Climate-ADAPT

Strategy 2019-2021

(January 2019)

Contents

Summary

The EU Adaptation Strategy acknowledges the platform Climate-ADAPT as a key element -the 'one-stop shop'- in ensuring informed decision-making, to be further developed in order to provide the best available climate change adaptation information at the EU level.

The Climate-ADAPT Strategy 2019-2021 is the strategic planning instrument that identifies the objectives and mission / vision of the platform, as well as it defines the governance and lines of activities to be developed during its 3-year period of validity. This strategic instrument is complemented by the Annual Action Plans that contains detailed implementation actions linked with the lines of activities of the Strategy.

This 3-year planning instrument brings together all actors involved in the management of the platform, namely European Environment Agency and DG CLIMA (but also other DGs and agencies from the EC), and countries, who are key providers of information by formal reporting on their national adaptation strategic frameworks and activities, under the regulation in force.

The **mission** of Climate-ADAPT is to be the European reference information system for climate change adaptation, for supporting better informed decision-making. The future **vision** for Climate-ADAPT is to be further developed and adjusted from being the 'one-stop shop' to being the 'first-stop shop' for adaptation information in Europe.

The three specific **objectives** of Climate-ADAPT are:

- To facilitate the collection, sharing and use of information on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and build a consistent and updated knowledge base.
- To assist an effective uptake of the relevant knowledge by decision-makers.
- To contribute to a greater level of coordination among sectors and institutional levels.

The governance of Climate-ADAPT refers to all actors involved in the management of the platform and their responsibilities and roles, including DG CLIMA, EEA, the Advisory Group (section 5.2), the ETC/CCA (5.3), countries (5.4) and other stakeholders.

Five are the main lines of activities of the Climate-ADAPT Strategy to be developed in the next three years:

1. Maintenance of Climate-ADAPT Database contents
2. Further development of Climate-ADAPT web content
3. Climate-ADAPT Dissemination Strategy
4. Climate-ADAPT Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation
5. IT related support

The financial resources to develop and operate Climate-ADAPT are from DG CLIMA and EEA (section 7); while DG CLIMA supports the new developments (IT plus functionalities), EEA –with the support of the European Topic Centre on Climate Change Adaptation (ETC/CCA)- is responsible about the content updates and regular maintenance.

1. Introduction

This document aims at defining the main priorities in the planning and management of Climate-ADAPT for the period 2019-2021, taking into account the results, findings and recommendations from the Climate-ADAPT evaluation developed in 2017-18 and from the EU Adaptation Strategy evaluation developed in 2016-18. The previous Climate-ADAPT Work Plan 2013-2018 and the existing content structure of the platform are key factors, because there is a need for continuity for updating and improving the platform the coming years. However, Climate-ADAPT has also evolved since its start in 2012 and will continue doing so, responding to new and emerging needs of key stakeholders.

Besides this planning purpose, the 2019-2021 Climate-ADAPT Strategy also aims to inform and communicate in a concise and transparent way on the main priorities for the period to all European stakeholders that play a relevant role in the adaptation field at all levels and sectors, as a way to contribute to further development the platform.

2. Background, policy context

The 2019-2021 Climate-ADAPT Strategy builds upon main strategic and planning pillars for EEA and DG CLIMA (co-owners of the platform) in the field of climate change adaptation: The EU Adaptation Strategy, the EEA Multiannual Work Programme, the previous Climate-ADAPT Work Plan and the evaluations of the platform and of the Adaptation Strategy (in 2017-2018).

2.1 EU Adaptation Strategy and EEA MAWP 2014-2020

The European Commission adopted the EU Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation[1] in 2013, aiming to contribute to a more climate-resilient Europe. The Strategy sets out specific activities in three priority areas (i) to encourage action by Member States, (ii) to support better-informed decision-making and (iii) to promote adaptation in key EU vulnerable sectors (figure 1).

Figure 1. The EU Adaptation Strategy in a nutshell

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[1] https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/eu-adaptation-policy/strategy

Regarding the second priority, promoting better-informed decision-making, the Strategy acknowledges the European Climate Adaptation platform Climate-ADAPT in its Action 5 as a key element -the 'one-stop shop'- in ensuring informed decision-making, to be further developed in order to provide the best available climate adaptation information at the EU level.

For The European Environment Agency (EEA), the Multiannual Work Programme 2014-2020[2] is the central planning instrument that provides strategic direction and sets out the priorities for the period, with the Annual Work Programmes defining the activities and outcomes in more detail. In this framework, Climate-ADAPT is one of the key multi-annual projects within the EEA Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation group. EEA is supported by its work on Climate-ADAPT by the European Topic Centre on Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerabilities and Adaptation[3] (ETC/CCA), funded by EEA.

2.2 Climate-ADAPT Work Plan 2013-2018

Since the launch in March 2012, the platform operates in a partnership between the European Commission, mainly the Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA), and the European Environment Agency, in charge of the regular daily management of the platform. The *Climate-ADAPT Medium Term Work Plan 2013-2018* has been the planning instrument that identifies the main priorities, considers the objectives and vision, and the human and financial resources available for the development of the platform.

This *Climate-ADAPT Strategy 2019-2021* replaces the previous one, building upon it and keeping continuity with the recent regular management tasks but, at the same time, taking on board lessons learned coming from the experiences in managing the platform over the past years.

2.3 Climate-ADAPT evaluation and EU Adaptation Strategy evaluation

The European Environment Agency, supported by the European Topic Centre on Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerabilities and Adaptation, has developed during 2017 and 2018 an evaluation of Climate-ADAPT. The evaluation focuses on assessing to what extent the Climate-ADAPT objectives were achieved and was carried out with a multi-method approach combining internal assessment and external feedback, including a user/provider survey, analysis of web statistics and collection of use cases. Results from the Climate-ADAPT evaluation are structured in three levels of target audiences (figure 2):

(i) Audience level 1, decision makers (i.e. governmental decision-makers, working on adaptation in Europe at EU, transnational, national, sub-national, and local/city levels and on adaptation-related topics in sector policies). The EEA Evaluation Report "Sharing adaptation knowledge across Europe – Evaluation of the European Climate Adaptation Platform"[4] (EEA, 2018) is designed for this audience.

(ii) Audience level 2, decision supporters (i.e. experts in governmental organisations and boundary organisations, supporting decision makers on adaptation). The ETC/CCA Technical Paper[5] is designed with this audience in mind.

