

Policy Gap Analysis for Climate Adaptation Strategies

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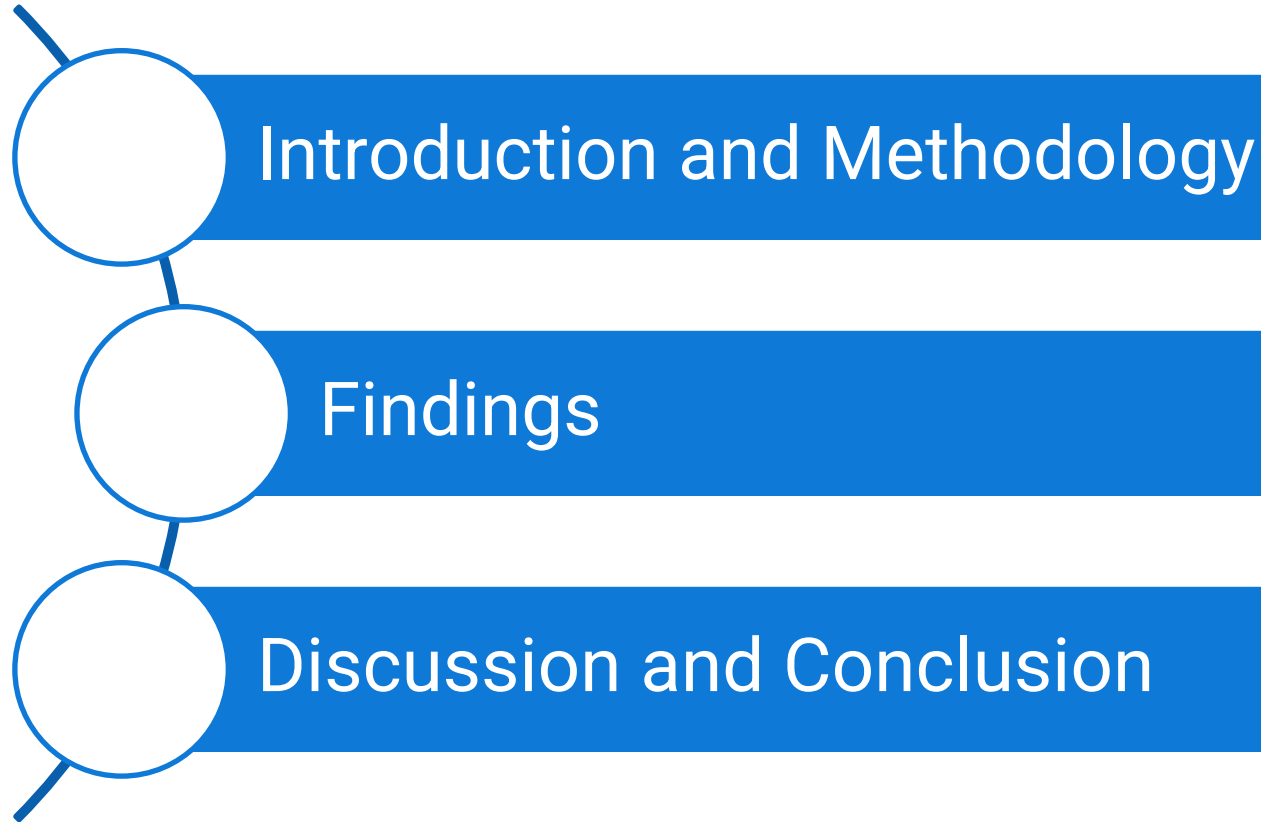
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Introduction and Methodology



Introduction

Objectives

- To identify and analyze gaps in participatory elements of climate change adaptation policies across Europe, focusing on Spain, Germany, and the EU level.
- To provide actionable insights for enhancing the effectiveness and inclusivity of climate adaptation policies, ultimately contributing to a resilient climate future.

