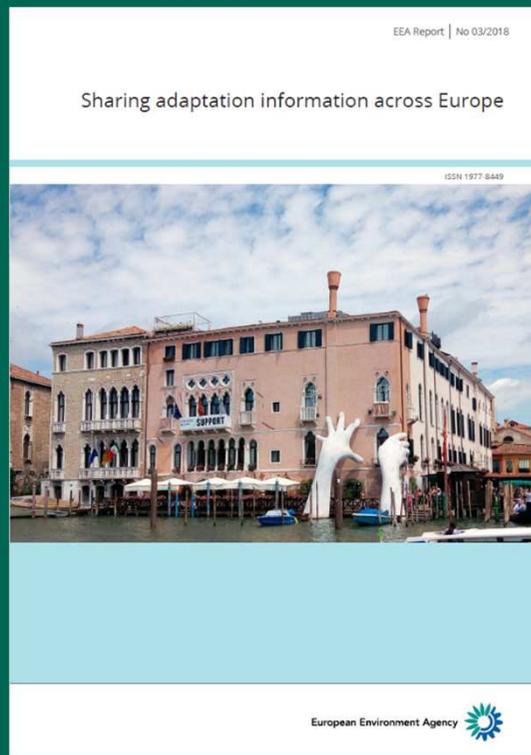


## Topic 2: Findings from the Climate-ADAPT evaluation



Climate-ADAPT-Sharing adaptation information across Europe  
European Climate Adaptation Platform

Search the website

About Search the database EU policy Countries, regions, cities Knowledge Network Help

### About Climate Change Adaptation in Europe

The European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) aims to support Europe in adapting to climate change. It is an initiative of the European Commission and helps users to access and share information on:

- Expected climate change in Europe
- Current and future vulnerability of regions and sectors
- National and transnational adaptation strategies
- Adaptation case studies and potential adaptation options
- Tools that support adaptation planning

[Read more](#)

New to adaptation? Use the Adaptation Support Tool

What are European countries doing?

Choose a country

Find case studies on adaptation in Europe

Share your information

News Events Newsletter Latest updates

European Environment Agency

The screenshot shows the homepage of the European Climate Adaptation Platform. It features a blue header with the platform's name and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with links to 'About', 'Search the database', 'EU policy', 'Countries, regions, cities', 'Knowledge', 'Network', and 'Help'. The main content area includes a large image of a modern building, a section titled 'About Climate Change Adaptation in Europe' with a list of key information, and four interactive tiles: 'New to adaptation? Use the Adaptation Support Tool', 'What are European countries doing?' (with a country selection dropdown), 'Find case studies on adaptation in Europe' (with a map), and 'Share your information' (with a network diagram). At the bottom, there are four buttons for 'News', 'Events', 'Newsletter', and 'Latest updates', followed by the EEA logo.

# To be evaluated: Action 5 - Further develop Climate-ADAPT

## Context of the platform development and evaluation:

- Increased action at all governance levels
- Changing information needs
- Growth and Diversification of knowledge

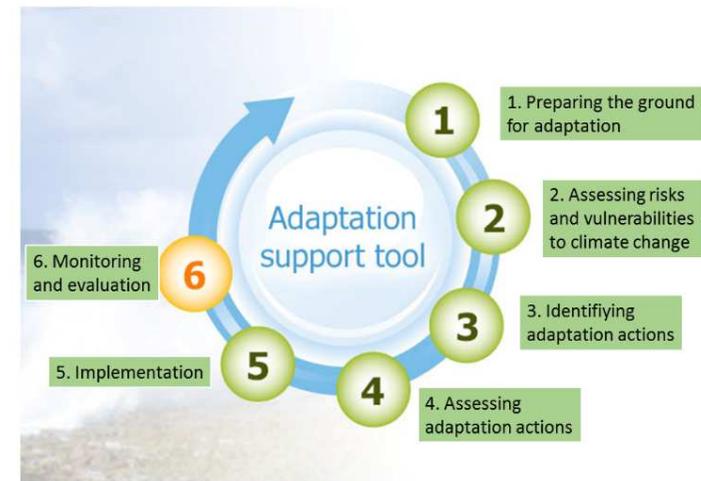


Figure: Adaptation Policy Cycle (EEA, 2017)

## Organisation of the evaluation:

- Evidence information mainly provided by ETC/CCA (supported by 16 colleagues)
- Evaluation mainly done by EEA, supported by ETC/CCA (advice/support from 10 EEA colleagues)

# Process evaluation - Conceptual framework

## Assessing the fulfillment of the overall and specific Climate-ADAPT objectives

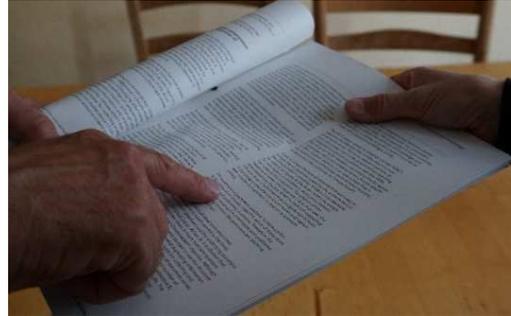
Source: Climate-ADAPT Work plan 2013-2018

Operationalization by 14 questions

### Objective A:

Facilitating the sharing of knowledge

- Questions A1 to A4



### Objective B:

Assisting the uptake of knowledge

- Questions B1 to B6



### Objective C:

Contributing to a better cooperation among sectors and between governance levels

- Questions C1 to C4



Photos: Johann Mattern

European Environment Agency



# Evaluation methodology - practical multi-method approach

## Complementary approaches

- Internal assessment elements:
  - Coverage of content
  - Quality of functionalities
  - Coverage of weblinks
- External feedback mechanisms:
  - Web statistics
  - User/provider survey
  - Climate-ADAPT use cases
  - Ad-hoc feedback

