

3 ACTIONS

In order to support and advance successful adaptation to climate change in European cities, a range of actions need to be taken to enable local governments to assess climate change risks and the vulnerability of essential urban systems (including the social dimension), strategically plan adaptation action based on solid evidence, as well as fund and implement measures on the ground leading to tangible increases in urban resilience in Europe. The European Union has a significant role in advancing adaptation action on the local level through enabling policies, instruments and initiatives complementing national, regional and local efforts.

Through the bottom-up working method of the Climate Adaptation Partnership, a set of actions are put forward, focussing on those issues where European level action is most needed and adds most value. The actions address a selection of the key bottlenecks identified and contribute to the three Pact of Amsterdam objectives: 1) Better Regulation; 2) Better Funding and 3) Better Knowledge.

The table below provides an overview of all Actions, which are presented in detail in the following subchapters. A range of additional actions have furthermore been suggested by the Partnership for consideration in the future iterations of the Action Plan (*see Chapter 2.1.4*).

Table 3 The overview of actions

BETTER REGULATION	
R1	Analysis of national multilevel urban development and planning regulations with focus on climate adaptation
BETTER FUNDING	
F1	Guidelines and toolkit for the economic analysis of adaptation projects
F2	Including recommendations for the OPs of the ERDF in order to improve its accessibility for municipalities
F3	A new LIFE for urban adaptation projects
BETTER KNOWLEDGE	
K1	Improving EU municipalities knowledge in the framework of Copernicus Climate Change Service
K2	Enhancing the local content of Climate-ADAPT
K3	Political training on climate adaptation
K4	Enhancing stakeholder involvement at regional and local levels
K5	Promote open access of insurance data for climate risk management
K6	Further engagement of national and sub-national government's associations as key facilitators (and relevant Covenant of Mayors supporters) to best support local authorities in their adaptation process

3.1 Better Regulation

The Urban Agenda of the EU focuses on a more effective and coherent implementation of existing EU policies, legislation and instruments. Drawing on the general principles of better regulation, EU legislation should be designed so that it achieves the objectives at minimum cost without imposing unnecessary legislative burdens. In line with the philosophy of the Urban Agenda for the EU, the Action Plan will not initiate new regulation but rather will contribute to the revision of existing and design of future EU regulation pertinent to the topic of urban adaptation, thus ensuring that it better reflects urban adaptation needs, practices and responsibilities. It recognises the need to avoid potential bottlenecks and minimise administrative burdens for Urban Authorities.

The Climate Adaptation Partnership proposes the following actions under the objective Better Regulation:

Table 4 Action under the objective Better Regulation

Action under the objective Better Regulation	
R1	Analysis of national multilevel urban development and planning regulations with focus on climate adaptation

Table 5 Action R1

Action R1		Analysis of national multilevel urban development and planning regulations with focus on climate adaptation	
Short description:	Collect and analyse all available multilevel regulation tools on urban development and planning regulations in a context of multilevel climate adaptation strategies (including evaluated EU Adaptation Strategy). Particular attention will be given to the urban planning and other spatial strategic planning tools tailored to the national, regional and local level needs. Collect and disseminate national, regional and local regulation case studies and good practices examples, develop conclusions and suggestions for multilevel regulation.		
Responsible institution:	Hungary	Contributing institutions:	EEA, Covenant of Mayors Office, JRC, Ministry of Environment in Poland, Loulè
Implementation timeline:	01.2019 to 06.2020	Intermediary deadlines:	06.2019 - Progress monitoring 12.2019 - Progress monitoring
Indicators of completion:	Collected and analysed multilevel urban development regulation systems of at least half of Member States based on questionnaires		
Bottlenecks addressed:	2, 3, 4, 26 (see annex E)	Cross-linkages:	K2 and F2

What is the specific problem?

