

# Climate-ADAPT use case 8 — Greece

## Supporting the preparation of EU LIFE Climate Action funding proposals in Greece at national, regional and local levels by using the Climate-ADAPT database, adaptation options and research projects

**Climate-ADAPT features used:** database; countries/regions/cities (country pages); knowledge (research projects, adaptation options)

**Sector:** adaptation in general

**Governance level:** national

**Biogeographical region:** Mediterranean

**Macro-region:** southern Europe

**Policy stage:** policy development

### The challenge

The LIFE Climate Action sub-programme of the EU's LIFE Programme for Environment and Climate Action for 2014-2020 accounts for 25 % of the total LIFE budget and constitutes the EU programme dedicated to developing innovative responses to the challenges of climate change across the EU. It supports the implementation of the strategic priorities of EU climate policy within the EU and is therefore an important element of the overall mainstreaming of climate action within the EU budget.

The Greek LIFE Task Force (GR LTF), created in the context of the LIFE project on capacity-building in Greece (LIFE14/CAP/GR/003), operates at the Green Fund (Πράσινο Ταμείο, GRFU), a public organisation supervised by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy (MEE). Its roles include supporting the Greek LIFE national contact points by organising events and writers' seminars in the Greek regions to promote the LIFE programme and EU environmental and climate policy priorities, and providing support to potential beneficiaries interested in submitting proposals

fulfilling the requirements of the fund. Furthermore, the team supports the GRFU and the MEE when they participate in LIFE projects, especially strategic projects implemented over a wider geographical area (integrated projects).

Potential beneficiaries in Greece, including national, regional and local authorities, with various backgrounds and different levels of knowledge and skills on adaptation, have a range of training and information needs. In its role as a facilitator, the GR LTF had to become familiar with all aspects of adaptation relevant to the different sectors and governance levels in the country.

### The approach

Given that the LIFE programme finances projects that have to add value to the understanding and implementation of climate change adaptation policies at EU level, the content presented on Climate-ADAPT and the functionalities available on the platform proved to be particularly helpful and suitable for establishing the basic background with respect to issues related to climate change impacts and the existing options for mitigating them.

In relation to the guidance provided to potential beneficiaries, especially during the writers' seminars conducted by the team, direct access to the state of the art in specific adaptation sectors was facilitated by the structure of Climate-ADAPT; in particular, the database and knowledge components of the platform allowed the GR LTF experts to be rapidly informed about particular climate change issues mentioned by the participants in each region, the potential soft, grey and hard solutions for responding to them, and any ongoing/concluded projects related to them. In addition, the platform gives the user the opportunity to explore the options implemented at different governance levels, locally, regionally and nationally.

This was particularly important, as, in most cases, the regional and local beneficiaries were quite interested in specific problems experienced in their area, such as the salinisation of water used in agriculture, but were not so aware of existing solutions and

similar cases in which these solutions had been implemented at regional or local levels, or of how to find such information. In such cases, the climate change expert from the GR LTF could work together with the participant in the database area of the platform, suggest some suitable keywords for filtering (e.g. 'saltwater', in this example) and explore together with the potential beneficiary the adaptation options provided; in most cases, the seminar participant was in a position to learn directly from material on the database even if, in the case of particularly technical terms, a translation into Greek would have made the material easier to understand. By performing this type of capacity-building exercise with the seminar participants, the GR LTF also gave them insights into how they could make use of the platform at a later stage by accessing the information sources for the options they were most interested in through the links provided in the 'Reference information' page for each adaptation option.

Although, due its size, the database appears slow in showing searching results shows delays in correspondence time, it is still an advantage to have all the relevant information in a searchable form in one place, especially for supporting the capacity-building processes of different users across cities, regions and countries. This has proved to be particularly useful when potential beneficiaries from regional and local administrations were able to define the problem but needed to help identifying different options and similar case studies, rather than strategic approaches, to deal with the adaptation challenges they faced.

In relation to strategically supporting the GRFU and MEE in their participation in LIFE proposals, the GR LTF experts mainly used the 'Research projects' page of Climate-ADAPT. For this more advanced use of the platform, they used the content to describe the state of the art of adaptation in Europe to justify and demonstrate the innovative character of the suggested solutions and approaches in the proposals.

GR LTF experts, working as intermediaries, felt that Climate-ADAPT added value in providing a trusted EU-wide information source on climate change vulnerability, impacts and adaptation, which can

**Figure A8** LIFE information days were held in Athens and Thessaloniki



**Source:** LIFE 14 © Prassimo Tameio.

be used quite widely at different governance levels (local, regional, national and transnational). It allows EU citizens to access the same level of information, improving the cohesion of the EU and encouraging the streamlining of the measures and policies that are implemented to tackle this global issue, respecting the limits set by differing geographical and other circumstances.

### Future plans

GR LTF experts will further consult and promote Climate-ADAPT as part of its role in facilitating Greek LIFE project applicants. In this respect, they would appreciate being able to search for EU-funded research projects on the basis of type of funding, which can indirectly indicate the technological readiness of the project, especially in relation to grey or hard adaptation options; in many cases, potential beneficiaries may look for the different phases and levels of a particular solution (i.e. research, more restricted implementation, wider implementation and related EU/national policies) in one sector/thematic area, and information on where European countries and the EU as a whole stand with reference to these is quite important for setting out objectives for dealing with climate change impacts.