Adaptation AGORA Project

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A Gathering place to cO-design and co-cReate Adaptation - AGORA

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A Gathering place to cO-design and co-cReate Adaptation - AGORA

- Creating digital tools to foster engagement, learning and knowledgeacquisition
- Testing citizen engagement methodologies
- Policy evaluation and expert feedback on current strategic approaches

(pilot regions) WP1 WP5 Living digital Mapping citizen Capacity building environment for engagement initiatives knowledge for stakeholder in Europe to improve sharing and coclimate resilience WP7 **Project Management**

- Tackling disinformation and generating greater citizen empowerment
- Improving collaboration between stakeholders
- Creating frameworks for co-design and co-creation of climate adaptation and mitigation strategies

WP6 Communication, Dissemination, Exploitation

WP3





Citizen Engagement and Climate Action

The involvement of a broad audience is essential to ensure the effectiveness of climate action.

- Public participation can lead to more ambitious and transformative planning and implementation.
- It enables the **building and improvement of awareness** and understanding of vulnerabilities, risks, and opportunities posed by climate change, and strengthens commitment to addressing it.
- It facilitates the **implementation of actions**, including behavior change.







Adaptation AGORA Pilots



Other regions as well as associations, organizations, institutions that are involved in the process of adaptation to climate change joined the project as **followers**.

This opportunity enlarges the AGORA community beyond the 4 pilot areas, involving a greater number of people. The followers can share with AGORA their specific needs and requests and benefit from the results of the project coming from the pilot areas.









Germany

Dresden, European Citizen

Science Association (ECSA)

♥ Spain
Zaragoza (Ibercivis Foundation)

Sweden

Malmö, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

9 Italy

Rome, Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC)

DIGITAL TOOLS







Spanish Pilot: Region of Aragón

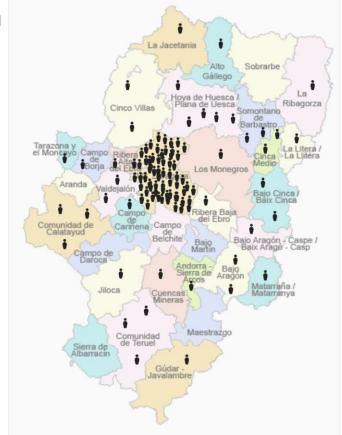
Semi-arid climate & water scarcity: A structurally dry region with limited water availability.

Desertification risks are increasing due to land degradation.

Rising temperatures elevate wildfire risks.

Changing hydrological cycles and snowmelt in the Pyrenees affect agricultural and urban water supply.

Agricultural impacts: Water scarcity and extreme weather challenge crop viability and productivity.



How the population would be distributed on the map of Aragón if it only had 100 inhabitants Source: COMARKUP





INCEPTION WORKSHOPS

Zaragoza

Held in the municipality of Zaragoza (Oct 2023)

Aim: To identify existing gaps in the region's adaptive capacity

Key areas analysed: public health, desertification, water scarcity, and vulnerable groups.

Methods: Brainstorming in small groups,group prioritization exercise, SWOTanalysis.



Matarraña

Held in the municipality of Valderrobres (Dec 2023).

Engaged private landowners, forestry agents, and government officials to discuss sustainable forest management.

Priorities identified: strengthening landowner associations, improving wildfire awareness campaigns, and boosting rural engagement.







FOCUS GROUPS

Youth, Workers, and Multi-cultural Communities

Participants highlighted three shared priorities:

- Climate shelters
- Effective communication
- Community engagement in adaptation

Youth stressed urban-rural connections.
Workers focused on heat-resilient workplaces.
Multi-cultural communities emphasised
environmental education and reforestation
efforts.