Climate adaptation requires a long-term strategy, which is difficult to realise within the current institutional and political context. Currently adaptation actions are often based on sectoral regulations, which provide less effective, silo based approaches and solutions. Multilevel strategic spatial planning and urban development planning are some of the best tools to respond to the complex challenges of climate change and can support proactive cross-cutting urban adaptation. But existing urban planning regulations, urban planning documents (strategic concepts and strategies) and urban planning tools

(spatial and land use plans) related to climate adaptation are not detailed enough, or do not contain the relevant information to be used by the target audience (decision makers of municipalities). In other cases, regulations are well prepared, but not efficient (municipalities do not optimally use the potential of these regulations). Relevant information and efficiency are particularly important for the regional and local authorities. Municipalities find it difficult to make effective use of the existing regulatory documents and tools. Also, there is a lack of effective participatory tools for multilevel governance, cooperation concerning the connection between risk management, climate adaptation planning and urban planning. While stakeholder engagement plays an important role in urban planning in Europe (also embedded in regulations), we do not know the extent to which the regulations address the participatory process related to risk management in the climate adaptation field.

The existing national, regional and local case studies and good practice examples on regulation are diverse, but also too few and not accessible for their respective target groups. There are less experiences about the spatial nature of climate change impacts, risks and solutions. The role of urban planning is underplayed in national adaptation strategies of EU countries. The planning system's connection to short term political cycles constrains its use for achieving longer term progressive goals, such as adapting to climate change. One critical factor is to determine which political and legal enablers will be needed to encourage long-term investments in cities.

Investors also play an important role in long-term urban development related to climate change. We do not know which measures are required at the national level to overcome the barriers faced by cities to unlock investment, and how regulation can attract private investors to modernize sustainable and green urban infrastructure.

The geographies of cities vary greatly, and it is difficult to identify the best solution on a local level as good examples. In Europe national governments are generally responsible for urban matters' regulation, and there are many ways and fields of adaptation, but the multilevel nature of climate change makes it important to revise these tools on a larger, European scale.

How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?

The EU Adaptation Strategy (EAS, 2013; evaluation is planned to be completed by the end of 2018.) includes Action 1: Encourage all Member States to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies. In 2017, the Commission assessed whether action being taken in the Member States is sufficient. If it deems that progress is insufficient, the Commission considers proposing a legally binding instrument. EAS also includes Action 5: Further develop Climate-ADAPT as the 'one-stop shop' for adaptation information in Europe. It aims to contribute to the objective of better-informed decision making by providing access to information on climate impacts, vulnerability and adaptation via Climate-ADAPT knowledge platform. This platform contains a vast amount of resources on adaptation, including case studies and best practices examples, for the use of different governance levels. The Urban Adaptation Support Tool has been developed specifically in support of regional and local level adaptation action. Action 6: As part of the Adaptation Strategy package, the Commission has provided guidance on how to further integrate adaptation into the CAP, the Cohesion Policy and the CFP. This guidance aims to assist managing authorities and other stakeholders involved in programme design, development and implementation during the 2014-2020 budget period. On 6th May, 2013, the Commission adopted an EU-wide strategy promoting investments in green

infrastructure⁶. The strategy promotes the deployment of green infrastructure across Europe as well as the development of a Trans-European Network for Green Infrastructure in Europe, a so-called TEN-G. Furthermore, the European Environment Agency is regularly issuing reports on national and urban adaptation planning. These comprehensive reports include a wide variety of case studies and best practice examples. The Covenant of Mayors together with the Joint Research Centre of the Commission provide knowledge, outlining how their technical guidance supports municipalities in their development of sustainable energy and climate plans (SECAPs), local monitoring and reporting template for adaptation. Extensive communication material, such as best practices brochures, case studies, fact sheets are produced and disseminated by the Covenant of Mayors, all available online. Under the Hungarian Presidency, a handbook (“Climate-friendly cities”) had been developed as a European toolkit for urban planning.

The EU’s [Resource Efficiency Roadmap](#) (part of the EU2020 Resource Efficiency flagship initiatives) refers to land use planning: it is necessary to better integrate direct and indirect land use and their environmental impacts in all levels of decision-making.

Nevertheless, there is an important need to review and update the existing regulation systems of national, regional and local level. In addition, further work is needed on the development and collection of case studies and best practice examples in regulation, as well as making them available for the respective audiences. There is also a need to strengthen linkages between climate plans (such as SECAPs) and urban plans (throughout regulation) for more effective and integrated climate adaptation.

