

eMag "Adaptation in Europe"

#1 Adaptation Policies in Europe

Friday April 5th 2024



In partnership with



The Observatory's Lens: Multilevel integration of adaptation policies in the EU

Tania Martha Thomas, Climate Chance



Tania Martha Thomas, Research Officer at Climate Chance, presents the Global Observatory of Climate Action's new study on multilevel integration of adaptation policies in Europe.

What is the current adaptation strategy in Europe?

- The European Adaptation Strategy establishes a framework that integrates the European, national, regional and local levels, as explained in the [2021 European Climate Law](#) and the [2018 Regulation on Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action](#), but lacks binding targets and deadlines for adaptation.
- It recognises Member States as the main implementation partners and calls on them to undertake systemic and local adaptation efforts, including improved risk assessments and the development of science-based strategies.
- Responsibility for adaptation at sub-national levels varies, with only a few Member States imposing adaptation planning and legal measures as part of a "top-down" approach.
- In the EU, adaptation mainly follows a "bottom-up" approach led by regional and local authorities, reflecting the diversity in the implementation of adaptation measures.

Sub-national dynamics:

Through their voluntary actions and involvement in transnational networks, local and regional governments are key players in climate adaptation. Their work, supported by knowledge sharing and EU funding, has improved the quality of urban adaptation plans.

The role of regions in financing adaptation:

Regions play a key role in this area and manage a significant share of EU funds for mitigation and adaptation measures. This demonstrates the importance of multi-level cooperation for effective planning and implementation of adaptation policies.



Read the study: ["Planning and implementing adaptation in the EU: State of multilevel integration of adaptation policies"](#)

It is important to integrate adaptation measures at each level of governance in order to respond effectively to climate change.



In partnership with

CONSTRUCTION21
INTERNATIONAL

Press Review

Amandine Martinet, Construction21

The logo for Construction21 International, featuring the text "CONSTRUCTION21" in a bold, sans-serif font with a blue underline, and "INTERNATIONAL" in a smaller font below it, all contained within a white circle with a blue border.

Amandine Martinet is a journalist at Construction21 and gives us an overview of the news regarding adaptation policies in Europe.

Climate: the French government prepares its plan to adapt France to +4°C

The French government is preparing its "La France S'Adapte" plan to cope with a predicted temperature increase of +4°C by 2100. This third national climate change adaptation plan, presented in Paris, involves a wide range of stakeholders and aims to move from awareness to concrete action. It stresses the importance of regional support, the need for anticipatory regulations in the building sector, and envisages new models to meet the challenges posed by non-linear climate change and increased risks.

Integrating costs in adaptation plans

The Institute for Climate Economics (I4CE) focuses on the costs of adaptation and the need to integrate these costs from the start. The article's author and I4CE researcher, Guillaume Dolques, emphasises the importance of moving towards a more proactive mode of adaptation. This implies going beyond existing regulations and renewing the urban environment, such as greening public spaces or modifying street morphologies. As well as an economic issue, Dolques believes that it is also a political one. He asks what form of adaptation we want to see in our cities and buildings between full-blown air conditioning and exacerbated urban heat, and a more sobre approach?

At Léonard, Marseille adapts without giving up

The City of Marseille seems to have chosen the right path. At the end of January, Perrine Prigent, Deputy Mayor in charge of the ecological transition, presented the manifesto welcoming resistant and resilient Mediterranean public spaces. At an event organised by the Parisian think tank, Fabrique de la Cité, she proclaimed: "We are now experiencing the climatic disruptions that the rest of France will experience in a few years' time. We owe it to ourselves to experiment for other territories."

Adapting to climate change: the Court of Auditors' concerns

A report by the French Court of Auditors calls on the need for more elected representatives who lead the way. According to its first President, Pierre Moscovici, "adaptation to climate change remains a blind spot in public policy in France". The institution sees a need for a triptych of knowledge, information and planning. More specifically, the Court of Auditors recommends extending national aid schemes for energy renovation to include works related to summer heatwaves and flood risks. They also recommend developing cooperation between various players at the local authority level to go beyond emerging measures, such as revegetation, and increase preservation in areas most threatened by coastal erosion.



In partnership with 

"Top-down" Approach: Implementation of the German Adaptation Law

**Cornelia Rietdorf, KomPass Competence Center,
German Environment Agency**

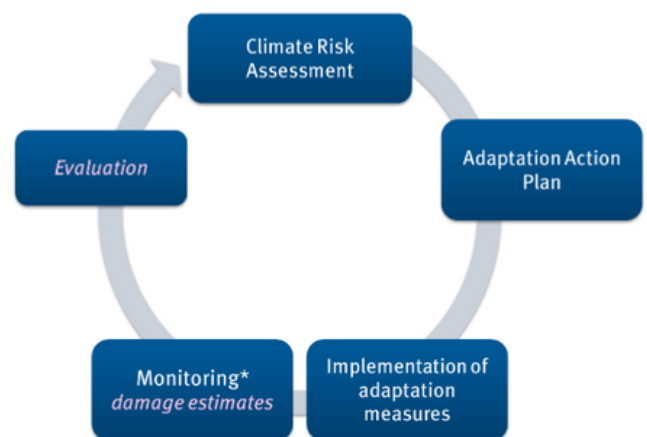


Cornelia Rietdorf works for the KomPass Competence Center, which is responsible for developing the German Adaptation Strategy (DAS) and promoting its implementation. She explains how adaptation is implemented in Germany.