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[2] https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/multiannual-work-programme-2014-2020
[3] https://cca.eionet.europa.eu/
[4] https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/sharing-adaptation-information-across-europe
[5] http://cca.eionet.europa.eu/docs/TP_2-2018

(iii)   Audience level 3, experts in Europe working with the management and evaluation of web-based knowledge platforms on adaptation or adaptation related topics. The documents belonging to this level can be provided on request via Climate-ADAPT (climate.adapt@eea.europa.eu).

Figure 2. Results from the Climate-ADAPT evaluation

Results and recommendations from the Climate-ADAPT evaluation are multiple and provide key elements for this Climate-Adapt Strategy 2019-2021. Among the conclusions, it can be highlighted that the platform succeeds to reach out to its intended target audience, while it is used across all governance levels in Europe from city/local level to sub-national, national, transnational to the European level. The evaluation has identified the most used features in Climate-ADAPT, the core content, that should remain the first priority in the platform further developments (figure 3).
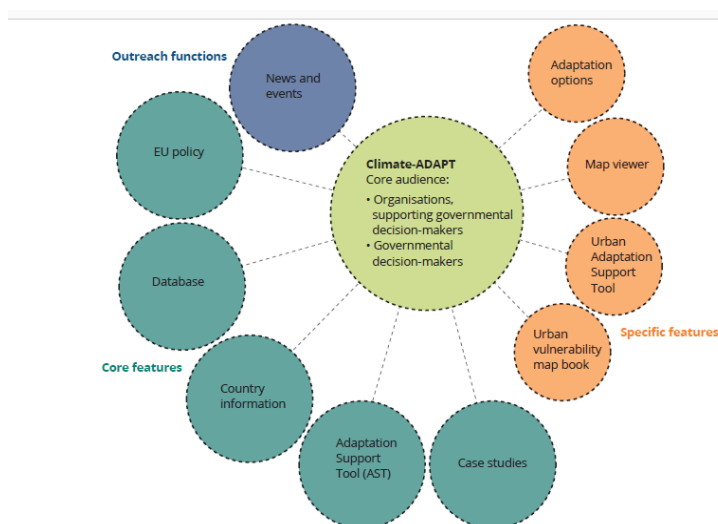

Figure 3. Climate-ADAPT features used by its core audience

The European Commission has developed during 2016-2018 a mid-term evaluation of the whole EU Adaptation Strategy and, regarding the action 5 on Climate-ADAPT, the evaluation of the platform carried out by the EEA has provided an essential contribution. The conclusions from the EU Adaptation Strategy evaluation highlight that Climate-ADAPT, in particular, has become the EU Adaptation Strategy's vehicle to disseminate information on adaptation to thousands of decision-makers at various governance levels and organisations supporting them. This has allowed decision-makers to make use of the increasing adaptation knowledge for developing adaptation strategies and actions.

2.4 Links with other EU information systems

There is a significant number of other information systems in Europe, focused on sectoral policies or thematic areas relevant for climate change adaptation.

The EC and the EEA are in the process to strengthen the links within all of them, by means of initiatives such as the "Environmental Knowledge Community (EKC) task force on Interoperability of platforms and catalogues on ecosystem-based initiatives" or the "Strategic approach for managing thematic information systems co-owned by the EEA".

Some of the most relevant EU platforms that contain valuable resources for adaptation action and complement Climate-ADAPT are summarise in table 1.

Table 1. EU platforms containing relevant information for climate change adaptation
• The European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, Nature-Based Solutions **NBS** webpage provides links to research projects and relevant publication that address re-naturing cities and territorial resilience as innovative approaches that include climate change adaptation https://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index.cfm?pg=nbs
• The Water Information System for Europe, **WISE**, is the European gateway providing entry to water related information ranging from inland waters to marine, including aspects on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation https://water.europa.eu/
• The Biodiversity Information System for Europe, **BISE**, contains a wealth of online information on impacts of climate change on biodiversity, as well as solutions on green infrastructure within the Member States https://biodiversity.europa.eu/topics/climate-change
• The Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Center **DRMKC** provides knowledge and evidence at all levels and at all stages of the Disaster Risk Management cycle (prevention, reduction, preparedness, response and recovery), including those disasters associated to climate change http://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/
• The Copernicus Climate Change Service **C3S** provides high-quality data and information about the past, present and future climate in Europe https://climate.copernicus.eu/
• The Natural Water Retention Measures –**NWRM**- platform gathers information on green infrastructure applied to the water sector, with a large catalogue of actions and case studies http://nwrm.eu/
• The **OPPLA** platform purpose is to share practical knowledge on natural capital, ecosystem services and Nature-Based Solutions, offering a wide range of case studies, products and tools https://www.oppla.eu/about
• The Natur-based Urban Innovation **NATURVATION** website contains information on almost 1000 examples of Nature-Based Solutions from across 100 European cities that contribute to adapt the urban system to climate change https://naturvation.eu/about
• The platform **ThinkNature** is a case study and resources hub dedicated to Nature-Based Solutions https://platform.think-nature.eu/

3. Basis of Climate-ADAPT: mission/vision, objectives and principles. Target audience, geographical scope and main structure

Climate-ADAPT, as a key element for improving informed decision-making in the framework of the EU Adaptation Strategy, has the following strategic pillars (vision/mission, objectives and principles) to guide the development of the platform:

The **mission** of Climate-ADAPT is to be the European reference information system for climate change adaptation for supporting better informed decision-making, to contribute to a more climate-resilient Europe. The future **vision** for Climate-ADAPT is to be further developed and adjusted from being the 'one-stop shop' to being the 'first-stop shop' for adaptation information in Europe.

The three **objectives** of Climate-ADAPT are:

1. to facilitate the collection, sharing and use of information on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and build a consistent and updated knowledge base.
2. to assist an effective uptake of the relevant knowledge by decision-makers.
3. to contribute to a greater level of coordination among sectors and institutional levels .

To progress towards the objectives according with the mission/vision of Climate-ADAPT, the following key **principles** -coming from the previous Climate-ADAPT Work Plan- provide strategic guidance to further develop the platform:

- Climate-ADAPT should facilitate quick and straightforward access to the most relevant sources of adaptation-relevant information in the EU.
- Climate-ADAPT should allow interested stakeholders in climate change adaptation policies and knowledge the possibility to provide information.
- Climate-ADAPT should not be a repository of data and information, but an entry point to multiple sources of information and relevant data providers/ repositories on climate change adaptation.
- Climate-ADAPT should provide mostly information on adaptation resources that are relevant at EU level and should be complementary to the roles and content of transnational, national and other adaptation knowledge platforms in the EU"
- Climate-ADAPT is a long-term knowledge infrastructure, to be further developed step by step, responsive to the users' needs and priorities and according to the available resources.