## Meaningful outcomes, but

- 12 out of 14 evaluation questions covered

4) Link to EU adaptation strategy evaluation by qualitative summary

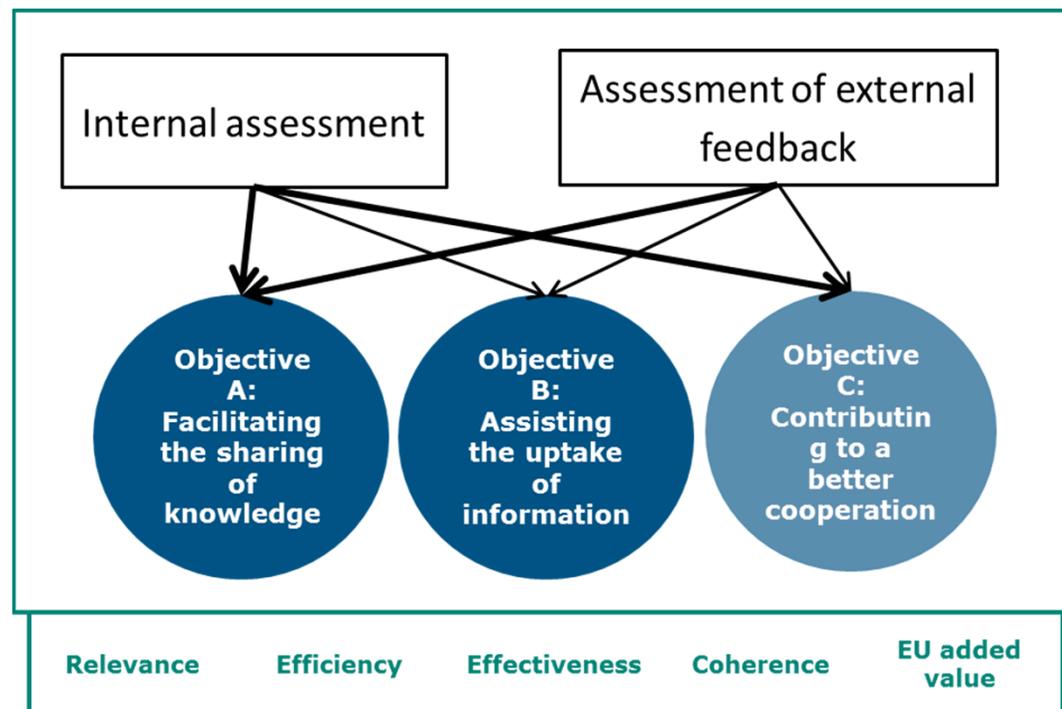


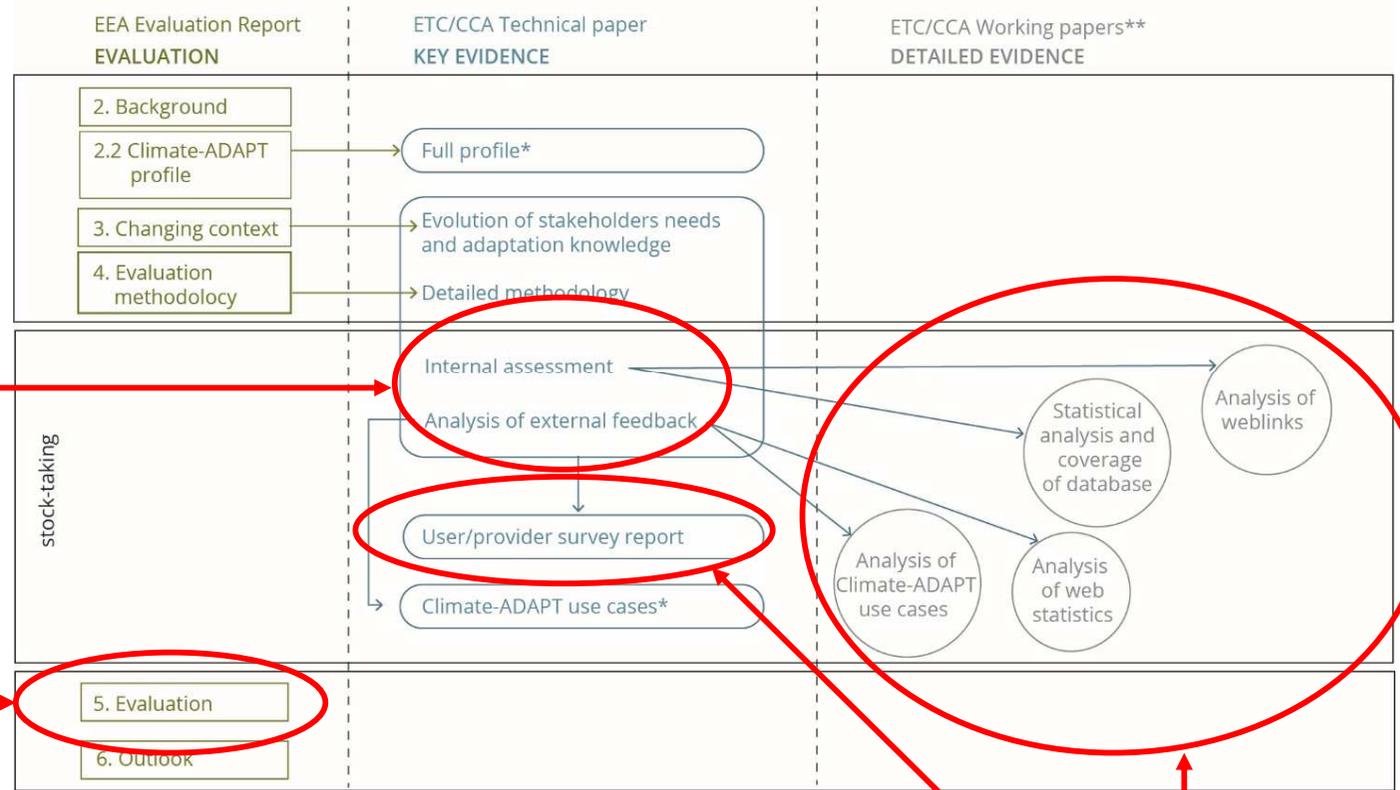
Figure: Informing the EU Strategy Evaluation by evaluating the fulfilment of the three specific Climate-ADAPT objectives; objective C partly covered  
Source: EEA, 2017

