with users on an emotional level. However, this requires a deep understanding of the visitors' profiles, which is made more difficult considering the wide range of users of Climate-ADAPT, e.g. local to EU-level users.

Retentiveness is another advantage of using images - they aid in ensuring the content of a website is memorable. Aesthetically pleasing websites featuring well-selected images project professionalism and enhance web design quality. In terms of universality, imagery is understood beyond language barriers, thus broadening the reach and global understanding of a website. For search engine optimisation (SEO), images should be tagged with descriptive alt-texts to improve a website's visibility in search results.

The lack of image content is evident in several areas of the site, such as for the use cases, and the case studies. The use cases, firstly, are hidden behind a table which involves selecting a very small icon if you wish to read them, making it difficult and unappealing to access them. Survey respondents echoed this, and one said that they do not understand how the overview table of use cases works.

The case studies are also rather text-heavy, and while there is the option to navigate to specific sections, the introduction could benefit from being 'short and sweet', with bullet points or icons to quickly indicate to readers the main points of the case. The summary in the panel on the right side is useful but misses some of the key information that would help a user very quickly understand the overview of a case study.

Bullet points break up text and make the content easier to scan, allowing users to quickly find relevant information and help to organise content and emphasise the most important points and increase the time spent on a page. Structured content is favoured by search engines, as it aids in understanding the context and relevance of a webpage, potentially improving its ranking.

Tools

The adaptation support tools are somewhat concealed from immediate view. Moving these resources to the landing page (outside of the additional middle-of-the-page drop-down menu) could significantly enhance accessibility and user engagement. The current utilisation of the front page could be better exploited by displaying tools and multimedia directly—for example, showing a video outright rather than through a link—creating a more visually appealing and immediate experience for the users. The urban adaptation map viewer, while mentioned by some survey respondents as a well-functioning feature, also presents an opportunity for improvement. By prioritising interactivity and presenting the urban adaptation map as the initial focal point instead of the descriptive 'About' section, the page might encourage users to engage more deeply with the content offered.

Database

The database is an important feature of the site, with 39 survey respondents claiming they use this resource (N=203) (see Figure 25). However, several respondents and interviewees have described it as difficult to use and interpret, particularly the search function. A more visually intuitive database could help better present the information.

The filters could be made more prominent to create a visually intuitive navigation and selection. Colours can be used to differentiate the sectors. The content should be easily scannable, with clear structure so that users can quickly identify pertinent information.

Assessing the use of the webpage

Collecting data on user movements within a website can be crucial information. By analysing this data, it becomes apparent how deeply users are delving into the site, the paths they are taking, and the specific areas that attract the most clicks. This kind of user behaviour analysis is crucial for understanding the effectiveness of different webpage elements. One way to assess this information,

i.e. the success or attractiveness of a feature or area of each webpage, is the online tool 'Hotjar' (of which there are many equivalent services offering the same types of features). Hotjar is a powerful tool to understand user behaviour and improve website user experience. It provides visual insights into how users interact with the website through heatmaps, session recordings, and scroll maps. This can help to understand what areas of the website attract the most attention and where users may be getting stuck. With tools like surveys and feedback widgets, it is possible to collect direct user feedback. This can inform about users' needs and preferences, geographic location and so helping to make decisions about content and design. Additionally, the availability of video recordings showing individual user interactions provides a comprehensive visual insight into the user experience. Heatmaps, indicating popular click zones, offer a graphical representation of user engagement, highlighting the most interactive spots on the webpage.

A suggestion from one survey respondent was that all functionalities could be improved with more interactive feedback options for the users. For example, a chat box function to automate responses to FAQs on certain features of Climate-ADAPT, etc.

Page length

Some pages of Climate-ADAPT are very long, and therefore require the user to continue scrolling down the page to take in all of the information. In general, users primarily interact with only the initial segments of the page and in situations where extensive scrolling is required, only the first part of the content receives attention, while the remainder largely goes unnoticed. To enhance the user experience, particularly on the sector policy pages, it would be advantageous to present content more succinctly. Concealing sections under headers and enabling the option for users to click and reveal each part as desired could significantly improve the navigability and accessibility of information, ensuring that critical content is not overlooked simply because it lies beyond the initial viewable area of the page, e.g. the use of the 'accordion' design.

Update of outdated or redundant content

The majority of survey respondents answered that they don't believe any of the site's functions are redundant (64), with one respondent adding that a certain number of overlaps is unavoidable and sometimes useful. However, some respondents (13) flagged potential issues and reasons why they believe this is not the case.

- Some survey respondents (10) commented on the case studies and other information on adaptation actions, with one specifically mentioning that some of these are over 5 years old, and questioned whether these are still relevant if they are not being frequently updated. However, it should be noted that case studies are regularly updated in stacks on Climate-ADAPT, every 2 to 3 years.
- One respondent indicated that the use cases are slightly redundant, considering Climate-ADAPT is now a well-recognised hub for sharing information on adaptation.
- Several respondents mentioned that the indicators are redundant (4), with one specifying that they are cumbersome and difficult to view.
- 4 respondents mentioned the sectorial policy overviews as redundant. One survey respondent described how the functionalities for sectoral information work well but added that they require more regular updating to reflect on-going developments.

Several individual countries were flagged in the survey responses for having outdated or inadequate information in their country profiles (4 respondents), such as Malta and Albania. However, it is important to note that Climate-ADAPT is not responsible for updating this content, as under the Governance Regulation, it is the nominated reporters of EU Member states who are responsible for

all links in the country pages. The regulation requires updates every 2 years and any additional updates are voluntary.

3.4.6 What alternative overall content/website structure could the platform have?

Over the course of the data collection for the evaluation, there have been no major indications of a need for a complete overhaul or redesign of the website's structure. The main issues which have arisen are discussed in the previous section on the site's usability and are mainly related to the location of various pieces of content, making some more prominent and some less so, and potentially rearranging the top row of tabs and the layout of the homepage.

However, the field of climate adaptation contains many different sectors, as can be seen from the extensive list of 'Adaptation in policy sectors' available on Climate-ADAPT. One potential alternative content structure for the website would be to separate the majority of content by sector, as is done for the 'Adaptation in forestry' landing page currently. If each sector was to have its own landing page, these could be more prominently advertised under a main tab headed "Sectors" beside the 'About' tab. These pages would then include both policy and practical content related to the sector.

One interviewee mentioned that they find the sectoral approach useful, particularly when there are links within to the other sector pages, particularly due to the need for a cross-sectoral approach in adaptation. Another interviewee believes that the sectors structure has challenges but that it has been improving. Specifically, they mention that better adaptation options for different user categories within the 'financial' page is needed.

Resource wise, this alternative structure could be quite demanding, particularly in the initial phases to design, move or create the relevant content for each sector page. Instead, the data on which sectors are most used could be used to determine the most important sectors for creating a separate landing page for, and the others would have a reduced, 'stripped back' page, or one which is less frequently updated.

3.4.7 Are there synergies or overlaps between Climate-ADAPT and other EU and national knowledge platforms with relevance for adaptation?

This question is explored as part of a new section (Section 3.9) which highlights the potential future development of Climate-ADAPT, and the role of Climate-ADAPT in the landscape of adaptation platforms in Europe and beyond.

3.5 EQ5 How can the dissemination and promotion of Climate-ADAPT knowledge and services be improved to address both current and potential new users, with the aim of enhancing its overall impact?

Key findings

- Users identified the Climate-ADAPT newsletter, news page, and webinars as effective dissemination tools.
- Most users of Climate-ADAPT discovered the platform through online research and references by friends/colleagues.
- Online formats such as webinars are an important format to make information accessible and to showcase best practices as well as maladaptation examples.

Recommendations (technical)

- Improve the content sharing process. This includes, for example, the possibility to update inputs for dynamic content like reports and events. Additionally, social media sharing buttons could be added, as well as improved download functions.
- Shorten the newsletter.
- Consider including in relevant (i.e. adaptation related) future calls for proposals for EU funded projects (e.g. Horizon, LIFE, Interreg) a requirement (or recommendation) to submit relevant results and information to Climate-ADAPT; this should be accompanied by specific guidance on what type of information to provide and how (e.g. links to instruction videos), to reduce the workload for Climate-ADAPT

3.5.1 What tools are currently used to disseminate and promote Climate-ADAPT knowledge and services?

The tools currently used to disseminate and promote Climate-ADAPT knowledge and services are the following:

- Newsletter
- Events
- Leaflet
- Tutorial videos
- Use cases
- Country-specific promotion activities

3.5.2 What tools and channels are favoured by current users (in terms of their frequency of use)?

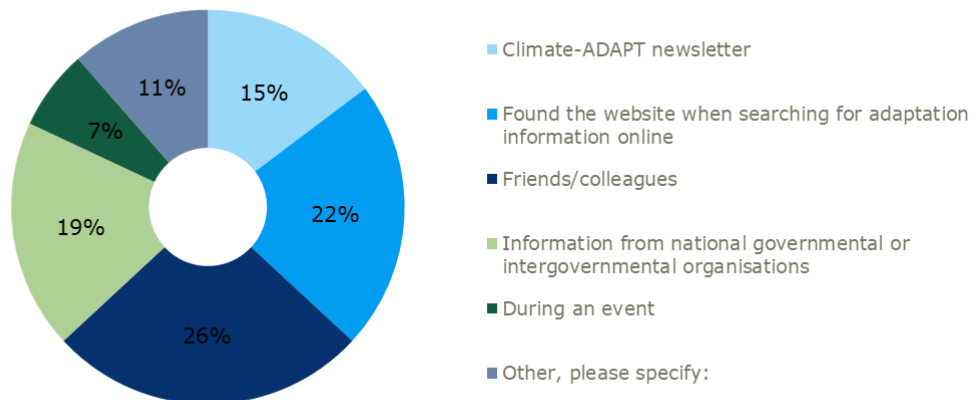
In the survey, numerous respondents noted that the following dissemination tools work well: newsletter, news, and webinars. Although adaptation solutions are complex and can be difficult for non-experts to understand and implement, online formats such as webinars increase accessibility and enable the showcasing of both effective best practices and examples of maladaptation. The newsletter was highlighted as a good tool, and one respondent noted that adding content is quite straightforward but that the newsletter itself is often too long. The statistics from the newsletter show that the opening rate has increased from about 20% in 2021 to consistently around 30% in 2023. Conversely, the percentage of subscribers clicking on a link appears to have decreased.

Based on the feedback provided by users, several areas for improving the content sharing process were identified. Survey respondents suggest enhancing the revision process to allow providers to update their own input, especially for dynamic content like reports and events. They also advocate

for the inclusion of social media sharing buttons and improved download functions. Better coordination with national platforms is recommended, along with clearer pathways for sharing content from EU/national/local projects, which do not always fit into the specific templates available. One user mentioned the possibility of making clear references to Climate-ADAPT in calls for proposals. Users express a need for easier access to sharing functionalities, streamlined reporting processes, and clearer communication channels. Additionally, they emphasised the importance of practical sharing options for images and successful adaptation case studies.

Survey users were also asked how they had first heard about Climate-ADAPT.

Figure 27 Survey replies to question: How did you initially find out about Climate-ADAPT? (N=122)



As can be seen, online research, references by friends/colleagues, and promotion/information were among the most frequently mentioned reasons for discovering the website. Also, the newsletter, likely being shared by colleagues, seems to have been another important factor. In comparison, events were mentioned less often.

Survey respondents also were asked how potential new users (and, by extension, potentially also new contributors) could be reached. The means most often mentioned were social media (16 replies), newsletter (7 replies), ads (3 replies), and media, through local authorities/governments, and in schools (2 replies each). It should be noted that also events were often mentioned in this context, namely in 10 answers. However, this contradicts to some extent the finding mentioned above that most of the survey respondents had not first heard about the website during events. The full overview of survey replies to this question is in Appendix 4.

3.6 EQ6 How can the monitoring and reporting on the platform's performance, progress, and impact (MRE) be advanced and improved?

Key findings

- Certain constraints (privacy provisions, resources required to use the Matomo system) appear to hamper the efficiency of the monitoring and reporting work

Recommendations (strategic)

- Conduct surveys in conjunction with dissemination activities to avoid over-solicitation of Climate-ADAPT users. Surveys, focus groups on expert users and bilateral interviews carried out on a sample of active users, such as the one undertaken as part of this evaluation, remain the best complementary means of carrying out a more in-depth analysis of the use of Climate-ADAPT and user needs.
- As part of outreach and dissemination activities, identify other typical user profiles of Climate-ADAPT at EU level and develop illustrative stories presenting ways of using the platform (and its subsites, in particular the Climate and Health Observatory). These stories could be broadcast on social networks to reach new audiences.

Recommendations (technical)

- Conduct the monitoring and evaluation every quarter to facilitate data collection and to better assess the impact of dissemination events or the promotion of specific features, content and sections of Climate-ADAPT and its subsites.
- Improve the Matomo user-interface to make it more tailored for Climate-ADAPT. In particular, the dashboard is not reflecting the information collected for the evaluation. Filters could be created to simplify the reporting process based of the template for reporting. Those adjustments require help from Matomo specialists.

3.6.1 What is the current practice for monitoring and reporting the platform's performance?

Every semester, the Dissemination Team from ETC/ EEA gathers, analyses and reports the web and newsletter statistics over the past semester, using the [Matomo web statistics tool](#) which has been partly tailor-made for the Climate-ADAPT and its menu structure.

Matomo is an open-source web analytics platform that enables the EEA to track and analyse various aspects of website performance and user behaviour. This tool tracks user interactions on Climate-ADAPT platform, including page views, clicks, downloads of online materials, among others.

The Climate-ADAPT [performance reporting](#), produced with a 6-month frequency, provides overview information about the development and the performance of Climate-ADAPT in a factsheet format. It aims to regularly inform Climate-ADAPT users about the development of the platform content. By showing the growing outreach of the platform, it also seeks to incentivise current and potential new knowledge providers to share their adaptation information through Climate-ADAPT.

The factsheets include key web statistics and information on the update of the Climate-ADAPT database to provide compelling information to the Climate-ADAPT target audience in a clear and concise format. All of the selected key facts, and figures for the Climate-ADAPT platform are reported in a visual manner utilizing charts and images.

The indicators measured are presented in Appendix 6.

3.6.2 Are there any gaps in the current monitoring and reporting system?

Several observations can be made about the current monitoring and reporting system:

- Since 2019, the performance metrics (indicators mentioned in Appendix 6.) that assess the efficiency and effectiveness of Climate-ADAPT and the subsites are more standardised and facilitate the work of the dissemination team. In order to maintain a high standard of reporting over the years, the indicators monitored each half-year should remain broadly similar, focusing in particular on the most frequently used features of Climate-ADAPT.
- Matomo is an open-source web analytics platform that has been chosen to assess the web statistics due to the privacy law. Nevertheless, the system is difficult to use and time consuming compared to other software to conduct a simple analysis. Even if Matomo has been partly tailor-made for Climate-ADAPT and its menu structure, a lot of data cannot be automatically extracted. This applies especially to the collection of data from sub-menus or sub-pages where the data has to be collected manually and put into a separate excel sheet to get an overall view of a section (for example the 'adaptation options' section). Another observation is that the data is sometimes hard to find, even for sections that are well highlighted in Climate-ADAPT (for example: Page views for 'transnational regions' and 'cities and towns'). With these observations in mind, the reporting work carried out to date appears to have been a success.
- Due to the impossibility of knowing the profile of users apart from their IP address (which may also be an address associated with a VPN), it can't be prove with the web statistics that the introduction of new features on Climate-ADAPT has an influence on the online behaviour of specific user groups. In this context, some analysis of interest, such as whether the Mission adaptation portal has helped to attract more local or regional decision-makers to Climate-ADAPT, cannot be carried out.

Considering those observations, **two technical recommendations** are suggested to improve the current monitoring and reporting system:

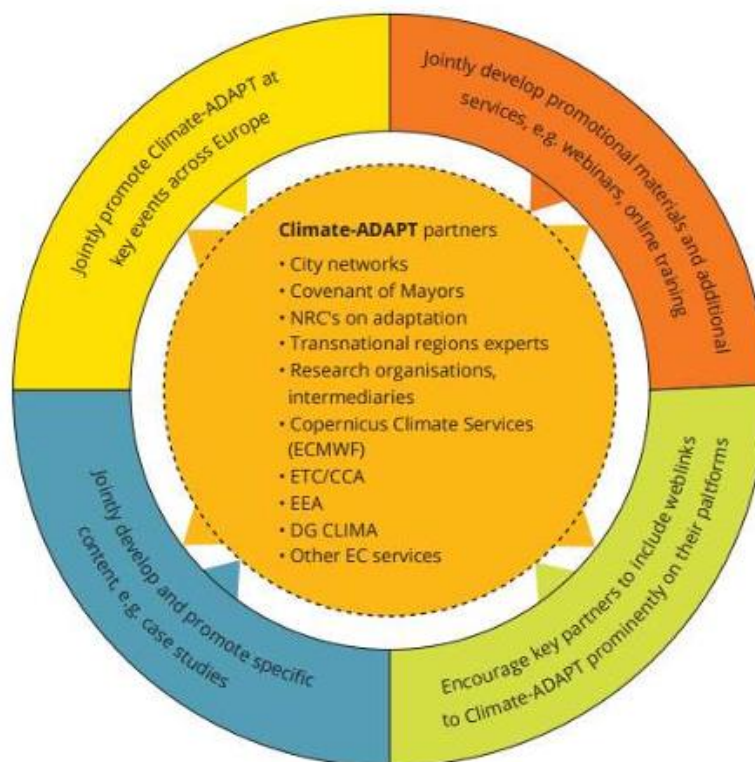
- The evaluation should be conducted every quarter to facilitate data collection and to better assess the impact of dissemination events or the promotion of specific features, content and sections of Climate-ADAPT and its subsites.
- Matomo user-interface tailored-made for Climate-ADAPT should be significantly improved. In particular, the dashboard is not reflecting the information collected for the evaluation. Filters could be created to simplify the reporting process based of the template for reporting. Those adjustments require help from Matomo specialists.

3.6.3 What is the end-use of the monitoring and reporting of the platform's performance? Which activities are informed by the results? E.g. operational adjustments, feeding into upcoming objectives, future strategies, etc.

As mentioned by ETC team, a successful website is one that not only delivers valuable content but also understand its audience's preferences and behaviours. The insights obtained from the analysis of different performance metrics and user engagement indicators inform the EEA, ETC/CCA and the EC on the weaknesses and strengths of the website that will lay the foundation for future strategic recommendations. Analysing these indicators empowers Climate-ADAPT to optimise the climate adaptation content in the future, knowledge uptake and user experience, as well as website's design to align more effectively with user preferences and expectations.

Since 2019 and earlier, the monitoring and evaluation system is connected to the dissemination activities that are promoting Climate-ADAPT or specific features or specific tools or databases during conferences or events.

Figure 28 Work areas and key partners for the Climate-ADAPT dissemination strategy (Climate-ADAPT Strategy 2019-2021)



One example is the dissemination activities carried out in Central and Eastern Europe in 2021-2022²² to draw new visitors and users to the Climate-ADAPT platform, and to encourage them to share relevant data and information, turning more users from passive consumers of information from the platform into proactive information providers and contributors to the platform. The case of Poland illustrates the success of those activities and confirms the relevance of having targeted eastern and central European region for the 2022-2024 period in line with the results of the platform’s performance monitoring.

As part of the contract mentioned above, Climate-ADAPT user profiles specific to Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia have been identified and [illustrative stories of Climate-ADAPT use](#) have been developed to show how the characters use Climate-ADAPT in a basic way, by following clear steps or using alternative options. During the interviews, the ETC team gave very positive feedback on this specific work, highlighting the value of considering different ways of using Climate-ADAPT according to typical profiles.

