

Climate-ADAPT strategy 2025-2027 Towards bringing the European Climate Adaptation Plan into action

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Introduction

This document describes the mission, strategic objectives, work areas, and annual milestones of developing the content, functionalities and outreach of the European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) for the period 2025 to 2027. It is made for stakeholders at all governance levels and in all societal areas of the European Union which are related to making Europe more climate resilient through EU, transnational, national and sub-national level policies, planning and action. It aims to inform those stakeholders about the priority setting of Climate-ADAPT to understand the expected scope of the platform's supportive work. More specifically, it helps national and other adaptation knowledge platform providers to align their work with the Climate-ADAPT development.

1 Setting the scene: new and urgent EU climate resilience policy needs

Climate-ADAPT supports European resilience and preparedness

Climate-ADAPT, jointly managed by the European Commission (EC) and the European Environment Agency (EEA), supports the coordinated implementation of climate change adaptation policies across the European Union. It provides a first-stop-shop platform for sharing knowledge, guidance, tools, and practical examples that inform evidence-based decision-making at all levels of governance in Europe. Europe is the fastest warming continent, and European countries must prepare for a rapidly changing climate. Considering increasing climate-related risks and their impacts across sectors, the platform contributes to strengthening Europe's overall preparedness and resilience. Major components that were set up on Climate-ADAPT as individual knowledge hubs, based on EU initiatives, are the European Climate and Health Observatory and the EU Mission on Adaptation Portal. The European Commission has launched the European Climate and Health Observatory to better understand, anticipate and minimise the health threats caused by climate change. The EU Mission on Adaptation Portal supports the regional and local level to become climate resilient. The hubs support targeted policy areas and governance levels through dedicated components and provide structured thematic support for adaptation in key sectors and regions.

The platform plays an enabling role in the implementation of the 2021 EU Adaptation Strategy (2021), and contributes to other key policy frameworks, such as the EU Forest Strategy, the European Climate Law (Article 5) and the Governance Regulation (Article 42) (GovReg) (1).

In the context of findings from the European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA, 2024) — which concluded that the EU is insufficiently prepared for multiple climate risks — Climate-ADAPT is positioned as a key mechanism for facilitating more timely and consistent adaptation actions. This role has been further recognised in the 2024 European Commission Communication on climate risks and resilience, and in recent European Court of Auditors' (ECA) reports (2021 Special ECA report on forests, 2024 Special ECA 'Climate adaptation in the EU'), recommending improved policy coherence and knowledge availability across governance levels.

Looking ahead, Climate-ADAPT will remain the authoritative European platform for climate resilience knowledge for policymakers and will increasingly support non-expert users. As such it will support the implementation of the upcoming European Climate Adaptation Plan (ECAP), scheduled for 2026. The platform will also support the development of the next EUCRA ('EUCRA 2') and align with the broader objectives of the EU Preparedness Strategy, the EU Water Resilience Strategy, and the EEA Digital Strategy under the 2020-2030 EEA Eionet Framework. The platform's continued development will ensure that it remains a reliable, functional, and integrated knowledge service, supporting adaptation policies, planning and preparedness across the European Union.

⁽¹) The European Environment Agency shall assist the Commission in its work as regards the decarbonisation and energy efficiency dimensions to comply with Articles 15 to 21, 26, 28, 29, 35, 37, 38, 39 and 41 in accordance with its annual work programme. That shall include assistance, as required, with:(e) disseminating information collected under this Regulation, including maintaining and updating a database on Member States' mitigation policies and measures and the European Climate Adaptation Platform relating to impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation to climate change (Art. 19 refers to reporting on adaptation by MS)

The platform will also enable supporting EU Member countries in their efforts on adaptation. In December 2024, the European Council reaffirmed in its Council conclusions (17), among others, the importance and urgency of strengthening the resilience, preparedness, crisis prevention and response capacities in the context of the evolving threat landscape and of the increasing number of natural disasters due to climate change and environmental degradation.