# Bridging the gap between providing tangible results and keeping the link to the evidence

- Explore the wealth of information in the evaluation documents

2. Key evidence per objective and question

3. Synthesis (Strategic and technical conclusions)



1. Detailed evidence per evaluation tool

# Understanding the actual user/provider audience

## B1) Who is using Climate-ADAPT?

### Overall outreach:

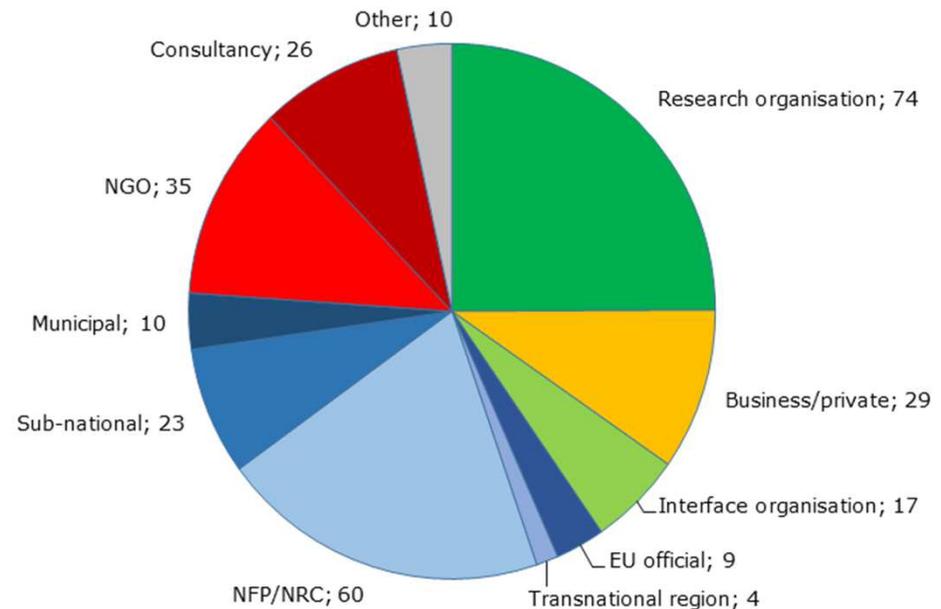
- Increase in users by 5 times (2800 monthly users in 2013 to 14100 in 2017) (Web statistics)

### Outreach to intended target audience:

- Used by intended target audience (2/3 of Survey respondents)
- High share of organisations supporting governmental decision-makers (Survey, Use cases)

### Geographic origin:

- All EEA countries, but least by Central and Eastern European countries (all means)
- Also users outside the EU (Web statistics, Survey)



**Figure:** Type of organisations of respondents (N=211) Survey Q1

**Source:** Climate-ADAPT User/provider survey, EEA, 2017

# Understanding the actual user/provider audience

## B1) Who is using Climate-ADAPT?

### Professional background

- Used across all governance levels in Europe (17 Use cases)

### Sectoral background:

- Less used by sectoral users and by experts less experienced in adaptation (Survey/use cases)

### Proportion of users with our without adaptation platforms

- More often and more comprehensively used by users from countries without platforms (11 out of 17 Use cases)

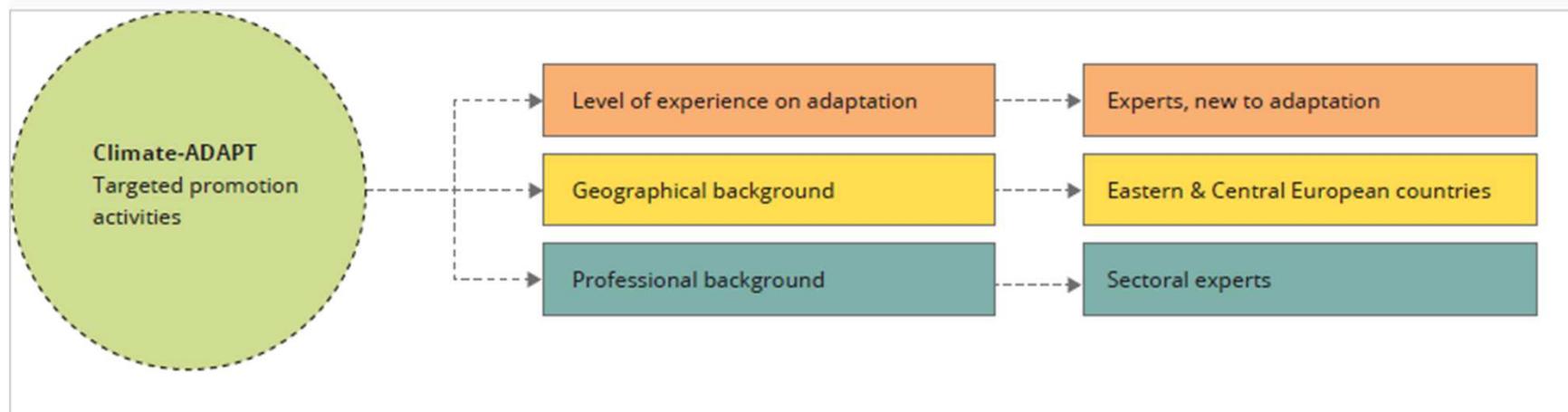
Number	Location	Governance level
1	DG RTD*	EU
2	Carpathians	Transnational
3	Bulgaria	National
4	Italy	National
5	Poland	National
6	Spain	National
7	Turkey	National
8	Greece	National
9	Lombardy region	Subnational
10	Sardinia region	Subnational
11	Province of Barcelona	Subnational
12	Bologna	Local
13	Cascais	Local
14	Sorradile	Intermediary organisation
15	Lombardy Foundation	Intermediary organisation
16	England	Sector
17	United Kingdom	Research organisation