Elderly women living in rural area

Held on June 2024 in the municipality of Fabara de Matarraña

Key insights included:

- Home adaptations and flexible schedules to cope with heat
- Infrastructure upgrades to enhance resilience
- Increased community events and maintenance of local rivers
- Climate-resilient crops adapted to emerging conditions





FOCUS GROUPS

People with cerebral palsy

Held in Zaragoza, 2025 Key insights included:

- Growing concern about the rapid pace of climate change and its effects on daily life
- Need for urban adaptations such as shaded bus stops and accessible pathways
- Importance of inclusive spaces, promoting shared participation
- Desire for more awareness-raising workshops and better coordination between public administrations









FINAL CO-CREATION WORKSHOP: ZARAGOZA

Held in Zaragoza (Feb 2025)

Participants prioritised:

- Emission reduction through systemic support
- Climate education to counter misinformation

Additional themes: community networks, urban-rural ties, heat adaptation, and energy equity.

Cross-cutting insight: education and public engagement are essential for lasting resilience.









Engagement insights

Diverse participation: Citizens, civil society, institutions, private stakeholders, and technical experts engaged across workshops and focus groups.

Local relevance matters: Rural voices prioritised fire prevention, water, and crop adaptation; urban actors stressed communication and policy.

Trust and dialogue: Facilitated spaces promoted mutual learning and empowered community perspectives in decision-making.

Key lesson:

Effective engagement combines technical input with lived experience, enabling climate strategies grounded in local realities.





Italian Pilot: City of Rome



Rome developed its Climate Adaptation Strategy (approved in 2025!).





- Temperatures: +2°C since 1971–2000; records >18°C
- Hydrogeological treaths: floods, landslides, sinkholes
- Extreme events: intense rainfall alternated with droughts and heatwaves.

Main VULNERABILITIES associated:

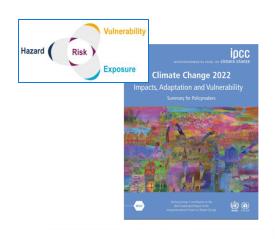
- Aging infrastructure: water and sewer networks at risk
- Urban ecosystems: UHI, wildfires, coastal erosion
- Cultural heritage: material decay, thermal stress, humidity
- Agriculture: lower yields, water stress, extremes
- Socio-economic: inequalities, fragile groups most affected
- Public health: heatwaves, pollution, climaterelated diseases

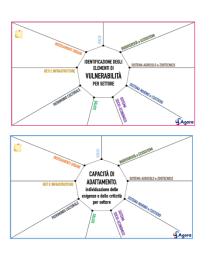




INCEPTION WORKSHOP: ROME















FOCUS GROUPS

Workers

Prioritized Adaptation Measures:

Awareness practices to promote community thinking and enhance management flexibility in addressing climate change.

Prioritized Engagement Practices:

Public meetings and consultation events.

Preferred Facilitation & Engagement:

Think, Pair, and Share



Multi-cultural Communities

Prioritized Adaptation Measures:

Multilingual awareness campaigns and school training programs.

Prioritized Engagement Practices:

- Training workshops and mobile skills development.
- Practical school activities with a focus on active participation and direct interaction.

Preferred Facilitation & Engagement:

1-2-4-All + "How" methodology





FOCUS GROUPS

Youth

Prioritized Adaptation Measures:

- Mandatory environmental education at all school levels, tailored by age and theme.
- Reintroduction to nature (e.g., bug hotels, green space engagement).

Prioritized Engagement Practices:

- Practical climate education integrated with citizenship education.
- Training workshops, mobile skills development, citizen learning circles, and mentorship programs.

Preferred Facilitation & Engagement:

Think, Pair and Share + "How" methodology.



Health Operators

Prioritized Adaptation Measures:

Scalable, flexible, and sector-specific adaptation and mitigation policies integrated into local policies to make measures actionable and relevant at the sector level.

Prioritized Engagement Practices:

Mentorship programs as co-creation through a bottom-up process, complemented by a digital component for multi-level engagement, broader accessibility, and activity tracking (equity and memorability).

Preferred Facilitation & Engagement:

Think, Pair, and Share + "How" methodology.