The new German Adaptation Strategy (DAS 2.0) is scheduled to be published by the end of 2024 and will be one of the core deliverables linked to the German Adaptation Law:

- All Federal Ministers would be responsible for developing an adaptation strategy with measurable objectives, updating it regularly and implementing it.
- Federal: provision of climate risk assessments (<8 years) and definition of a new damages and expenditure register.
- Federal states: development and implementation of their own adaptation strategies.
- Municipalities: development of local adaptation plans based on risk assessments, as well as providing reports to the federal government.
- All public bodies: obligation to take adaptation into account during planning and decision-making.

Policy cycle of the climate change adaptation strategy in Germany:



The 2023 Monitoring Report contains 117 indicators for 16 action areas.
Main task:
Strengthen response indicators and develop indicators for the law's most urgent action needs.
-> Next report scheduled for 2027



In partnership with



“Bottom-up” Approach: The role of voluntary adaptation initiatives

**Gian Luca Gurrieri, Director of Climate et Air Quality,
Lombardy Region**



Gian Luca Gurrieri, Director of Climate and Air Quality for Lombardy, Italy, explains how this region has designed and implemented its adaptation plan in the absence of a clearly established and defined national adaptation strategy.

“ **Allowing for the scale of policies to be at the local level will allow implementation to be adapted to the region.** ”

What are the benefits of shifting international, national and regional policies and initiatives to the local level?

- Improve local access to (inter)national knowledge and data for better local adaptation policies.
- Determine local programmes based on their political feasibility at higher levels.
- Encourage collaboration and partnerships, promote multidisciplinary projects and involve local players.
- Enable regions, who have an intermediary role, to assign policy areas efficiently for optimal local results.

All these benefits are amplified by close collaborations between regions and regional networks (e.g. Regions4).

Lombardy is moving ahead with the drafting of its regional climate law aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change through close collaboration between its various sub regions. This integrated approach aims to align action plans with common climate objectives, underlining the importance of ongoing dialogue between the regional administration and external stakeholders to ensure the effectiveness of this environmental initiative. To achieve this, a Climate Advisory Committee has recently been set up.

Can you give us some examples of adaptation measures implemented in Lombardy over the past 2 years?

- Agreement with Ersaf (Forestry Agency) for desilting measuring in cities to promote sustainable urban drainage. Allocation of 5 million euros.
- Agreement with public universities for waterproofing and roof greening measures. Allocation of 4 million euros.



In partnership with

CONSTRUCTION21
INTERNATIONAL

“Bottom-up” Approach: Tools to help Belgian municipalities adapt

Manuel Harchies, ICEDD, Walloon Region



Manuel Harchies works at the Institut de Conseil et d'Etudes en Développement Durable (ICEDD) and tells us more about a study he is coordinating to synthesise current scientific knowledge on vulnerability and adaptation in the Walloon region of Belgium, in order to provide field actors with operational tools for adaptation and resilience.

What is the history of adaptation planning and implementation in Wallonia?

- The Walloon Region adopts a bottom-up approach to adaptation. The region has always supported municipalities engaging with the Covenant of Mayors on adaptation issues, as these become more complex in the Covenant of Mayors itself.
- In 2017, an innovative tool, “Adapte ta commune”, was introduced. Across 8 sectors, municipalities answered questions to receive information about the vulnerability of their region to develop tailored and effective adaptation plans.

What are the main elements of the tool you're developing via the study you're coordinating?

- At the time, the “Adapte ta commune” tool enabled the creation of static maps to show areas at risk of floods, droughts, heat islands, etc. Today, the study aims to develop **dynamic maps** which include more details on specific sectors to obtain better indicators. These maps will make it possible to create predictions based on different scenarios. The Netherlands has already developed this type of tool, and the Walloon region is planning on setting up the same type of portal.
- The tool will offer maps, explanations and a dynamic option.
- This type of tool is aimed at a number of stakeholders in the field: municipalities, forest managers, etc.



We need to give local players the tools they need, but also provide a common framework for the region with guidelines for consistent adaptation by local authorities.