Two strategic recommendations are suggested:

- Surveys, focus groups on expert users and bilateral interviews carried out on a sample of active users, such as the one undertaken as part of this evaluation, remain the best complementary means of carrying out a more in-depth analysis of the use of Climate-ADAPT and users' needs. To avoid over-solicitation of Climate-ADAPT users, these surveys could be carried out in conjunction with dissemination.
- As part of outreach and dissemination activities, other typical user profiles of Climate-ADAPT at EU level could be identified and illustrative stories presenting ways of using the platform (and

²² Specific Contract No 340202/2020/839829/SFRA/CLIMA.A.3 'Support to the Commission and the EEA in Climate-ADAPT dissemination and stakeholder outreach activities'

its subsites, in particular the Climate and Health Observatory) developed. These stories could be broadcast on social networks to reach new audiences.

3.7 EQ13 Are the objectives of Climate-ADAPT still relevant?

Key findings:

- Climate-ADAPT remains vital to EU adaptation policies due to its adaptability and support for the EU Adaptation Strategy. It stands out among knowledge platforms for its extensive coverage of sectors and governance levels. The goal of providing reliable data is still important, especially given the growing complexity of climate adaptation.

Recommendations (strategic)

- Better highlight certain information of interest for regional or local stakeholders already accessible via weblinks from Climate-ADAPT such as the “Urban Adaptation Support Tool”
- Integrate valuable information for regional and local decision-makers such as comparative economic data on the costs of implementing adaptation measures and communication talking points regarding the use of certain adaptation actions to facilitate and help with advocacy in the dialogue within municipalities (good reasons for choosing the options depending on the environment, costs and benefits of options, sources of funding, preconceived ideas, etc.).
- Develop sectoral knowledge on the insurance sector, the non-public sector and the financial sector to pursue climate adaptation mainstreaming.
- Address gaps in Climate-ADAPT case studies concerning mountain territories and transboundary scales, as well as providing more instances of nature-based solutions (NbS)
- Set up a simplified process for identifying European financial aid suitable for cross-border projects (which Interreg or Life projects are accessible for these areas, etc.) or provide better referrals to external platforms that can do this.
- Provide references to technical reports of climate risk assessments conducted at national, regional, local or transboundary scale in the EU to enable a gradual standardisation of risk analysis practices (i.e. how the components of the risk are assessed and aggregated one by one, what choice of approach is used depending on whether a CRA is being conducted at the level of a region, a country or a local authority, etc.), which would have the advantage of being able to compare similar methodologies and feed into the EUCRA.
- Continue to support capacity building activities with international stakeholders to mainstream adaptation knowledge and to share Climate-ADAPT success and areas for improvement from the European perspective.
- Getting organisations from international cooperation to contribute with their knowledge and information to the development of Climate-ADAPT to fill knowledge gaps or to support specific steps of the Adaptation Support Tool (e.g. how to conduct a sectoral climate risk assessment or how to structure a CRA at regional or local level or for the private sector).

Recommendations (technical)

- Add filters in the ‘transnational region’ section to define cross-border sub-zones (bioregions) and to be able to identify more quickly the local platforms or committees working on adaptation issues in those regions.

3.7.1 Is Climate-ADAPT still relevant considering current and expected future developments in EU adaptation policy, wider climate policy, and other knowledge platforms?

This sub-question is assessed as part of section 3.9 on the future development of Climate-ADAPT.

3.7.2 Is the following objective still relevant: Providing trusted data and information? (Objective 1)

After assessing inputs from the web statistics, desk research, and stakeholder consultation activities, there are no strong indications that this objective is losing its relevance.

Climate change adaptation remains a challenging and complex topic, especially for laymen; and given that it is also a horizontal topic that concerns more and more sectors and stakeholders (or rather – more and more sectors and stakeholders are becoming aware that adaptation is a necessity) it is still required to provide a trusted source of information, given the vast array of information available on the adaptation topic. In this sense, the ambition of Climate-ADAPT as a first stop-shop is very relevant, because it provides users with a wealth of sources from reliable and trusted knowledge providers across Europe. See also section 3.7.4 below for more detail on the specific needs and priorities that are catered for.

However, it should be noted, that potentially there is some friction between this objective and the target groups of Climate-ADAPT, which are governmental decision-makers, working on adaptation at all governance levels and in specific policy sectors, organisations supporting governmental decision-makers at all governance levels in all policy sectors, and regional and local decision-makers, participating in the EU Mission on adaptation. Those stakeholder groups can largely be expected to be experts in climate change adaptation and likely can also identify other trusted sources of information. For them the mission as a first-stop-shop might be less relevant. It would potentially also be more relevant for them to find the latest science, developments, and innovations in climate change adaptation on Climate-ADAPT. However, the sectoral aspects of Climate-ADAPT may draw in users who are newer to the field of adaptation. Therefore, they would benefit from the site as a first-stop-shop.

Evidence collected as potential proof of this finding that Climate-ADAPT is seen as a provider of trusted information (see Figure 11), but a bit less so as a provider of timely and/or actionable information by the survey respondents (see Figure 12), which mostly consist of the current target groups of the website. Thus, while the objective itself is still relevant, it could be considered whether the target audiences of the platform should be maintained, and the content altered (e.g. more focused on innovation and state-of-the-art developments in the field of adaptation instead of general or broader adaptation knowledge). Alternatively, it could be considered if the target audiences should be altered (see also section 3.2, and potentially focusing on citizens and/or schools as new audiences) and the first-stop-shop nature of the platform maintained.

3.7.3 How can Climate-ADAPT support the uptake of the knowledge by current and new user and provider groups with varied expertise on adaptation and capabilities, and which new policy, planning and implementation processes should Climate-ADAPT knowledge support? (Objectives 2)

Please see EQ 2 in section 3.2.

3.7.4 To what extent does the support provided by Climate-ADAPT align with the current needs and priorities of stakeholders involved in adaptation policy development and implementation across different levels of governance and policy sectors? (Objective 3)

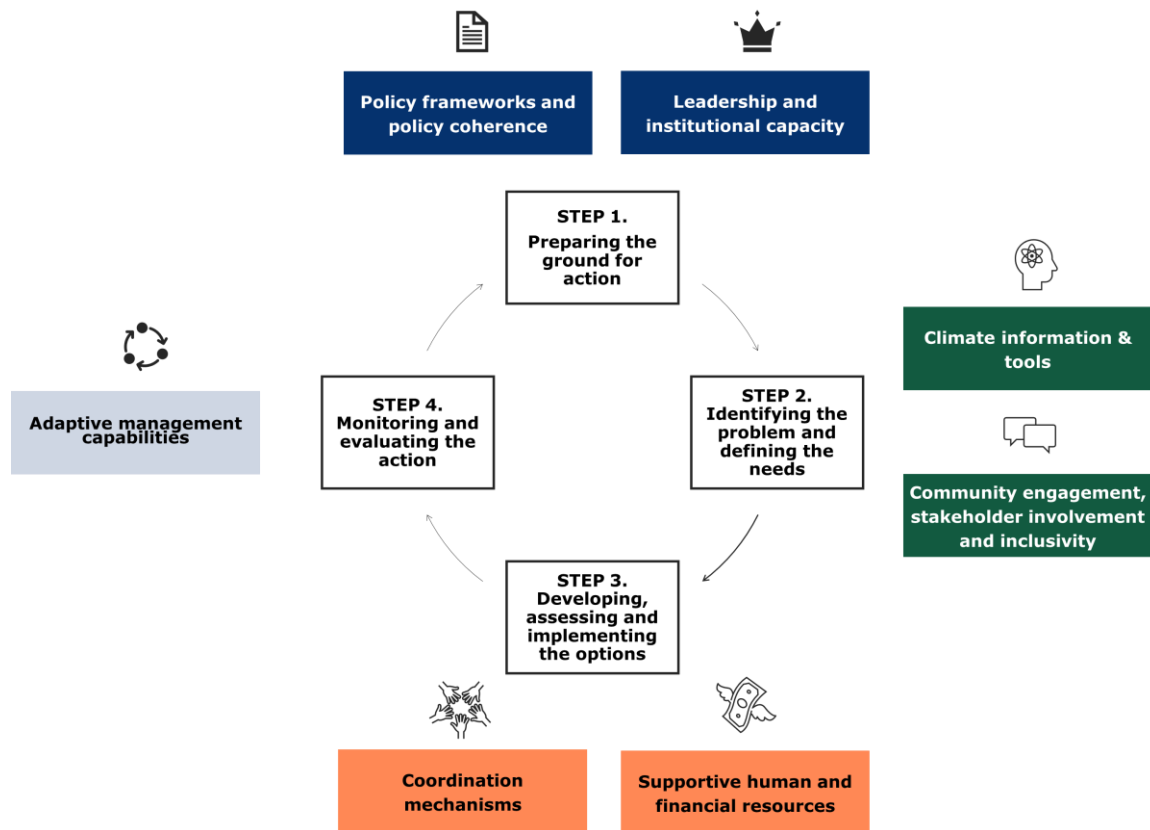
To answer this question, we need to consider the needs and priorities of the stakeholders involved in drawing up and implementing adaptation policies first, and then analyse how Climate-ADAPT can help to strengthen the capacities of all these stakeholders in terms of developing public policies.

Relevant remarks regarding this include the following:

- While the specific needs in terms of adaptation may vary from one European territory or community to another, or according to different sectors, the deployment and mainstreaming of adaptation policies is based on general needs and principles that have been widely documented in the scientific literature and summarised in the graph below. The aim is therefore to understand how Climate-ADAPT provides support for these needs and principles and whether this support is used by different users, considering Climate-ADAPT is not just an information platform on climate risks, but a tool designed to support decision-makers throughout the adaptation policy implementation cycle.
- Climate-ADAPT is the European reference platform on adaptation. It cannot, however, replace or aspire to meet the same needs as adaptation platforms developed within the various Member States for the simple reasons already mentioned above, the language barriers, referencing, different political and legislative frameworks, or possibly interest and relevance for local players seeking resources or local knowledge.
- The survey of current Climate-ADAPT users and contributors reflects a diverse set of stakeholders from various levels of governance and sectors. It indicates that Climate-ADAPT does indeed serve a wide audience (government officials: 52%; research/academia: 24%; citizens: 5%, NGOs: 6%, private sector: 6%) and users in a position to implement public adaptation policies or guide decision-making (researchers). Most of these users are national level advisers to decision-makers (53% of the respondents) followed by EU representatives (16%), local representatives (13%) and sub-national/regional (8%). This seems to indicate that the platform is more well-known to users working at higher levels of governance or does not yet appear to be a recognised adaptation hub for regional/ local stakeholders seeking resources or knowledge. However, this does not mean that Climate-ADAPT does not meet their needs and does not support coordination across governance levels (multi-level governance) and policy sectors (mainstreaming). On the contrary, overall, almost 3/4 of the survey respondents indicate that Climate-ADAPT supports coherent and effective adaptation planning and implementation in line with their needs to a large and moderate extent (see Figure 16).

The graph below refers to the mandatory steps of the adaptation policy planning and the associated needs for adaptation mainstreaming. These clusters were defined by Ramboll based on a literature review on adaptation mainstreaming. They cover the entire deployment cycle of an adaptation policy. Although Climate-ADAPT is not intended to provide support on all of these aspects, it seems interesting to present feedback from users working at multiple levels of governance (EU/national/regional/local or at sectoral level) from this point of view.

Figure 29 Adaptation policy deployment cycle and associated needs for adaptation mainstreaming.
Source: Ramboll



The feedback on the use of resources from Climate-ADAPT users suggests that it holds significant value for stakeholders across different levels of governance in informing adaptation planning, policies, and practices reflecting the alignment of its support with their current needs and priorities. More detailed examples of use can be found in Section 3.1.3 as part of the response to EQ1.

3.7.5 To what extent does the knowledge support provided by Climate-ADAPT aligns with the specific needs and priorities of European regions and communities in their efforts to enhance resilience to climate change impacts? (Objective 4)

There are two aspects to this question, including how Climate-ADAPT can provide support in terms of assessing the impacts of climate change and risk assessment methodology, but also how it can provide support in addressing them.

Overall, Climate-ADAPT largely meets the needs of its users evidenced by user trust and consistent engagement metrics in the web statistics (see section 3.1). The results of the survey confirm that impression showing that over 90% of users perceive the platform as a trusted provider of data and information regarding climate change, hazards, vulnerability and adaptation, as was shown in Figure 11.

Responses from the survey imply that the platform has been helpful for European regions in drafting adaptation strategies and implementing adaptation measures. The use of case studies, adaptation support tools, and climate data for developing national or regional strategies and guidelines emphasises the alignment with EU regions and community’s needs. The survey responses showing usage of country profiles, adaptation data, and options (78 responses for country profiles) further

support this alignment. Some concrete examples of the use of Climate-ADAPT as a support to enhance resilience to climate change impacts include: To get informed about climate-related hazards and their trends, to get inspiration for developing a set of climate change impact indicators; the use of AST steps to structure the adaptation process and to identify the knowledge needed at each stage, using the country profiles to compare information on specific topics, the use of EU Sector policy pages as an introduction to adaptation in a sectoral context, the use of the dashboard on economic losses ([RiskLayer CATDAT](#)) as an argument for committing financial investment to adaptation; to get inspiration on how adaptation options are implemented in practice (the case studies) or to search for relevant resources on specific areas of adaptation (sectoral information or available framework for adaptation planning and implementation or information on emerging policy priorities such as just resilience or the concept of “maladaptation”).

However, the survey and the additional interviews conducted did point to areas for improvement, particularly with regard to Climate-ADAPT's target audiences, such as regional and transnational decision-makers. The experience of the Pyrenees Climate Change Observatory (OPCC) is particularly interesting. The OPCC has widely welcomed Climate-ADAPT as a reference information hub on adaptation. Their [transboundary adaptation strategy](#) implemented in 2022 at the scale of the bioregion hinged upon a comprehensive meta-analysis of publications concerning transboundary zones within Europe. Climate-ADAPT platform facilitated this meta-analysis by enabling easy access to identification of all administrative transboundary regions, along with projects and publications linked to adaptation in these areas, such as the ones covering the Danube River and Baltic Sea as well as mountain areas such as the Alps and the Carpathian Mountains. This wealth of information helped inform the structuring of the strategy, notably in pinpointing key themes for focus and approaches to foster cooperation by studying models of international conventions (e.g. Alpine and Carpathian convention), strategies (e.g. Climate change adaptation strategy 2020-2027 for the Danube River), or examples of cooperation mechanisms (e.g. Alpine Climate Board).

Nevertheless, from the OPCC's perspective, Climate-ADAPT could be further enhanced by:

- **Adding filters in the ‘transnational region’ section to define cross-border sub-zones (bioregions) and to be able to identify the local platforms or committees working on adaptation issues in these regions more quickly.** For instance, the Pyrenees bioregion is part of the large “South-west region” on Climate-ADAPT
- **Addressing gaps in case studies concerning mountain territories and transboundary scales, as well as providing more instances of nature-based solutions (NbS)** relevant to typical mountain risks like rockfalls, flash floods, and forest management.
- **By helping cross-border organisations to identify European financial aid suitable for their projects.** Specifically, for transboundary regions, a compendium of potential INTERREG projects, with ready abstracts of mounted projects, could significantly aid in facilitating the structuring and funding of their adaptation measures.

Regional stakeholders such as ARPA Lombardia identified that while the platform provides foundational climatic data, it lacks a clear methodology for impact assessment at a more localised, regional level (1-10 km scale). Additionally, when it comes to addressing the specific requirements of the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) criteria, users have struggled due to the lack of detailed, scale-appropriate methodologies for certain impacts, like floods, which are not sufficiently developed on Climate-ADAPT for regional application. This argument shows the value of sharing tasks between Climate-ADAPT and national platforms where they exist, or the role that the Mission on adaptation could play. In this respect, it would seem appropriate for those stakeholders to be able to consult technical methods and analysis results of the regional and national Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) developed across EU member states and regions or to inform the users of the persons/focal points of each CRA conducted. This work would also serve to enrich or facilitate the production of the EUCRA. Lastly, in terms of climate information, the efforts made by the EEA as

part of the EUCRA, with the implementation of an interactive [impact data-viewer](#) focusing on exposure to hazards and impacts (ISIMIP), represent real added value for regional and transnational stakeholders to develop sectoral approaches. For any mission signatories (regions or local authorities in the EU), those information can be consulted on the [Adaptation dashboard](#) of the EU Mission Portal.

On the adaptation side, the knowledge available on Climate-ADAPT on the adaptation options available by sector and the practical case studies to illustrate them are widely acclaimed by users. Areas of improvements for regional and local decision-makers include:

- More updated case studies, particularly in agriculture, to meet region-specific priorities.
- Comparative economic data on the costs of implementing adaptation measures.
- Communication talking points regarding the use of certain adaptation actions to facilitate and help with advocacy in the dialogue within municipalities (good reasons for choosing the options depending on the environment, costs and benefits of options, sources of funding, preconceived ideas, etc.).

3.7.6 To what extent does the support provided by Climate-ADAPT align with the current needs and priorities of international stakeholders involved in climate adaptation efforts, including third countries, international organisations, and other relevant actors? (Objective 5)

Analysis of the Climate-ADAPT audience shows that since 2019, 49% of visits to the site have come from users outside Europe (mainly from Asia, 19.6% followed by North America, 15.6% and Africa, 6.6%). This data needs to be qualified due to the way in which Matomo collects this information (only with the IP address) but this indicates that a large audience for Climate-ADAPT is international.

The survey data also indicate the presence of respondents focusing on work at a global level (14 out of 203, i.e. around 7%). This difference in proportion between the web statistics and the survey can be explained by a bias of the survey in the geographical representativeness of the sample of current users and by the groups targeted by the survey. Among the survey respondents, the profiles identified are consultancy, research or scientific representative (5), industry and private sector representatives but also public authorities or international organisations, working in particular on biodiversity, climate change in general, forestry, health and disaster risk reduction.

The survey does not provide explicit feedback concerning international stakeholders' needs; but we can make the following assumptions based on our expertise and knowledge of international stakeholders:

- Stakeholders are looking at Climate-ADAPT for EU policy updates, which may affect international cooperation and climate adaptation efforts, although more direct feedback from international actors would be needed to conclusively assess this point.
- The survey appears to highlight the need for sectoral knowledge on adaptation that can be transposed to other geographic scales. This knowledge includes methodologies, datasets, reports and case studies of adaptation measures and options deployed at sectoral level and on a specific local context in the EU. These elements particularly serve consultancy, research and scientific representatives to carry out comparative analyses/benchmarks on adaptation options that have already been tried out or implemented to analyse lessons learned.
- Climate-ADAPT is a reference platform on adaptation and an example for other continents in the way the platform has been implemented and organised at EU level. For example, actions to strengthen the capacity of the EEA were mentioned during interviews, indicating an interest of Japanese and Taiwanese agencies in replicating or using the Climate-ADAPT model in their geographies.

Even if international stakeholders are not the key audience of Climate-ADAPT, the experience of Climate-Adapt benefits these stakeholders and vice versa. Two points are worth mentioning and recommendations are formulated in that matter:

- Many organisations from international cooperation could contribute with their knowledge and information to the development of Climate-ADAPT but are not doing it sufficiently yet. For instance, donors from the European Union such as the French Agency for Development (in the frame of the Adapt'Action programme) or the GIZ have produced and developed specific tools and methodologies in the frame of specific adaptation programs that should be of interest for the adaptation community especially to fill knowledge gaps or to support specific steps of the Adaptation Support Tool (e.g. how to conduct a sectoral climate risk assessment or how to structure a CRA at regional or local level or for the private sector).
- Depending on opportunities, Climate-ADAPT should continue to support capacity building activities with international stakeholders to mainstream adaptation knowledge and to share Climate-ADAPT success and areas for improvement from the European perspective.

3.8 EQ14 Based on additional needs communicated by stakeholders, can additional objectives be derived for Climate-ADAPT, the European Climate and Health Observatory, or the Portal of the Mission on Adaptation?