Governmental decision-makers as well as the organisations supporting them in the development, implementation and evaluation of climate change adaptation strategies, plans and actions at EU, transnational, national and sub-national level, compose the primary **target audience** of Climate-ADAPT,

Beside this core audience, the platform has a wider spectrum of users, including business and non-governmental organisations, researchers, practitioners and other interested citizens.

In terms of geographical scope, Climate-ADAPT covered initially 33 EEA member countries: 28 European Union (EU) Member States, together with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. The group of countries considered as "intended target" was later extended to cover also the EEA cooperating countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia as well as Kosovo[6])

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[6] This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence. (http://www.eionet.europa.eu/countries)

Regarding the **main structure** of the platform, Climate-ADAPT consists of two main components: i) the web content and ii) the database. The first component (web content) focuses primarily on providing informative descriptions on adaptation in Europe. It contains mainly textual information that is organised under main entry points in the main navigation bar. Within the webpages is included a set of tools that assist users in developing climate actions by providing guidance and links to relevant resources.

The second component, the database, aims at sharing the information on adaptation in Europe by guiding users to the relevant external resources, but also at visualising these resources in various policy contexts across the Climate-ADAPT webpages. It contains structured information on adaptation from reliable, external information sources. The database provides easy access to all relevant sources of information by using tailored search criteria and allows a quick overview by screening the metadata available for each information source.

4. Objectives of the Climate-ADAPT Strategy 2019-2021

The objectives for this Climate-ADAPT Strategy 2019-2021 are:

- to identify the priority activities for the platform to be developed during the period
- to redefine the governance structure and role of stakeholders
- to consider the human and financial resources available.

Two important considerations have driven the process of defining the structure and components of the Climate-ADAPT Strategy 2019-2021:

- the findings and recommendations from the Climate-ADAPT evaluation and from the EU Adaptation Strategy evaluation.
- the need to keep continuity with the previous Climate-ADAPT Work Plan 2013-2018 and with the basic content structure of the platform, as it is the result of a progressive work since 2012.

5. Governance

The governance of Climate-ADAPT refers to all actors involved in the management and updating of the platform and their responsibilities and actions. (figure 4).
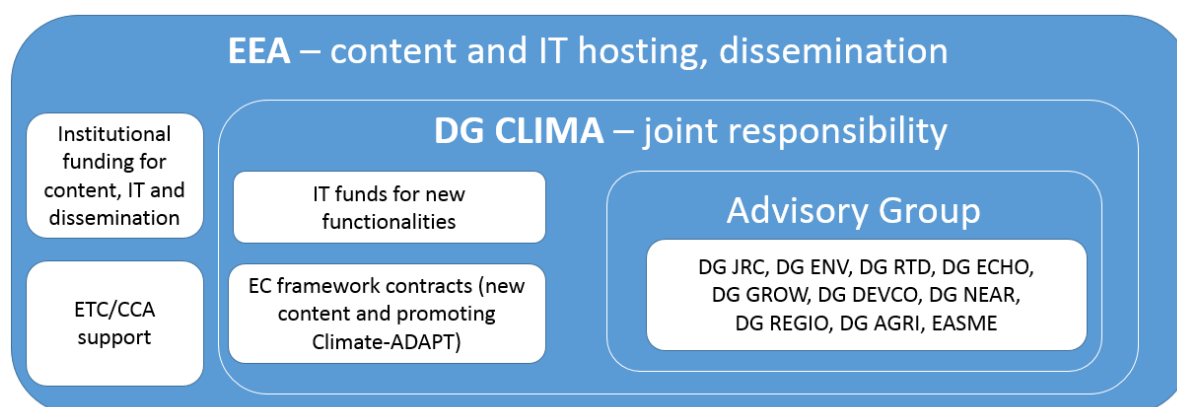

Figure 4. Climate-ADAPT governance scheme

5.1 Climate-ADAPT joint management: DG CLIMA and EEA, roles and responsibilities

Since the launch of the platform, the management of the platform is under the joint responsibility of the EEA and DG CLIMA. The roles of both organisations are:

DG CLIMA

- Chair the Advisory Group (see 5.2).
- Support (financial and management) the necessary new IT and functional developments of Climate-ADAPT stemming from the implementation of the EU Adaptation Strategy, including the development and/or implementation of new tools.
- Ensure coordination, cooperation and communication with the Working Group on Adaptation under the Climate Change Committee (CCC), and with its National Focal Points.
- Coordinate the input from other Commission DGs contributions.

EEA

- Host and regular daily management of the platform, providing the necessary human and financial resources to ensure regular maintenance and updating of Climate-ADAPT.
- Member of the Advisory Group (see 5.2).
- In close collaboration with the Commission, update the content of all sections of Climate-ADAPT, supporting DG CLIMA in their discussions on contributions from other DGs.
- Coordination and communication with EEA countries, through the EIONET National Reference Centres on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and with other contributors and stakeholders.
- Review potential content from other organisations and projects and approve according to Climate-ADAPT criteria.
- Define the priority implementation actions for the European Topic Centre on Climate Change Adaptation in the Annual Action Plans (see 5.3).
- Regular contacts with DG CLIMA on the implementation of the annual actions.

5.2 Advisory Group: composition, roles and responsibilities

The main objective of the Climate-ADAPT Advisory Group is to provide strategic direction for the development of the platform. This includes advice on revisions needed to the Strategy and helping to define priorities for action, as well as recommendations on the content and presentation of information on the platform. The meeting frequency of the advisory group is two or three times per year.

Members and roles of the Climate-ADAPT Advisory Group

- **DG CLIMA**: chairs, ensures alignment with the EU Adaptation Strategy and coordinates Commission contributions, exchanges information with the EU Member States through the Working Group on Adaptation under the EU Climate Change Committee.
- **EEA** (supported by ETC CCA): reports on progress in regular management and maintenance and revises the Strategy where needed, in close collaboration with DG CLIMA, exchanges information with the EIONET National Reference Centres on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation.
- **DG JRC** provides relevant published content and aims for consistency and synergies with their general activities.