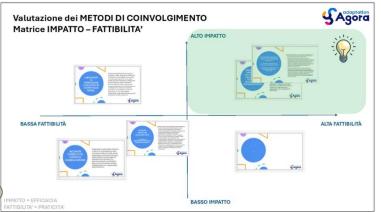






CO-CREATION WORKSHOP: ROME







Adaptation Measures

- Digital Solutions: Enhance inclusivity, especially for youth and remote participants.
- Data & Education: Accessible data and info for informed decision-making.
- Collaboration: Feedback loops for active participation.

Engagement Methods

- Educational Programs: School curricula, hands-on activities.
- Public Events: Well-organized, targeted outdoor events.
- Mentorship: Bottom-up, community-driven adaptation strategies.
- Workshops: Practical skill-building for climate resilience.



Swedish Pilot: Malmö





Malmö faces more frequent and intense heatwaves but with unequal impacts across neighborhoods and citizens.



INCEPTION WORKSHOPS

Part 1 – September 2023



Aim: Co-explore urban heat vulnerability

Methods: Co-define key concepts, brainstorming, and collaborative survey

Part 2 - January 2024



Aim: Co-design adaptation solutions

Methods: Vulnerability walk and participatory

drawing exercise

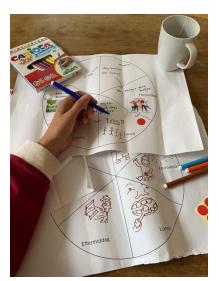




FOCUS GROUPS

Aim → Co-explore urban heat vulnerability and adaptation solutions

- Four in total (1 multi-ethnic communities, 1 youths, 2 workers)
- Followed pre-defined protocol but added a participatory drawing exercise

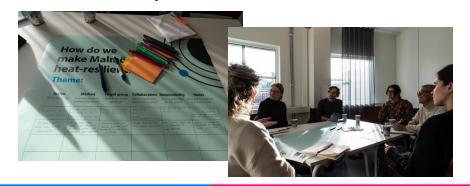


FINAL CO-CREATION WORKSHOP

Aim → Co-create adaptation solutions for communication, existing buildings, and new construction in a warming Malmö.

In a world café setting, participants discussed:

- What measures can be taken?
- How can they be implemented?
- Who is the target group?
- Which stakeholders need to be involved?
- Who is responsible for implementation?
- What key factors should be considered?







Integration into policy

Findings from Adaptation AGORA presented in a co-authored report

- Endorsed by the local government!
- Used as planning tool for naturebased solutions
- Contributes to the development of the upcoming urban heat strategy



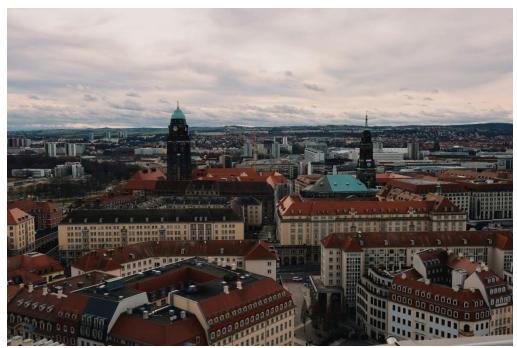


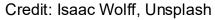


German Pilot: Dresden

Regional characteristics and climate hazards

- Social and economic vulnerability
- Remarkable resilience → "Silicon Saxony" (semiconductors) and cutting-edge research
- More frequent and intense heatwaves, exacerbated by urban heat island effects.
- Severe floods (notably in 2002 and 2013), due to its location along the Elbe River, worsened by disrupted water cycles and heavy rainfall events.







INCEPTION WORKSHOP

(in person – Nov 16, 2023)

Investigating local climate vulnerability, as well as adaptation gaps and pitfalls

- Which sectors are most impacted by heatwaves and floods?
- Which social groups are most vulnerable?