Importance of policy gap analysis

- **Enhancing inclusivity:** Ensures diverse perspectives are integrated into climate adaptation strategies.
- **Building trust:** Involvement of stakeholders fosters ownership and commitment to policies.
- **Identifying opportunities:** Highlights areas for improvement in citizen engagement and policy effectiveness.



Methodology

Major steps

- Policy identification and analysis.
- Gap identification, analysis, and verification.
- Criteria for participation: stakeholder identification, consultation mechanisms, capacity building, transparency, monitoring and feedback.



The screenshot shows a dark blue header with a teal wireframe globe icon on the left. To the right of the globe, the text 'Climate Change Laws of the World' is displayed in white. Below this, a white search bar contains the text 'Search the full text of over 5000 laws, policies and UNFCCC submissions' and a magnifying glass icon. A hamburger menu icon is visible in the top right corner of the header area.



Policy selection

Step
1

- Search for climate policies containing the keyword “adaptation”

Step
2

- Manual check whether relevant “adaptation” (e.g., exclusion of adaptation to new legislation etc.)

Step
3

- Check the number of “adaptation” mentions (exclusion of policies where adaptation does not play a major role)

Step
4

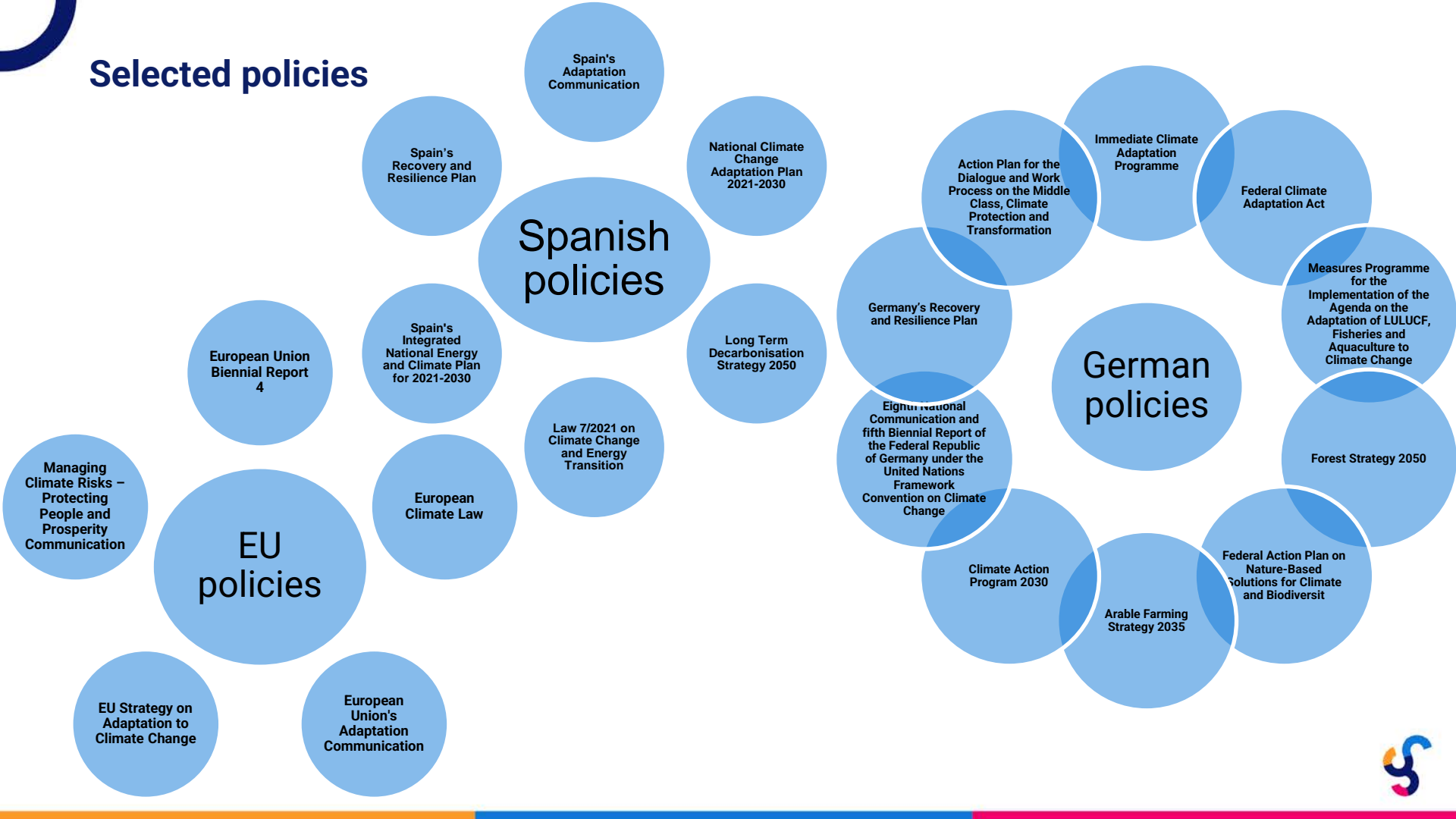
- Exclusion of outdated policies

Step
5

- Analysis of participatory elements in the selected policies



Selected policies



Spanish policies

Spain's Adaptation Communication

Spain's Recovery and Resilience Plan

National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2021-2030

Spain's Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for 2021-2030

Long Term Decarbonisation Strategy 2050

Law 7/2021 on Climate Change and Energy Transition

European Union Biennial Report 4

Managing Climate Risks – Protecting People and Prosperity Communication

EU policies

EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change

European Union's Adaptation Communication

European Climate Law

German policies

Immediate Climate Adaptation Programme

Federal Climate Adaptation Act

Measures Programme for the Implementation of the Agenda on the Adaptation of LULUCF, Fisheries and Aquaculture to Climate Change

Forest Strategy 2050