In partnership with



Progress of Local Adaptation Plans in EU Cities

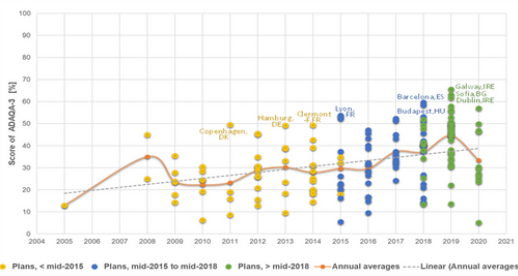
Peter Eckersley, Nottingham Trent University



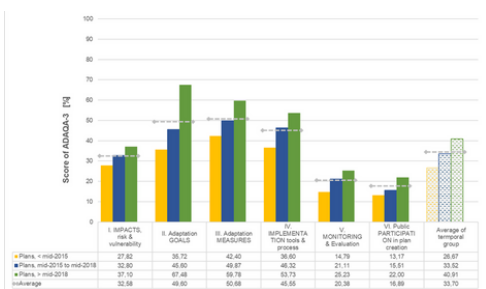
Peter Eckersley, Professor at Nottingham Trent University, contributed to a study in 2023 on the quality of urban climate change adaptation plans in Europe and shares his key findings with us. Are Europe's regions and cities on the right track?

What are the main findings of this study?

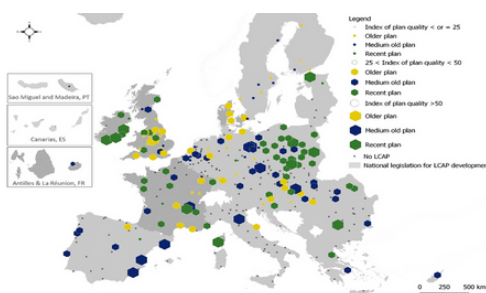
Finding 1: Plans are (gradually) getting better over time



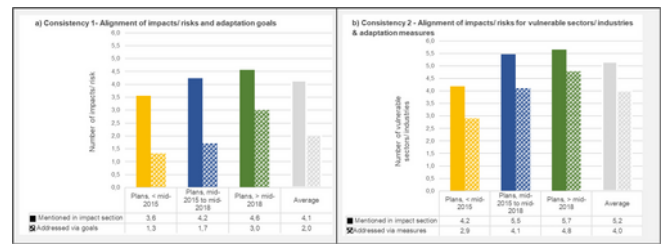
Finding 2: On average, plans improved against all six quality principles



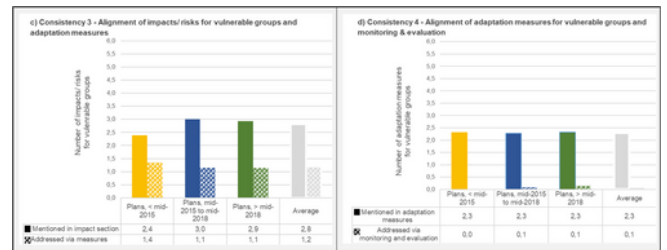
Finding 3: We found regional clusters of good practices, partly due to multilevel structures



Finding 4: Cities are getting better at linking risks to goals and measures



Finding 5: Cities are doing *less* to address the needs of vulnerable groups



What are the conclusions of this study?

- Plans are getting better, but there is still a lot of work to do
- Many cities haven't really started yet
- Cities need to focus more on vulnerable groups (low-income households)
- The effects of climate change will be most felt at the local level, but the multi-level governance context is very important.

Click [here](#) to read the study on the quality of urban climate adaptation plans in Europe.



In partnership with



+4 °C reference warming trajectory in France

Ronan Dantec, Senator and President of Climate Chance



Ronan Dantec, Senator of Loire Atlantique and President of Climate Chance, presents a very concrete example of a national adaptation strategy, the reference warming trajectory for adaptation to climate change (TRACC) at +4 degrees in France, and outlines its important points during the eMag.

The **TRACC at +4 degrees** in France is fairly recent, but impactful:

- The impact of this trajectory on French regions will need time and is still dependent on a number of factors, such as financing, for example.
- Although this initiative is recent, it represents a strong political move supported by Christophe Béchu, minister for the ecological transition.
- France is now waiting for this strategy to be implemented into the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change 3 (PNACC 3), which will be published at the end of the first half of 2024.

Some of the key points mentioned in the eMag, as highlighted by Ronan Dantec:

1

Local authorities need a huge amount of information to be able to draw up high-quality adaptation plans. The approach to adaptation is very matrix-based.

2

The topic of adaptation has often been missing in climate discussions. Today, there is a clear desire to rebalance efforts between adaptation and mitigation.

3

We need to create a common strategy among all players (funders, insurers, etc).

4

We need to go further with European climate plans and increase funding.

5

Social issues will be a central point in adaptation plans.

6

Issues concerning insurance will also become crucial.



A multi-level strategy is needed to meet Europe's adaptation targets.

[Watch the recording of eMag #1](#)



In partnership with

CONSTRUCTION21
INTERNATIONAL

Next Events

eMag Climate Action in Africa

Join us on Thursday, April 25th, 2024 from 3PM to 4:15PM (CEST) for the eMag on Sustainable Habitat in Africa

[Register Here](#)

eMag Adaptation in Europe

Join us on Thursday May 30th, 2024 from 3PM to 4:15PM (CEST) for the eMag on social justice in adaptation policies

[Register Here](#)



CLIMATE
CHANCE

In partnership with **CONSTRUCTION21**
INTERNATIONAL

eMag written by Estelle Methens

association@climate-chance.org

www.climate-chance.org