Key findings

- Potential new objectives of Climate-ADAPT: While not a new objective, a new area to pursue, particularly to support Objectives 2 and 4 is to further promote the subsites of the European Climate and Health Observatory and the Mission on Adaptation Portal.
- Potential new objectives for the European Climate and Health Observatory: The Observatory support the integration of health-related risks and adaptation options in mainstreamed adaptation plans/strategies.
- Potential new objectives of the Portal of the Mission on Adaptation: To enable mutual learning and co-creation on adaptation planning and implementation among European communities and regions.

3.8.1 What are potential new objectives for Climate-ADAPT?

Considering the assessment of needs of users and potential users so far, there is likely no need for entire new objectives to be developed. However, there could be greater consideration for certain actions within the existing objectives.

A new objective would rather be to support integrating adaptation into the market (working towards adaptation business opportunities).

Further promote the subsites of the European Climate and Health Observatory and the Mission on Adaptation Portal

One new area for Climate-ADAPT to pursue, while not a whole new objective, is to more actively promote the subsites of the European Climate and Health Observatory and the Mission on Adaptation Portal. This would support the implementation of the existing objectives: Objective 2 (improve the uptake of the information) and 4 (support regional and local adaptation). Specifically, promote their added value and the unique areas of adaptation and practical solution that they can provide. The Mission on Adaptation is already considered as part of Objective 4: Driving regional

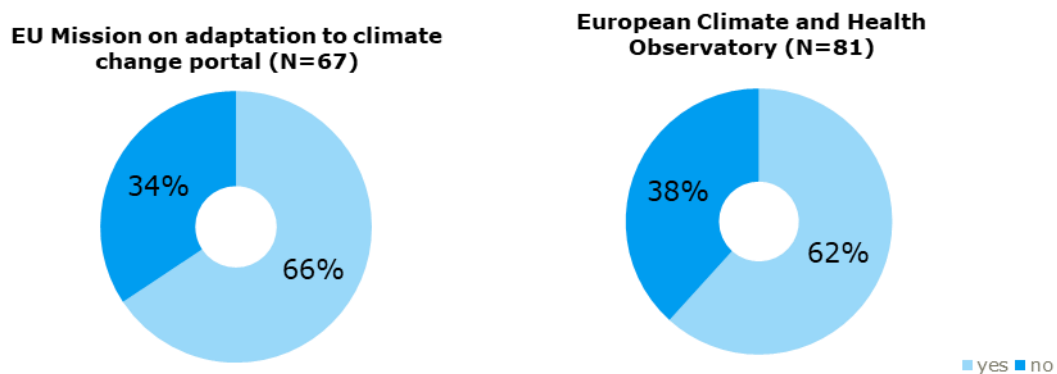
and community resilience. However, the promotion of both subsites could have more emphasis under either Objective 2: Promoting solutions for action, where the provision of actionable knowledge also encompasses the promotion of knowledge available on different platforms, Objective 3: Empowering people for action at multiple levels, where promoting the subsites would further support a range of governance levels and policy sectors, or for the Mission on Adaptation Portal, Objective 4: Driving regional and community resilience.

When survey respondents were asked whether they were aware that the subsites are part of the larger Climate-ADAPT platform for information on climate adaptation, about 2/3 were aware for each platform (Figure 30). However, it is important to bear in mind that those who responded to this question are only those who previously indicated that they were aware of and had used the respective subsite. Therefore, the question does not signal how many users of Climate-ADAPT are aware of the subsites, but how many users of the subsite are aware of the connection with Climate-ADAPT.

50% of respondents to the entire survey (N=203) said they were aware of or have used the European Climate and Health Observatory, while 47% of respondents were aware of or had used the Mission on Adaptation Portal.

When asked whether there was any content missing on Climate-ADAPT that could be relevant to those working on adaptation, several respondents said health-related information. It could be the case that these respondents are similarly not aware that specific health-related information is available on the Observatory.

Figure 30 Percentage of users of each of the subsites who know that the subsite is part of the larger Climate-ADAPT platform for information on climate adaptation



3.8.2 What are potential new objectives for the European Climate and Health Observatory?

Please see the whole chapter 4 for evidence on the relevance of actual objectives and potential new objective for the Observatory.

The evaluation nevertheless highlights a potential new objective for the Observatory: *The Observatory* advocates for the integration of health-related risks and adaptation options in mainstreamed adaptation plans/strategies through provision of information and best practices.

This new objective is justified by the fact that the Observatory could prioritise non-health specialists, who represent most visitors to the Observatory's portal (73%) but are relatively unfamiliar with it overall (half of all respondents from other professions were unaware of the portal). To date, Observatory's content only feed the health community in developing climate-sensitive policies and tools.

Demand seems to be highest among specialists and professionals involved in agriculture and biodiversity conservation. Resources focusing on their needs in terms of knowledge, key findings and methodologies for preserving health through climate-smart agriculture would certainly be highly consulted, while the links between ecosystem-based adaptation and human health would also be appreciated, for instance.

Even if the review of national policies of 38 EEA member and cooperating countries suggests that climate change impacts on health are commonly addressed in national adaptation strategies, but less frequently in national health strategies, countries' NHSs less often explicitly address climate change as a public health risk factor and only few countries have a specific sectoral climate adaptation strategy for health. This shows that there is still a lack of interaction between adaptation planning and the deployment of public health policies. The Observatory could create this bridge by focusing on these two audiences at the same time.

3.8.3 What are potential new objectives for the Portal of the Mission on Adaptation?

At the time of writing this report, the monitoring framework of the Mission Portal is still in the process of collecting feedback and evidence that would allow for an initial evaluation of impact and progress towards its original goals. For this reason, it might be premature to propose alternative or additional objectives here. That said, and upon reflection on the feedback collected as part of this research, a strategic move could be to further emphasise the principles of flexibility and openness that have underpinned the development process of the portal, and make it an objective to *enable mutual learning and co-creation on adaptation planning and implementation among European communities and regions*. While this objective is already being pursued through the efforts of several Mission projects, the portal could take on a stronger role here too.

3.9 Future development of Climate-ADAPT

3.9.1 Are there synergies or overlaps between Climate-ADAPT and other EU and national knowledge platforms with relevance for adaptation?

Climate-ADAPT is a unique and valuable resource within the landscape of climate adaptation platforms. While it has important synergies with other platforms by providing structured, comparable, and high-quality information, there are potential overlaps that need to be addressed. Efforts should be made to remain distinct with other platforms but also considering the potential for collaboration and trade-offs, especially national hubs and regional initiatives, to ensure joint efforts and minimise redundancy. This coordination will enhance the effectiveness of climate adaptation knowledge dissemination across Europe.

Synergies

Climate-ADAPT is a unique platform in that it provides high quality and reliable information and resources at a European level and beyond. There are no other international platforms which so broadly encompass the elements of climate adaptation, as Climate-ADAPT does. It also is unique in its policy-oriented angle, and the information it provides on national to European policies, in comparison to some European-wide data providers, who only provide data or indicators for adaptation. In the global context, Climate-ADAPT collaborates with the global [Weadapt](#) platform, where its case studies are available.

The platform's structured and comparable EU, transnational and country information is one of its main strengths, according to survey respondents. They also mentioned how the platform allows for effective comparison across countries, and another respondent suggested to further enhance this

by adding a tool which allows users to select specific Member States to compare. The ability for Climate-ADAPT to provide a consistent framework that can complement national hubs and other platforms, aligns with the platform’s strategy to implement and further advance national adaptation policy frameworks. It is recommended that to further enhance Climate-ADAPT’s synergies and connectivity with national adaptation platforms, Climate-ADAPT should further promote the existence of national hubs, while also showcasing the high-level, country-level information it provides and the ability to compare this information. Ultimately, this will help transition the platform’s knowledge support into actionable information for EEA member countries.

Overlaps

Some potential overlaps were identified by stakeholders over the course of the evaluation. One survey respondent mentioned [PreventionWeb](#)²³ and other regional initiatives such as [EUSALP CAPA](#)²⁴. PreventionWeb provides a database of national information (with global coverage), specifically focused on disaster risk and governance. This information often overlaps with the Climate-ADAPT ‘Country profiles’, in that it includes national climate strategies and plans. EUSALPCAPA is a transnational platform focused on climate change adaptation in the Alps, and therefore has a narrower scope than that of Climate-ADAPT. However, there are some overlaps in that Climate-ADAPT also has a dedicated page for ‘Alpine Space’ within the transnational regions section, where the policy framework and adaptation strategies and plans are described, as is also covered by EUSALP CAPA.

Another issue raised by a survey respondent was that there might be an overlap with well-established national hubs and case studies featured on the EU Mission on Adaptation platform. Ensuring no duplication of information is crucial as stakeholders already receive a flood of information through various networks. Coordinating these efforts can help maintain the distinct value of each platform.

As mentioned by one survey respondent, platforms developed by research projects at lower scales may have similar scopes for the future as Climate-ADAPT, and it would be important to identify and exploit synergies that could secure the longevity of well developed, relevant materials being collected and showcased in other portals. Providing single links to other adaptation-related platforms, as is currently done for the LIFE and Horizon project search engines, could facilitate synergies. This is already being done on the ‘networks’ page and therefore this page could be further promoted and clearly defined as the gateway to other adaptation platforms. Currently, the ‘networks’ heading may not signal that this information is available within, and therefore it could be renamed ‘adaptation networks and platforms’ or something brief to more accurately indicate what can be found.

3.9.2 Is Climate-ADAPT still relevant considering current and expected future developments in EU adaptation policy, wider climate policy, and other knowledge platforms?

Climate-ADAPT is uniquely placed within many of the European institution’s ‘tools’ for aiding policymaking due to its rather flexible and dynamic nature. As a platform, it is continuously maintained by adding and updating case studies, adaptation options, and other knowledge sources and tools. Rather than a rigid instrument or framework, it adapts to changing priorities and the need to present new types of knowledge, as decided by DG CLIMA and the EEA, in line with feedback from the Climate-ADAPT advisory group and stakeholder feedback from Eionet, webinars, and

²³ A global knowledge-sharing platform for disaster risk reduction and resilience

²⁴ Climate Adaptation Platform for the Alps (CAPA)

conferences. More importantly, Climate-ADAPT has a clear legal base and mandate in the context of EU adaptation policy:

Article 42(e) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, the so-called 'Governance Regulation', requires the EEA to assist the Commission inter alia with 'maintaining and updating [...] the European Climate Adaptation Platform relating to impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation to climate change'.

The EU Adaptation Strategy, adopted in 2021, sets out four principal objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change. The objective of '**smarter adaptation**' is built on adaptation actions informed by robust data and risk assessment tools. As a result, Climate-ADAPT naturally supports this objective, as is also reflected in the EU Adaptation strategy, where it mentions enhancing Climate-ADAPT as the go-to European platform for adaptation knowledge.

The 2023 Commission Staff Working Document *Assessment of progress on climate adaptation in the individual Member States according to the European Climate Law*, assessed adaptation progress in the Member States. It found that health, agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, energy, and water management were reported to be the sectors most affected by climate threats. Climate-ADAPT provides sector policy pages for each of these sectors, alongside the European Climate and Health Observatory which is focused on the health sector. Similarly, the adaptation options, adaption support tool, data and indicators, and case studies provide actionable solutions for addressing risks to these sectors on the ground. The assessment also found that progress remains unclear with regard to adaptive capacity, and there is therefore a need for more evidence-based harmonisation of assessment criteria for adaptation measures at the EU level. This is another area where Climate-ADAPT can and is currently supporting via the case studies, project explorers and adaptation options, which showcase adaptation measures across different Member States.

In the 2024 Commission Communication 'Managing climate risks', the Commission and EEA commit to providing 'access to key granular and localised data, products, applications, indicators and services, notably through the Climate-ADAPT platform', and other relevant communication tools. The Commission also announced to 'support the development of training materials and online open courses on climate resilience through a single online platform, partly through Climate-ADAPT'.

Other policy documents such as the EU Forest Strategy, but also various reports of the European Court of Auditors include references to, and formulate requirements for, Climate-ADAPT.

Finally, EU member states have certain reporting obligations on climate adaptation under the above-mentioned Governance Regulation and the European Climate Law. Climate-ADAPT is used as the central public repository of the information contained in these reports.

Together, these legal requirements, political commitments, and recommendations demonstrate the need to keep using Climate-ADAPT as a key communication and knowledge sharing mechanism of EU adaptation policy. However, certain standards need to be met to ensure the continued relevance of the platform and that it lives up to its tasks. Most important is to keep the information, which is housed on the site, as up-to-date and accurate as possible. The importance of keeping links updated is described in previous sections and remains a key factor also in relation to the relevance of the site in line with policy developments.

Regarding other knowledge platforms, as discussed in the previous section, Climate-ADAPT maintains its relevance to rapid climate change, and subsequent impacts, because of its role in the European Climate Law, and due to its co-ownership in addressing the risks identified in the EUCRA. Compared to other platforms, none have either the same geographical scope, or the same level of coverage of governance levels and sectors.

4. EUROPEAN CLIMATE AND HEALTH OBSERVATORY

Key findings

- 3/4 visitors of the Observatory portal are qualified and mandated specialists of climate change adaptation and/or sectoral specialists (including health specialists). The portal reaches a multidisciplinary audience.
- The health sector is not dominant (compared to other visitor profiles), but they constitute the main contingent of visitors at sub-national levels. Almost 80% of the health professionals surveyed knew about the portal. They mainly work for public authorities and local governments and are therefore well-placed to promote locally-driven climate-sensitive health policies and systems.
- The climate-health related indicators are the most popular content. Two-third of the portal visitors who use it for professional purposes (58% of all the visitors) value the indicators in their work. It can only be presumed that the strong interest of the visitors in the indicators and evidence is extended to the anticipation of climate-related risks on health.
- The more respondents are involved at a high level of governance (national, transnational, EU, global), the more likely they will know about the Observatory. There is room for better integration of the adaptation and health communities working at sub-national level.
- The portal's resources seem to be more valued in the work of health professionals than in the work of other adaptation sector specialists and other visitors.
- There is a need for better links with Climate-ADAPT and the potential for cross-promotion through events such as EEA's SIGNALS publication. Redundancy and overlap were pointed out between country profiles on the Observatory and Climate-ADAPT, suggesting a need for more synchronized and consistent information sharing.

Recommendations (strategic)

- Target the adaptation sectors, other than health, which seem to be most interested in the Observatory portal. Demand seems to be highest among specialists and professionals involved in agriculture and biodiversity conservation. Resources focusing on their needs in terms of knowledge, key findings and methodologies for preserving health through climate-smart agriculture would certainly be highly consulted, while the links between ecosystem-based adaptation and human health would also be appreciated, for instance.
- Promote downscaled data, in line with the Mission Adaptation's objective. Ensure that the proposed indicators complement those already available at national (and sub-national/local) level. Otherwise, potential/future visitors at local, sub-national and national level, who are less likely to visit the portal, might not see the added value.
- To reach new users, use additional communication channels .
- Promote training courses and school-based educational resources to strengthen the capacities of primary national and local climate and health systems' workers with limited scientific knowledge and experience. These capacity building initiatives could be extended to climate and health finance readiness.
- Promote the most accessible resources in the catalogue for less specialised audiences (quizzes, tests, games, factsheets, etc.) via News.

Recommendations (technical)

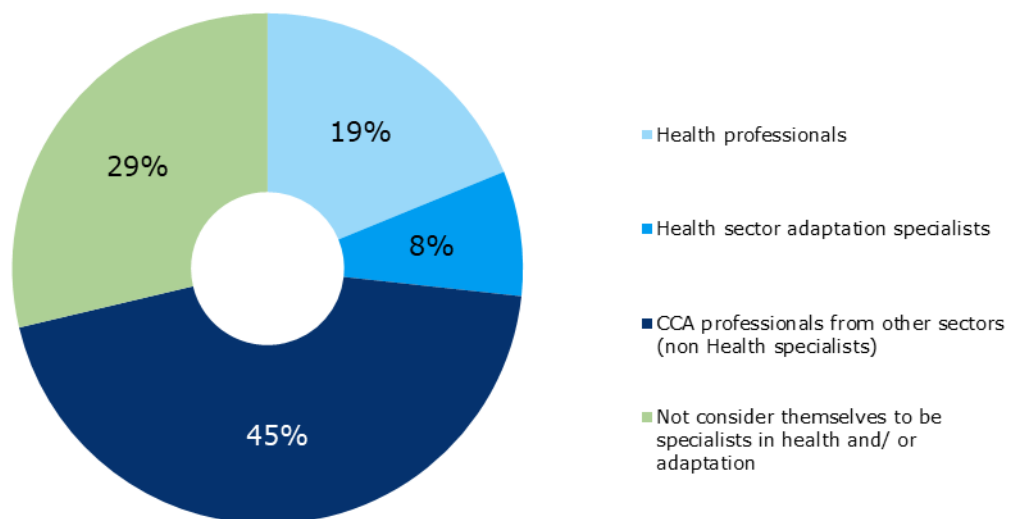
- User-friendly content: involve users better through simplified information and presenting data in more attention-grabbing ways (visual tools like infographics, improved visualisation tools for national data, storytelling features...).
- The Health web page of Climate-ADAPT (in Adaptation in EU Policy Sectors) should more explicitly refer to the Observatory's portal, and explain the distinctions of both contents.

4.1 EQ7 To what extent has the Observatory portal contributed to the Observatory’s strategic objectives?

The European Climate and Health Observatory has defined five main objectives by 2030 that the portal should contribute to achieving. By accessing the Observatory portal, web users are therefore supposed to strengthen their capacities to notably monitor key indicators of the health risks induced by climate change (1). Such monitoring should also increase the aptitude of public authorities to anticipate and prevent climate-related threats on health (3). The access of Representatives of health services and practitioners (administrations and/or institutes) to analyses, evaluations and stress-tests that contribute to the development of climate-aware policy development and/or preparedness strategies at national/sub-national levels (2), is supposed to increase. At the same time, the platform should contribute to the mainstreaming of health considerations, by supporting the health community to become more climate-literate and better involved into adaptation decision-making, and by raising awareness and informing also other adaptation professions (4). The platform should also contribute to making adaptation solutions for preventing and reducing health risks widely known (5).

In this sense, the Observatory's portal should primarily benefit healthcare system stakeholders and adaptation specialists at various scales, all over the administrations, institutions, including civil society organisations committed to adaptation and/or environmental health. The quantitative survey highlights that 50% of users of Climate ADAPT who completed the questionnaire were aware of the Observatory and among them, only 6 (out of 101) were citizens having a personal interest in being informed. The vast majority (72%) of the visitors of the Observatory portal are qualified and mandated specialists of climate change adaptation and/or sectoral specialists (including, but not limited to, health specialists).

Figure 31 Professional qualifications of the visitors to the Observatory portal (%)

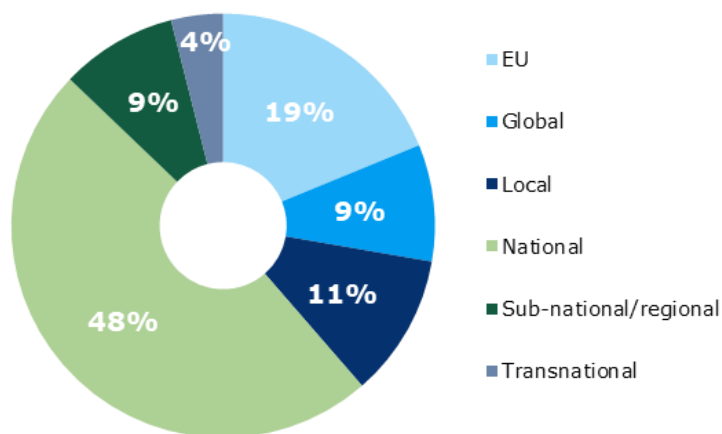


Half of the visitors work in adaptation to climate change 'in general' and in this sense, the Observatory portal contributes to the objectives 1 and 4 of the Observatory, since it essentially benefits other professions than health (only 27% of the visitors of the portal of the Observatory

specifically work in the health sector or even contribute to the adaptation of the health sector). This observation may be moderated, however, by the interpretation of respondents' sectoral contributions (e.g. environmental health stakeholders, including air quality specialists, rarely define themselves as health professionals).