Starting the local climate adaptation network

Ongoing activities and challenges in the field of climate adaptation



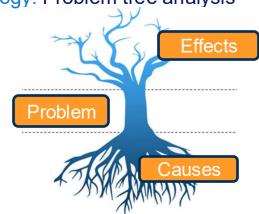
INFORMATIONAL EVENT

(online – Nov 12, 2023)

Providing a basic understanding of the terminology of climate adaptation

- Climate adaptation vs. climate mitigation
- Climate hazards and vulnerability
- Exposition, Sensitivity and Adaptive capacity

Methodology: Problem tree analysis







FOCUS GROUPS

(in person – from May to October 2024)

Further investigating local climate vulnerability

 How does the climate hazard under discussion affect you and your daily life?

Co-creating soft-climate adaptation solutions

 What solutions could help addressing the negative impacts of climate change?

Co-evaluating engagement opportunities

- How would you like to engage in the solutions?
- Who else should be engaged and how?





FINAL CO-CREATION WORKSHOP

(in person – Feb 4, 2025)

Stakeholders and citizens coming together to further elaborate the results of the focus group discussion with citizens.

Various methodologies for co-creation (mostly from the <u>Liberating Structures</u> and <u>Sociocracy</u> movements) – strong focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Results from the Pilot Activities

Phases of the participatory process:

Identifying barriers and vulnerabilities

Understanding concerns and unique perspectives

Proposals and contribution to adaptation solutions



- 8 Target Audiences
 (TA) involved
- Decision-makers
 from the
 local/regional
 authorities

Focus groups (FG)

- Workers
- Youth
- Multi-ethnic communities and other vulnerable groups (i.e. seniors, people with disabilities and chronic illnesses)

Final co-creation workshop

- 8 TA
- Participants from FG
- Decision-makers from the local/regional authorities

Integration into policy

- New Adaptation
 Plans and Strategies
- Updating existing ones





Key takeaways from the co-creation

How to communicate climate adaptation, in a positive and inclusive way

- Focus on increasing water intake during hot conditions
- Practical and catchy slogans to invite people to drink more water

Participatory city design: digital apps and counter-mapping for more resilient cities

- Focus on enhancing water availability in the city, but can include other topics (e.g. heat relief spots, public and accessible toilette, banches...)
- Existing data (make them public!) and existing apps, communication channels
- Combination with citizen-generated data: need to moderate the process

Awareness campaign in school: mutual learning and connection

- Hands-on, practical workshops in schools
- "Climate-adapted schools"
- Combined with real life testimonials from people with migration backgrounds and seniors

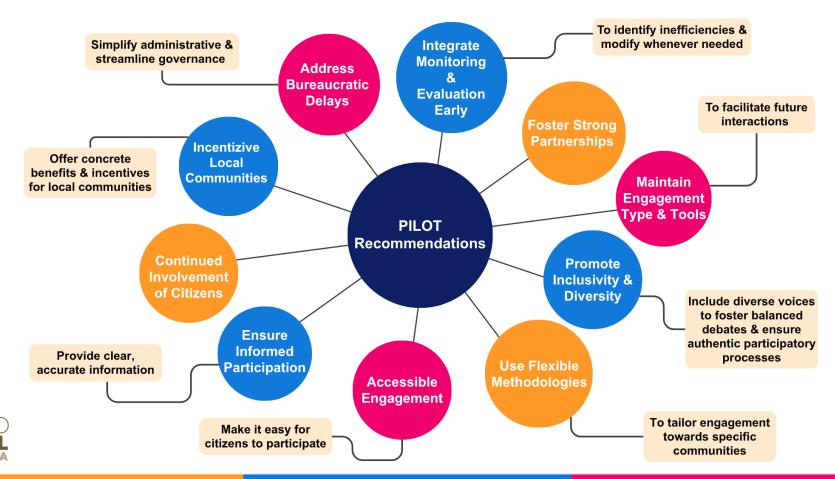
Funding climate adaptation: how to make it more effective

 Climate adaptation must be considered in all decisions across city offices. Instead of a single adaptation fund or office, each department should have its own resources to address adaptation needs.