Which action is needed?

Collect and analyse all available regulation of urban development and planning process and documents (urban development strategies, land use plans etc.) in the context of European and national adaptation planning, such as sustainable energy and climate action plans, green infrastructure plans etc. which may be identified as the work progresses. Collaboration with national authorities, the Covenant of Mayors and other relevant partners will be important for implementation of a bottom-up approach.

Collect and disseminate national, regional and local regulation case studies and best practice examples, develop conclusions and suggestions for multilevel regulation and operational programs on national level, making them available for each Member State.

How to implement the action?

1. Indicators will be developed first, to define data and information needs for analysis;
2. Data and information collection for analysis is based on questionnaires (for each relevant governance level, maximum 3 pages);
3. Systematic analysis of collected data and information;
4. Preparation of conclusions, suggestions, selection of case studies for relevant governance levels.

The actors are national authorities responsible for urban planning (top-down approach) and local authorities (bottom-up approach) facilitated by local authority organisations.

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/strategy/index_en.htm

The action is proposed to be implemented in 2019 before preparation of national Operational Programs of ERDF (or other funds) and will consider inclusion of any new or reinforced action.

Funding sources and needs

Each Member state collects their own regulations which are then analysed by the responsible and contributing institutions. This requires national and local authority funding sources.

Implementation risks

Lack of capacity of national and local authorities to implement the action. Lack of information or lack of clear regulation related to urban planning and climate adaptation. This could be mitigated by making use of available expert days by the partnership and strong support by the responsible institution.

Cross linkages with other actions

This action relates to better knowledge actions as it also improves available knowledge of how best to tackle adaptation challenges (e.g. K2). Furthermore, there is also a link to funding actions (such as F2) that aim at establishing recommendations for the Operational Programs.

3.2 Better Funding

The Pact of Amsterdam states that the Urban Agenda for the EU will contribute to identifying, supporting, integrating and improving traditional, innovative and user-friendly sources of funding for Urban Areas at the relevant institutional level, including from European structural and investment funds (ESIF) (in accordance with the legal and institutional structures already in place). The overarching aim of this Action Plan pillar is not to create new or increased EU funding aimed at higher allocations for urban authorities, however, it focusses on improved funding opportunities for urban adaptation based on lessons learned.

The Climate Adaptation Partnership proposes the following actions under the objective Better Funding:

Table 6 Actions under the objective Better Funding

Actions under the objective Better Funding	
F1	Guidelines and toolkit for the economic analysis of adaptation projects
F2	Including recommendations for the OPs of the ERDF in order to improve its accessibility for municipalities
F3	A new LIFE for urban adaptation projects

Table 7 Action F1

Action F1		Guidelines and toolkit for the economic analysis of adaptation projects	
Short description:	This action proposes to develop guidance and tools for robust analysis early in the project appraisal cycle to aid decision making on urban adaptation interventions the tools are aimed for in-house use by cities and financial institutions, as part of any Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA).		
Responsible institution:	European Investment Bank	Contributing institutions:	Financial sector (KfW, National Promotional Banks, EBRD, Commercial Banks) EUROCITES, CoM, CEMR, representative sample of EU cities for testing
Implementation timeline:	01.2019 to 12.2021	Intermediary deadlines:	06/2019 - Terms of Reference and Workplan 12/2019 - Progress Monitoring 06/2020 - Draft Guidelines and draft Toolkit; Training
Indicators of completion:	Delivery of guidelines and toolkit; Dissemination and training on use for 10-12 cities belonging to the contributors by end 2020.		
Bottlenecks addressed:	31, 32 (see annex E)	Cross-linkages:	R1 and K3

What is the specific problem?

