

Climate-ADAPT use case 14 — Municipality of Sorradille

Identifying best practice for vulnerability assessments in rural areas where there is no national adaptation platform

Climate-ADAPT features used: database/country pages/Adaptation Support Tool

Sector: adaptation in general

Governance level: municipality

Biogeographical region: Mediterranean

Macro-region: southern Europe

Policy stage: policy development

The challenge

Sorradille is a small town located in the middle of Sardinia, Italy. It has 417 inhabitants (according to the 2011 census). Rete Gaia s.r.l. is a consultancy that was employed by the Municipality of Sorradille⁽⁵⁸⁾ for technical support to develop a climate change adaptation plan for the municipality, within the framework of the Mayors Adapt initiative. The aim was to strengthen the resilience of the area to climate change. The innovative nature of the initiative lies in the development, for the first time, of a tailor-made approach for small rural centres, which it is believed can be replicated in other Italian and European villages. Sorradille is the first municipality in Sardinia to have developed a climate change adaptation plan. Because of the rural character and high environmental value of the municipal area of Sorradille, the adaptation plan

was mainly dedicated to analysing climate change vulnerability and risks in the surrounding rural area.

The vulnerability analysis was performed for the agriculture, health and biodiversity sectors, selected among those identified by the Mayors Adapt initiative as relevant for adaptation in the Sorradille territory, and by climate drivers, depending on the corresponding impacts (e.g. annual rainfall and water scarcity, consecutive days without rain, drought, etc.).

The approach

The Italian National Adaptation Strategy was approved in 2015, but there is as yet no online platform available presenting adaptation information at national level in Italy. Rete Gaia used the Italian country page on Climate-ADAPT to assess the knowledge available at national level. In addition, the Climate-ADAPT platform was consulted to obtain information on adaptation policies and programmes at European⁽⁵⁹⁾ and country levels⁽⁶⁰⁾. More specifically, the database⁽⁶¹⁾ was used to search for adaptation strategies already released at European level and to compare the available information. The Adaptation Support Tool was mainly used as a helpful tool to guide the vulnerability assessment process and the development of the adaptation plan.

The breadth and variety of practical examples available through the database and the country and sector pages, and the methodological approaches on vulnerability assessment provided on Climate-ADAPT, allowed Rete Gaia to collect adaptation practices that could then be analysed and catalogued in terms of priority actions through consultation with local stakeholders and with experts.

⁽⁵⁸⁾ <http://www.sardegnaresiliente.it/sorradille>

⁽⁵⁹⁾ <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/eu-adaptation-policy/strategy>

⁽⁶⁰⁾ <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/countries-regions/countries>

⁽⁶¹⁾ http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/data-and-downloads#b_start=0

Figure A14 The Sorradile municipality and the Omodeo lake



Source: <http://www.sardegnaresiliente.it/sorradille> © Municipality of Sorradille.

Future plans

Adaptation processes require increasing and informed commitments from local governments, businesses and individual citizens. Besides consulting national websites, Rete Gaia and the Sorradile municipality intend to interact more frequently with Climate-ADAPT and the Covenant of Mayors website to acquire more information on EU best practices for adaptation policy development. It is important that knowledge on opportunities arising from the growing awareness of adaptation actions should be accessible to all

stakeholders. However, the knowledge provided on Climate-ADAPT is not available in all the languages of the European Union, thus preventing the tools and data being accessed by all users. The consortium of the new Covenant of Mayors is further developing the knowledge base on adaptation for the [EU urban adaptation initiative](#). The EEA should ensure that there are prominent links from Climate-ADAPT to the Covenant of Mayors website and communicate the special needs of small municipalities to the Covenant of Mayors.