**Figure:** Overview on Climate-ADAPT use cases  
**Source:** EEA

# Lessons learnt – reaching out to the target audience

## EEA conclusions:

- Continue developing the platform according to the needs of the intended core user group
- Targeted dissemination towards specific user groups
- Broaden the dissemination towards sectoral users
- Increase support for new users



# Meeting Objective A: Sharing the knowledge - Provision of information

## Question A1)

### Outcomes:

- Successful involvement of various providers (official reporting by countries; research projects; cities; practitioners/case studies) (Survey)
- Potential for more information to be provided (e. g., EU funded projects; case studies) (Case study survey)

### EEA Conclusions:

Engage more information providers by :

- Systematically collaborate with EU funded projects from project start
- Promote the provision of information more clearly (database)
- Improve the transparency of the submission workflow

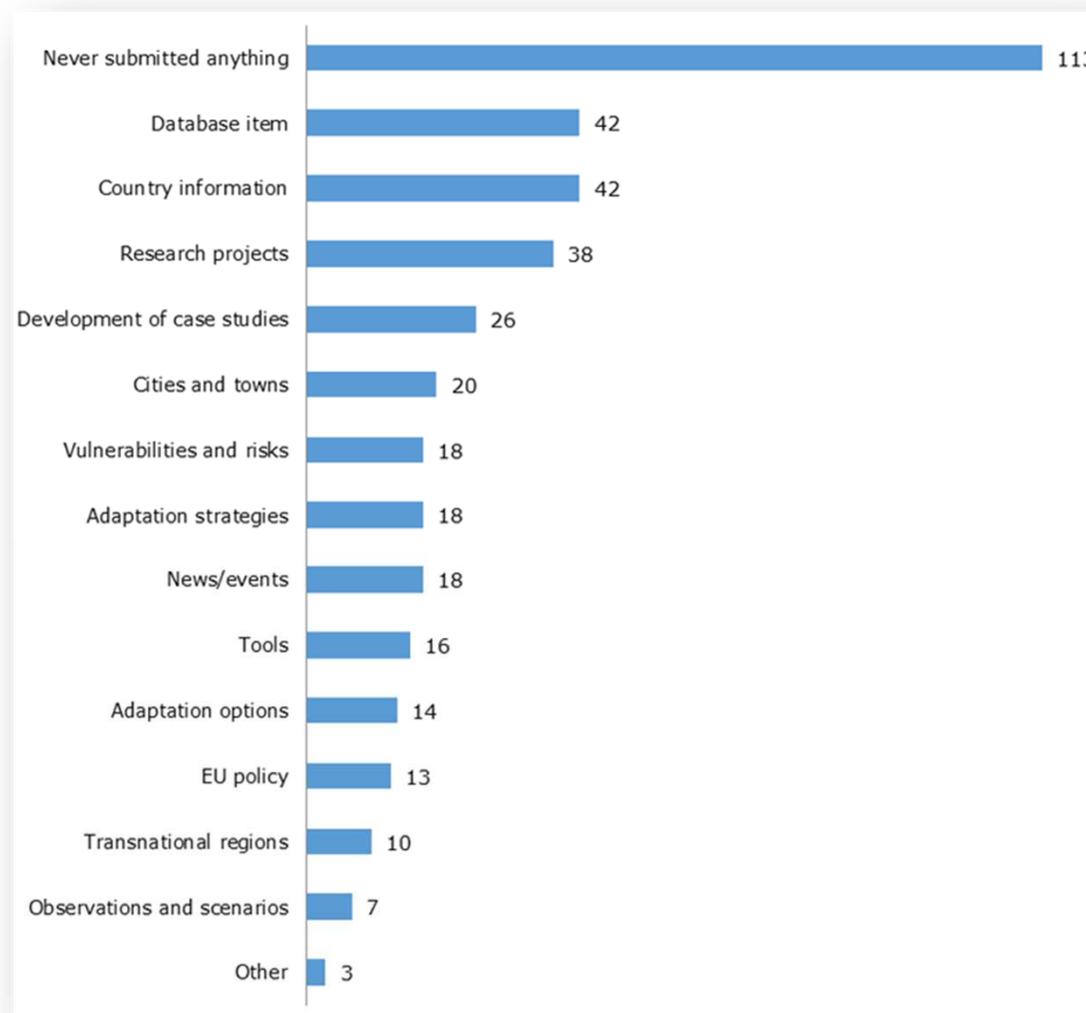


Figure: Sections information providers have contributed to (N=211)  
Source: Climate-ADAPT User/provider survey, EEA, 2017

# Meeting Objective A: Sharing the knowledge – presenting the knowledge

## A2 Does the platform provide the relevant content?

- Knowledge from EU funding streams captured
- Knowledge accessible through the database with a clear focus on relevance
- Multi-level policy information improved (transnational regions, countries, cities)
- Systematic coverage of adaptation options and case studies
- Limited Copernicus Climate Change Service information (started recently)

### EEA Conclusions:

- Continue with criteria based selection of content
- Close potential gaps in the database
- Further improve the database structure to enhance search of new types of content
- Include further knowledge from Copernicus and other Climate Services when available