The consideration of costs and benefits enables decision makers to make informed and robust decisions between options, allowing trade-offs and/or providing a means to justify decisions. In many public and private institutions, economic cost-benefit analyses (CBAs) help provide the justification for project approval. In addition, such analyses facilitate dialogue with other national, regional or local stakeholder if priorities are conflicting. However, CBAs can be particularly challenging for projects related to climate change adaptation (CCA). The challenge arises due to high levels of uncertainty, and the stochastic nature of climate change projections, as well as the difficulty in estimating future benefits and avoided losses. The CBA of climate change adaptation for infrastructure, and in particular for urban multi component/sector projects, is therefore technically challenging to complete, as well as time and resource intensive and is often outsourced to external experts and consultants. As a result, it has proved difficult for financial institutions to develop quick and cost-effective in-house CBAs which permit robust decision making for adaptation interventions.

How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?

The EU has comprehensive guidelines on CBA, and has supported projects such as ClimateCost, Econadapt, and more recently COACCH, but these do not resolve the challenge outlined above, particularly for urban multi sector adaptation interventions. However, this previous work does form an important point of departure. International experience has shown that much of this guidance has proven far too complicated (Computable General Equilibrium models, Real options from UK green book, etc.), some of which are not used at all (due to cost and/or labour considerations), or because

they are not seen to sufficiently aid in the decision-making process. EIB has started work on this, initially for large infrastructure projects globally, and has provided its concept note to the UA Partnership.

What action is needed?

This action proposes to analyse existing methodologies and good practices regarding the economic analysis of climate adaptation and develop these to infrastructure investments including green infrastructure in the urban context. The guidance and tools that are developed shall be appropriate for in-house use by cities (including small and medium-size) and financial institutions, as well as be cost effective and promote low regret and robust decision making on adaptation interventions. Such a tool would complement other considerations including developmental, social, financial and environmental which all need to be considered in the final project decision. Cities need to justify their priorities and use of public funds to the constituencies and funders (loans or grants) and are currently poorly equipped to do so. The availability of appropriate tools and guidance for urban investment decision-makers will permit, promote and enhance investments and operational changes in cities, enabling people, assets and ecosystems to cope with impacts and seize the opportunities that climate change presents.

How to implement the action?

It is envisaged that this work shall be carried out with the assistance of external consultants, to be led collectively by representatives (steering committee) of both the financial sector (commercial and international financial institutions and urban/cities. The approach requires the consultants to facilitate the sharing of best practices between cities, financial institutions and service providers and initially develop simple, best practice guidelines along the lines of the “Integrating Climate Change Information and Adaptation in Project Development: Emerging Experience from Practitioners” (EUFIWACC, 2016). Next steps are more detailed guidance on robust decision making under uncertainty and low cost, low regret solutions for urban adaptation with the tool kit to carry out such assessments, including training of how to apply such guidance and tools

Funding sources and needs

EU funds, EUR 2-3 million – EIB to commit to funding for Urban CRVAs (Economic analysis included) of 10-12 cities that are committed to working with EIB. Funding needed for rolling out the guidelines to cities, webpages, training etc. to cities through the implementing entity.

Implementation risks

There is a risk that the task of simplifying a highly complex challenge of economic analysis of adaptation, and nascent field, in the context of complex multi component/sector urban investments cannot move beyond guidance and best practices. A second risk, which is known from the urban partnerships, is the availability and willingness of all the stakeholders to commit the necessary time to support this action. This may be challenging for smaller cities, due to the complexity and resource constraints. It is therefore necessary to find cities that are willing and able to participate in the pilot and learning.

Cross linkages with other actions

This action has a link to R1, as it can be seen as one of several tools that can facilitate planning. Furthermore, it links to K3 as it can support the training and understanding of municipal politicians in understanding the costs (economic and financial) of adaptation.

Table 8 Action F2

Action F2				Including recommendations for the OPs of the ERDF in order to improve its accessibility for municipalities			
Short description:		Establishing recommendations for the Operational Programs (OP) in order to improve accessibility for Local Authorities and to increase adaptation actions' implementation. The recommendations are addressed to the Member States and Authorities managing ERDF. The actions also should be useful to integrate those recommendations into the new ERDF period (2021-2027).					
Responsible institution:		Diputació de Barcelona		Contributing institutions:		Local Authorities network (Covenant Supporter and/or Coordinator); Covenant Clubs, France, Hungary	
Implementation timeline:		09.2019 to 06.2020		Intermediary deadlines:		06.2019 Progress monitoring 12.2019 Progress monitoring	
Indicators of completion:		Concrete recommendations to be taken up by managing authorities					
Bottlenecks addressed:		6,12,18,19,20,30 (see Annex E)		Cross-linkages:		F1 and K6	

What is the specific problem?