Moreover, the under-representation of health professionals among the portal's visitors is not limiting, de facto, progress towards the Observatory's second objective. Almost 70% of the portal users work at local, sub-national or national levels and three quarters of those users are health stakeholders. Hence, while the health sector is not dominant overall, their representatives constitute the majority of visitors at sub-national and national levels (while the other communities of visitors are over-represented in the institutions and agencies of the EU, which can help to achieve objective 5).

Figure 32 Governance level of Observatory survey respondents



These health professionals mainly work for public authorities and local governments and are therefore well-placed to promote locally-driven climate-sensitive health policies and systems (Objective 2). They are joined by a very significant contingent of visitors who are neither adaptation nor health specialists, who mainly work for public agencies (local, national and international). Among them are decision-makers and contributors to public policies, which reflects the portal's capacity to contribute to the mainstreaming of climate-related knowledge in health policies.

Half of the health sector web visitors have already used data or information provided by the Observatory's portal, mainly to develop health policies and increase awareness (advocacy briefing notes, policy advising...). Several respondents indicate that the Observatory has been useful in integrating climate data into national health policies and systems:

'There were inspiring adaptation policies related to the climate-health nexus to feed the forthcoming Belgian National Adaptation Plan'; 'We used contents for conducting climate risk assessment and drafting of possible adaptation measures'; Explaining to public bodies that there are European organisations that think these issues are important'; Integration into National and Sub-national Health Policies, Fostering Climate Literacy within the Health Community' etc.

The health community visiting the Observatory values the evidence-based adaptation solutions and public health interventions showcased by the portal, since half of these visitors have already used information on EU climate adaptation and health policies in their work (cf. Survey results). Their

interest in case studies (although not explicitly surveyed) seems limited, but respondents have used the platform's content for climate risk assessments in the health sector, drafting possible adaptation measures, and promoting climate literacy. This suggests that the portal's contribution to the Observatory's objectives 2, 4 and even 5 is significant (*'Adaptation solutions and public health interventions are widely known'*).

Figure 33 Survey replies to question: Have you used data or information provided on the European Climate and Health Observatory in your work? (%)

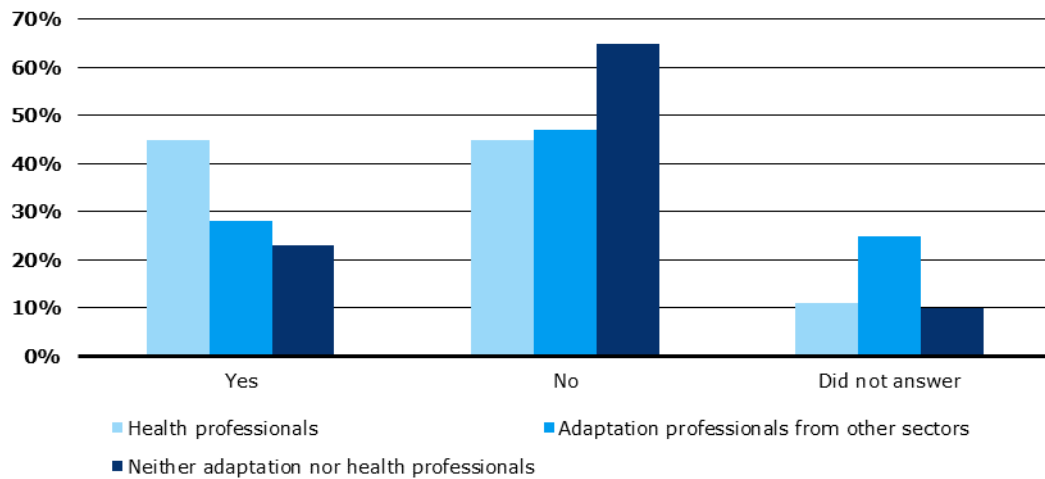
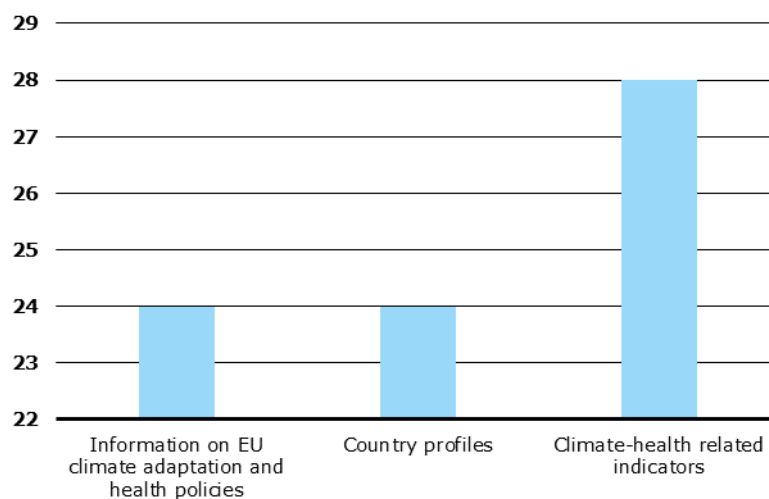


Figure 34 The 3 main types of content used by portal visitors for professional purposes (public policies, funding applications, research, etc.) in number of responses received



Among all the suggested applications, the climate-health related indicators are the most popular content. Two-third of the portal visitors who use it for professional purposes (58% of all the visitors) value the indicators in their work. Survey participants mostly engage in the portal to monitor them and/or introduce them in their justifications of health policies, plans, project proposals and advocacy initiatives. Analysis of web data reveals that the first information that visitors look for is evidence and data (more specifically the climate change effects on health, which can also be attributed to the greater availability of content on this subject (e.g. 11 indicators) as compared to adaptation

responses?). Heatwaves are by far the climatic hazards for which visitors consult the most pages. They also particularly appreciate the country profiles and maps (cf. Map viewers) to quickly learn about the exposure of population and health systems, vulnerability of population and impacts of climate change on health systems. In that sense, the portal contributes to the fulfilment of objectives 1 and 2.

However, none of the respondents explicitly mentioned having used the platform to develop or improve their ability to anticipate and forecast climate-related risks on health. It can only be presumed that the strong interest of the visitors in the indicators is extended to this purpose, but it is not possible to affirm that the portal significantly helps to achieve objective 3 (*'Greater capacities to anticipate and prevent climate-related threats to health in a timely manner'*). Moreover, the items of the portal seem to be very unequally used. The Resource Catalogue, although key, is often perceived as content intended for health and climate nexus specialists only, and the visitors consulting it are therefore generally more experienced contributors. Yet it contains resources that are highly accessible to less (or differently) specialised audiences (quizzes, tests, games, fact sheets, etc.).

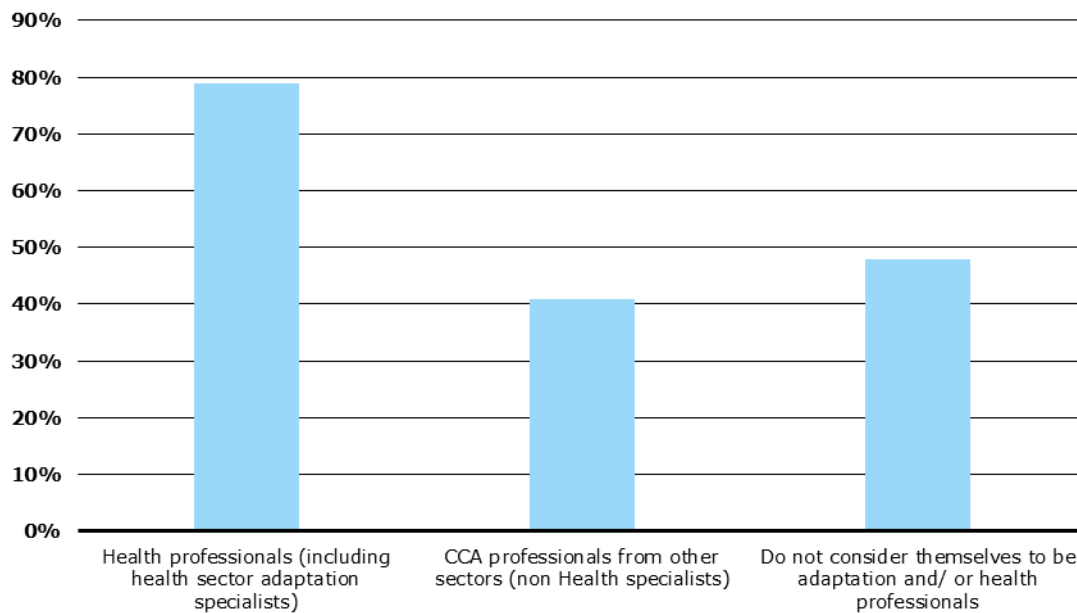
As mentioned in section 3.8.2, another potential objective could be considered for the Observatory:

The Observatory advocates for the integration of health-related risks and adaptation options in mainstreamed adaptation plans/strategies through provision of information and best practices.

4.2 EQ8 How can the Observatory increase its outreach/impact amongst new users?

The Observatory's portal has a significant audience within the health community in Europe, but relatively limited among the other climate change adaptation communities (all professions and sectors included). Out of 10 health specialists surveyed, 8 were aware of the Observatory's portal, compared with 4 out of 10 in other professions. The few members of the health community who were not aware of the portal usually work outside Europe. To attract new visitors from the climate change adaptation community, the Observatory should give priority to non-health specialists, who represent most visitors to the Observatory's portal (73%) but are relatively unfamiliar with it overall. When they access it, they only marginally use the available data and information in their work (24%).

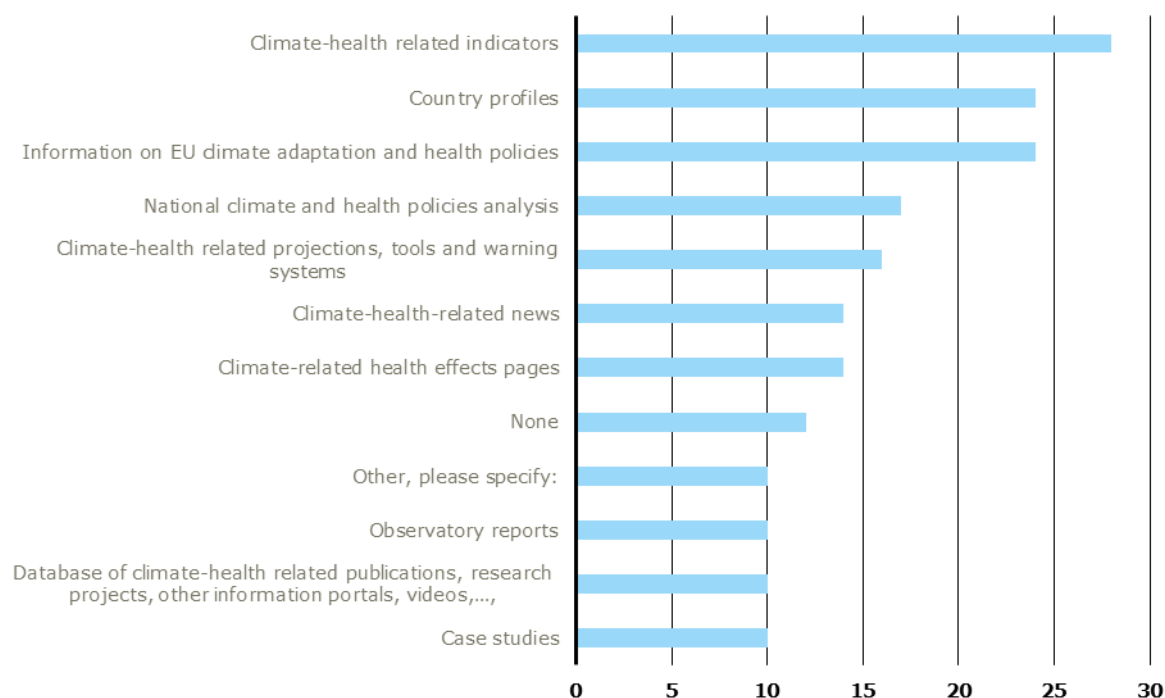
Figure 35 Proportion of RESPONDENTS WHO WERE ALREADY AWARE OF, OR WHO already visited the Observatory portal, by professional qualification (%)



The number of respondents in each sector is not sufficient to statistically determine ‘who’ is the most or least informed about the portal among the different groups of users depending on their governance level or status of organisations. However, biodiversity and agriculture specialists may be better informed, compared with energy or forestry stakeholders, for example. There is no evidence of greater awareness of the portal among individuals working for public authorities and governments (an average of one in two respondents of all respondents is aware of the portal). Representatives of industry and private sector seem better informed than civil society organisations. The governance level would not be a determining factor in awareness and use of the portal either. Approximately one respondent in two is aware of the Observatory, whether they are involved at EU institutional or local level. Being a member (or not) of the health community is more decisive.

Consequently, the fourth objective, which is designed to promote the mainstreaming of the climate-health nexus into the work of specialists involved in adaptation policies and practices in general, is certainly one that the portal could make the most progress on. They are less likely to be aware of and visit the portal (44% compared with 80% among the health community). Even fewer use the resources shared by the portal in their work (10%) or contributed to the Observatory (5%). To meet the needs and preferences of non-health specialists and adaptation generalists, and increase the portal's impact beyond the health community, it seems key to promote the most popular and accessible content.

Figure 36 Survey replies to question: Which European Climate and Health Observatory have you used in your work?



Indicators and country profiles are the most frequently used applications among the non-health professions or sectors (Financial, Buildings, Agriculture...), with only a few (14%) having used the portal during the development or monitoring of their climate change adaptation plans. They may find the content of the portal less suitable or less accessible and this is a limit to the achievement of the Objective 4 (*'To integrate health aspects more strongly into the work of those working on adaptation in general; Allow other professions [...] to consider relevant health aspects'*).

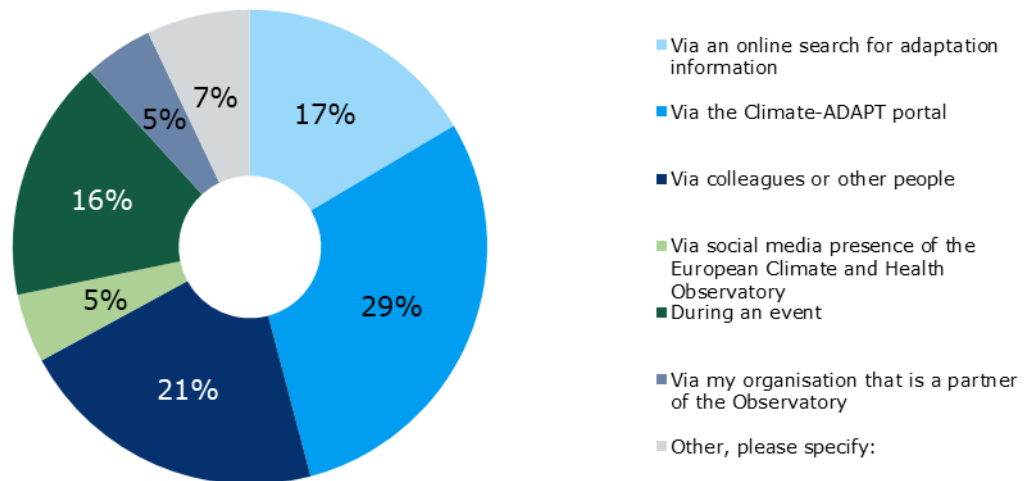
To illustrate this observation, some of the interviewees reported that: *'Special educational and training measures would be needed'*; *'I have never done this kind of research'*; *'I am not an expert in the field'*; *'I am not fully aware of the content'*; *'It's ok but maybe data must be easier to be understood for a normal audience'*, *'I cannot judge due to limited experience'* etc. Several visitors finally experience a barrier of knowledge and/or of perception of community belonging. Some answers also point towards the need for an inclusive approach in involving users by simplifying data understanding and providing innovative ways of presenting data that can attract public attention (visual tools like infographics, improved visualisation tools for national data, storytelling features...).

User-friendly content enables non-health specialists to easily access and integrate key data into their respective adaptation policies, plans or strategies. It is also a relevant manner to convey the new users from the most accessible data to more comprehensive content (such as national climate and health policies analysis, publications and research, climate-health related projections...). The disparity in the accessibility of these more specialised resources is reflected by the proportion of health professionals who consult them, compared with other professionals. For instance, almost one health community visitor out of three uses the publications and research in their work, compared to less than one in ten among the visitors from other professions.

To reach new users among the other professions than health, the communication channels they prefer can be used for promotion: multiple channels, particularly the Climate-ADAPT portal, then colleagues, and events (e.g. webinars, conferences). Social media campaigns and advertisements during major events, as well as focused dissemination activities, were recommended. There is a

need for increased dissemination through events, social media, advertising, and personal networking.

Figure 37 Survey replies to question: How did use initially find out about the European Climate and Health Observatory?



A second segment of users could benefit more from the Observatory portal. The survey results highlight an over-representation of respondents from the health community who are aware of the portal (8/10). The capacity of public authorities has been reportedly enhanced, as mentioned by users who use the information from the Observatory for decision-making and awareness of public schools and hospitals' exposure to flooding for instance. Several health professional interviewees (approximately one in three) reported that they have used the Observatory's content to develop plans and measures in their respective fields. These applications represent the main uses of the portal by health professionals. A quarter of them report finding a professional use for the portal and 20% of the visitors from the health sector contribute to the portal by sharing resources, data etc. (2/10).

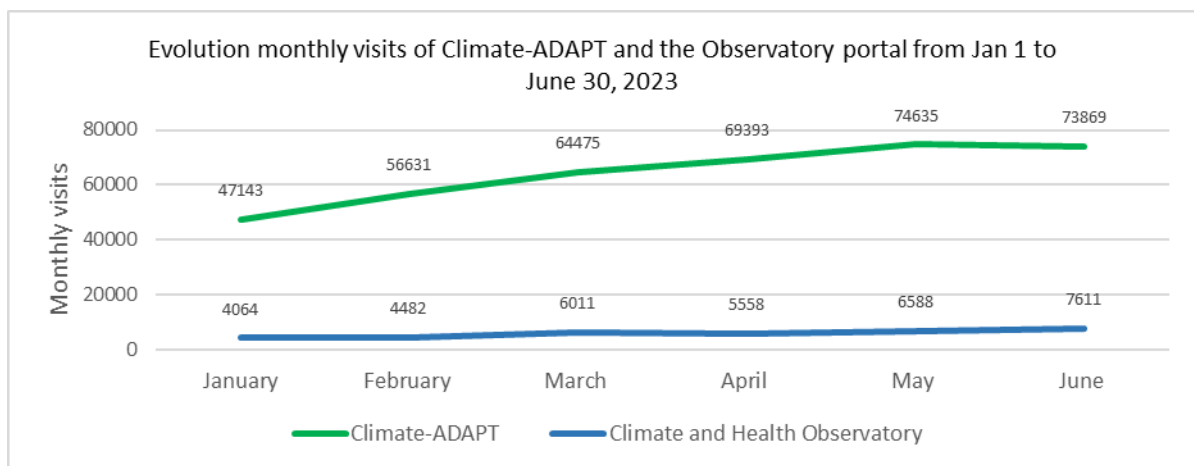
Consequently, the impact of the portal for health professionals can be enhanced and could be the subject of specific attention, by ensuring that health professionals not only 'visit' the portal but actively 'use' it. Their suggestions for improvement include updating the data sets of the Observatory (several visitors reported that more local and downscaled data are needed, and that some data were outdated, such as the country profiles), and a validation process by national authorities. They also suggest school-based educational resources, and training courses to strengthen the capacities of primary national and local climate and health systems' workers with limited scientific knowledge and experience. These capacity building initiatives could be extended to climate and health finance readiness. A few responses suggested a closer link with the main part of Climate-ADAPT.

