

# Climate-ADAPT use case 13 — Cascais Municipality

## Using the Urban Adaptation Support Tool to train staff in a network of municipalities to develop local adaptation plans

**Climate-ADAPT features used:** database (guidelines/case studies); knowledge (Urban Adaptation Support Tool)

**Sector:** adaptation in general

**Governance level:** sub-national/local

**Biogeographical or macro-region:** south-west Europe, Atlantic area

**Policy stage:** planning actions

### The challenge

The Cascais municipality (Portugal) was one of the first to develop a local strategy for the assessment of climate change (2010). The strategy used a multisector approach to climate change, which assesses climate and socio-economic scenarios, vulnerabilities, impacts and adaptation options for the coming decades. It also provides an approach to developing adaptation strategies by evaluating the actions that could contribute most to the resilience process.

The National Adaptation Strategy for Portugal (ENAAC 2020) includes adaptation at local level as one of its main priorities. The pioneer work of Cascais has gained respect from other stakeholders at national level, and the Municipality of Cascais has contributed its experience to other local climate change strategies.

In 2013, the Cascais municipality participated in the ClimAdaPT.Local project, funded by EEA Grants, which was aimed at developing adaptation strategies for

26 municipalities, manuals for implementation and training courses. It is currently considered one of the most ambitious adaptation projects in Portugal.

Simultaneously, the city of Cascais recently (in 2017) undertook the endeavour of becoming the first municipality in Portugal with an action plan for adaptation covering a medium-term perspective. The first step was to understand how to evaluate the adaptation actions already implemented and to select actions for further use within local policy instruments in the future.

### The approach

As part of the ClimAdaPT.Local project, the Cascais municipality needed to improve its methodology, particularly the first steps regarding the assessment of impacts and vulnerabilities and the determination of local governments' policy needs.

Although the experiences collected in previous participatory processes were very valuable in ensuring the commitment of all relevant partners within the local council and other stakeholders, challenges remained regarding how to best engage participants in contributing to urban adaptation action plans.

Because the national adaptation platforms, APA *Alterações Climáticas and Portal do Clima* <sup>(53)</sup>, currently provide information mainly on climate change and its impacts, and there is as yet no comprehensive knowledge base on urban adaptation at national level in Portugal, the Cascais municipality started to assess some of the information at EU level available on Climate-ADAPT. Through the Urban Adaptation Support Tool, developed within the European Commission's Mayors Adapt initiative, guidance on all stages of urban adaptation planning and policy is available that is directly applicable to cities. In [steps 1-6](#) of the tool, guidance on stakeholder participation methods from sources within Europe is available. Climate-ADAPT case

<sup>(53)</sup> <http://portaldoclima.pt/pt>

studies, specifically dealing with practical experiences with stakeholder engagement processes, are accessible using the tool.

A few of the Climate-ADAPT case studies, such as 'Implementation of the integrated master plan for coastal safety in Flanders (2014)' <sup>(54)</sup> and 'Tamera water retention landscape to restore the water cycle and reduce vulnerability to droughts' (2015) <sup>(55)</sup>, accessed through the Case Study Search Tool <sup>(56)</sup> were analysed in terms of approaches that could be transferable to the specific circumstances of the Portuguese municipalities. The methodologies used in the case studies were considered best practices and consistent with EU policies and were taken into account in the process of developing the methodology.

For the Cascais Adaptation Action Plan, a cost-benefit analysis was initially considered the best solution to assess the effects of the intended adaptation measures on the resilience of the city against climate change. However, as a result of the extensive information provided in steps 6-2 of the Urban Adaptation Support Tool (monitoring and evaluation) <sup>(57)</sup> of Climate-ADAPT, it was decided that a monitoring framework rather than guidance with detailed prescriptions was the best solution to ensure the practical applicability of the plan. This meant that teams, resources and decision-making processes were decided on on the basis of a current baseline evaluation instead of a long-term cost-benefit analysis, as the uncertainty of future scenarios was too high for appropriate impact assessments.

In line with the recommendations on urban adaptation in Europe in the EEA report Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe 2016, local adaptation initiatives should benefit from knowledge available at higher levels of governance. Climate-ADAPT fulfils its role by providing access to relevant knowledge, for example on stakeholder involvement in the development of urban adaptation plans, to complement the information available at national level. Since monitoring and evaluation of adaptation is still a new area, Climate-ADAPT helped to inform the policy process in Portugal by providing the most current methodologies when needed.

**Figure A13** Ribeira das Vinhas greenway restoration project



**Note:** The photograph shows a greenway restoration with nature-based solutions, which included re-naturalisation of the riverbed and creation of a permeable trail, which allows it to be under water without significant damage and without blocking transportation of sediments or other materials. The valley will furthermore be reforested with native plants and trees.

**Source:** Câmara Municipal de Cascais/Municipality of Cascais.

### Future plans

The Cascais municipality is now launching the National Network of Adapted Municipalities, the goals of which are to promote and share knowledge on adaptation and provide resources in a similar way to Climate-ADAPT, but in Portuguese, which could result in the dissemination of ideas about methods and contents to cities of all sizes in all Portuguese-speaking countries and would be complementary to the activities and platforms of the municipality's European peers. The Municipality of Cascais, as a forerunner city, aims for an adaptation action plan that will be implemented and evaluated and will provide a methodology that can be replicated in the future, regardless of the demographic, economic or geographical characteristics of the city. It would be of great interest to the municipality and the National Network of Adapted Municipalities to share their acquired know-how and supporting materials (e.g. manuals) on Climate-ADAPT. In addition, the municipality would appreciate information and guidance on adaptation monitoring that could be obtained from Climate-ADAPT.

<sup>(54)</sup> <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/eu-adaptation-policy/covenant-of-mayors>

<sup>(55)</sup> [http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/data-and-downloads#b\\_start=0](http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/data-and-downloads#b_start=0)

<sup>(56)</sup> <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/sat>

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