

Climate-ADAPT use case 15 — Intermediary organisation: Lombardy Foundation for the Environment

Intermediary organisation that supports learning from other EU countries about the legal and policy frameworks for mainstreaming adaptation

Climate-ADAPT features used: database; EU policy (sector pages); countries, regions, cities (individual country pages)

Sector: adaptation in general

Governance level: national and sub-national

Biogeographical region: Continental

Macro-region: Mediterranean and Alpine

Policy stage: implementation/mainstreaming of adaptation

The challenge

Fondazione Lombardia per l'Ambiente (Lombardy Foundation for the Environment, FLA) ⁽⁶²⁾ is a non-profit scientific organisation established by the regional government of Lombardy to provide scientific support to national, regional and local administrations and agencies in the preparation of climate change adaptation strategies and action plans. FLA is currently involved in several research and policy projects on climate change adaptation and actively contributes to the enforcement of European environmental policies

by participating as a partner in major EU programmes (LIFE and Integrated LIFE, the 7th Framework Programme, Interreg IVC, European Territorial Cooperation, etc.). Particular efforts are currently aimed at promoting the mainstreaming process of adaptation to climate change into different policy sectors, advising policymakers at different governance levels, and capitalising on valuable experiences and lessons learned from other European countries and regions.

The approach

Climate-ADAPT has been used mainly to gain an understanding of the legal adaptation framework at EU level as well as to examine actions undertaken to mainstream adaptation across national policies to draw up evidence documents for policy development at regional level in Lombardy ⁽⁶³⁾ and at municipal level in the area of the Seveso River, north of Milan.

The platform was a valuable observatory for a critical review of EU countries' experiences, since the available knowledge applies to various spatial scales. FLA mainly used the information contained in the EU sector pages and in the Climate-ADAPT country pages ⁽⁶⁴⁾ (e.g. on Austria and France) to (1) search for information on legal measures and policy actions developed in several European countries; (2) identify useful practices and grey literature for innovative approaches to mainstreaming adaptation at the national and sub-national levels; and (3) assess their effectiveness and transferability to different spatial scales. The Climate-ADAPT database ⁽⁶⁵⁾ allowed investigations to be conducted based on different timescales, impacts,

⁽⁶²⁾ www.flanet.org

⁽⁶³⁾ <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/metadata/publications/climate-change-adaptation-practice-across-the-eu/11246684>;
http://www.flanet.org/sites/default/files/RAS_Regional%20Adaptation%20Strategy.pdf;
http://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/wcm/connect/841f23be-02ea-423c-b868-052cc92b6578/Allegato+alla+Comunicazione_Rapporto+di+sintesi_DEF.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=841f23be-02ea-423c-b868-052cc92b6578;
http://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/wcm/connect/946249ce-87c4-4c39-88f9-5eab3a264f14/Documento+Azione+Adattamento+RL_9dic.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=946249ce-87c4-4c39-88f9-5eab3a264f14

⁽⁶⁴⁾ <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/countries-regions/countries>

⁽⁶⁵⁾ http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/data-and-downloads#b_start=0

vulnerabilities and targeted sectors. These could be used to assess progress in the development of national strategies and plans, to assess the mainstreaming process achieved in different EU regions and to understand the local barriers to or success factors for adaptation policies in European countries (e.g. in relation to flooding impact or the water management policy sector).

The main added value achieved by FLA using the abovementioned features of Climate-ADAPT (i.e. the country pages and database) has been the strengthening of its role as an intermediary organisation able to support various policy processes with evidence documents on adaptation, optimising human resources and saving time. The comprehensive

Figure A15 FLA and Lombardy Region experts during the preparation of the regional adaptation plan



Source: © Mita Lapi, Lombardy Foundation for the Environment.

overview of adaptation policies in Europe offered by the Climate-ADAPT platform, as a single tool capable of collecting an impressive amount of information on adaptation action at different levels, made it possible, in a reasonable amount of time, to appreciate differences and similarities between national approaches to mainstreaming adaptation.

Future plans

FLA has consistently used and will continue to use information from Climate-ADAPT in the context of international cooperation and research projects such as LIFE Master Adapt ⁽⁶⁶⁾ and Alpine Space Project (ASP) GoApply! ⁽⁶⁷⁾. Since the signatory countries of the Alpine Convention ⁽⁶⁸⁾ now have a dedicated instrument for further cooperation on adaptation (the Alpine Climate Board ⁽⁶⁹⁾), experts from FLA, appointed by the Italian Delegation to the Alpine Convention, will contribute to use Climate-Adapt information for the synthesis report and recommendations to the Alpine Conference 2018 envisaged by the working programme of the Alpine Climate Board.

Detailed information on non-state initiatives on adaptation, including at municipal and regional levels and the action plans published under the new Covenant of Mayors ⁽⁷⁰⁾, would help in gaining a deeper insight into the actions carried out — including on a voluntary basis — by regions and lower-level governments across Europe. The improvement of information on this level would further support assessment and reporting activities at regional and local levels.

⁽⁶⁶⁾ <https://masteradapt.eu/>

⁽⁶⁷⁾ <http://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/goapply/en/home>

⁽⁶⁸⁾ www.alpconv.org

⁽⁶⁹⁾ <http://www.alpconv.org/en/newsevents/latest/NewsDetails.html?entryid=122077>

⁽⁷⁰⁾ www.covenantofmayors.eu/