Differences in the frequency of visits to the portal according to the level of governance of individuals are less marked than those induced by the sectoral expertise. The survey sample does not guarantee exact statistical representativeness. However, the more the respondents are involved at a high level of governance (national, transnational, EU, global), the more likely they are to know about the Observatory.

At least six out of 10 ‘international’ respondents were informed or had already used the portal (compared with 4 out of 10 of those involved at national or local level). There is room for better integration of the adaptation and health communities working at sub-national level.

4.3 EQ9 How is the relationship between the Observatory portal and other elements of Climate-ADAPT, and what opportunities for synergies exist that could enhance their collaboration, consistency and overall effectiveness?

Climate-ADAPT is the main pathway to the Observatory portal. Almost one out of three visitors has initially found out about the portal by navigating Climate-ADAPT. In this sense, Climate-ADAPT remains a catalyst for visitor audiences to the Observatory, by referring to the portal, relaying key climate-sensitive health events, publications, etc. For instance, the increase in the number of monthly visits to Climate-ADAPT in the first half of 2023 has likely benefited the number of visits to the Observatory portal (also on the rise). This is evidenced by the fact that Climate-ADAPT is a key source of visitors to the Observatory (29% of respondents), prior to colleagues (21%), spontaneous online searches on adaptation (17%) etc. More than 60% of the persons surveyed knew that the Observatory portal is part of the larger Climate-ADAPT platform.



On another hand, several respondents mentioned overlaps with Climate-ADAPT (e.g. ‘some information is different from the one on Climate-ADAPT and it is not clear who uses who as a source of information’). For instance, the ‘Adaptation in EU Policy Sectors’ webpage of Climate-ADAPT dedicates a full section to health, including a sectoral database (with publications and reports, tailored indicators etc.). Some users regret that these resources are split between the two portals, creating confusion by not knowing which ones might be missing from the other etc.

Other survey responses touch on the need for better links with Climate-ADAPT and the potential for cross-promotion through events such as EEA’s SIGNALS publication. Redundancy and overlap were pointed out between country profiles on the Observatory and Climate-ADAPT, suggesting a need for more synchronised and consistent information sharing.

Finally, the Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation scheme, since it was developed in 2018, does not yet include subsites and notably the Observatory portal. Updating the scheme will enable performance indicators to be defined and shared between Climate-ADAPT and the Observatory.

5. PORTAL OF THE MISSION ON ADAPTATION

Key findings

- Between the launch date of the Mission Portal (April 2023) and the end date of this report's evaluation period (December 2023), most pages were still under development, and online resources were limited. Evidence of the portal's contribution to advancing the Mission was thus still scarce.
- According to this study findings, in the analysed period, access to the portal and navigation across its resources were deemed limited and unintuitive, respectively.
- While stakeholders are aware that both platforms exist, essential distinctions between them are not well known. The difference in terms of target audience appears to be understood, but others (e.g. mandate, nature, roles, relation to each other) are still elusive.
- The Mission Portal has emerged from an ongoing process of open and creative collaboration that is meant to involve its users, yet the structure and content management procedures of Climate-ADAPT as host is limiting currently.

Recommendations

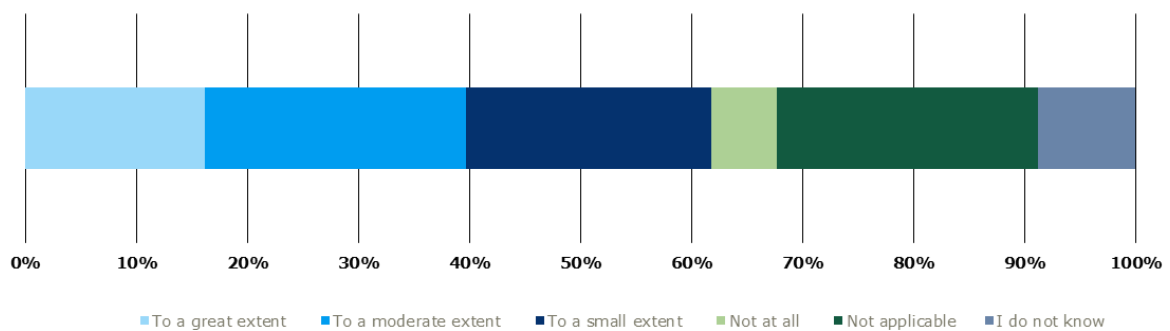
- Expedite the efforts spent on the planning and execution of monitoring procedures so that new evidence of the portal's impact (in its updated form) can be validated.
- Learn from the first successes [like what?, can any example be provided??] that positive feedback on specific content pieces represents, and replicate the practices that led to this, turning them into procedures.
- Consider elaborating and executing a communication campaign that has as its key objective increasing the audiences' understanding of the differences, complementarities and touching points of both portals.
- Seek possible and practicable adjustments to the user interaction and content management procedures so that the more dynamic, co-creative profile of the Mission is enabled and reflected outwards and not hindered by structural limitations, and so that a positive link to Climate ADAPT's wealth is achieved.
- Capitalise on the current "adaptation moment" — i.e. the important number of projects, support actions, and new calls with an adaptation and/or resilience focus being driven by the Mission on adaptation in the recent years — by securing the processes and technical capacities that will allow a timely and effective relay of the outputs of these initiatives to regions and local authorities.

5.1 EQ 10 To what extent has the portal contributed to advancing the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change?

The EU Mission on Adaptation Portal has been created to provide European regions and local authorities with tailored and accessible information of practical value to support them along their adaptation process. It also aims to communicate about the Mission in general, and, more concretely, about its achievements. It does not intend to directly contribute to testing and deployment of innovative solutions (this is achieved through the projects funded by the Mission).

Given that during the time period of this evaluation the Portal was still at the stage of being populated with knowledge, tools and information on Mission achievements, and that the part of its own monitoring procedures looking at this aspect was not yet defined, only anecdotal insights have been collected by the Secretariat (e.g. feedback on the usefulness and perspective of the DIY Manual on Stakeholder Engagement published on the Portal in 2023). The latter reflect a good reception of some first material put on offer within the evaluation period, but cannot yet be considered a representative set of evidence. That said, one-third of the survey respondents mentioned they have already used the portal and its content to develop, implement, or monitor their climate change adaptation plans, and roughly two-thirds have said that it has informed their understanding of specific climate vulnerabilities and risks.²⁵

Figure 38 Survey results on the extent that the Mission Portal and its content has informed respondents’ understanding of specific climate vulnerabilities and risks



According to web statistics reviewed for the period April-December 2023, the pages of the portal with the most views were the “Knowledge and Data” (12,448 unique page views) and “The Mission” (11,140 unique page views), with the “News” and the “Solutions” pages following further behind (5,108 and 3,702 unique page views, respectively). The total number of unique page views of the portal itself were 44,741. The longest average time spent on a page was for “The Mission”, followed by “Community of Practice”, “Solutions” and “Knowledge and Data”. The content type mostly used by survey respondents on their work appears to be the information on the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, with case studies and stories on adaptation solutions, news and events related to the Mission, and the Regional Adaptation Support Tool (RAST), following, close to one another. Given that the information on the Mission is the most used, it is important that this content effectively illustrates what the Mission is about. As mentioned, given the relatively recent launch of the Mission Portal, it will be interesting to see how this evolves and how well it is distinguished from Climate-ADAPT by users as the Mission Portal continues to gain recognition and traction in the future.

5.2 EQ 11 How well has the Mission Portal interacted with Climate-ADAPT, and what opportunities exist to enhance synergy between them?

Based on the feedback received, there are several aspects in which the interaction/integration of the two portals could be improved. Firstly, there appears to be a general lack of clarity, from the users’ viewpoint, about how Climate-ADAPT and the Portal on the Mission on Adaptation relate to

²⁵ The reader should note that the referred survey took place between April and May 2024, i.e. after the evaluation period concerning this study (ending in December 2023). The Mission Portal has undergone continuous updates in 2024 and therefore it cannot be ruled out that survey responses may incorporate stakeholder impressions of the Portal up to May 2024

each other and about which roles they have and how the two are different. Generally, the impression is one of overlap and duplication. Some ideas to address this would be to portray more clearly the nature of the Mission as a unique EU initiative with focus on specific stakeholders (the disclaimers found currently at the bottom of the sites fail to fully convey this). More clarity on the distinction between the tools offered (“Regional Adaptation Support Tool”, “Urban Adaptation Support Tool”, “Adaptation Support Tool”), as well as better defining which projects and case studies would fit best on each portal (e.g. based on the specific type of material/messages they are highlighting, due to the type of audience they are targeted to) could help address the perceptions of duplication.

5.3 EQ 12 How can the Mission portal be optimised to achieve its objectives, including providing adaptation knowledge support to regional and local authorities?

The governance and structure of Climate-ADAPT are too complex and lacking flexibility in the way that content can be created and presented (e.g. the Mission aims for co-creation, creativity, and contributions from many actors, while the content management processes and the structure of Climate-ADAPT are rigid).

This is perceived to create a mismatch between what Climate-ADAPT currently provides as a host and what the Mission on Adaptation and the Portal need to achieve their objectives. More concretely, the lack of dynamic content and a translation function, combined with a menu that is not user-friendly and an outdated “look and feel”, are making the Portal unfit for purpose at the stage assessed and surveyed in this study. Ideas to address these issues include giving the portal an improved layout with dynamic content that could be rated/scored by users, an automatic translation function, and giving users the possibility to adjust the search settings (e.g. to enable local searches on the mission portal instead of on Climate-ADAPT).

Increased clarity on what changes are practicable by which users (e.g. editors can apply changes to the portal’s look and feel) and where Climate-ADAPT’s framework does present fixed restrictions (e.g. the menu is not limited by Climate-ADAPT’s constraints) may also be necessary’.

6. OVERVIEW OF USE CASES

The table below summarises the use cases prepared as part of the study. The aim of the use cases is to collect information and feedback from users on their experiences of using the platform in policy planning, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes. Additionally, the use cases hope to inspire further use of the platform among potential new users.

At the inception of the study, the use cases hoped to present experiences from both current Climate-ADAPT users as well as new potential users (also dubbed “forward-looking use cases”). However, there has been significant difficulty in identifying these forward-looking use cases.

Table 4 Overview of the use cases

Type of Climate-ADAPT user	Contact	Climate-ADAPT use case
Current user	Ilona Ligocka, Ministry of the Environment (Poland)	Using Climate-ADAPT to mainstream adaptation across sectoral units of the Polish national administration
Current user	Dimitra Konsta & Kyriaki Metheniti, National Environment and Climate Change Agency (Greece)	Using Climate-ADAPT to develop the AdaptiveGreeceHub
Current user	Zuzana Hudekova, Climate change adaptation action plans specialist, consultant to the Slovak Environment Agency	Using Climate-ADAPT to develop a methodological guidance for local and regional authorities in Slovakia preparing adaptation action plans
Current user (Observatory)	Samuel Lietaer, Federal Public Service: Health, Food Chain Safety, and Environment (Belgium)	Using the Climate and Health Observatory to Refine Belgium's National Environment and Health Action Plan (NEHAP)
Current user	Juan Terrádez Mas, Pyrenees Observatory for Climate Change (OPCC)	Transboundary Cooperation for Climate Adaptation in Mountainous Regions - The Pyrenees Observatory for Climate Change

The use cases present a diversity of experiences using the platform for a range of processes. For example, in Greece, the National Environment and Climate Change Agency is currently developing the “AdaptiveGreeceHub” – a national platform which hopes to be the go-to resource in the country for all knowledge needs related to climate adaptation. In the ongoing development, Climate-ADAPT has been a key template, and the members of the agency were able to provide critical feedback on elements of the platform they found useful and replicated, as well as others they chose to adapt to their context. Similarly, the group of experts commissioned by the Slovak Environment Agency in 2023 to elaborate a methodological guidance for the preparation of adaptation strategies and action plans at sub-national levels used Climate-ADAPT as their first point of reference to attain an updated overview of the state of the art in such works. Apart from the large list of similar reference documents that the portal uses, the Climate-ADAPT Adaptation Support Tool (AST) was considered of particular utility in the structuring and framing of the methodological guide that was produced.

The experience of the Pyrenees Climate Change Observatory (OPCC), a transboundary organisation covering three countries (France, Spain and Andorra) is also particularly interesting to highlight. The OPCC has widely welcomed Climate-ADAPT as a reference information hub on adaptation. Their [transboundary adaptation strategy](#) implemented in 2022 at the scale of the bioregion hinged upon a comprehensive meta-analysis of publications concerning transboundary zones within Europe. Climate-ADAPT platform facilitated this meta-analysis by enabling easy access to identification of all administrative transboundary regions, along with publications, projects and approaches to foster cooperation linked to adaptation in these areas, such as the ones covering the Danube River and Baltic Sea as well as mountain areas such as the Alps and the Carpathian Mountains (see section 3.7.5).

Focusing on the Climate-ADAPT subsites, one use case explores the Belgian Federal Public Service (FPS) Health, Food Chain Safety, and Environment's use of the European Climate and Health Observatory in the development of National Environment and Health Action Plan. The Climate and Health Observatory was a valuable resource for the FPS to view and compare similar policies and processes in other countries, as well as supporting brainstorming and scenario development.

Appendix 1. FULL SURVEY REPLIES TO OPEN QUESTION: IF APPLICABLE, CAN YOU GIVE US (A) CONCRETE EXAMPLE(S) OF HOW YOU USED THE DATA OR INFORMATION PROVIDED ON CLIMATE-ADAPT (E.G. TO FACILITATE INFORMED ADAPTATION PLANNING, POLICIES, AND PRACTICES; FOR MAINSTREAMING ADAPTATION, FOR MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE ADAPTATION PLANNING; OTHERS)?

1. *To facilitate informed adaptation planning, policies, and practices (20 answers)*²⁶

- input climate health action plan Flanders: existing policies in other countries and framework
- For inspiring examples and policy leverage to facilitate informed adaptation planning, policies, and practices; for mainstreaming adaptation, for multi-level governance adaptation planning.
- facilitate informed adaptation planning, policy and practices
- Use of the RAST tools for developing and implementing the work programme towards the approval of our regional adaptation strategy; information on how to shape governance and mainstreaming process; information on EU policies for drafting documents
- As a Croatian National Focal Point for EEA and EIONET I must be well and up to dated informed about relevant aspects.
- to have an overview on main challenges and initiative in policy areas, to search for proposed adaptation options and research projects
- In working parties concerning climate change in EU
- Urban adaptation and Local adaptation indicators
- Using information from Climate-ADAPT in development of a Tourism Adaptation Plan for Ireland - for example, examples of what has been done on tourism adaptation elsewhere in Europe.
- Data and information have been used in order: to get inspiration for developing a set of climate change impact indicators, to facilitate informed adaptation planning, and to elaborate guidelines for adaptation planning
- Used the (R)AST Cycle to structure questions in a tool that we developed to make the tool fit well with the (R)AST, that we believe regions and municipalities are already familiar with.
- Drafting various adaptation strategies
- To present case studies of implementation of adaptation options. To search for relevant resources on specific areas of adaptation. To analyse available frameworks for adaptation planning and implementation
- We have mostly used indicators for adaptation mainstreaming into policy sectors and reports and case studies to inform adaptation.
- We used the guidelines for preparing an adaptation plan at the local level to develop an Adaptation Handbook for cities in PL <https://klimada2.ios.gov.pl/podrecznik-adaptacji-dozmian-klimatu-dla-miast/>
- So far, we have made little use of the data and information made available in Climate-ADAPT, but we intend to use it to update the National Adaptation Strategy
- For updates on the EU Horizon Climate Adaptation Mission. To research other country approaches to reporting on Adaptation
- Review of information on EU Mission on Adaptation to support consideration of alignment between local/regional authority level adaptation priorities and national Transport sectoral adaptation. Also review of Climate-ADAPT for climate communication insights, including stakeholder engagement and management (specifically DIY communications guide developed by EU Mission on Adaptation).
- To provide guidelines on adaptation processes at various level
- To demonstrate adaptation solutions to EU policymakers.

2. *For mainstreaming adaptation/to be informed (24 answers)*

- referring to stages of the AST to structure information, using the country profiles to compare information on specific topics, sector pages as an introduction to adaptation in a sectoral context, dashboard on economic losses for writing context

²⁶ The number of answers does not always represent the number of bullet points under a certain category. This happens in cases when the answer was exactly the name of the category. Sometimes the same answer was used for different categories.

- Country information, assessment of countries reporting on adaptation
- To get inspiration on how adaptation options are implemented in practice (the case studies). To be updated about adaptation-related events and publications. To get informed about climate-related hazards and their trends
- I have used Climate-Adapt as a rapid, not too technical way of providing information about adaptation options and initiatives. I have also suggested to citizens and research associates to use the platform for understanding better the national policy on adaptation, as formulated by the competent authority. However, I find it inadequate for providing hands-on information on adaptation techniques (but I would not consider this to be its main scope anyway).
- I use Climate ADAPT information to update content of my lectures on Global Climate Change and to provide concrete examples of good practices in the EU countries on tackling issues about adapting strategies.
- Great information source, overview and comparison of MS, best practice examples
- access to some good examples of adaptation practices
- Trainings
- Looking for cases and EU information
- To see what the orientations of the European organism are, but I see few cooperations with start-up environmental initiatives
- I have used Climate-ADAPT as a tool to find examples of climate adaptation measures in different states.
- In so many ways ...relating to adaptation program in my organisation/discussion forums ... Webinar presentation and interactive sessions
- We have used case studies to illustrate adaptation examples. But we notice that the agricultural case studies are quite limited and/or outdated.
- I have used Climate-ADAPT to get information on aggregated information about specific subjects, for example land use and planning, nature-based solutions etc to get an overview of EU practices and regulations.
- for quick overviews e.g. on EU Countries (e.g. on NAS, NAP, etc.) or on certain topics
- Help build awareness of industry for theorizing climate planning
- In reports on climate impacts on health for technicians and citizens
- information on emerging policy priorities where policy approaches are largely theoretical/not fully formed at this stage. just resilience, maladaptation etc.
- BENCHMARK OF GOOD PRACTICES
- Fact-checking on status
- For finding information about adaptation policies in other EU MS
- identify general adaptation pathways, update climate risks
- To get inspiration on how adaptation options are implemented in practice (the case studies). To be updated about adaptation-related events and publications. To get informed about climate-related hazards and their trends
- For inspiring examples and policy leverage to facilitate informed adaptation planning, policies, and practices; for mainstreaming adaptation, for multi-level governance adaptation planning.

3. Research (5 answers)

- to have an overview on main challenges and initiatives in policy areas, to search for proposed adaptation options and research projects
- for elaborating studies and reports, as literature and data source for drafting national adaptation policy documents, for gathering country-specific information (country profiles)
- For applied research
- For research

- Finding reliable data to inform my research, have condensed information on country profiles, scientific purposes.

4. Consultancy, recommendations, other projects (6 answers)

- very useful COUNTRY PROFILES, where it is possible to see what other countries doing and TOOLS that we can recommend using.
- I used the examples of adaptation models for various projects that were implemented in other countries and suggested them for the case of Romania when the characteristics of the environment matched in the both cases.
- I have used the solutions and case studies for identifying options for other consultancy projects
- I used the special literature provided by the platform for adaptation to climate change and recommendation of different energy sectors, renewable energy.
- Recommending adaptation measures for infrastructure CRVA
- used as examples in a textbook on climate and health that will be used in the medical program

5. Methodology (3 answers)

- To see how to do complex (multidisciplinary) work presentations
- Preparing a climate screening template
- Search for instruments and standards

Appendix 2. FULL SURVEY REPLIES TO OPEN QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY FUNCTIONS THAT ARE REDUNDANT?