Since 2021, guided by the 2022-2024 Multiannual Climate-ADAPT strategy, the platform has significantly grown in terms of content, functions, outreach and impact.

Box 1.1

Findings from the 2024 Climate-ADAPT evaluation

An external evaluation in 2024 assessed the achievements of Climate-ADAPT, including its sub platforms, the European Climate and Health Observatory and the EU Mission on Adaptation Portal. Key findings include that the platform has evolved into a trusted knowledge platform and become the European provider of knowledge on climate resilience from various sources, such as the Copernicus Climate Change Service, for adaptation policies, planning and implementing in Europe. It has successfully supported peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchanges and thus helped to build institutional adaptation capacity at EU and EEA member and cooperating country levels (2). Stakeholders trust Climate-ADAPT for providing reliable data on climate change hazards, vulnerability, and adaptation and used the knowledge in various policy and stakeholder communication processes. Users commend the platform for its support in adaptation policies, planning and coordination at various governance levels. The web statistics show an increase in the number of visitors by 3 times between 2021 and 2023 and a high interest in adaptation options and case studies (See Figure 1). The individual user feedback highlighted the added value of case studies as valuable input to boost implementing adaptation in European countries and regions, but also to inform adaptation policies. However, the evaluation stated as well that challenges remain, including updating content to maintain relevance, providing knowledge in actionable formats, and improving user engagement. Hence it suggested improvements to better serve future policy and knowledge needs.

⁽²⁾ The 32 member countries include the 27 European Union Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Türkiye. The six West Balkan countries are cooperating countries. These include Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo*.
(*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UN Security Council Regulation 1244/99 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

200,000 180,000 160,000 140,000 120,000 100,000 80,000 60,000 40,000 20,000 **EUCRA** Adaptation **EU Mission** Country Adaptation EU **AST** Case European European Adaptation in the EU on profiles and studies options Climate Climate Strategy sector policies adaptation UAST and Health Data Observatory Explorer

Figure 1 Frequently visited features of Climate-ADAPT 2020-2023

Notes: The figure shows the number of yearly page views of selected Climate-ADAPT core menu items from January 2020 to December 2023.

■2020 **■**2021 **■**2022 **■**2023

 $\hbox{\tt EUCRA, European Climate Risk Assessment; AST, Adaptation Support Tool; UAST, Urban}$

Adaptation Support Tool.

Source: EEA, 2025.

2 A fresh approach in supporting the EU's adaptation journey

How to implement the 2025-2027 Climate-ADAPT Strategy

Considering the new and dynamically evolving policy and practice needs, more fundamental changes are needed to ensure that the platform can deliver the future roles and functions foreseen by EU policies and requested by users and content providers. In this new phase of EU climate resilience policy, Climate-ADAPT must be revamped across all its content, interface and functionalities, outreach and management aspects.

New Mission statement and strategic objectives

Aligning with the new policy agenda, a new mission statement will sharpen the focus of Climate-ADAPT on supporting the implementation of adaptation and resilience policy both at the EU and national levels.

Box 2.1

Climate-ADAPT 2025-2027 mission statement

The European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) is the main online knowledge platform at the EU-level for implementing Union policy on climate resilience in general and the European Climate Adaptation Plan in particular.

As the European reference and authoritative platform for well-informed decision-making, it also supports informing and driving climate resilience across all policy levels and in all relevant policy areas in Europe through providing and promoting relevant knowledge, tools, guidance, exchange mechanisms, transparency, and accountability.

Three strategic objectives guide the implementation of this new Climate-ADAPT mission in the period 2025-2027.

Figure 2 Strategic objectives of Climate-ADAPT 2025-2027



Source: EEA, 2025.