– **DG ENV** provides information on relevant projects funded by DG ENV and considers appropriate links to the Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE) and the Water Information System for Europe (WISE), both maintained by EEA.
– **DG RTD** provides information on relevant EU funded (FP7 and Horizon2020) programmes and projects, considers appropriate links to Nature-Based Solutions and Climate Services relevant platforms (e.g., OPPLA, ClimatEurope), and links to relevant EU science-policy initiatives whilst continuing to aim for consistency and synergies with their general activities.
– **DG ECHO** provides information on relevant initiatives related to civil protection and disaster risk reduction.
– **DG GROW** to enhance the coordination and synergies between Climate-ADAPT and EU space programmes, specifically the Copernicus Climate Change Service.
– **DG DEVCO** and **DG NEAR** to enhance coordination and synergies on adaptation (e.g. guidance, tools, platforms).
– **DG REGIO** provides information on projects and initiatives related to climate change adaptation stemming from regional cooperation programmes and macro regional strategies
– **DG AGRI** provides contributions to the agriculture and forest sections and disseminates the platform and its contents within related bodies, such as the Standing Forestry Committee and other EU forest and agriculture coordination bodies.
– **EASME** provides information on relevant LIFE and Horizon 2020 programmes and projects, and aims for consistency and synergies with their general activities, encouraging H2020 and LIFE projects to make better use of Climate-ADAPT.

5.3 EEA – ETC/CCA regular management

EEA is in charge of the regular maintenance and updating of Climate-ADAPT, following the priorities agreed under this Climate-ADAPT Strategy. In doing so, EEA is supported by the European Topic Centre on Climate Change Adaptation (ETC/CCA).

The ETC/CCA Annual Action Plans are the instruments that set up the implementation actions linked to the lines of activities identified in this Strategy. The ETC/CCA Annual Action Plans identify and define the details of the tasks, the experts in charge, the deliverables and the distribution of resources. Therefore, the regular management of Climate-ADAPT assures the consistency between the strategic planning level and the annual implementation actions.

On a regular basis, coordination between EEA and the ETC/CCA is carried out by means of:

- Biweekly Climate-ADAPT remote meetings between EEA project manager(s) and ETC/CCA co-task managers and ETC/CCA task leaders.
- Quarterly Climate-ADAPT remote meetings between EEA project manager(s), ETC/CCA co-task managers, ETC/CCA task leaders and ETC/CCA thematic experts.
- Annual Climate-ADAPT meeting between all EEA and ETC/CCA experts.

5.4 Countries: role of EIONET and role of the EC Working Group on Adaptation

The EEA works together with its member countries through the European Environment Information and Observation NETwork (EIONET), which is a partnership network between the EEA and its member and cooperating countries.

EEA organises annually a workshop on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. Participants are EIONET National Reference Centres (NRC, national experts from institutions involved in the field of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change) of EEA members and

collaborating countries, the European Commission services and other organisations (such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction-Europe, the Word Health Organization-Europe, the European Investment Bank and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control). The workshop's objectives are to exchange information on work done and future projects on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation in EEA, in member and collaborating countries and by the European Commission.

NRCs are one of the key target audiences for Climate-ADAPT. The EEA regularly provides information on the progress of Climate-ADAPT to NRCs, and NRCs are requested to provide feedback for the further development of the platform, including priorities for the Climate-ADAPT Strategy. NRCs are also asked to help disseminate and promote Climate-ADAPT and to provide new content for the platform.

Box 1.   Country pages in Climate-ADAPT: formal reporting process

The country pages on Climate-ADAPT reflect the information reported by countries under the Greenhouse gas Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (MMR) Art. 15 on adaptation and will in future be the dissemination tool for the information reported under Art. 17 of the Governance of the Energy Union Regulation.

Nominated rapporteurs in EU Member States (*) will before 15 March 2019 and every 2 years thereafter report on adaptation, following the latest version of the reporting guidance and making use of the tool prepared by EEA for structured reporting. All necessary documents can be found in Reportnet, in the Reporting Obligation Database (ROD).

The reported information will be structured in the country profile and some overview maps with links to country documents will be provided. It is always possible to update the country information between two reporting deadlines to make sure the links and information on Climate-ADAPT present the most recent situation in each country, by resubmitting the information in the CDR.

For EEA member countries that are not EU Member States and EEA cooperating countries, the same information as in the reporting guidance for EU Member States is asked on a voluntary basis.

(*) Rapporteurs are officially nominated by Member States and the European Commission (DG CLIMA) is informed of this, they will then get special permission to report for Adaptation in the Reportnet Central Data Repository (CDR)

DG CLIMA chairs the Working Group on Adaptation (WGA), under the Climate Change Committee (CCC), whose members are National climate change adaptation Focal Points (usually from Environment Ministries or Agencies; in general not the same as the EIONET NRCs, which are usually from Environment Agencies). The general aim of the WGA is to support the European Commission in the implementation of the EU Adaptation Strategy. Specifically and regarding the action 5 of the Adaptation Strategy on Climate-ADAPT:

- DG CLIMA, supported by EEA, will regularly inform the WGA on the state of play and progress in Climate-ADAPT.
- DG CLIMA will consult the WGA on the Climate-ADAPT Strategy, for information purposes and feedback.
- DG CLIMA will consult the WGA about the national information in Climate-ADAPT.

Therefore, in each country, the WGA NFPs are the primary responsible for the updating of Climate-ADAPT country pages, while they maintain a close coordination with the respective EIONET NRC to assure an effective reporting activity.

5.5 Link with other stakeholders

Other key stakeholder have a role in the governance of the platform. Representatives of the transnational, sub-national, and local/city levels, researchers, NGOs and others are regularly informed on the state of play and progress in Climate-ADAPT, so they can provide inputs for the development of the platform. This is done by means of webinars and the regular newsletter.

In EIONET workshops such other stakeholders can participate and have the opportunity to give feedback on the progress and priorities for Climate-ADAPT. The EEA presents the state of play and next steps in the development of Climate-ADAPT at many other events -conferences, meeting, webinars, workshops, such as the regular meetings of the Environmental Protection Agencies (EPAs Network) interest group on climate change adaptation. This provides an opportunity for other stakeholders to give their views on areas for improvements, as well as possibilities for contributing content.

6. Climate-ADAPT Strategy 2019-2021: Lines of activities

This section describes the strategic lines of activities to further developing Climate-ADAPT during the period of validity of the Strategy.

The lines of activities are grouped following the structure of the platform in its two main components; the data base contents and the contents of the webpages.

Additional lines of activities focus on initiatives for dissemination and communication aimed to engage potential users and providers of the platform, monitoring of the progress of Climate-ADAPT (including reporting activities) and supporting the IT development according to user needs.

6.1 Maintenance of Climate-ADAPT Data Base contents

The objective of this line of activities is to assure and improve the internal consistency of the Climate-ADAPT Database (DB) items and to guarantee the regular and systematic updating of the DB following the standard procedure and the set of predetermined and agreed criteria. This is an ongoing task that involves to check the quality of the existing DB items, systematically reviewing out of date items (to replace or archive them) and re-tagging when needed.

Every two years a coverage and data gaps analysis of the DB items (every year with case studies and adaptation options) allows identifying possible gaps and provides guidance to fill in those gaps and balance the database.