Federal Action Plan on Nature-Based Solutions for Climate and Biodiversity

Arable Farming Strategy 2035

Climate Action Program 2030

Germany's Recovery and Resilience Plan

Eight National Communication and fifth Biennial Report of the Federal Republic of Germany under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Action Plan for the Dialogue and Work Process on the Middle Class, Climate Protection and Transformation



Criteria for the analysis

- Stakeholders
- Consultation mechanisms
- Type of instruments to promote participation
- Supporting finance mechanisms
- Capacity building
- Transparency and information sharing
- Monitoring and feedback



Findings



Gaps in EU climate change adaptation policies

1. Knowledge accessibility

Ensuring that adaptation knowledge is accessible to all stakeholders, particularly local communities and vulnerable groups.

2. Engaging marginalized communities

Involving marginalized communities and indigenous groups in adaptation planning and implementation.

3. Cross-sectoral collaboration

Promoting collaboration across various sectors such as agriculture, health, and infrastructure for holistic adaptation strategies.

4. Developing country participation

Ensuring meaningful participation from developing countries in shaping global adaptation efforts.

5. Youth engagement

Engaging youth and future generations in decision-making processes related to climate change adaptation.

Gaps in German climate change adaptation policies

1. Interdepartmental cooperation

Strengthening cooperation between federal and state governments for better alignment and strategic coordination.

2. Clarity in adaptation goals

Formulating specific and clear adaptation goals and principles to guide long-term strategies.

3. Public and business engagement

Engaging both citizens and businesses in adaptation efforts, raising awareness and encouraging action.

4. Financial support

Securing adequate financing and budget allocations for successful adaptation measure implementation.

5. Marginalized group representation

Representing marginalized groups, including low-income populations and minorities, in adaptation policy decisions.

Gaps in Spanish climate change adaptation policies

1. Feedback incorporation

Articulating how stakeholder feedback is incorporated into decision-making to enhance trust and transparency.