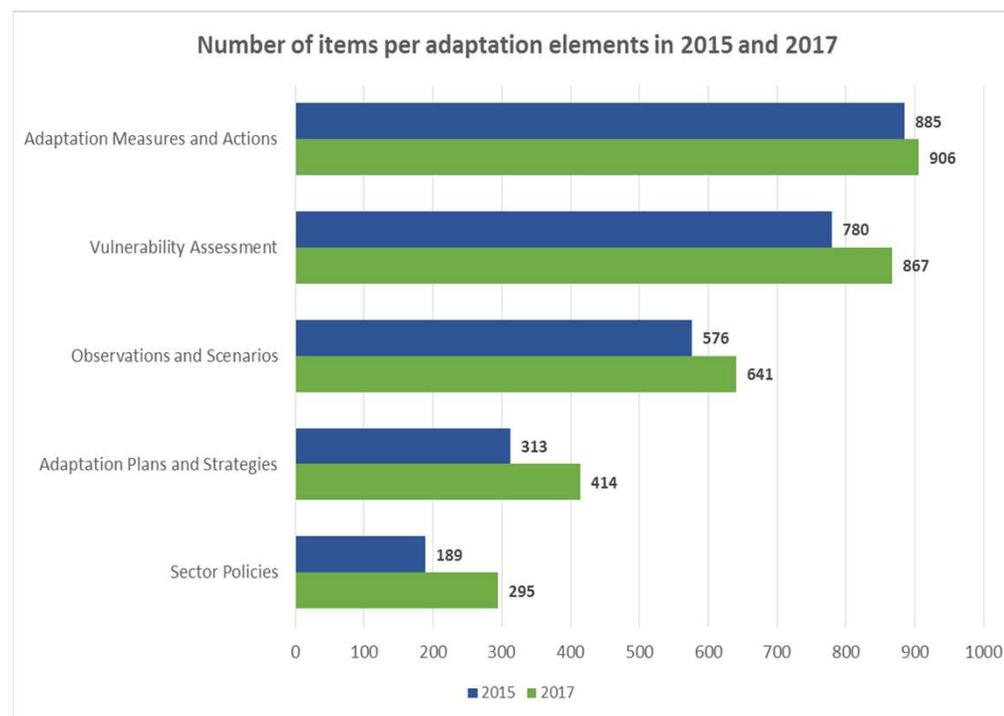


Figure: Number of items per adaptation element in the Climate-ADAPT database in February 2015 and in February 2017 (excluding adaptation options and case studies). Source: Statistical analysis of the Climate-ADAPT database, EEA, 2017

# Objective A: Sharing the knowledge – use of the platform

## A3) Which platform sections are currently being used?

### Outreach

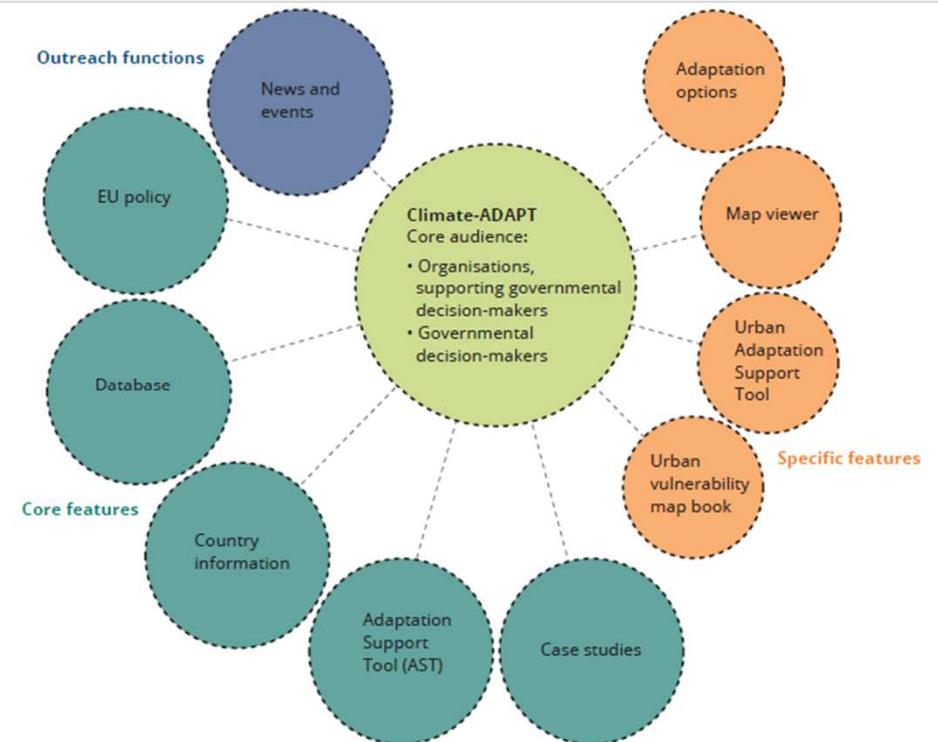
- No 1: News/events (Web statistics/survey)

### Knowledge base:

- Five core features used the most across all governance levels (Web statistics, Survey, Use cases)
- Specific features valuable, but less used (Survey, use cases)

### EEA conclusions:

- Continue to target core features as first priority of platform development
- Promote five most used features as „core content“
- Promote added value of specific tools on homepage