PILOTS - Recommendations





Adaptation AGORA and Capacity Building Activities

Capacity building events conducted throughout the project included:



Co-Creation workshops



Crossregional peer-to-peer workshops

Creating a Capacity Building Legacy:



Results from capacity building events provided insights into co-production, citizen engagement, and climate adaptation.



These insights have been compiled into various tools and resources to empower users who wish to learn and explore climate change adaptation from different perspectives:

- Dedicated presentations
- Short videos
- Peer-learning webinars
- Capacity building information sheets (translated into multiple languages)

You can find these resources on our YouTube, Website, Zenodo Community, and Community Hub!





Adaptation AGORA Roadmap to transformative change



A policy-practice gap identified:

- → High-level policies for citizen engagement in climate adaptation exist, but on-the-ground implementation remains fragmented, voluntary, and often fails to empower the most vulnerable.
- → This creates a **critical gap between policy ambition and local reality**, hindering effective and just adaptation.



Our objective:

→ The Adaptation AGORA project sought to **bridge this gap by developing a strategic, evidence-based policy roadmap** to transform isolated successes into a new standard for climate governance across Europe and beyond.



Our Approach:

→ An integrated analysis of scientific evidence, European policies and policymakers, experts and practitioners' knowledge.







Roadmap development



The roadmap development was grounded in a comprehensive, multi-method analysis to understand the real-world challenges and opportunities for scaling citizen engagement for adaptation.

- 1. We conducted a deep dive into the current state of citizen engagement by:
- → Evaluating more than 30 European climate policies using machine learning to identify current practice, governance gaps and structural barriers
- → Systematically reviewing 120+ scientific papers and involving 70 practitioners (through surveys or interviews) to understand the real-world enablers and barriers to engagement.

- 2. We looked beyond the climate sector to find scalable, high-impact solutions:
- → Examining digitalization policies to identify transferable tools for transparency, inclusion, and accountability.
- → Mapping the knowledge ecosystem through surveys and interviews with platform managers to find best practices for collaboration and knowledge sharing.

- 3. We brought all this evidence together into a coherent, actionable strategy:
- → Developing a strategic roadmap with 4 main pillars and 16 concrete recommendations to scale engagement practice in Europe.
- → Validating and refining the roadmap with over 60 policymakers, researchers, and practitioners at major European forums.

Our findings converge on a central conclusion: Scaling engagement requires tackling systemic challenges, institutional, financial, and cultural, that prevent meaningful participation in adaptation effort.

Key challenges to scaling engagement



Our analysis of European adaptation governance and citizen engagement practices revealed systemic challenges that hinder effective citizen engagement.





- → Difficulties to be inclusive, especially in the engagement of vulnerable and marginalized groups
- → Lack of accessibility of engagement formats and consideration of participants needs
- → Engagement process design, financing and management complexities
- → Lack of transparency and impact evaluation of engagement processes, eroding public trust



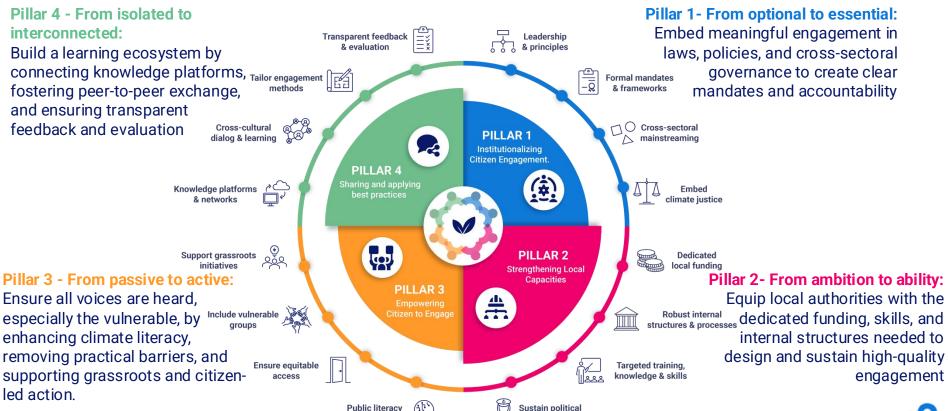
Contextual disparities across European Regions:

- → Diverse engagement cultures, perceptions and motivation
- → Diverse perceptions of climate risk and vulnerabilities
- → Uneven political will, stability and power imbalance
- → Unequal local authority capacities and resources
- → Fragmented policy and regulatory support
- → Siloed governance



Adaptation AGORA Roadmap





& awareness

commitment



Adaptation AGORA Roadmap: A call to action for COP30



The Adaptation AGORA Roadmap synthesizes evidence and provides the strategy. To put it into practice, we need collective action at all levels.



For policymakers:

Adopt the roadmap and integrate the 4 strategic pillars into national and EU adaptation strategies. Mandate meaningful engagement and create supportive legal frameworks



For practitioners & civil society:

Use this framework to advocate for the necessary resources and to design more just, inclusive, and transparent adaptation projects that empower local communities and citizens.



For funders & innovators:

Shift focus from short-term projects to long-term enabling conditions. Support capacity building, interoperable knowledge platforms, and the institutional reforms that make engagement sustainable.



For the climate community:

Join the network and collaborate through knowledge platforms to share learnings, scale best practices, and build a lasting community of practice for citizen-led adaptation.



Adaptation AGORA Digital Tools





AGORA Community Hub: A meeting point to empower local communities to share needs, knowledge and experiences on climate adaptation issues and solutions. The Agora Community Hub aims to:



Be a resource hub of information



Be a platform co-designed platform with citizens and stakeholders



Be a place for networking, communication, and connecting with peers



Host dedicated discussion spaces



Encourage/share knowledge coproduction





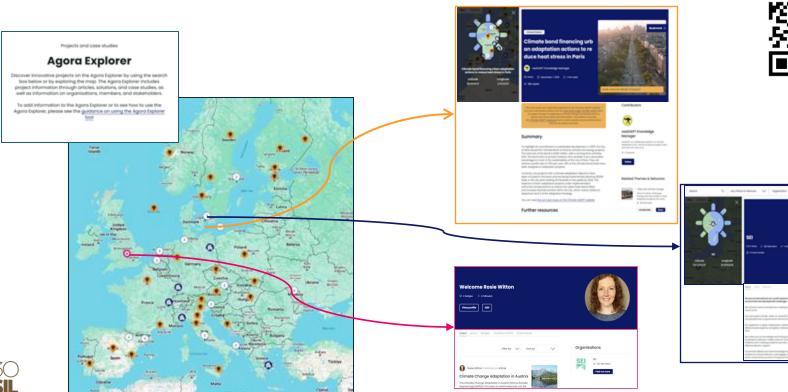


Adaptation AGORA Digital Tools



The Agora Explorer

Explore case studies, organisations, and expert profiles by location.







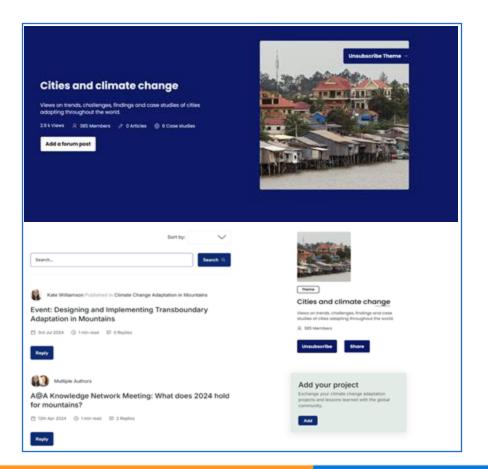




Networking and engagement spaces







Connect with communities and users through discussion forums:

- Ask questions
- Discuss common challenges
- Bookmark resources
- Follow and message peers
- Discover the most popular topics and solutions emerging in the climate change adaptation community



Adaptation AGORA Digital Tools

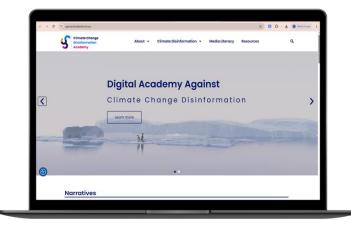




Digital Academy Against Climate Change Disinformation

This academy aims to equip citizens and stakeholders with reliable climate change information and fact-checked data from credible sources.

The Academy aims to enhance public and stakeholder skills to combat climate change disinformation.







The Digital Academy against Climate Change Disinformation



The Academy aims to enhance public and stakeholder skills to combat climate change disinformation, equipping them with reliable climate change information and fact-checked data from credible sources. It offers comprehensive resources and educational materials empowering users to tackle the main fake news about climate change and promoting media literacy.

Collection of articles Relevant Reliable and papers to deepen resources the knowledge on information such as articles & such as media literacy climate change and scientific publications materials climate disinformation A summary of the most viral disinformation narratives found online, accompanied by related fact-checks and Bi-annual reports Fact - checks on the state of climate innovative techniques to

change disinformation

debunking climate change

disinformation

Training materials about fact-checking, verification and critical thinking skills to recognise fake news and identify narratives of climate disinformation



combat disinformation



Adaptation AGORA Digital Tools

Digital Academy to Access and Use Climate Data and Monitor Climate Risks

This academy aims to empower stakeholders and citizens, facilitating adaptation, the Digital Academy offers data and training on the interpretation and effective use of climate information









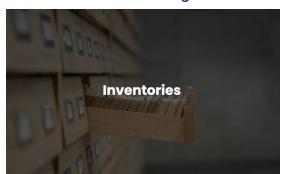


Exploring the Digital Academy: Climate Data Risks & Tools



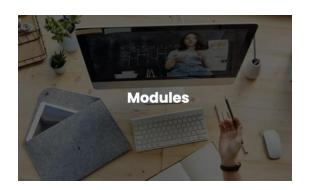
The inventories gather existing hubs and platforms on climate data, climate risks, and climate adaptation.

Aim is to enhance knowledge, raise awareness, and inspire collective action to cope with climate change.



Eight training modules on how to read, interpret, and effectively use climate-related information.

Topics related to climate change, models, tools, risk assessment, governance, and more.



Citizens can actively collaborate
with Adaptation AGORA
researchers.

Users can highlight existence of local climate data and inform about local initiatives.









iOS



Android





Adaptation AGORA Digital Tools

Mobile Quiz App

The gamified app aims to support **citizen education** on climate change adaptation and counteract disinformation campaigns through a fun and engaging approach.

With the app, stakeholders will be able to recognize and counteract disinformation and adopt sustainable behavioral models for climate adaptation.







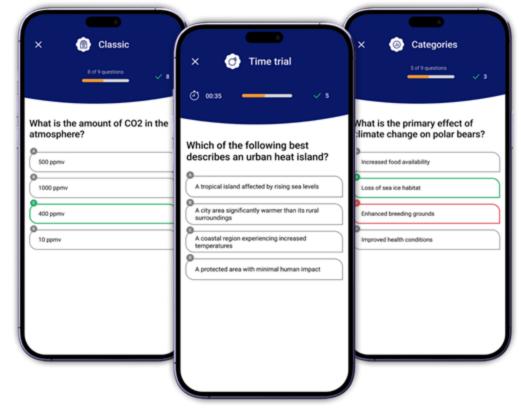




Key Features - Game Modes

Three Game Modes

- Classic Mode: 10-question quizzes.
- Time Trial Mode: Earn extra time with each correct answer.
- Category Mode: Focused quizzes on:
 - → Climate Change Fundamentals
 - → Climate Change Disinformation
 - → Climate Change Communication and Narratives
 - → Media Literacy