2. Vulnerable community representation

Ensuring that vulnerable and marginalized communities are represented in adaptation decision-making processes.

3. Youth participation

Targeting youth participation in climate change adaptation and sustainable development policies.

4. Information accessibility

Ensuring adaptation information is accessible to all, including those with limited digital literacy or language barriers.

5. Grassroots and community-based inclusion

Fostering partnerships with grassroots organizations and community-based initiatives for more effective policy design.

6. Sustained stakeholder engagement

Establishing long-term mechanisms for continuous stakeholder dialogue and feedback beyond initial policy development.

Policy gaps

Discussion and Conclusion



Policy gap clustering and validation

Co-creation workshop in Zaragoza (January 2024)

- **Objective:** Cluster gaps in climate change adaptation policies and brainstorm solutions.
- **Participants:** 15 members from the AGORA consortium.
- **Focus areas:**
 - **Policy gaps:** Discussed gaps related to accessibility, representation, communication, education, and engagement.
 - **Solutions:** Generated ideas to close identified gaps.
- **Outcome:**
 - Validation of gaps across different sectors.
 - Collaborative brainstorming of practical solutions for better policy integration and citizen engagement.



Policy gap clusters

Accessibility and representation

Need for an inclusive approach, better minority representation, clearer definitions of vulnerability, and improved engagement with vulnerable groups and civil society.

Communication and education

Inaccessible language, limited educator knowledge, insufficient climate change topics in curricula, ineffective top-down strategies, and a lack of local knowledge recognition and proactive scientific communication.

Feedback mechanisms

Unavailability, insufficient accountability, overreliance on online platforms, and a disconnect between stakeholders and relevant parties.

Financial and resources

Outdated cost-benefit analyses, lack of accountability, excessive bureaucracy, insufficient funding, limited capacity building resources, confusion over large financial figures, and inefficient resource allocation.

Engagement duration and integration

Lack of continuity post-project, inflexible political timelines, insufficient expertise in knowledge brokering, unclear engagement goals, and inadequate integration of engagement processes into decision-making.



Policy recommendations

Ensure inclusive participation

- Mandate the **inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups**, such as low-income populations and minority communities, in policy development processes. Create accessible participation channels through **multiple languages and formats** to engage all stakeholders, particularly those with disabilities.

Strengthen climate education and awareness

- Integrate climate change topics into **educational curricula at all levels**, with mandatory content in schools. **Simplify communication** strategies, ensuring information is tailored to different audiences, avoiding jargon, and emphasizing local knowledge.

Establish clear feedback mechanisms

- Implement **transparent feedback systems** that include accessible online and offline channels for continuous stakeholder input. Ensure that stakeholder feedback is **actively incorporated** into policy updates and decision-making processes.

Improve financial accountability and resource allocation

- Develop **financial transparency** by requiring regular auditing and publication of resource allocation reports. Create dedicated funding mechanisms for small-scale projects and ensure **sufficient resources** for the maintenance and sustainability of climate adaptation initiatives.

Foster long-term engagement

- Shift from short-term political engagement to **long-term strategies** by establishing continuous stakeholder dialogue and follow-up actions post-project. Involve decision-makers **throughout engagement processes**, ensuring alignment with local needs and outcomes.



Conclusion

Key findings:

- Gaps in accessibility, public engagement, and cross-sectoral collaboration identified.
- Vulnerable groups, youth, and local communities are underrepresented in decision-making processes.
- Insufficient financial resources and long-term engagement strategies hinder effective climate adaptation.

Next steps:

- Address identified gaps through inclusive policies and transparent mechanisms.
- Prioritize cross-sector collaboration and targeted support for vulnerable populations.
- Foster long-term citizen and stakeholder engagement to ensure sustainable climate adaptation efforts.

Goal: Create more robust, inclusive, and resilient climate adaptation policies across Europe.





Thanks

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