**Figure:** Climate\_ADAPT features used by its core audience

**Source:** EEA

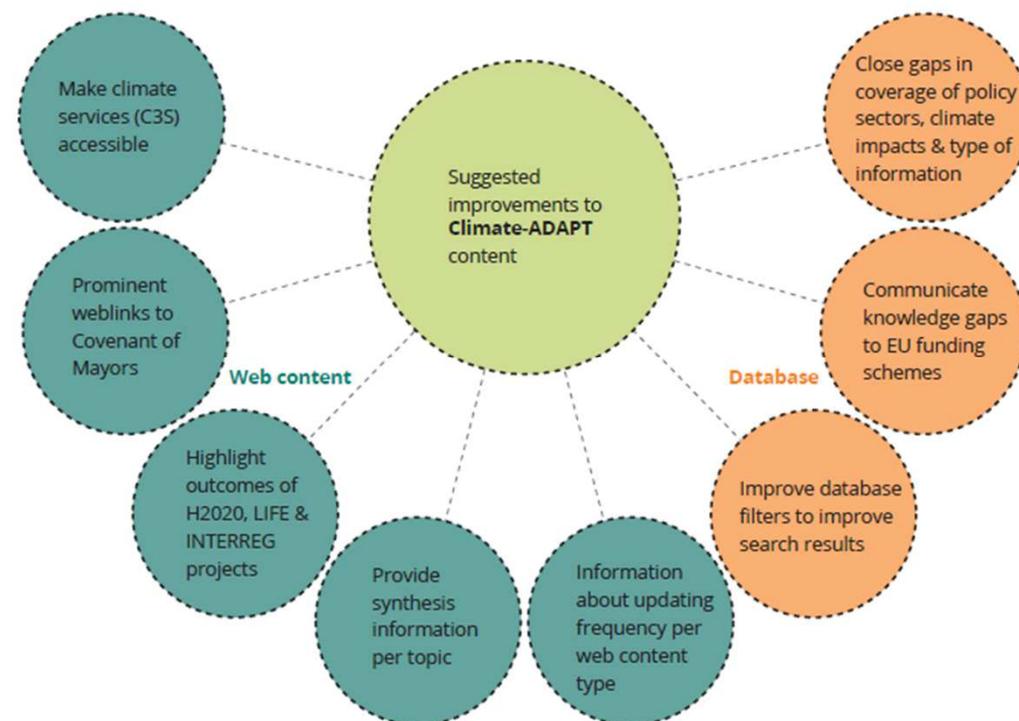
# Meeting Objective A: Sharing the knowledge - Additional information needs

## A4) Which information is additionally needed?

- Broad content (policy, climate data, guidance, case studies) (survey, use cases)
- Slight preference for synthesis information (assessments, indicators)
- Present cross-cutting topics like ecosystem-based approaches
- Information to address adaptation in a systemic way (economic, social and environmental aspects)

## EEA conclusions:

- Continue providing broad information
- Provide synthesis information e.g. using EEA reports, but also from key partners (DG RTD)



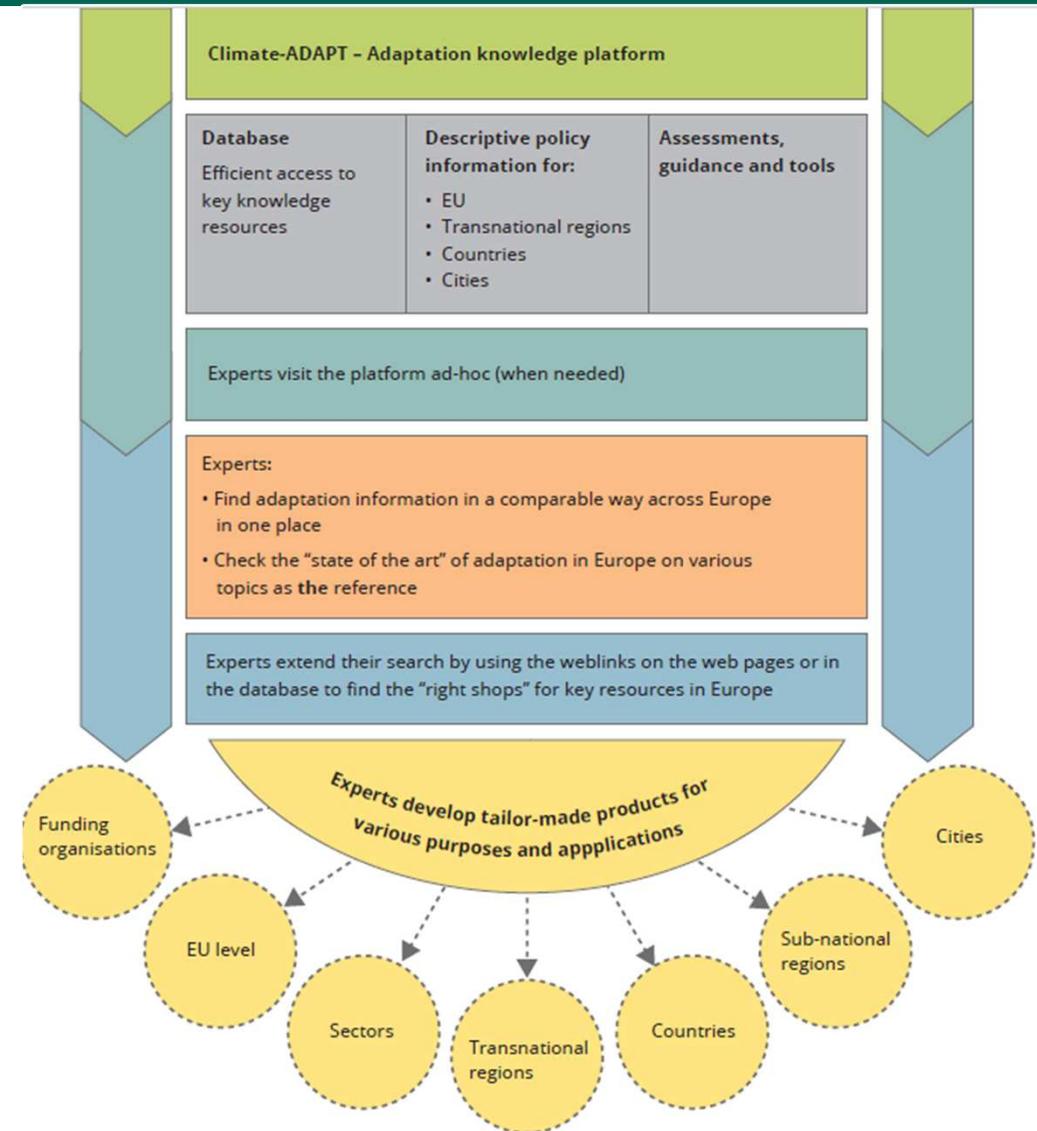
**Figure:** Suggested improvements to meet objective A – Sharing information. **Source:** EEA