6.1.1 Regular upload and update of all types of Climate-ADAPT BD items

Within this line of activity EEA and ETC/CCA will update all the categories of Climate-ADAPT DB items, according to the identified gaps, by means of a regular and systematic screening of main European sources and hubs of information to identify the emerging knowledge and practises in the field of climate change adaptation.

EEA and ETC/CCA will collaborate specifically with relevant European Commission services, that are responsible for and funding important new knowledge and practice programmes and projects. This includes DG RTD (H2020), DG REGIO (Interreg), DG ENV (LIFE), DG AGRI (EIP-AGRI Operational Groups and Focus Groups). EEA is setting up working arrangements with some of these services to allow effective selection and provision of content to Climate-ADAPT from such programmes and projects.

EEA and ETC/CCA experts support the submission of DB items to Climate-ADAPT by external providers.

6.1.2 Enhancement of Climate-ADAPT case studies and adaptation options

Case studies and adaptation options are core parts of Climate-ADAPT, and are specifically developed for the platform. In the case of adaptation options, they describe potential adaptation measures to address specific climate impacts in different sectors. Case studies are illustrative examples of implementation actions that are already being carried out in Europe to increase resilience to extreme weather and slow-onset events, as well as improve adaptation to climate change. These case studies are meant as inspiration for others to also develop and implement similar actions. There are links between case studies and adaptation options.

The target is submitting to the Climate-ADAPT DB an average number of 10 case studies per year during 2019-2021, to fill the gaps and have an appropriate coverage in sectors and impacts, considering also the geographical dimension.

The collection of adaptation options in Climate-ADAPT includes 40 options (2018). The objective for the period 2019-2021 is to review and expand this catalogue considering other available collections/catalogues, sources and experience gained through case study elaboration.

6.2 Further development of Climate-ADAPT web content

The webpages in Climate-ADAP mainly contain textual information, tools and relevant links organised under the following main entry points (sections): 'EU policy', 'Countries, Transnational regions and cities' and 'Knowledge'. Additionally, there are sections on 'Network', 'About', 'Help', 'Events', 'News' and the Newsletter archive. The objective of this line of activity is to guarantee the relevance and up to date of this information along the entire platform by setting up the mechanism described in the next section.

6.2.1 Mechanism for a regular and systematic updating of all webpages

Objective

The aim of this mechanism is to guarantee the regular and systematic updating of all Climate-ADAPT webpages in an effective and efficient way, with clear connections to relevant DB items for every section.

Approach

This mechanism is summarized in the Table 1, which reflects the main structure of the platform (main navigation menu and submenus), and the Climate-ADAPT webpages. In this matrix, each of the webpages is associated with the following parameters:

- frequency of updating
- estimation of effort needed
- Indicative workflow, from the inception to the review and the adoption of the webpages text contents and other elements.

Most of these webpages, as of 2018, already exist in Climate-ADAPT, but some are new and others are merged webpages resulting from a slight re-formulation of the structure of the platform carried on in 2018.

A set of templates for all webpages describe the content and other elements of each section (description, portlets, etc.), with guidance on the length of the text, the type of items in the portlets, the range in the number of elements in each portlet and other elements.

Implementation

The implementation of the mechanism is coordinated by the EEA project manager and ETC/CCA task managers, involving ETC /CCA and EEA experts to work in a coordinated and iterative way and taking into account the guidance content in the templates.

Before publishing the final texts in the Climate-ADAPT webpages, EEA will consult DG CLIMA or countries – if this is the case according with the workflow column "ADOPTION" in Table 1 – on the final text and elements of these webpages.

The first round of the implementation of this mechanism have been developed during 2018, in order to have a complete updated and renovated platform by end of 2018. After this first cycle of implementation, the frequency column in Table 1 determines the following updating exercise of each webpage.

Results from the Climate-ADAPT evaluation contain recommendations and detailed suggestions useful when implementing this updating mechanism (e.g., the report "Systematic Analysis of Climate-ADAPT Links" contains external and internal links to be included in different webpages of Climate-ADAPT).

Over this general scheme for implementing the updating mechanism, some remarks need to be taken into account regarding specific sections in Climate-ADAPT:

EU policy webpages

EU policy pages covers the European policy perspective on adaptation, providing relevant information about the EU Adaptation Strategy, the different policy sectors, funding opportunities and the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. Also other EU policies relevant for adaptation such as the Regional and Neighbourhood policy. The indicative updating frequency can be modified based on the developments in these policy areas.

Country, Transnational regions and Cities webpages

These sections provide information on adaptation at different governance levels (transnational, national, and local). The indicative updating frequency in table 1 can be modified depending e.g. on

emerging developments from the Covenant of Majors for Climate and Energy initiative or according to the formal national reporting process (see box 1).

Knowledge webpages

The 'Knowledge' section provides information on data and indicators, research projects, tools and practical implementation experiences, relevant to the adaptation policy cycle. The indicative updating frequency can be modified according with the available and emerging knowledge. Some tools of this section have complex structures and extensive descriptions, with many associated resources. This is the case of the Adaptation Support Tool, the Urban Adaptation Support Tool (under the responsibility of the Covenant of Mayors) or the Urban Vulnerability Map Book, which updating can required specific resources.

Other Climate-ADAPT webpages (about, help, networks, events, news, newsletter)

The 'Network' page aims to enhance cooperation by providing links to key partners at all governance levels (e.g. institutions, global platforms). Users can find in the 'About' and 'Help' pages a brief introduction to Climate-ADAPT, guidance and support material (e.g. FAQs and tutorials). The indicative updating frequency for these sections can be modified based on ad hoc requirements from users.

The information on adaptation events and news is uploaded to the platform in a continuous mode, and the Climate-ADAPT newsletter is produced quarterly.