Key target groups

Climate-ADAPT is a knowledge platform that delivers its products and services to address the needs and priorities of its intended target audience. It consists of governmental policy makers and the organisations supporting them in developing, implementing and evaluating climate adaptation strategies, plans and actions primarily at EU levels, and at national and subnational levels. The European Climate and Health Observatory expanded the Climate-ADAPT target audience towards those interested in knowledge on climate change impacts on health and associated solutions. Through the EU Mission on Adaptation Platform, Climate-ADAPT addresses regional and local stakeholders more directly with products tailored to their needs for implementing climate resilience on the ground. According to the role of Climate-ADAPT as a climate resilience knowledge platform, it keeps focusing its priorities for content and functionalities on the needs of professionals, who need support to apply adaptation and resilience knowledge in their work. Climate-ADAPT 'trains the trainers' who use the platform as a starting point to develop their own products or services as input to policy making, planning or climate resilience practice.

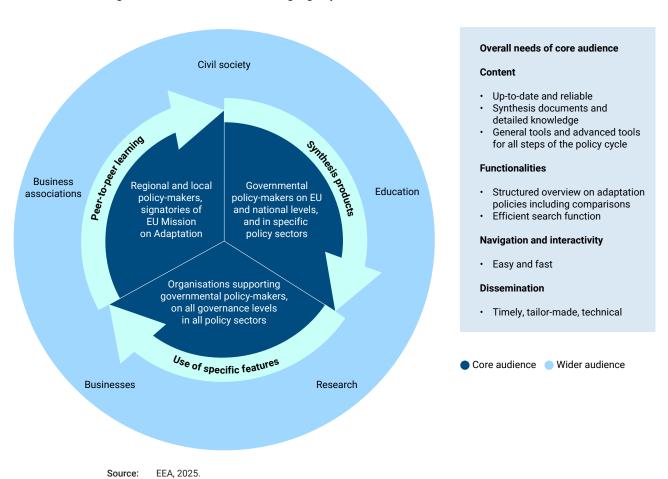


Figure 3 Climate-ADAPT target groups and their needs

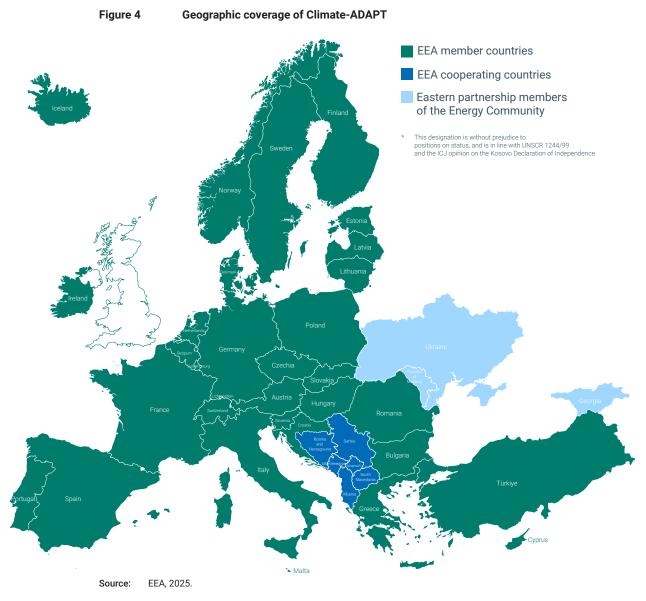
On top of those intended target groups audience, Climate-ADAPT is increasingly used by its wider audience of professionals from all societal groups which consider adaptation in their domains, such as researchers and adaptation practitioners, educational institutions, business associations and businesses, trade unions, social partnership organisations, non-governmental organisations, and societal and regional communities. Policy makers from outside Europe and international organisations are increasingly visiting Climate-ADAPT to explore building capacities for increased climate resilience actions at global levels. Efforts of making the platforms' knowledge accessible will take the needs of the wider audience into consideration.