1. *Case studies (10 answers)*

- case studies, country profiles, indicators
- it is not obvious to me the difference between case studies and the different projects presented
- Maybe case studies should be multiple and widely supported by discussion and frameworks
- case studies and country profiles sometimes
- not redundant but can benefit from rethinking (case studies)
- case studies and adaptation options

2. *Indicators (4 answers)*

- case studies, country profiles, indicators
- Indicators are complicated and cumbersome to view

3. *Sectorial policy overviews (4 answers)*

4. *Country profiles (4 answers)*

- Albania country profile
- case studies and country profiles sometimes
- case studies, country profiles, indicators
- Some of Country profiles are empty or inadequate.

5. *Others (9 answers)*

- the 3 support tools
- All information is very good but I think is necessary more information that came from start-ups individual or new models of business
- Climate hazard indicators both in ECDE and Adaptation dashboard, not clear what i
- the added value of keeping both
- Delays in getting into practice
- Ecozone level should be adopted
- Functions not redundant, but limited (e.g. to information derived from EU GovReg reporting, national plans etc.)
- I have not used sectorial policy overviews so I cannot have an opinion on those. I have extensively used country profiles and even if there are national platforms in place I think they are not redundant. On the contrary, I consider that the user case studies are a bit out-of-date; perhaps we do not need this type of information as the platform is now a well-recognised place for sharing information on the issue.
- redundancy has more to do with the MIP4Adapt website; what's exactly the difference?
- urban and forestry landing pages are redundant with respective sector pages

6. *No/none/not at all (64 answers)*

- All are quite useful and interesting.
- all information is valuable
- all sections are relevant
- I am not aware of any redundant functions yet.
- No. I think every category is important and every country

7. *I don't know/I am not sure (17 answers)*

- Maybe for me but not for others. It is hard to pinpoint redundant things when you are a knowledge website
- Not sure at the time being, but I ran into a similar issue in the past.

**Appendix 3. FULL SURVEY REPLIES TO OPEN QUESTION:
WHICH FUNCTIONALITIES AND INTERFACES WORK WELL AND
WHICH COULD BE IMPROVED?**

1. Functionalities that work well

1.1. CASE STUDIES (7 ANSWERS)

- adaptation case studies part is informative
- Case studies work well.
- I like the content in case studies and adaptation options
- Works well: EU policy, adaptation options, case studies
- search on data base and Climate-ADAPT Case study explorer
- the case studies explorer works well
- The case studies work well and are easy to read.

1.2. COUNTRY PROFILES (5 ANSWERS)

- Adaptation Support Tool, Data and Indicators, Country Profile, Database work well
- I very much like the country profiles.
- Country profiles of member states work well.
- country profile works well
- Country profiles are particularly useful. The information on Sectors helps inform Ireland's sectoral approach

1.3. INDICATORS (3 ANSWERS)

- Adaptation Support Tool, Data and Indicators, Country Profile, Database work well
- indicators – well
- data visualisation with pollution levels. Very informative.

1.4. OTHERS (9 ANSWERS)

- About climate-ADAPT
- functionalities are sufficient in the sections I used
- The news page is very useful
- simple pages work well (very static information)
- Functionalities for sectoral information provision work well,
- The Data Explorer works well
- The interfaces run perfectly
- The 'Search' function works well
- The 'adaptation dashboard' works well, has a very small response time and has a good structure

2. Functionalities that could be improved

2.1. INTERFACE (6 ANSWERS)

- all functionalities could be improved with more interaction options for the users (chats, queries,...)
- I think the website could be quite improved graphically. These long lists of information (in the database for example) are definitely not user friendly.
- The overall navigation on the website is not easy. There are too many tabs that contain important sub-tabs that should be visible and easier to navigate to. With the search function it is quicker, but if I don't remember the name of a tool, for example, tool, I don't find it intuitive to first click 'knowledge'- it could be 'tools' in the first interface...
- The interface that allows us to contribute can be improved

- The knowledge provider interface/dashboard is not design to facilitate the giving information process. It should be easier to use, and to find information about the data categories in case of needed. Also, things related to sharing information is only in help section, and is not well detailed. It should be clearly explained in the dashboard section.
- You could improve the rapid accessibility to data.

2.2. COUNTRY PROFILES (4 ANSWERS)

- <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/countries-regions/countries> - by clicking on the map one should visit the country profile.
- regarding country profiles, in my opinion but for a lay person it should be explained better that this material is the basis of mandatory reporting as there may be some confusion about the dryness of some headings.
- I think that for every country should be a more detailed baseline profile for climate and environment, and more study cases for climate risks and historical disasters.
- The Country Profiles map could use more layers

2.3. NAVIGATION MENU/SEARCH BAR (4 ANSWERS)

- Search results could contain more results if specific topic is searched for, even if the match is not very high, but the results is somehow relevant.
- search engine could be improved
- I suggest that a better navigation menu is created to help us navigate and find relevant information.
- the search function does not allow (at least to my understanding) to distinguish materials from CLIMA Adapt in general and its sub websites such as the Health Observatory or the Mission Portal

2.3. SEARCH THE DATABASE (3 ANSWERS)

- data and downloads
- Data base could be improved
- Search function in database could be improved. Newsletter is too long

2.4. DATA EXPLORER (3 ANSWERS)

- Data explorer could be improved.
- The Data Explorer needs to enriched with more info.
- Data exploration and visualisation should be improved

2.5 OTHERS (17 ANSWERS)

- All works, but if need be, could be updated regularly.
- better link to the JRC risk data hub
- case studies explorer could be more visible?
- the design could be improved with more targeted policy takeaways
- Data on pollution levels - A potential addition would be the possibility to download data directly from the image, with geo tags or embedded nuts code in order to match nuts2 or nuts3 aggregate real data with survey data
- the number and variety of different information offers (entry paths, different functional sections, etc.) can tend to be overwhelming.
- I would personally like to have each sector page improved and be transformed in a landing page, using the examples of the urban and forestry landing pages

- <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/about/outreach-and-dissemination/inspiring-climate-adapt-use-cases> (I cannot understand how the overview table works as I do not see any difference per case study)
- Examples of projects sections in the transnational should include a paragraph on the new projects approved/in progress.
- Perhaps a tool to allow comparability across MSs selected by the user
- Opportunities to use GIS / Online Browser could be explored to increase functionality
- everything that requires integrated tools (like dashboards, maps, ..) can benefit from an IT brush and updated functionalities.
- Functionalities for sectoral information provision would require regular updating to reflect on-going developments (which can move at pace). Will be captured to some degree in country reporting under GovReg.
- I think Climate-ADAPT would need same kind of lifting as the C3S has had. That would help people to recognise the huge efforts that have been put to this information channel. I myself have now understood how much work you have done recently, thanks to this survey. But it took time for me to stop doing my daily work today and devote time and start scrolling through the pages. Amazingly great work in terms of sharing information!
- The hierarchy in the 'EU policy' section and 'Knowledge' section is not clear, it's a mixture of different things and not clear where to find what
- it is necessary to improve with more examples of actions, not only the universities and organisations governmental, the individual start up exits and sometimes they are the tractors of the system university
- Adaptation dashboard hazards section slow in generating results. The hierarchy of the information under the tabs 'EU policy' section and 'Knowledge' is a bit confusing and rethinking of the categories can be useful to make it clearer for the audience what sits under each category: for example 'Key EU Actions' how they differ from 'EU Adaptation Policy', would it not be part of it? And for example under 'Tools' it lists 'Economic losses and fatalities' while it is an indicator and then there is a separate category 'Data and indicators'. A chatbot to help the user finding the relevant information would be helpful

3. *All works well (18 answers)*

4. *I don't know (20 answers)*

Appendix 4. FULL SURVEY REPLY TO OPEN QUESTION: IN WHICH WAYS COULD A WIDER AUDIENCE OF POTENTIAL USERS AND CONTRIBUTORS BE MADE AWARE OF CLIMATE-ADAPT?

1. Social media (16 answers)

- Digital storytelling, social media
- Present it on You could make more marketing on the social apps like Instagram or TikTok multiple social media
- dedicated profile on social media
- Social media, webinars for governmental officials, especially regional and local authorities
- Instagram
- Facebook
- Collaborate with academic institutions, Media engagement, Social media campaigns
- through projects' newsletters, participation at events, social media
- Through better reach in social media and organisation of events dedicated to cities.
- LinkedIn, seminars at national level, events for researchers and consultants (e.g. conferences and fairs)
- Email news letters and posts on LinkedIn

2. Events, conferences and webinars (10 answers)

- Sharing information in conferences, making sure that related online searches lead to Climate-ADAPT
- I think clear references to the Climate Adapt should be made in calls for proposals and EEA relevant staff should participate more in national/local events.
- Social media, webinars for governmental officials, especially regional and local authorities
- presentations on conferences
- LinkedIn, seminars at national level, events for researchers and consultants (e.g. conferences and fairs)
- online regular meetings
- Through multiple ways of dissemination of information and events (2 answers)
- attending events
- through projects' newsletters, participation at events, social media
- Lectures, congresses in the area of public health
- Through better reach in social media and organisation of events dedicated to cities.

3. Newsletter (7 answers)

- Through an invitation by e-mail by the EEA and the EU Commission and y the various countries' authorities to their stakeholders) to subscribe to the newsletters
- Via climate adapt newsletter
- Email newsletters and posts on LinkedIn
- through projects' newsletters, participation at events, social media

4. Ads (3 answers)

- Google Adverts etc.

5. More languages (3 answers)

- If it were much more also in other languages
- It is possible to reach a greater number of people through the use of simple language and the availability of information in the national language.
- translation of reports and tools into Polish

6. *Media (2 answers)*

7. *Through local authorities/governments (2 answers)*

- Via local authorities/agents dealing with the CC adaptations
- This is best done through local governments that have direct contact with all interested parties.

8. *In schools (2 answers)*

- By educating secondary and high-school pupils to use the Climate ADAPT platform in their environmental studies
- Schools could benefit more.

10. *Others (29 answers)*

- with very attractive tools and functionalities, with focussing on mainstreaming and attracting thematic experts also dealing with adaptation issues rather than focussing on adaptation experts
- Push promotion through EU Groups / channels, and via national contact points
- easier sharing of images and outputs from data viz
- With inducements (i.e.: if you read and contribute you get a CA - T-shirt
- web page
- via EEA
- I think that most National Government knows about Climate-Adapt
- network
- Start up
- the website should be much simplified to be talking to a wider audience of potential users - it is not intuitive enough in my view
- Using easy language and tool accessible to everybody
- looking with other platforms that are sector specific
- As I mentioned previously the connection with financial losses connected with climate should be emphasised more.
- More opinions and different views
- In urban areas
- Email
- With examples by living in practical life
- awareness campaign
- focused dissemination to target audience
- Arriving to local administrations through PACEs
- Target Environmental Consultancies
- By improving dissemination activities
- wider information campaigns
- linking Climate-adapt with the national platform and most relevant national web site
- It is not common practice in EU projects yet, could be announced there more
- Expanding outreach from other platforms
- Developer synergies with consultancies
- first stop should be other Council formations as awareness is likely to be poor in other areas
- Potentially by engaging with larger-scale industry and public authority international representative bodies across all sectors. E.g. for the transport sector, PIANC, ECAC & ICAO, CEDR etc.

Appendix 5. FULL SURVEY REPLIES TO THE OPEN QUESTIONS ON EUROPEAN CLIMATE AND HEALTH OBSERVATORY

26. In which ways could a wider audience of potential users and contributors be made aware of the European Climate and Health Observatory?

1. Events, conferences and webinars (11 answers)

- Dissemination through health-related events
- Webinars; partnerships with consultancy firms with large client bases
- Advertisements on the web and social media. Dissemination in conferences and workshops
- Organisation of online or live meetings/conferences.
- Better link and advertisement within climate-adapt, LinkedIn, seminars at national level, events for researchers and consultants (e.g. conferences and fairs)
- Collaborate with Public Health and Environmental Organisations, Engage with Academic Institutions, Social Media Campaigns, Conferences and Seminars
- Dissemination events
- Emails, webinar, website
- It could be "advertised" in all events, perhaps also in collaboration with e.g. WHO European region actors.
- Continue the dissemination of the platforms at events, bilateral meetings.
- Expanding outreach from other platforms and events
- By data used in research, presented on conferences.
- Public Health events
- Regular free Webinars

2. Social media (9 answers)

- Instagram
- Advertisements on the web and social media. Dissemination in conferences and workshops
- Better link and advertisement within climate-adapt, LinkedIn, seminars at national level, events for researchers and consultants (e.g. conferences and fairs)
- Collaborate with Public Health and Environmental Organisations, Engage with Academic Institutions, Social Media Campaigns, Conferences and Seminars
- Through better reach in social media and organisation of events dedicated to cities.
- social media and mail lists

3. Through health and climate change authorities (4 answers)

- By promoting awareness among regional health authorities
- Via governmental agencies involved in CC issues and adaptations
- Collaborate with Public Health and Environmental Organisations, Engage with Academic Institutions, Social Media Campaigns, Conferences and Seminars
- via the authorities in each country that work with climate change

4. Ads (3 answers)

- Advertisements on the web and social media. Dissemination in conferences and workshops
- same, more ads
- broader ads

5. Others (20 answers)

- make link with environment collaborate with WHO Europe? Lancet?
- Through websites on health policy at national, regional and European level

- Via an invitation e-mail to check the website and/or subscribe to the newsletter - by various policy authorities to their stakeholders.
- easier sharing of images and outputs from data viz
- spread the word
- inducements and incentives!
- Promoting innovation applied to Climate change (i.e. Usage of Iron oxide nanoparticles to help the plant toward a drought... See some work done in Sweden)...
- through cooperation
- giving them publicity about their participation, with a photographic database of collaborators and participants
- EEA is each year publishing SIGNALS publication for wide public thematically connected with one specific topic - you can use that communication channel within the title CLIMATE AND HEALTH and introduce/explain to plenty of new readers Observatory in more detail.
- Include (Environmental) Justice, Equity issues.
- Urban areas
- awareness campaign
- focused dissemination to target audience
- Second and third level education - make it part of relevant courses
- Active outreach to EU associations and referring to those in other stakeholder meetings such as DG SANTE advisory meetings or food waste platform, EFSA stakeholder community /newsletter Encouraging horizontal coherence
- aim specifically at health professionals. The Observatory is of little usage to me in my work
- Media
- They could have bigger reach if it would be possible to utilize government bodies responsible for this segment and their communication channels.
- By improving dissemination activities

6. *I don't know (6 answers)*

28a. What works well and what could be improved regarding the contribution process?

- The interaction with EEA works well
- Improving the observation systems, relevant selection of parameters selected for specific areas
- It is really hard to find e.g. the national adaptation plans from the European Climate and Health Observatory
- Guidelines
- Probably by giving more instructions/details on how and what to contribute to the platform.
- There should be a validation process by national authorities in the contribution process.
- Question time in webinars

30. If applicable, can you give us (a) concrete example(s) of how you used the data or information provided on the European Climate and Health Observatory (e.g. integrated into national and sub-national health policies; enhancing the capacity of public authorities to anticipate and prevent climate-related threats to health; fostering climate literacy within the health community)?

1. *Health policies and action plan (7 answers)*

- input climate health action plan existing policies, NEHAP working groups input, risk maps (ECDC)...
- Examples for inspiring adaptation policy for the climate-health nexus for the forthcoming Belgian National Adaptation Plan.
- In aiding a client develop a climate change adaptation plan in line with the Taxonomy regulation
- Through integration into national health policies and indicators

- Presentations, policy advising
- Integration into National and Sub-national Health Policies, Fostering Climate Literacy within the Health Community
- Using information from reports to prepare information for decision makers (enhancing the capacity of public authorities)

2. *Increasing awareness (7 answers)*

- Enhancing awareness of national authorities on the exposure of public schools and hospitals to flooding
- Promotion of climate literacy in the healthcare community
- fostering climate literacy within the health community (contents used for climate risk assessment in the sector and drafting of possible adaptation measures)
- Explaining to public bodies that there are European organisations that think these issues are important
- Presentations, policy advising
- Reports and briefs for public health technicians and citizens
- Lectures and research...also to inform public health officers

3. *Research and for reports (5 answers)*

- as knowledge or as an example to develop other case studies to be published in the Observatory
- In research about how workforce in tourism will adapt to climate change
- Reports and briefs for public health technicians and citizens
- Lectures and research...also to inform public health officers

4. *Teaching material (3 answers)*

- I can't remember. Anyway, I hold webinars on sustainability so it is possible I used your data in such events. I can't remember everything, but I suppose that is what might be happened.
- I use the data during lectures and conference and to publications
- Lectures and research...also to inform public health officers

5. *Other projects (3 answers)*

- I used Maps to evaluate locations of interest for Agro/ Advanced materials project.
- textbook on climate change and health to use in the medical program
- Get inspired by the news, developing more meaningful content on my projects.

6. *Just for information/networking (4 answers)*

- We use the data for our web and up to date information in any relevant context.
- For to see the orientations of institutional efforts
- Review of climate-health related indicators as part of consideration of just resilience considerations. Informing general knowledge and integration of public health considerations into sectoral adaptation analysis.
- Networking

7. *I don't know/Not applicable/not used/none/no (12 answers)*

32. In your opinion, is there any content missing on the European Climate and Health Observatory that could be relevant for your work, or in general in terms of health/climate knowledge (e.g. for other user groups, sectors)?

1. *No/none (22 answers)*

2. *Content (14 answers)*

- Preventive measures for allergenic rhinitis taking into climate change and species choice in designing green space for adaptation purposes. To what extent is this desirable and effective?
- Real-time/ short term distribution (risk) maps for vectors that transmit diseases (observed/modelled).
- short time lag in vector borne disease incidence maps
- more information on climate sensitive water-related toxic algae, organisms, ...
- a focus on how adaptation is included in health policies rather than how health policies are included in adaptation only
- Link to the Projects and funding opportunities applied to Climate change
- other user groups
- indicators/data about maritime sector
- Some Foresight aspects could tell us even more
- Justice, equity
- Educational Resources for Schools, Cross-Linkages Between Biodiversity and Human Health, Citizen Science
- more case studies and latest research
- Special educational and training measures to improve the capacity of primary national and local Climate and Health systems' workers.
- The new EEA report on climate change and health was not on the Observatory's web page.
- National information is not enough up to date and a greater contribution from the authorities is needed.
- Environment-Air quality

33. Do you think there are any important features or ways of presenting data on the European Climate and Health Observatory that are currently missing? If so, what would you suggest adding to better support your work or improve understanding of health and climate knowledge (e.g. for other user groups)?