Table 1 -- Web pages (main navigation menu in green)			Frequency of updating	Estimation of effort needed	Work flow > INCEPTION	< Work flow > REVIEW	Work flow - ADOPTION
Homepage			annually	Low	ETC	EEA	EEA
About			annually	Low	ETC	EEA	EEA
Climate-ADAPT Database			annually	Low	ETC	EEA	EEA
EU policy	EU Adaptation policy	EU Adaptation Strategy	annually	Low	ETC/EEA	EEA	DGCLIMA
		EU Adaptation Reporting (MMR)	every 2 years	Medium	ETC/EEA	EEA	DGCLIMA
		EU Covenant of Mayors	annually	Medium	CoM	EEA	DGCLIMA
		EU funding of Adaptation	annually	Low	ETC/EEA	EEA	DGCLIMA
	EU sector policies (all the sectors)	Introduction page	annually	Low	ETC	EEA	DGCLIMA
		Agriculture	annually	Low	ETC	EEA	DGCLIMA
		Biodiversity	annually	Low	ETC	EEA	DGCLIMA
		Coastal areas	annually	Low	ETC	EEA	DGCLIMA
		Forestry	annually	Low	ETC	EEA	DGCLIMA
		Water management	annually	Low	ETC	EEA	DGCLIMA
		Marine and fisheries	annually	Low	ETC	EEA	DGCLIMA
		Ecosystem-based approaches (GI)	annually	Medium	ETC/EEA	EEA	DGCLIMA
		Disaster risk reduction	annually	Low	ETC	EEA	DGCLIMA
		Financial	annually	Low	ETC	EEA	DGCLIMA
		Buildings	annually	Low	ETC	EEA	DGCLIMA
		Energy	annually	Low	ETC	EEA	DGCLIMA
		Transport	annually	Low	ETC	EEA	DGCLIMA
		Health	annually	Low	ETC	EEA	DGCLIMA
		Urban	annually	Medium	ETC/EEA	EEA	DGCLIMA
	EU Regional policy		every 4 years	High	ETC/EEA	EEA	DGCLIMA
Countries, transnational regions, cities	Transnational regions (direct link to EU regional policy)		every 4 years	High	ETC	EEA	EEA
	Cities and towns (direct link to urban sector)		annually	Medium	ETC	EEA	EEA
	Country profiles		every 2 years	High	ETC	EEA	Countries
Knowledge	Topics	Impacts, Risks and Vulnerabilities	every 4 years	High	ETC/EEA	EEA	EEA
		Adaptation options	every 2 years	Low	ETC	EEA	EEA
		Uncertainty guidance	every 4 years	High	ETC	EEA	EEA
		Monitoring, Reporting, Evaluation (MRE)	every 2 years	Medium	ETC	EEA	EEA
		EU vulnerability to outside Europe CC impacts	every 4 years	Medium	ETC/EEA	EEA	EEA
	Data & Indicators	Climate Services - C3S	annually	Medium	ETC/EEA	EEA	EEA
		Climate-ADAPT Indicators	annually	Medium	ETC/EEA	EEA	EEA
	Research projects		annually	Medium	ETC	EEA	EEA
	Tools	AST	annually	High	ETC	EEA	EEA

Table 1 -- Web pages (main navigation menu in green)			Frequency of updating	Estimation of effort needed	Work flow > INCEPTION	< Work flow > REVIEW	Work flow - ADOPTION
		Urban AST	annually	Low	CoM	EEA	EEA
		Urban Adaptation Map Viewer	every 2 years	High	ETC/EEA	EEA	EEA
		Economic tools	annually	Medium	ETC	EEA	EEA
	Practice	Case study (with search tool)	every two years	Low	ETC	EEA	EEA
		LIFE projects	annually	Medium	ETC/EEA	EEA	DGCLIMA
		INTERREG projects	annually	Medium	ETC/EEA	EEA	DGCLIMA
		Climate-ADAPT use cases	every 4 years	High	ETC	EEA	EEA
Network - Organizations			biannually	Medium	ETC	EEA	EEA
Help	Intro		annually	Medium	ETC	EEA	EEA
	Glossary		every 2 years	Medium	ETC	EEA	EEA
	FAQ users		annually	Low	ETC	EEA	EEA
	FAQ providers		annually	Low	ETC	EEA	EEA
	Guidance to search function		every 2 years	Low	ETC	EEA	EEA
	Tutorial videos for different types of users		annually	Medium	ETC	EEA	EEA
	Share your info		every 2 years	Low	ETC	EEA	EEA
News and Events			on-going	Medium	ETC	EEA	EEA
Newsletter			quarterly	Medium	ETC	EEA	EEA

new 2019 Climate-ADAPT webpages (or renewed)

6.3 Dissemination strategy

One of the recommendation from the Climate-ADAPT evaluation developed during 2017-18 is to set up a Dissemination Strategy to broaden the outreach of the platform towards sectoral experts and key partners from all governance levels across Europe. Figure 5 shows possible work areas and key partners for the Climate-ADAPT dissemination strategy, as suggested in the Climate-ADAPT evaluation.
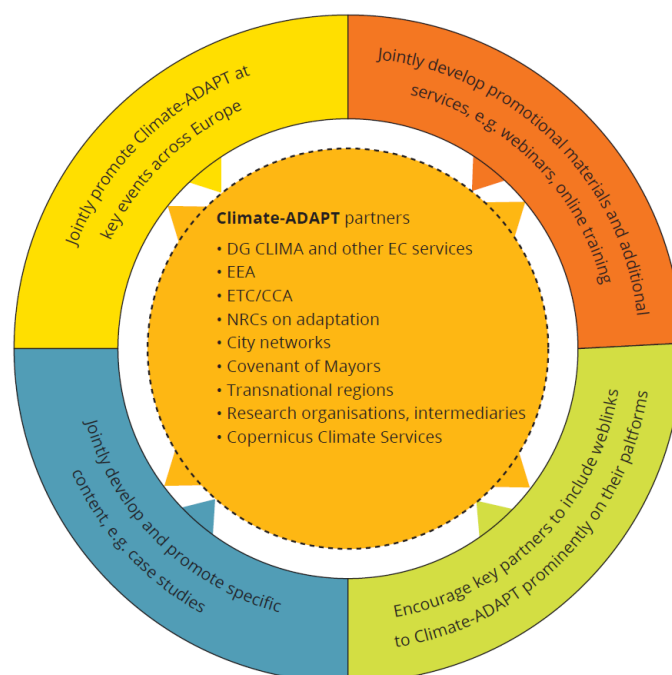

Figure 5. Possible work areas and key partners for the Climate-ADAPT dissemination strategy

The EEA Communication Framework 2014-2018[7] is a reference to this Climate-ADAPT Dissemination Strategy, providing elements and context to define the objective, scope, audience and lines of activities.

Objective

Improve the use of the platform among all real and potential users and providers, promoting the exchange of information, the uptake of the relevant knowledge and the coordination among sectors and institutional levels, in order to motivate and mobilize individual and collective actions for climate change adaptation.

According with the results of the Climate-ADAPT evaluation, some specific user groups have not yet been sufficiently reached, i.e. sectoral experts and users from eastern and central European countries. To filling this need, the Dissemination Strategy has a focus in targeted dissemination action towards these specific groups.

Scope

The Climate-ADAPT Dissemination Strategy comprises a broad range of activities in the fields of information, communication, participation, networking and capacity building.