Scope of Climate-ADAPT

Geographic scope

The geographical scope of Climate-ADAPT is the 38 EEA member and cooperating countries (i.e. the 27 EU Member States together with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Türkiye) and the six EEA cooperating countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Kosovo (3)).

An extension of the geographic scope is potentially envisaged for a designated section, i.e. the country profiles (see Figure 4). This potential extension will show the Energy Community Contracting Parties' reported data on their national adaptation actions (4).



⁽³⁾ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UN Security Council Regulation 1244/99 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

⁽⁴⁾ The nine Contracting Parties are the six West Balkan Contracting Parties of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia, as well as the three Eastern Partnership members of the Energy Community: Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/about/who-we-are/projects-and-cooperation-agreements/energy-community). Under the adapted Governance Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, the Energy Community Contracting Parties work towards reporting on their progress to climate and energy targets similarly to EU Member States. The EEA extends its support in implementing reporting obligations for EU Member States to the Contracting Parties, including the integration of their reported data under Climate-ADAPT's country profiles.

Driving the Climate-ADAPT partnership model with a focus on consistency

Climate-ADAPT is managed through a comprehensive partnership governance model. It is open for current and must be open for future cooperation partners and their specific needs.

Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) sets the platform's strategic objectives, ensures its alignment with the EU Member States, coordinates the input from the Commission Directorates-General through the Advisory Group and provides information technology (IT) funding for new functionalities. The EEA hosts Climate-ADAPT and maintains its regular IT services. It also facilitates the content development through collaborating with relevant organisations that share climate resilience knowledge in Europe. EEA ensures that Climate-ADAPT provides a reliable, timely and consistent climate resilience knowledge base that is coordinated with the Eionet Group on climate change impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation in EEA member countries. The European Topic Centre on Climate change adaptation and LULUCF (ETC CA)supports the EEA in the operational management of the platform.

Through the European Climate and Health Observatory and the EU Mission on Adaptation Portal, DG CLIMA and the EEA collaborate with stakeholders interested in addressing climate impacts on health and with the beneficiaries of the EU Mission on Adaptation. Those Climate-ADAPT sub platforms are managed through partnerships for the co-creation and promotion of new knowledge components of those sub-platforms on Climate-ADAPT. Climate-ADAPT also continues to support the EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy with knowledge components for climate resilience in EU's cities and towns.

The platform will also make use of and support the evolving Destination Earth initiative of Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG CNECT) in line with this partnership-based governance approach.

Consistency across the work areas of partners for selecting and approving content is key to ensure sharing trusted and relevant knowledge. Thus, Climate-ADAPT will keep its criteria-based selection and approval of content for sharing it on the platform. However, addressing the findings from the 2024 Climate-ADAPT evaluation, the EEA will explore options to simplify knowledge submission procedures further, e.g. through improving online forms, optimised provider journeys and a stronger transparency of the processing of submitted information.

In line with the 2022-2024 Climate-ADAPT Strategy, the platform has successfully collaborated closer with EEA Member and cooperating countries through the Eionet Group on climate change impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation. The most recent example is the collaboration with Sweden on closing key gaps in the case study catalogue of Climate-ADAPT: the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), through its national adaptation knowledge portal Klimatanpassning, supported extending the number of case studies for the forestry sector through preparing a governance case study on national wildfire management and continues to assist in closing further gaps.

Reinforcing the scope of Climate-ADAPT's content

The 2024 EUCRA identified 36 major climate risks to inform addressing climate change through EU and national adaptation policies and actions. To take ownership of those key climate risks to be addressed at EU levels, Climate-ADAPT will reinforce focusing on European climate resilience policies and actions. In line with the EU core competences, this will include showing the current legal framework and EU adaptation strategy, and European Climate Adaptation Plan, EU-level funding for adaptation and the EU adaptation reporting, evaluation and learning (MEL).