1. *No/none (22 answers)*

2. *Features (12 answers)*

- closer link to the main part of Climate-ADAPT
- an individual's contribution without going out of the way is missing or lacks understanding
- It's ok but maybe data must be easier to be understood for a normal audience
- Press release, web networks must be more efficient to promote a direct attention of the population/enterprise about consequences of Climate change on days-to-days activities.
- sectors
- Financial losses per country
- Infographics for the general population could be included
- Interactive Data Visualisation Tools, Storytelling Features
- better visualisation tools
- The presentation of national authorities climate and health observation data related with local industrial or agricultural incidents: forest fires, previous pesticide storage fires, fires in local used tyres storages.
- Too much information/ webpage
- The representation of indicators could be improved by providing a wider range of information

34. In your opinion, are there any redundant content or functionalities on the European Climate and Health Observatory; and if so, why? (e.g. outdated, overlaps with other platforms)

- country profiles easily get outdated. some information is different from the one on Climate-ADAPT and it is not clear who uses who as a source of information"
- The European Climate and Health Observatory functions have to be related more with chemicals use, waste management measures in different industrial activities
- I don't know yet. Maybe some overlap with some Climate-ADAPT sites.
- outdated
- overlap with climate adapt in general
- look up outdated information

Appendix 6. LIST OF INDICATORS, REGULARLY ANALYSED BY EEA/ETC CA ON MATOMO

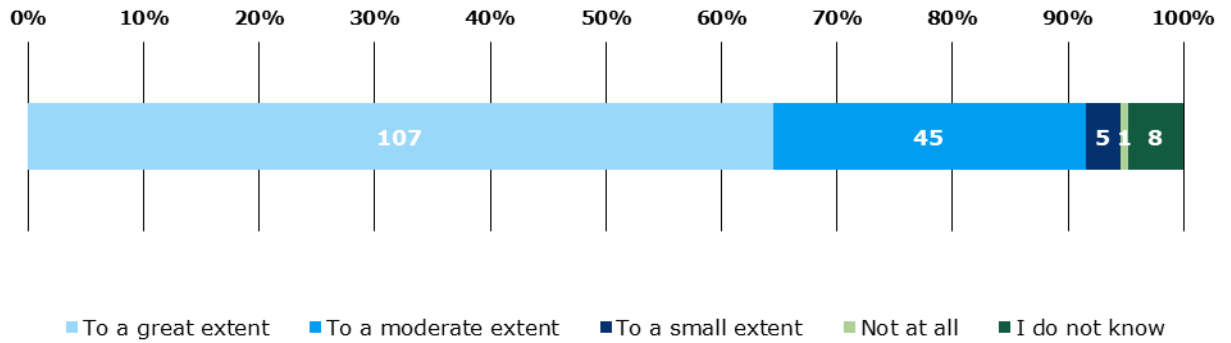
- Total number of Visits
- Average number of Visits/week
- Average number of Visits/day
- Record high number Visits of a single Week or Day
- Total number of Page Views (PVs) - clicked pages
- Average number of PVs/week
- Average number of PVs/day
- Record high number PVs of a single Week or Day
- Total number of Page Views - European Climate and Health Observatory (HO)
- Average number of HO PVs/month
- Average number of HO PVs/week
- Total Number of Page Views - European Climate Data Explorer (ECDE)
- Average number of PVs ECDE/month
- Average number of PVs ECDE/day
- Total number of PVs German language – entry page
- Total number of PVs Spanish language - entry page
- Total number of PVs French language - entry page
- Total number of PVs Italian language - entry page
- Total number of PVs Polish language - entry page
- Total number of PVs of the EU Adaptation on Strategy - entry page
- Total number of PVs of the Adaptation on in Sector Policies - entry page
- Total number of PVs of the Countries Profiles - entry page
- Total number of PVs of the Case Studies - entry page
- Total number of PVs of the Adaptation Options - entry page
- Total number of PVs of the Adaptation Support Tool (AST) - entry page
- Total number of PVs of the Urban Adaptation Support Tool (UAST) - entry page
- Total number of PVs of the AST + UAST - entry pages
- Total number of clicks of the Search (internal) button - in PVs
- Total number of PVs of menu Network - entry page
- Total number of PVs of menu Projects - entry page
- Total number of PVs of menu Guidance - entry page
- Total number of PVs of menu Portals - entry page
- New published Database items - graph from factsheet
- Distribution of database content - graph from factsheet
- Maps of case studies revised - graph from factsheet
- Top 20 Number of visitors from Countries (where server is hosted)
- Top 20 Number of visitors from Continents
- Top 20 Number of most viewed Case Study pages
- Top 20/50 Number of most viewed Tools
- Top 20/50 Number of most viewed Indicators
- Top 20/50 Number of most viewed Projects
- Top 20/50 Number of most viewed Publications
- Top 20/50 Number of most viewed Adaptation Options
- Top 20 Number of used keywords in internal search
- Top 5 of sites entering Climate-ADAPT (referrals)
- Most used Channel Types (social media, ao) entering Climate-ADAPT
- Total number of PVs of menu Help - entry page
- Total number of PVs of submenu Share-your-info entry page
- Total number of PVs of submenu Glossary - entry page
- Total number of PVs of submenu FAQ for providers - entry page
- Total number of PVs of submenu FAQ for users - entry page

- Total number of PVs of submenu Guidance to Search - entry page
- Total number of PVs of submenu Tutorial Videos - entry page
- Total number of PVs of submenu webinars - entry page
- Total number of Quarterly Newsletter Subscribers
- Total number of unique openings of the newsletter
- Opening ratio (in percentage)
- Clicked on at least 1 article link ratio (in percentage)

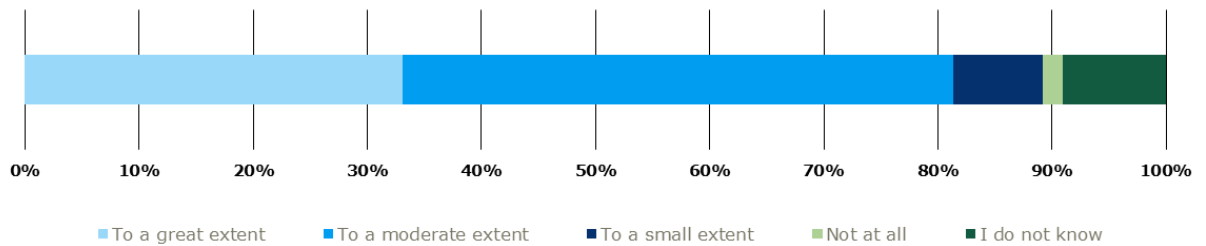
Appendix 7. OVERVIEW OF SURVEY RESULTS FROM CLOSED QUESTIONS

Climate-ADAPT

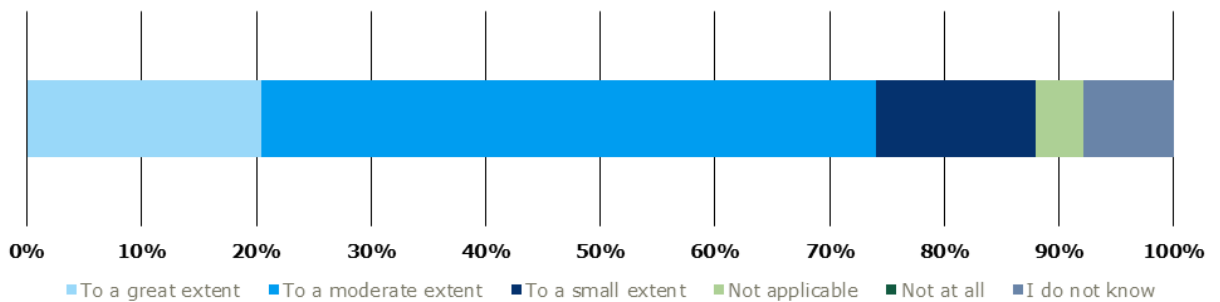
To what extent do you perceive Climate-ADAPT as a trusted provider of data and information regarding climate change, hazards, vulnerability, and adaptation?



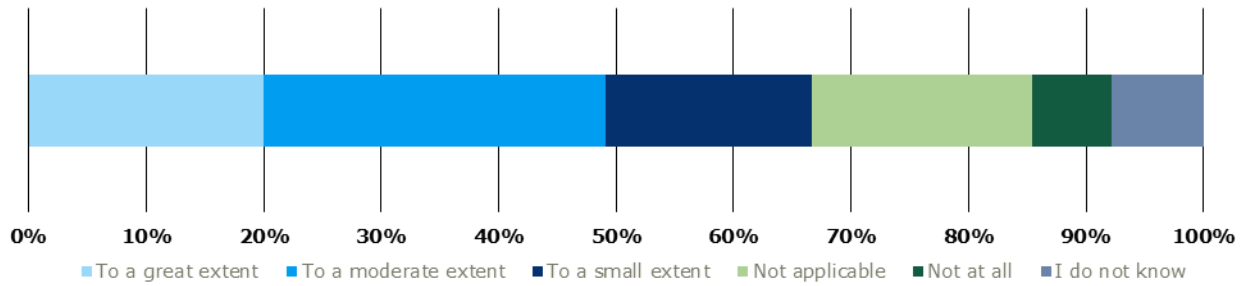
To what extent do you perceive the data and information provided on Climate-ADAPT as actionable and timely?



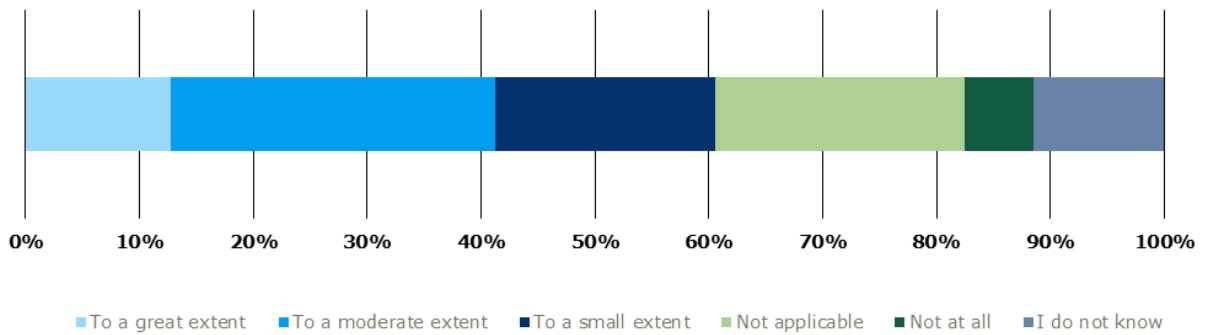
To what extent do you think that Climate-ADAPT supports coherent and effective adaptation planning and implementation, in line with your needs?



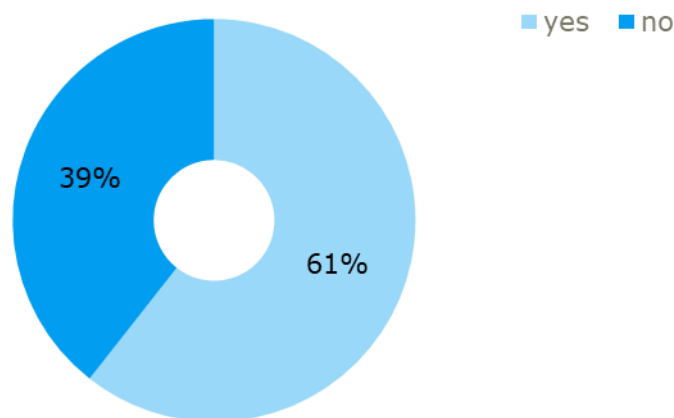
If applicable, to what extent has Climate-ADAPT supported coordination between your governance level and others? I.e. has the platform helped you to find information at EU and national level, if you work at the regional level, and vice versa?



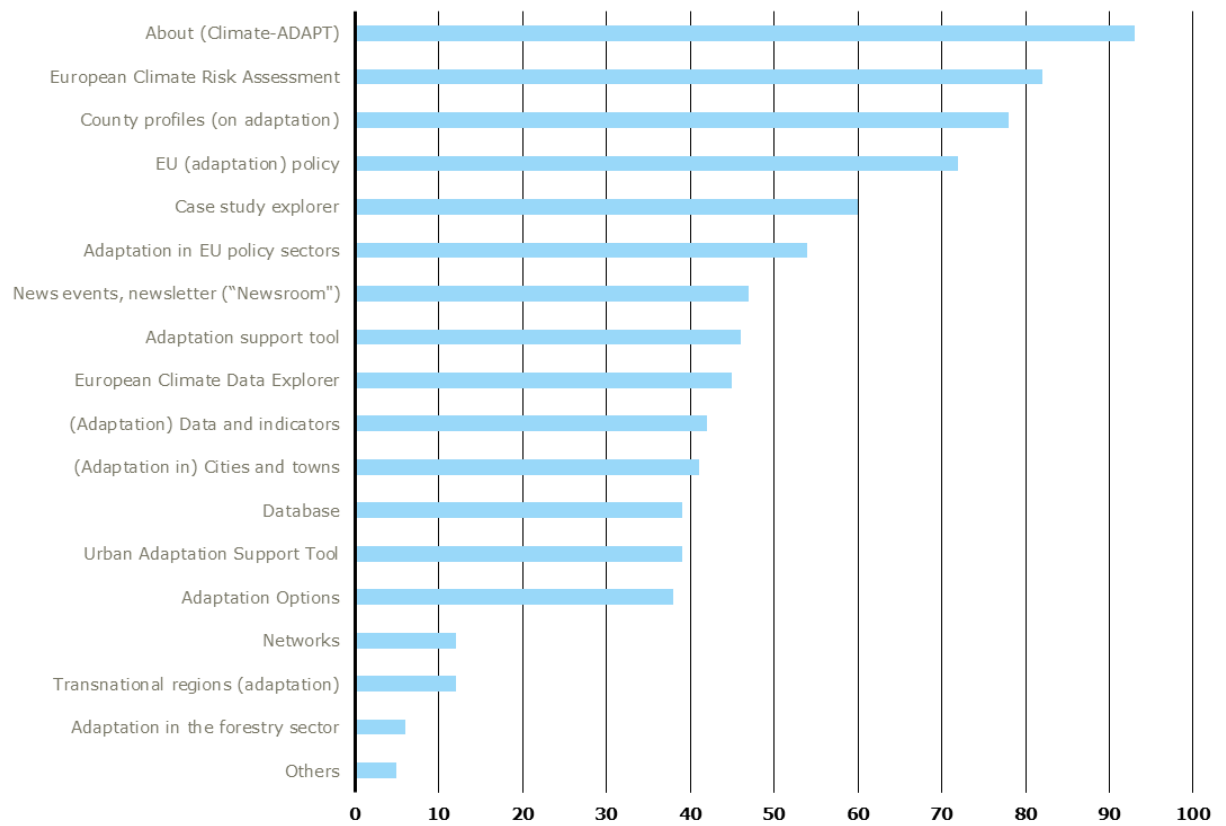
If applicable, to what extent has Climate-ADAPT supported cross-sectorial coordination (between policy sectors/fields of work)?



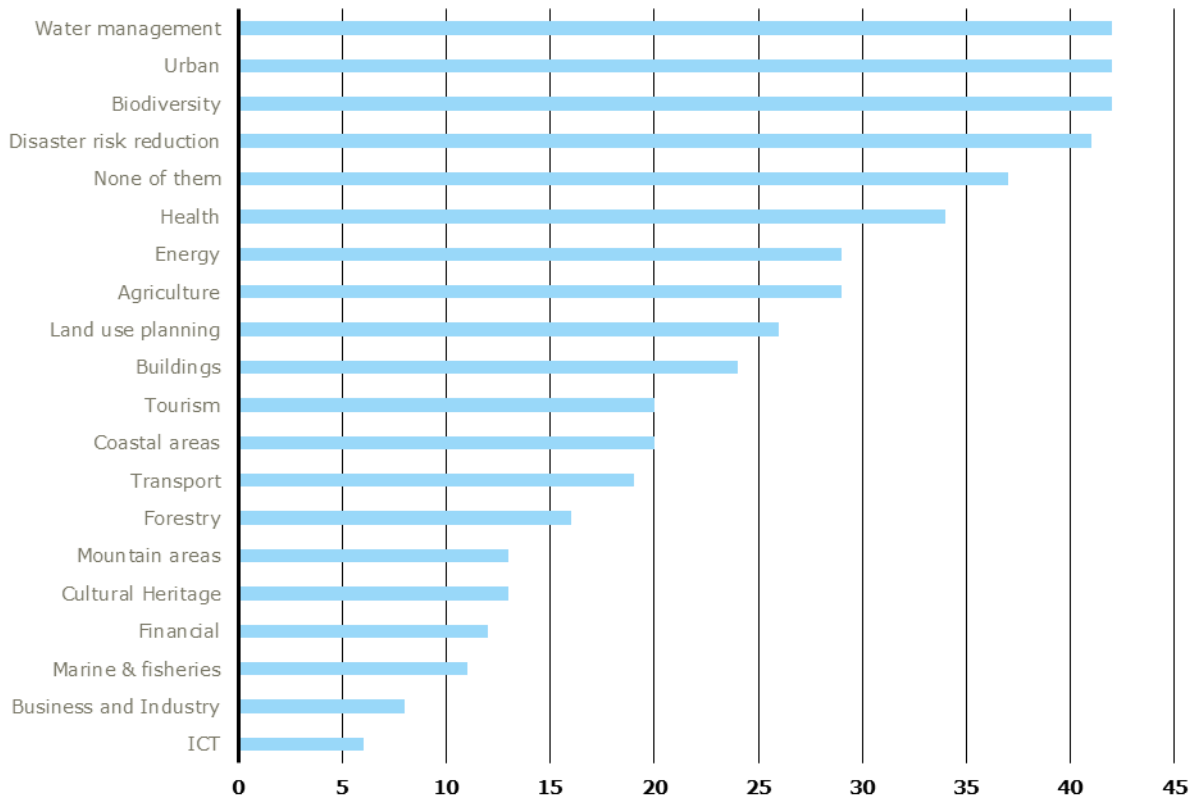
Have you used information or data provided by Climate-ADAPT (e.g. to facilitate informed adaptation planning, policies, and practices; for mainstreaming adaptation, for multi-level governance adaptation planning; others)?



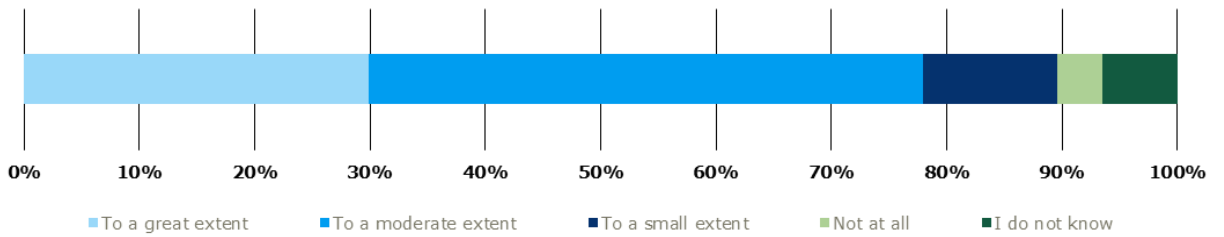
Which Climate-ADAPT content have you used? (select multiple if applicable)



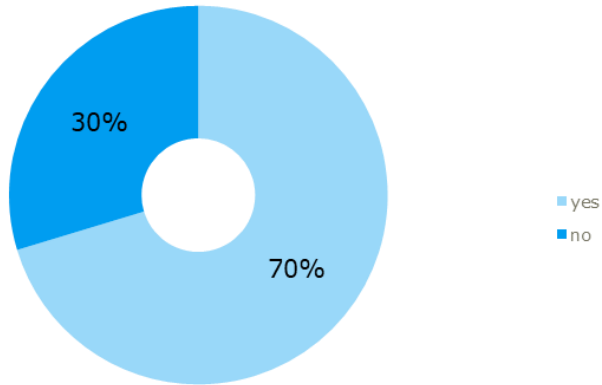
Which 'Adaptation in EU policy sector' pages have you used, if any?



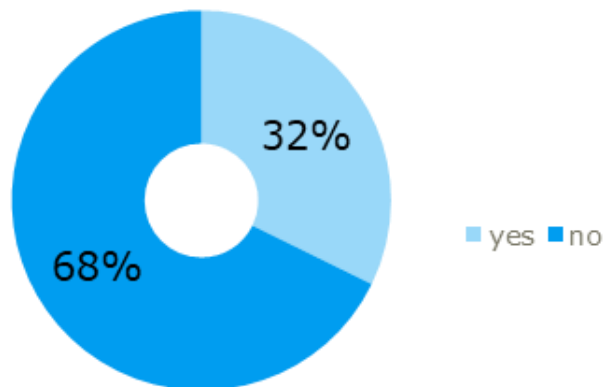
To what extent do you find the website itself intuitive and user-friendly?