Target audience

The current target audience of Climate-ADAPT -governmental decision-makers as well as the organisations supporting them- are also the core audience of this Dissemination Strategy, that are detailed in the central element of figure 4. This audience covers the entire institutional EU, national, subnational and local level range active in climate change adaptation.

Approach

The main elements of the Climate-ADAPT Dissemination Strategy are summarized in tables 2 and 3. Table 2 reflects the audience segmented into groups (primary and secondary) with certain characteristics that can be used to differentiate them from each other and used to create a profile for each group, in terms of their needs. Thus, the Dissemination Strategy can develop specific actions, products and/or services adapted for each segment.

	Primary target group	Secondary target groups	Their needs	Characteristics
1	*National policy-makers in Europe*	National Focal Points (EIONET and others)	Condensed information – summaries and syntheses	Non specialised in adaptation Short of time, many responsibilities & roles
		NRCs WGA Focal Points	Gather evidence for policy making – fairly detailed Exchange experiences from other countries Exchange methodologies and finding from LIFE and other projects	Specialised in adaptation
2	*EU and transnational policy-makers*	Transnational regions focal points	Regional information Exchange methodologies and finding from INTERREG projects	Short of time, many responsibilities & roles,
3	*Sub-national policy makers*	Cities	Practical information that allows them to apply it to their own situation. Exchange methodologies and finding from LIFE and other projects	Short of time, many responsibilities & roles,
4	*Intermediaries (government institutes, consultants, academia)*	Researchers	Good search engine to allow them to quickly sift relevant information. Exchange methodologies and finding from research projects	Specialised in adaptation Like detailed, complex and conceptual information
5	*Sectors (at all levels)*	Each sector is a secondary group	Information tailored to their respective sector Summaries and syntheses sectoral overviews	Non specialised in adaptation
6	*New to adaptation*		Simple explanations, summary information	Need guidance to navigate logical routes through the large amount of information

Table 2. Primary and secondary segmented audience for the Climate-ADAPT Dissemination Strategy

Table 3 reflects the main blocks of actions and activities to be developed during the period 2019-2021, that can be targeted to specific types of target groups.

	Line of activities	Action	By whom	By when
General	Create a visual identity	Create a logo	EEA and DG CLIMA	2019
	Produce general and specific dissemination material	Create a specific register on Climate-ADAPT in Wikipedia	EEA and ETC	2019
		Climate-ADAPT leaflet	EEA and ETC	2019
		Climate-ADAPT poster	EEA and ETC	2019
	Participate in relevant climate change adaptation events at EU level	Develop a list of all relevant events at EU level and promote EEA/ETC participation presenting Climate-ADAPT (e.g. ECCA 2019)	EEA and ETC	2019-2021
	Improve the communication process	Check, expand and structure the actual mailing list of Climate-ADAPT users and providers	EEA and ETC	2019
Sharing information	Produce regular dissemination products	Publication of news and events	EEA and ETC	2019-2021
		Quarterly Newsletter	EEA and ETC	2019-2021
	Organise 2-3 webinars per year	Webinars on specific Climate-ADAPT components (case studies, UAST…)	EEA and ETC	2019-2021
		Webinar on EEA reports	EEA and ETC	2019-2021
		Webinars on LIFE projects	EEA and EASME	2019-2021
		Webinars on Research projects	EEA and EASME	2019-2021
		Webinars on Climate Services	EEA and C3S-ECMWF	2019-2021
Uptake of the relevant knowledge	Develop regular products that summarise the Climate-ADAPT database contents and recent updating	Fact-sheet with summary of statistics, semester frequency	EEA and ETC	2019-2021
	Develop storylines for different groups of users	Further develop storylines for users with specific profiles through tutorial videos	EEA and ETC	2019-2021
Coordination among sectors and levels	Coordination meetings	EIONET workshop on CCIVA	EEA	2019-2021
	Promote complementarity between Climate-ADAPT and other platforms at EU, transnational, national and subnational levels	Set up connections and cross linking between platforms	EEA, countries, sub- and transnational, organizations	2019-2021
	Promote information exchange on adaptation practices in vulnerable sectors	Identify a selection of existing forums and initiatives Develop communication material based on C-A content	DG CLIMA and EEA	2019-2021

Table 3. Main blocks of Climate-ADAPT Dissemination Strategy actions and activities to be developed during the period 2019-2021

The ETC/CCA Annual Action Plans will identify the activities of the Dissemination Strategy to be developed and implemented, and their target audiences addressed, according with the priorities and resources of each year.

6.4 Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

The Climate-ADAPT Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation (MRE) scheme is an integral part of the Climate-ADAPT 2019-2021 Strategy. Building on the MRE activities that were carried out and on the findings of the evaluation of the platform, the main elements of the scheme are monitoring, internal reporting, external reporting and evaluation (see Figure 6):

- The **monitoring** scheme serves the internal reporting/management, the external reporting and potential future evaluations.
- The **internal reporting** aims at supporting management of Climate-ADAPT.
- **External Reporting** is used to provide useful/needed information to stakeholders (e.g. knowledge users and providers, decision makers).
- The systematic analysis and synthesis of the reporting will create the periodic **evaluation**, where it will be described whether and how the objectives of Climate-ADAPT are reached.
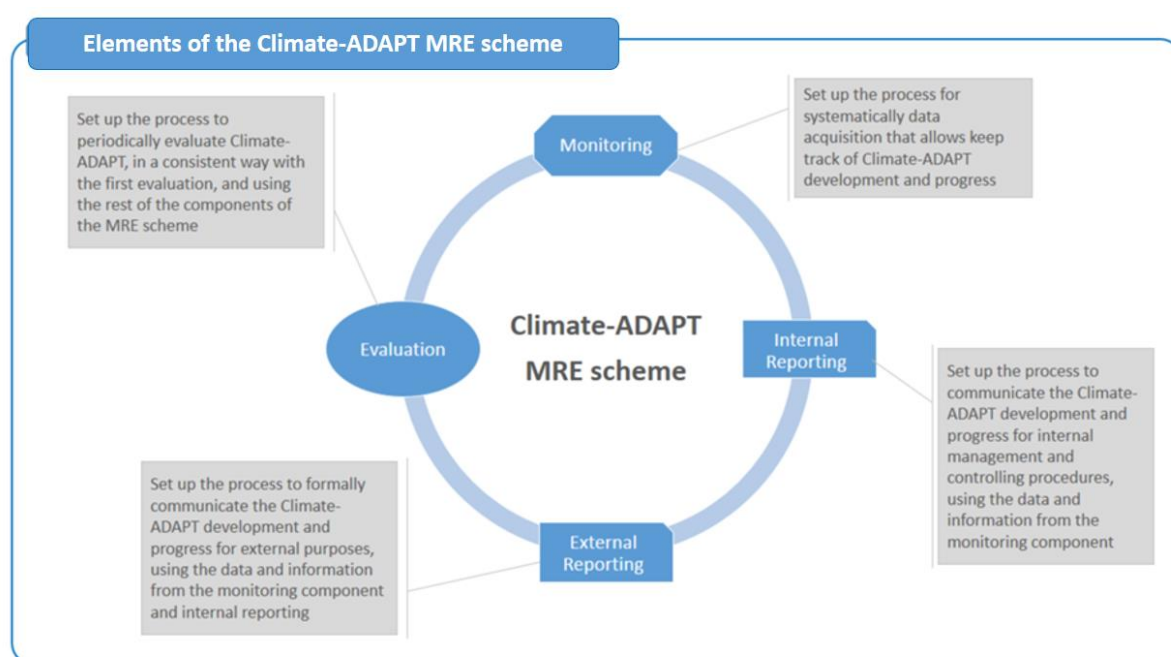