Climate-ADAPT will further strengthen its support to provide targeted knowledge, guidance, tools and capacity building material to enable national and subnational level actors to implement national and subnational adaptation policies and actions. Potential examples of such knowledge and services are guidance documents on national adaption plans, a consolidated version of the Adaptation Support Tool, information on EU funding and finance, adaptation tools and methodologies as well as knowledge sharing and capacity building services.

This risk ownership approach will help to align the work of Climate-ADAPT and of the national adaptation knowledge platforms to support adaptation policy and practice in the EU and to increase countries' coherence in terms of better-informed decision-making on adaptation.

To better support climate resilience for transboundary and cascading climate impacts, Climate-ADAPT will — where possible — also support sharing knowledge at transnational levels.

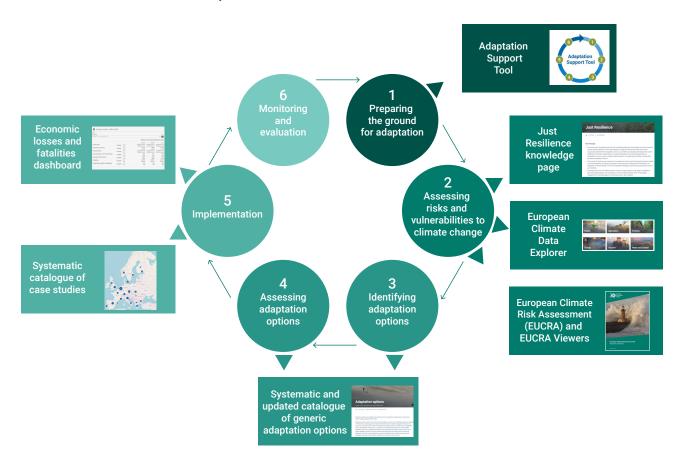
3 New delivery model for EU climate resilience services

Strategic objective 1: Focus on tools and practical support towards bringing the European Climate Adaptation Plan into action

Along with the evolving policy package of the ECAP, Climate-ADAPT will play a key role to assist the European Commission in providing tools, guidance and practical support to inform and implement this policy instrument.

Climate-ADAPT offers already a variety of tools for facilitating actions at EU levels along the EU adaptation policy cycle (see Figure 5). However, Climate-ADAPT will be further upgraded to close gaps in the knowledge base for the ECAP.

Figure 5 Examples of knowledge components already available on Climate-ADAPT to support developing the European Climate Adaptation Plan



Source: EEA, 2025.

The second EUCRA (EUCRA 2) might also call for specific support through the platform. Both new components will rely and build on the proven structure of Climate-ADAPT and benefit from its functionalities.

Potential actions could include e.g.:

- · Upgrading the EU-level Adaptation Support Tool;
- Situating the European Climate Data Explorer in the context of the development of a harmonised climate hazard viewer under ECAP and supporting the EU-level Adaptation Support Tool;
- Exploring the needs for and synergies of various European level digital tools.
 This could include definitions of indices, types of climate scenarios and potential spatial resolution of data for impact and risk assessments;
- Complementing the European Climate Risk Assessment section with risk assessment tools;
- Enhancing the Climate-ADAPT indicator section for measuring progress in EU climate resilience policies;
- Increasing the links between EU Policy sector pages to promote systemic and cross-sectoral climate resilience approaches;
- In line with EU policy priorities to strengthen the support for competitiveness
 of EU businesses, EEA will explore how to better inform climate resilience in
 the business sector through tailored knowledge for business activities and
 related value chains. Climate-ADAPT provides already a dedicated section on
 the Business and Industry policy sector. A potential future option could be to
 enhance this section through more tailor-made guidance and tools.