# Meeting Objective B: Assisting the uptake of the information

## B3) Which sections are used to develop tailor-made products or to support processes?

### Most common use pattern across all user groups:

- starting point for developing tailor-made products from the trusted source of information (“first-stop-shop”)
- “the” reference for “state of the art” knowledge of adaptation in Europe
- Valued as very efficient
  - Information according to multi-governance approach
  - information in comparable format
  - Screening via search filters and through metadata



**Figure:** Observed pattern of most common Climate-ADAPT use.

**Source:** EEA



# Meeting Objective B: Assisting the uptake of the information

## B2) Which products or processes are the users using the information

### for ?

- Knowledge used in many policy processes (use cases, survey)
- Information more effective than on project websites (Survey, use cases)

### EEA conclusions:

- Adjust the mandate into „first stop shop“
- Make the information more useable for users to develop tailor-made products

Nr	Location	Governance level	Develop evidence	Support adaptation strategies and plans	Support participatory processes	Develop guidance	Develop funding proposals
1	DG RTD*	EU	x				
2	Carpathians	Transnational	x				
3	Bulgaria	National	x	x	x		
4	Italy	National		x			
5	Poland	National	x	x	x	x	
6	Spain	National				x	
7	Turkey	National	x	x			x
8	Greece	National		x			x
9	Lombardy	Subnational	x	x			
10	Sardinia	Subnational	x		x		
11	Barcelona	Subnational		x		x	
12	Bologna	Local		x			
13	Cascais	Local		x		x	
14	Sorradile	Local		x			
15	Lombardy Foundation	Intermediary	x				
16	UK	Sector		x			
17	UK	Research organisation	x				x

Source: EEA, 2017, Q23 of the survey

# Meeting Objective B: Assisting the uptake of the information

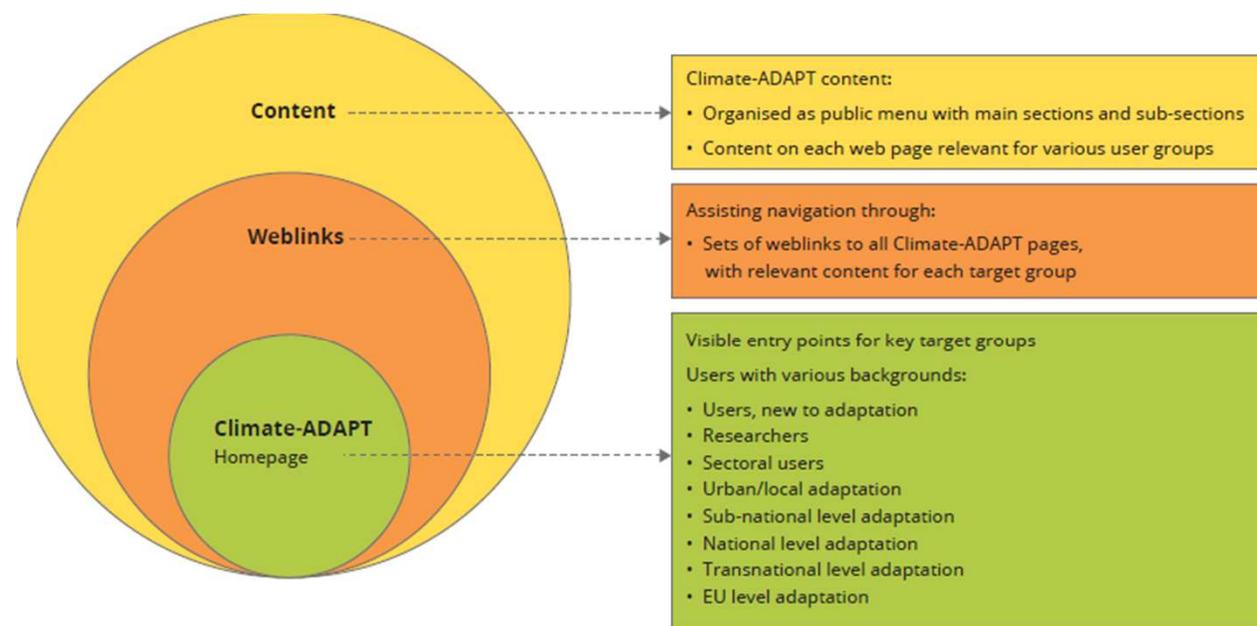
## B4) Is the knowledge presented on Climate-ADAPT in a useful way of assisting the uptake of the information?

### Outcomes:

- Overall user friendly, but navigation not straightforward
- Users want:
  - Help directly applicable on the pages
  - User-specific entry points into content spread across pages
  - Users want to be „addressed“ on the homepage
  - More user friendly map-based access tools

### EEA conclusions:

- Further improve the user friendliness of the platform
- Visual sitemap



**Figure:** Possible improvements of Climate-ADAPT for various user groups

**Source:** EEA

# Meeting Objective C – Contributing to a better coordination

## C1) Does Climate-ADAPT present the information in a way that is complementary to the original information source?

### Overall successful:

- Users find relevant information on EU policy and knowledge
- Overall good coverage of weblinks for successfully guiding users „to the right shop“
- Not diverse enough for users working in sectoral adaptation
- Weblinks for city and subnational information hidden
- Most sufficient for countries without a national adaptation platform

### EEA Conclusions:

- Improvement of weblinks to other platforms (Sectoral platforms in EU policy sectors, Climate Services, LIFE and Interreg projects)
- Weblinks to new information at Covenant of Mayors
- Weblinks across all pages to be extended and made more user friendly