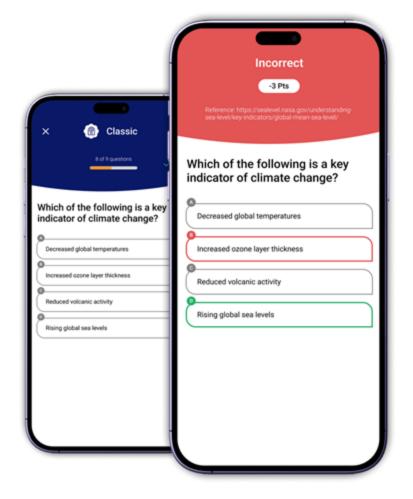






Question Bank

- Over 500 carefully reviewed questions covering key topics.
- Credible references for each question to encourage verification and deeper learning.
- Content curated with support from climate experts.







Adaptation AGORA Digital Tools



Adaptation AGORA Digital Handbook

"VOICES OF CLIMATE ADAPTATION" is an interactive multimedia platform that collects the results of the project with a narrative approach and an editorial style.

https://voicesofclimateadaptation.dataclime.com/







Adaptation AGORA Digital Tools

The Digital Handbook

The site focuses on **sharing the experiences gained** and the **main themes touched** upon through the **voices of the protagonists**, both in the project team and among the stakeholders who collaborated with Adaptation AGORA in the various pilot areas.



Video Interviews / Pictures

- Adaptation AGORA team
- External Stakeholders
- Pictures from the pilot regions



Stories / Articles

- Stories on the pilot regions
- Topics related to the project (Mission Adaptation, citizen engagement, climate adaptation)



Glossary

Keywords regarding adaptation and citizen engagement





Adaptation AGORA Evaluation Framework



Adaptation AGORA Evaluation Framework

1. Relevant knowledge

Outcome 1.1 The

engagement process

aligned with the local

and its outputs are

Outcome 2.1 The enjoys fair

· Co-explore context

context.

- Co-explore vulnerability
- · Adapt as change unfolds

Outcome 1.2 Citizens. decision makers. researchers, and other stakeholders have a sense of buy-in.

- · Engage citizens and stakeholders early
- Manage expectations
- Formulate joint objectives

2. Just participation

engagement process representation of citizens and stakeholders.

· Identify and involve relevant stakeholders

Outcome 2.2 Citizens and other stakeholders have access to the engagement process and its outputs.

- · Decide on time and place
- · Tailor outputs to different groups

Outcome 2.3 Citizens and other stakeholders actively contribute to the citizen engagement process.

- · Adopt methods and platforms for engagement
- · Appoint an experienced facilitator

3. Mutual learning

4. Improved collaboration

Outcome 3.1 Citizens. decision makers. researchers, and other stakeholders have shared knowledge about key topics.

- · Identify learning areas
- Address knowledge gaps

decision makers. researchers, and other stakeholders have a mutual interest in maintaining their relationship through future collaboration.

Outcome 4.1 Citizens.

Outcome 4.2 Citizens, decision makers. researchers, and other stakeholders have a sense of mutual trust.

- · Allocate roles and responsibilities
- · Establish rules of conduct
- · Deliver accountabilities on time
- Encourage open communication

More information:

https://adaptationagora.eu/wpcontent/uploads/2023/12/AGORA-D3.2.pdf



Adaptation AGORA and other collaborations

Adaptation AGORA has been invited to give testimony to the first "Mission Projects Seminar: Introducing New Projects to the EU Mission Community Confirmation" (Oct 15th 2024), will be a Featured Project in the Fourth Forum.





























Adaptation AGORA Outputs

Further dissemination of project results and outputs through our Adaptation AGORA **Zenodo Community**

Can find project deliverables, reports, protocols, resources, and databases.

Supports open-access and accessibility of information