Strategic objective 2: Improving the interface and creating better user and provider experience

Revamping the Climate-ADAPT site structure

The 2024 Climate-ADAPT evaluation has shown that the platform offers a wide variety of valuable knowledge for many audiences and that EU policy initiatives and knowledge developments have been prominently promoted on the platform. However, users are often not able to find this knowledge, tailored to their roles and governance levels. The platform will be restructured to better balance policy and practice needs through creating main entry points and tailor-made menu structures of Climate-ADAPT:

- One, which mirrors and supports the envisaged completion of knowledge components for supporting the EU adaptation policy cycle;
- A thematic entry point, which provides access to policy sectors (5), and which
 will be inspired by the current forest adaptation landing page. This would allow
 displaying preselected content, according to the needs of each policy sector;
- An entry point for supporting national and subnational users to assist them in addressing key climate risks under their ownership and to implement national climate resilience policies and local adaptation plans in line with the EU climate resilience policies.

⁽⁵⁾ See the list of Climate-ADAPT policy sectors here: https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/eu-adaptation-policy/sector-policies

The evaluation showed that the platform delivered too many services at the same time and thus failed in some cases of keeping key content up to date. Thus, Climate-ADAPT will be consolidated trough improving its focus on supporting the EU climate resilience policies and support for the national, subnational and transnational level through cutting overlapping content.

Potential actions will include reducing text-heavy sections by weblinks to knowledge providers, complemented by preselected content of the Climate-ADAPT resource catalogue, e. g.:

- Replacing the current EU Sector pages with weblinks to websites of the
 Directorates General (DGs) which are in charge of those sector policies. This will
 enable users to find timely information on the DG"s climate risk management
 and the integration of climate resilience aspects into sectoral policies and
 actions.
- Replacing the current transnational adaptation section through linking to the Transnational sustainability strategies, regional conventions (Carpathian Convention, Alpine Convention), transnational cooperation organisations (Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS)), River commissions such as the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR).
- Considering the wide use and dynamic development of climate resilience solutions, upgrading the catalogue of adaptation options into a more digestible and lighter format that is also easy to update.
- Considering the growing number of Climate-ADAPT case studies that are developed to illustrate the implementation of adaptation options, applying a robust and transparent approach for optimising the regular update of case studies.

Improving the usability

The evaluation stated that the editorial and layout quality of many content pages is limited. Climate-ADAPT will present the complexity of climate resilience knowledge in a less overwhelming and targeted way to enhance the web interface and interactivity.

Potential actions will be e. g.:

- Providing an Al-based search function to utilise digital options to answer users'
 questions, querying the site content to quickly find what users and providers
 need, considering Green IT needs where possible.
- Streamlining the navigation of the platform including enabling faster access
 to content relevant for the health sector and for the regional and local level,
 provided by the sub platforms European Climate and Health Observatory and
 EU Mission on Adaptation Platform.
- Improving the user interface to content from key sources such as provided by the Copernicus Services.
- Replacing text heavy knowledge with visuals and interactive features and add download functions.
- Exploring to improve the transparency and practicality of the content sharing processes, e.g. through easing access to the provider registration.

Strategic objective 3: Providing support for enabling actions at national and subnational levels

Dedicated outreach, user and provider engagement and capacity building component

Dissemination and promotion activities are key to further increase the support for and use of Climate-ADAPT by current and potential new providers and users and to assist the uptake of its knowledge. It is also crucial to improve the coordination among sectors and governance levels for more consistent policymaking and implementation of climate resilience in the EU and for mobilising individual and collective actions.

The 2024 evaluation has shown that Climate-ADAPT has effective dissemination tools and channels which have created transparency and trust that users' and providers' needs and suggestions are considered in the platform development, and which showed how new knowledge is accessible. This has helped to build institutional capacities in EEA member countries. However, there is a strong need to focus more on reaching actors at local and regional levels and for more capacity building activities.