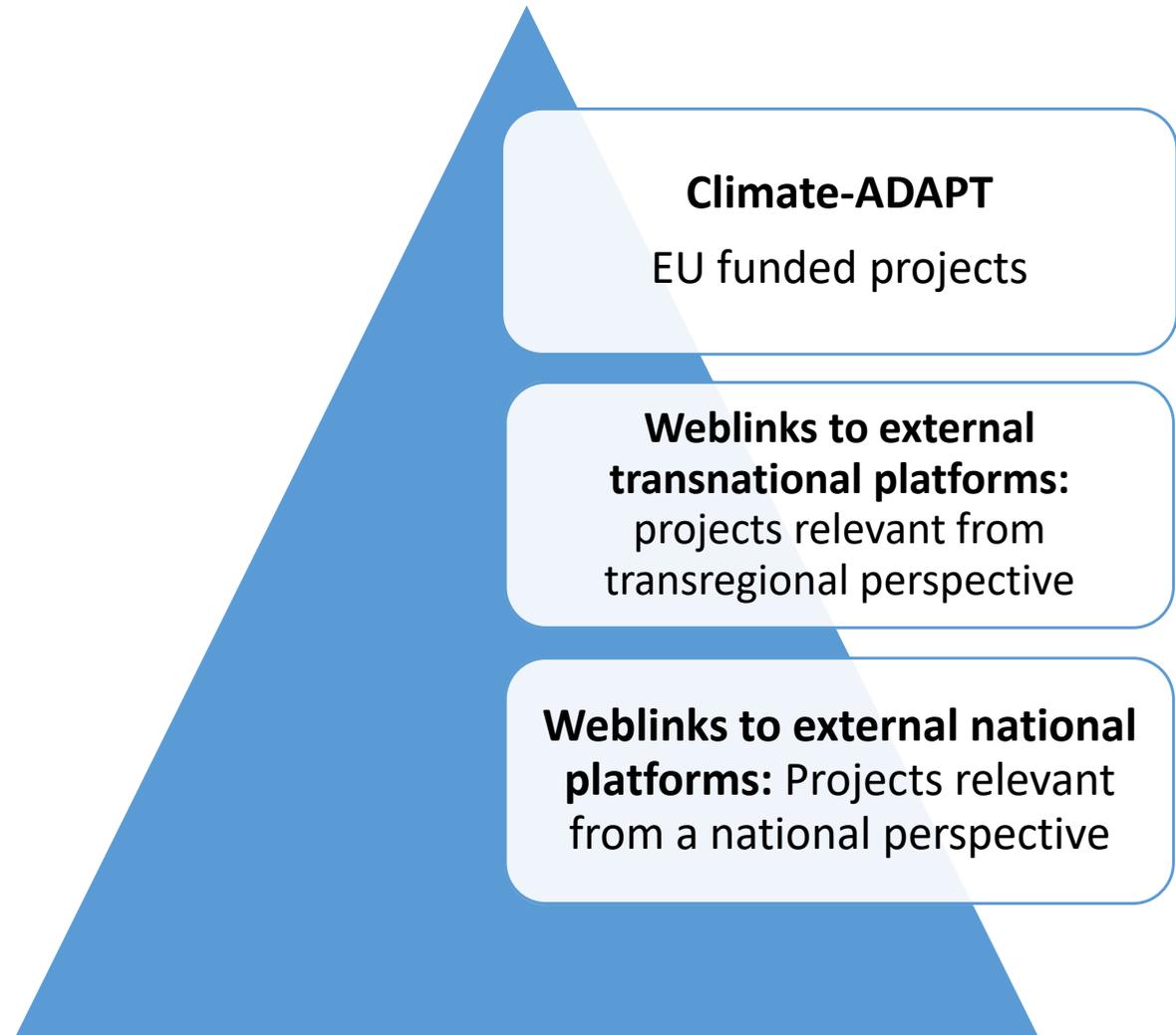


Figure: Example of complementary presentation of research and knowledge projects  
Source: EEA, 2017

# Climate-ADAPT use case No 10: Regional government of Sardinia region

## Supporting cooperation across governance levels for the regional government of Sardinia (no 10)

### The challenge:

Multiple role of the regional government:

- Supporting the UNFCCC process in the Under2Memorandum of Understanding
- Chair of the Committee of the Regions' Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy
- Coordinates the Interregional Board on the Italian Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change (SNAC),
- LIFE project at sub-national level (MASTER ADAPT)

### The Approach:

- "News/Events" section and
- weblinks to key partners, as well as
- Descriptive policy information to coordinate research and policy

### Additional needs:

- More weblinks to partners
- Landing page for sub-national information



**Source:** Relive Communication © Andrea Iannelli.

# Informing the Evaluation of the EU Adaptation Strategy

## *Combined conclusions from internal and external assessment*

### **Relevance:**

- Sharing the knowledge across Europe, assisting the uptake of information, and supporting cooperation among sectors and across governance levels, for better informed decision making, is still needed.

### **Effectiveness:**

- Growth of adaptation knowledge was captured.
- Knowledge presented in the policy context is useful and reaches a wide audience.
- Informed policy processes across Europe at various levels of governance



### **Efficiency :**

- Climate-ADAPT resources (EEA and Commission) were limited, taking into account the increase in user demands and the available knowledge

### **Coherence:**

- Climate-ADAPT aims to be coherent with other EU platforms, which are also continuously developing (climate change services; disaster risk reduction; sectoral)

### **EU Added value**

- Climate-ADAPT adds value as the main reference for “state-of-the-art” knowledge on adaptation in Europe, supports peer-to-peer learning and increases the coherence of EU member states regarding better informed decision-making.

### **Complementarity (additional):**

- Climate-ADAPT aims to be complementary to transnational and national knowledge platforms. Information is not duplicated, users guided to the relevant information sources.



# New challenges ahead

## Increased action at EU level:

- 1) Display Ecosystem-based adaptation approaches on existing platforms
  - EKC Task force on Interoperability of platforms and catalogues on ecosystem-based initiatives
  - Links to sector platforms (JRC DRKMC, ENV OPPLA)
  
- 2) Growth in knowledge: Make more outcomes of EU funded projects accessible (LIFE, Interreg)
  - Changing information needs (policy cycle)
  
- 3) Knowledge for transition:
  - New forms needed for co-creation of knowledge without losing trust



Foto: EEA