Figure 6. Main elements of MRE scheme

Each Climate-ADAPT subtask is monitored by means of specific activities, which are designed keeping in mind the regular management of the platform -and contribute to the internal reporting- and the communication of tasks -and contribute to the external reporting.

The frequency of these monitoring and reporting activities is therefore aligned in general with the regular reporting of the ETC/CCA. Table 4 lists the specific monitoring activities that conform the Climate-ADAPT MRE scheme, and the relative reporting outputs and products. Reporting products

can be done integrating the data coming from one or from several activities at once, as it is the case of the ETC/CCA Working paper drafted to report all activities every six months.

Evaluation has a longer timeframe, because of the resources needed both for the evaluation, and for the improvement of the platform as assessed through the evaluation itself. The frequency of the evaluation will be set up according with the progress of the platform and the policy context, and will be designed to be consistent with the first evaluation of the platform carried out in 2017-18.

ACTIVITIES BY SUB-TASK	Monitoring	Internal Reporting	External Reporting
Regular upload and update of all types of Climate-ADAPT DB items			
1. Data on DB items submitted for publication, reviewed and published on the platform	Collect and compile in spreadsheet (monthly)	**ETC/CCA Working paper reporting all activities** (every 6 months)	**Fact-sheet with summary of statistics** (every 6 months)
2. Data on DB items archived and deleted	Collect and compile in spreadsheet (monthly)	**ETC/CCA Working paper reporting all activities** (every 6 months)	**Fact-sheet with summary of statistics** (every 6 months)
3. Database statistical analysis	Database export function (every two years)	**ETC/CCA Working paper reporting the analysis** (every two years)	
Enhancement of Climate-ADAPT case studies and adaptation options			
4. Data on case studies and adaptation options	Collect and compile in spreadsheet (monthly)	**ETC/CCA Working paper reporting all activities** (every 6 months)	**Fact-sheet with summary of statistics** (every 6 months)
5. Case studies and adaptation options statistical and coverage gap analysis	Database export (annually)	**ETC/CCA Working paper reporting the analysis** (every year)	
6. Structured feedback from local contacts of case studies	Collect and compile feedbacks (every two years)	**Report** (every two years)	
Further development of Climate-ADAPT web content			
7. Data and information on webpages set up, review and update	Collect and compile in spreadsheet (monthly)	**ETC/CCA Working paper reporting all activities** (every 6 months)	
Dissemination Strategy			
8. Newsletter statistics	Collect and compile information from programme analytics (every 6 months)		**Fact-sheet with summary of statistics D4** (every 6 months)
9. Climate-ADAPT web statistics	Collect and compile information from Google analytics (every 6 months)		**Fact-sheet with summary of statistics D4** (every 6 months)
10. Feedback on dissemination activities	Collect and compile information on dissemination activities. (every 6 months)	**Report** (yearly)	

ACTIVITIES BY SUB-TASK	Monitoring	Internal Reporting	External Reporting
11. Evaluation of the uptake of Climate-ADAPT based on the analysis of Climate-ADAPT use cases	Collection through template (every four years)		**Publication on platform** (every four years)
12. Climate-ADAPT inbox	Collection in table (quarterly)	**Table** (yearly)	
Reporting all activities undertaken by ETC/CCA			
13. Summary of ETC experts' activities	Collect and compile in spreadsheet (monthly)	**ETC/CCA Working paper reporting all activities** (every 6 months)	

Table 4. Specific monitoring activities that conform the Climate-ADAPT MRE scheme, and the associated reporting outputs and products

6.5 IT related aspects

The objective of this line of activities is to assure maximum structural coherence and full technological operability of all webpages and functionalities of Climate-ADAPT, including the processes to:

- enhance the consistency among all sections of the platform
- improve the layout, with maximum coherence with other EEA information systems
- submit items to the platform
- automatically integrate information in Climate-ADAPT
- promote the connections and cross linking between platforms at different levels
- optimise the search engine
- develop new tools according to emerging needs

EEA implements these activities with some own resources and the support of the ETC/CCA while DG CLIMA supports the implementation through periodical projects and contracts.

7. Financial and human resources

The financing and resources needs of Climate-ADAPT are from DG CLIMA and EEA, each with a different focus; table 5 summarises the annual resources from 2012 to 2018. Besides these resources, significant investment from DG CLIMA was dedicated for the initial developing of the platform.

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
DG CLIMA		130	250	120	250		150	
EEA	**Staff**	150 (2 FTE)	150 (2 FTE)	150 (2 FTE)	150 (2 FTE)	150 (2 FTE)	150 (2 FTE)	150 (2 FTE)
	IT		20	20	20	120	20	20
	ETC/CCA support	200	200	200	200	200	200	200

Table 5. Summary of Climate-ADAPT resources 2012-2018 (Keuro; FTE: full time equivalent)

For the period, 2019-2021 it is expected a similar level of financial resources.

7.1 Contribution from EEA

The EEA is responsible for financing regular management of the platform (uploading, updating and maintenance of database and webpages contents), some IT development (such as the migration from the Content Management System Liferay to Plone) and IT maintenance (such as dealing with IT bugs and set up new sections).

EEA also contributes by means of its indicators and assessments, which are published on the EEA web site and for which links are provided within Climate-ADAPT in the relevant sections.

The activities and associated financial and human resources dedicated by the EEA to the Climate-ADAPT platform are included in the EEA Multiannual Work Programme, the Annual Management Plan and, complementarily, in the ETC CCA annual Action Plans.

7.2 Contribution from DG CLIMA

DG CLIMA finances new content and IT developments linked to the implementation of the EU Adaptation Strategy, through projects and contracts.