Examples of potential actions are e.g.:

- Continuing to engage users and providers from Central and Eastern European countries and from local and regional levels through presenting Climate-ADAPT in national events.
- Using online events to focus on specific climate resilience topics, for example
 to showcase lessons learnt on sustainable climate resilience solutions to
 avoid maladaptation.
- Continuing the Climate-ADAPT newsletter but with shorter content and complemented by additional email notifications.
- · Adding social media sharing buttons and download functions.
- Considering available resources, setting up dedicated capacity building activities such as trainings to increase the climate resilience literacy and to engage stakeholders to share their knowledge.

Better effort sharing with national platforms in developing the platforms

The EEA has since Climate-ADAPT's launch collaborated with its Eionet partners to ensure that the platform is being developed to be complementary to and aligned with the national adaptation platforms. However, in the light of rapidly increasing climate change impacts and limited resources, increasing the mutual support between Climate-ADAPT and national adaptation platforms in building and sharing the climate resilience knowledge becomes crucial. By resuming to hold Eionet meetings on adaptation knowledge platforms, the most recent one in October 2024, the EEA has reinforced to broadly exchange experiences with national adaptation platform managers. EEA will further explore how to utilise a better collaboration and effort sharing between the EU and the national level in providing adaptation knowledge platforms.

This will entail e.g.:

- Regular capacity building events on how to effectively and efficiently manage those platforms to support multi-level governance of adaptation.
- Joint thematic exchanges on how to best support the subnational level and how to engage sectoral stakeholders and joint thematic events.
- Sharpening the focus and seeking more complementarity and mutual support for platforms' content (such as for developing case studies) and functionalities (such as dashboards).

Better and more frequent platform monitoring, evaluation and learning

Monitoring the traffic on Climate-ADAPT, the use of its dissemination products
and capturing individual feedback from the platform's users and content
providers has always been a regular practice of Climate-ADAPT management.
However, considering the rapidly evolving adaptation policy and practice needs,
Climate-ADAPT must faster react to the behavioural changes of the platforms'
stakeholders to ensure that the platform remains effective.

Potential actions for better understanding and reacting to user needs could include:

- Extending the number of web statistics' indicators and increasing the frequency
 of analysing web statistics to adjust the priorities of Climate-ADAPT content
 development, IT functionalities and dissemination means in a more agile way.
- Considering options to engage users and providers more directly and more frequently.

Annual milestones of implementing the 2025-2027 Climate-ADAPT Strategy

The Climate-ADAPT development and outreach actions are centred around annual milestones to implement the platforms' strategic objectives in a focused and targeted way and in line with available resources, and to assess the achievement of this strategy (see Table 1).

It is an overview of priority actions without details. All actions will be allocated and refined per year, among others in the annual action plans of the European Topic Centre on Climate Change Adaptation and LULUCF (ETC CA), and potentially other EEA and Climate-ADAPT partners' activities. The focus on key priorities leaves room to adjust the implementation of this strategy in a flexible way.

Table 1 Milestones and timeline of the 2025-2027 Climate-ADAPT Strategy

Year	Priority objectives	Milestone	Priority action
2025	(2) Improving the interface and creating better user and provider experience	Climate-ADAPT and its sub-platforms in user/provider-friendly version including Al-based search functions delivered	Implementing the findings of Climate-ADAPT users' and providers' feedback collections and web statistics, building on the results of the 2024 Climate-ADAPT evaluation
2026	(1) Focus on tools and practical support towards bringing the European Climate Adaptation Plan into action	Implementation of the EU Adaptation Plan (ECAP) in all EU policy sectors and across the board supported	Developments to support setting up and implementing the EU Adaptation Plan (ECAP)
2027	(3) Providing knowledge and guidance for enabling implementation of adaptation at national and subnational levels	Increased capacity for implementing climate resilience in EEA member and cooperating countries and at subnational levels, aligned with EU adaptation policies	Further implementation of weblinks to transnational, national and subnational adaptation platforms, as well as targeted connections and interoperability with relevant EU resources
	All objectives	Climate-ADAPT achievements until 2027 and lessons learnt identified	Light Climate-ADAPT self-assessment