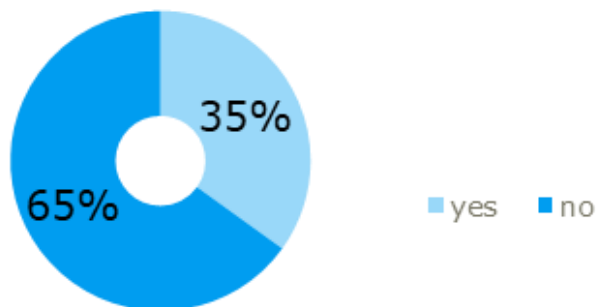
Are you aware that users are encouraged to contribute their own information to Climate-ADAPT? E.g. via sharing news and events or database articles.



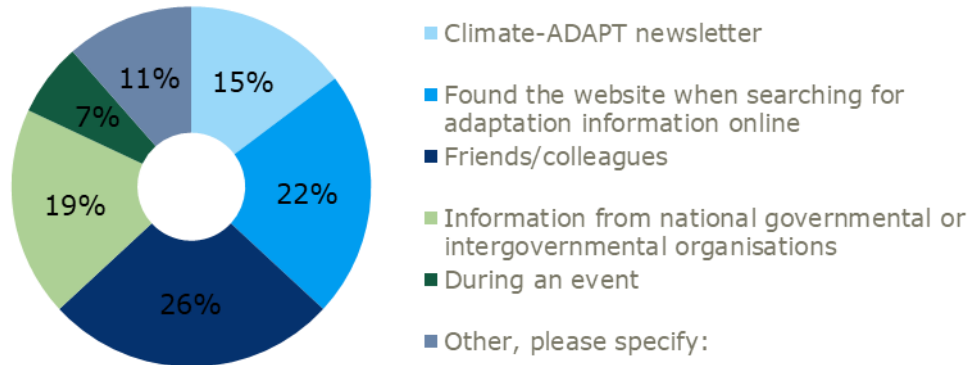
Have you contributed information to Climate-ADAPT before?



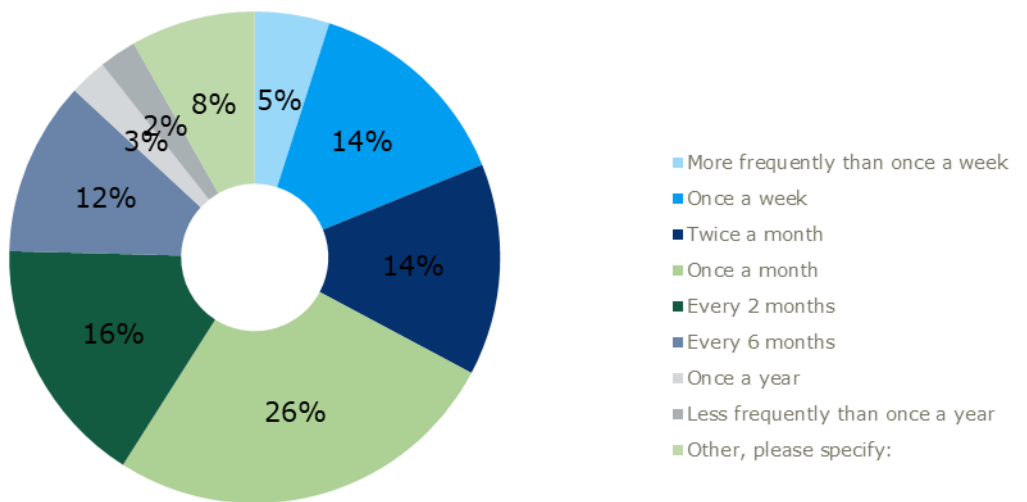
Taking your own information and data needs into account, do you think there are organisations that could contribute with their knowledge and information to the development of Climate-ADAPT, but are not doing it (sufficiently) yet?



How did you initially find out about Climate-ADAPT?

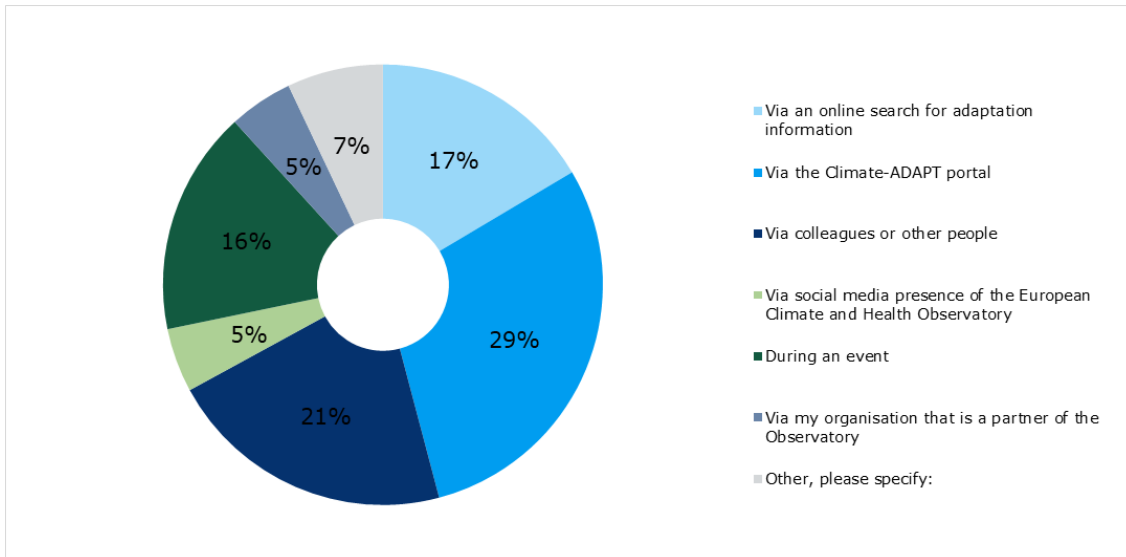


Approximately how frequently do you learn of new content or updates to Climate-ADAPT?

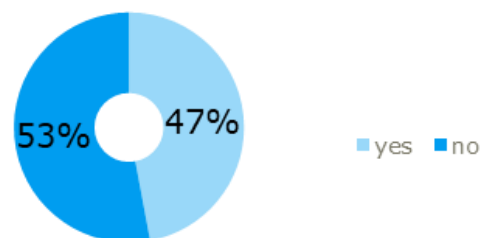


European Climate and Health Observatory

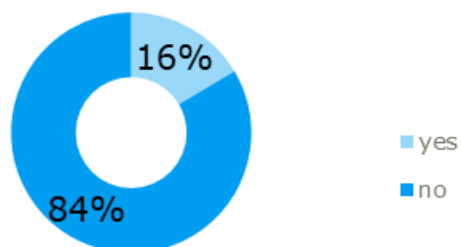
How did you initially find out about the European Climate and Health Observatory?



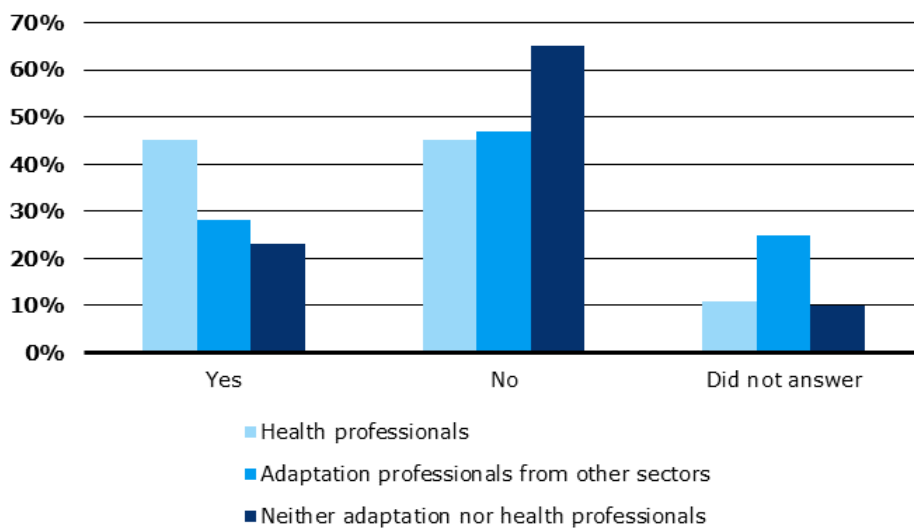
Are you aware that users are encouraged to contribute their own information to the European Climate and Health Observatory?



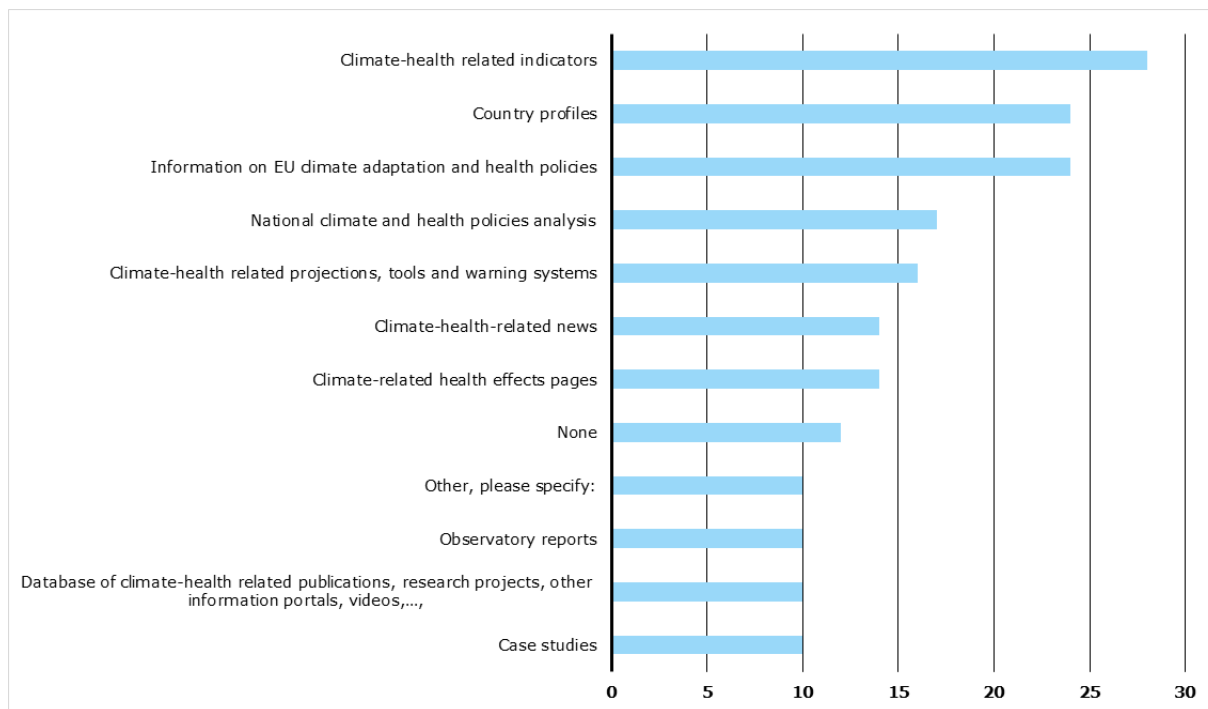
Have you contributed information to the Observatory before?



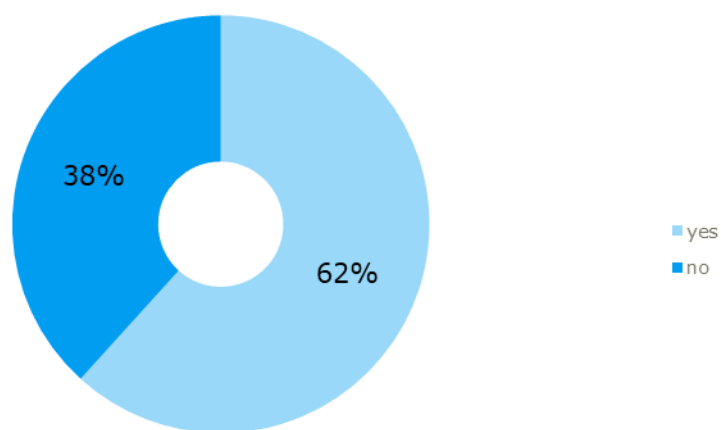
Have you used data or information provided on the European Climate and Health Observatory in your work?



Which European Climate and Health Observatory content have you used in your work?

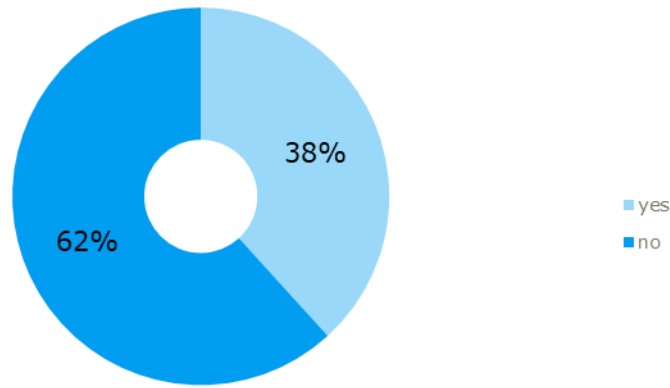


Do you know that the European Climate and Health Observatory is part of the larger Climate-ADAPT platform for information on climate adaptation?

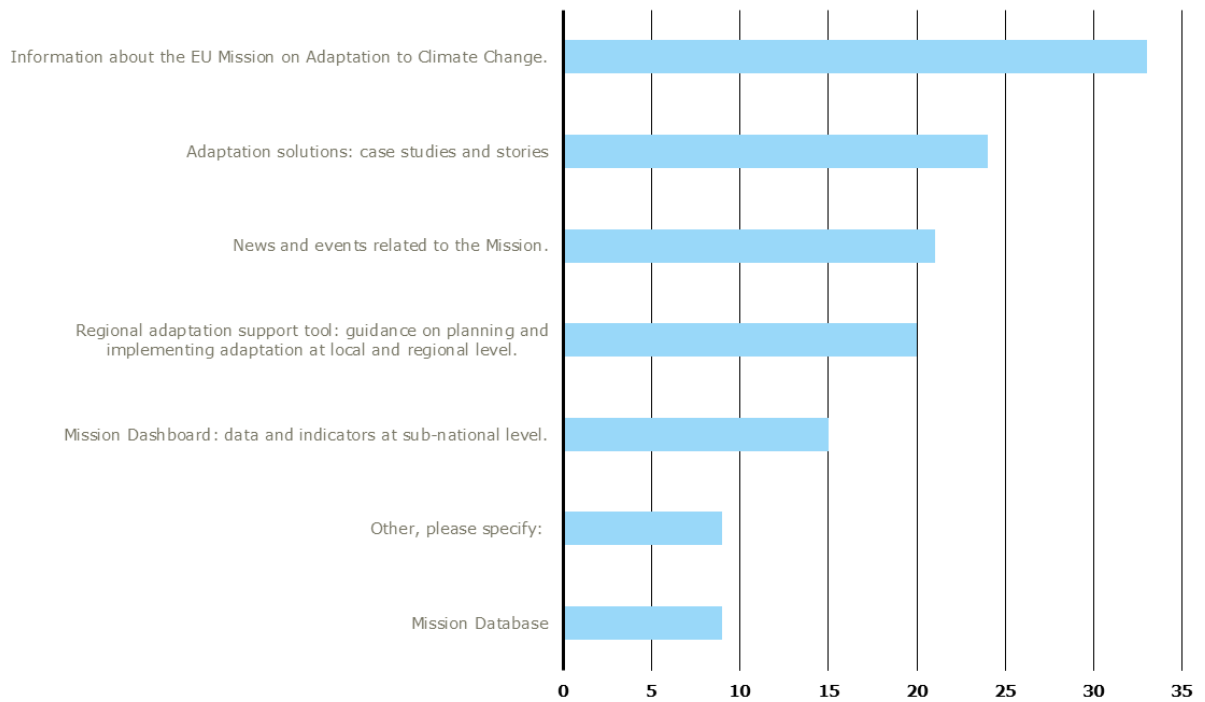


EU Mission on adaptation portal

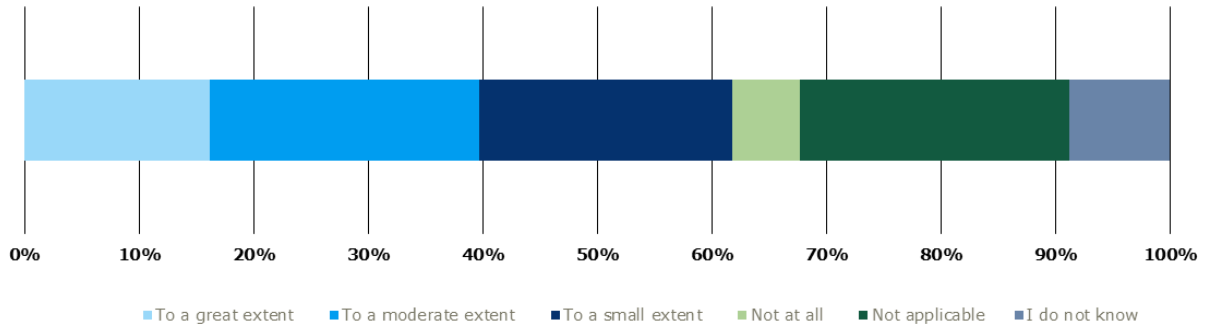
Have you used the portal and its content to develop, implement or monitor your climate change adaptation plans?



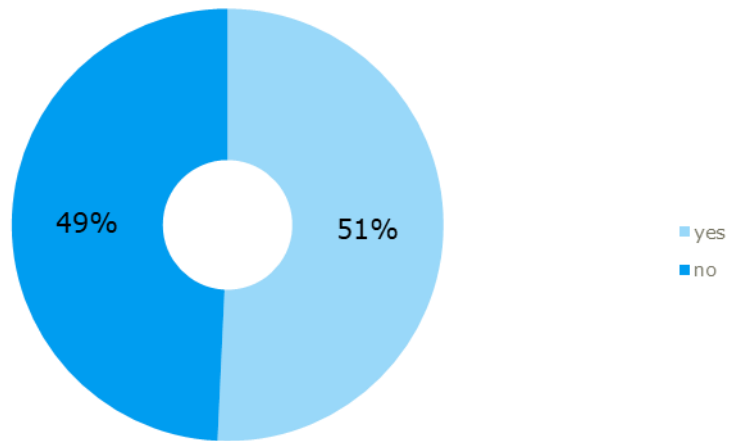
Which platform content have you used in your work?



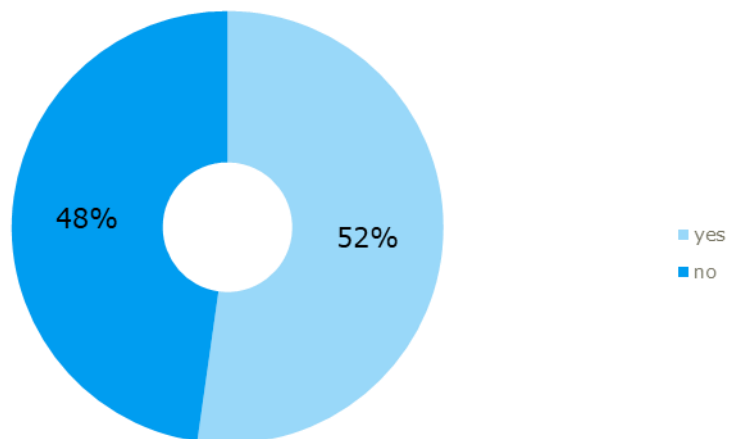
To what extent has the portal and its content informed your understanding of the specific climate vulnerabilities and risks that you need to address in your local or regional authority?



Have you been made aware of adaptation solutions via the portal?



Have you been made aware of events or news on adaptation via the portal?



Do you know that the EU mission on adaptation to climate change portal is part of the larger Climate-ADAPT platform for information on climate adaptation?

