

Selection criteria for Climate-ADAPT case studies

Nine criteria have been identified for selecting and maintaining case studies for Climate-ADAPT, with the first five being considered as the main inclusion/exclusion criteria (*eligibility criteria*) and the other four considered as *qualifying criteria*.

All criteria are meant to support the overall quality and consistency of case studies and develop an overall catalogue covering diverse climate change impacts, sectors, and European regions.

1. Clear relevance of the case for Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) (*eligibility*)

The case should have been clearly developed as response to climate change challenges. Cases where climate change adaptation is enhanced though it is actually not the main goal of the initiative, can also be considered. The classification of cases considers three levels defining how much the action was developed specifically as a CCA action or within other related policies:

- Case developed, implemented and funded as a CCA action;
- Case partially developed, implemented and funded as a CCA action
- Case mainly developed, implemented and funded because of other policy objectives, but with significant consideration of CCA aspects.

The funding source of the selected case according to this classification will be reflected in each case study to allow a better understanding of the respective governance approach of the case study.

2. Actual implementation (*eligibility*)

The cases have to describe either implemented adaptation measures/adaptation measures under implementation or actions that are preparing/ improving the enabling conditions to implement adaptation. Three key enabling conditions are recognised for Climate-ADAPT case studies, in line with the IPCC AR6 report ([chapter 17](#)): Governance, Finance, and Knowledge and capacity. Those actions are described in further detail in the list of [key type of measures \(KTM\)](#). Actions should be specific to the explicit adaptation goals of the respective case.

Vulnerability assessments, risk analysis or impact assessment studies as such cannot be considered Climate-ADAPT case studies, unless they are at least endorsed by the authorities engaged in climate change adaptation and used to formulate/revise national, regional or local policies.

3. Accessibility and possibility for assessment and evaluation (*eligibility*)

Climate-ADAPT case studies aim to share knowledge and practical experience for peer-to-peer learning across Europe. Information on the cases should therefore be easily accessible and (re-) assessment should be feasible. The establishment of direct contacts with one or more reference person(s) directly involved in the preparation, implementation as well as MRE of the case is needed. Focus should be in particular on cases in which an assessment or evaluation procedure has already been conducted (e.g. cost-effectiveness analysis, monitoring of results) (see also criterion 8).

4. Geographical scope (*eligibility*)

The case studies should have the same geographic coverage of the whole [Climate-ADAPT](#), i.e. the 32 EEA Member countries: the 27 EU Member States, together with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. The case studies can also cover the EEA cooperating countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Kosovo. The selection process of the cases should aim at including at least one case study from each EEA member country. The catalogue of case studies shall also aim at a good coverage of all European [transnational regions](#).

5. Avoiding maladaptation (*eligibility*)

Case studies must not refer to initiatives of maladaptation. In this sense, initiatives described in case studies to address vulnerability of one location must not increase the vulnerability of other locations. Moreover, adaptation measures should not further increase emissions of greenhouse gasses (strengthening the causes of climate change), damage the most vulnerable groups of population, create disproportions among different social groups, and conflict with environmental and sustainability policy goals.

6. Supporting the implementation of or implementing measures at local and sub-national scales (*qualifying*)

Sub-national and local are the scales of specific interest since sub-national and local authorities, and cities, are the main intended end users of the information on case studies. However, transboundary cases (at the regional or local scale) could also be considered, provided that the case is located in EEA member countries. Considering the multi-level governance of adaptation in Europe, national level cases as well as European initiatives can also be considered, especially if they support adaptation at smaller spatial scales, for example in the case of national level standards and/or measures. Especially for these cases, a clear description of the added value of the procedural measure for actual adaptation needs to be clearly described in the case study.

7. Multi-sector (including ecosystem-based) approaches (*qualifying*)

Adaptation initiatives described in case studies can focus on a specific economic sector or on several ones. Cases including a multi-sector, or an ecosystem-based approach should be considered with particular interest.

8. Quality of content (*qualifying*)

Case studies with complete description of all the aspects of the adaptation process are preferred. Description should include for example: aspects of good cost-benefit and/or good cost-effectiveness ratios, sufficient stakeholders' participation, clear identification of the reference scenario(s) considered, clear consideration of the relevant legal and institutional frameworks, evidence of multi-benefits beyond adaptation, contribution to the sustainable development and transformative approach to adaptation. EU funded initiatives and projects shall be especially considered for the selection of case studies. This approach is taken because in these cases, analyses have been usually performed and documented based on transparent criteria. In addition, initiatives funded at the national, sub-national and local scale can also provide useful information for case study development.

9. Recent information (*qualifying*)

To present the most current state of adaptation knowledge and experience in the Climate-ADAPT case studies, cases that have been recently finalized or started (approximately in the last three years) are preferred.

Periodic assessments of the coverage and the quality of the content of the Climate-ADAPT case studies will be performed which can lead to updating or substituting/archiving older cases and cases where up-to-date information is no longer available. The selection process of the cases should ensure that all adaptation sectors and geographical areas considered in Climate-ADAPT are properly covered, being aware that some sectors and areas are more advanced in adaptation policies and actions than others. A clear link between cases and the respective adaptation options is required in the description of the case.