The accessibility of the ERDF by cities and towns, especially small and medium-sized towns, due to the degree of complexity to fulfil all requirements, is limited. That complexity can be higher or lower depending on how these funds are managed by the Member States. For instance, in some Member States the entity applying for the fund must provide an upfront investment, which is a significant barrier for many Local Authorities. In some other countries Operational Programs take a long time to be developed and so the calls are delayed, thus creating uncertainty regarding the availability of the funding and the related conditions, so cities planning becomes more difficult. As a result, many Local Authorities feel discouraged and do not apply for one. Co-financing requirements can be also a constraint.

National structures are typically sectorial, which leads to a less integrated approach. Operational Programs are also often sectorial. On the other hand, climate adaptation requires an integrated approach. Non-adaptation projects (i.e. projects whose main goal is *not* adaptation) will not include adaptation criteria as it is not demanded by the OP.

How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?

Each Member State develops its own Operational Programs (OP) and establishes specific ERDF calls linked to these OP, according to ERDF regulations (EU 1301/2013 and EU 1303/2013) and priorities. Adaptation measures can currently be executed through ERDF, however a high degree of technical expertise is required to prepare a project to fit call requirements. As a result, it is necessary to hire external consultancies, and in some areas co-financing requirements are high (i.e. 50%) and difficult to achieve by Local Authorities.

For example, co-funding requirements are established by regions, but sometimes there should be some specificities towards towns and cities. In some areas with high co-funding rates, there may be cities which have a high degree of vulnerable population and low-income rates, sometimes lower than those regions which have low co-funding rates. It may be suggested that co-funding rates for

towns and cities should be linked to their local economic situation, not to the region in which they are located. Managing authorities may consider lowering the co-funding rate by developing specific aids linked to the economic situation of the demanding local authority.

Which action is needed?

The required action is to define specific barriers encountered by Local Authorities when applying for an ERDF call and identify the solutions to overcome them that could be included as recommendations into the OP. They also should identify where bureaucracy to fulfil the call could be diminished as well as how more funds could be allocated to climate adaptation projects.

National authorities managing ERDF funds could include recommendations into their OP such as:

- Allocating part of the funds to climate adaptation projects to Local Authorities and considering to co-finance at least part of them, considering the economic profile of the Local Authority.
- Allowing supra-municipal entities (such as provinces, councils, etc.) to act on behalf of the municipalities, no matter their size, so these Authorities can help municipalities by bringing in technical expertise and, when possible, co-financing
- Lowering the co-financing requirements for adaptation projects and differentiating the co-financing requirements based on the size of the Local Authority (where smaller authorities should face lower requirements).

How to implement the action?

1. Local Authorities, supra-municipal Authorities, Covenant Coordinators should (together with the responsible and contributing institutions) develop an analysis of the barriers encountered by Local Authorities to implement adaptation actions through ERDF and propose recommendations using specific examples in order to present that to the Managing Authorities. For instance, DiBa could prepare a specific questionnaire to be sent to Local Authorities in order to determine whether they have ever applied in an ERDF call, and the reasons why if they have not applied in such a call. If they had applied in such a call, determining the main difficulties which they encountered to fit the requirements. Also, to determine if the experience was positive (potentially) leading to participation in future calls. They also should list which solutions could be included in the OP in order to facilitate access to the fund;
2. The abovementioned institutions should establish a dialogue with the managing authorities to ensure the uptake of recommendations. Meetings between Managing Authorities and Local Authorities must be organised so Local Authorities can present the recommendations;
3. Monitoring the result. The responsible and contributing institutions should monitor whether the recommendations will be included and into what degree;
4. Feedback by the abovementioned institutions to DG REGIO on the results so they might consider including some of the recommendations into the next ERDF period.

Funding sources and needs

Human resources are needed to deal with the analysis of the gaps and development of recommendations and to organise and attend the dialogue meetings with the managing authorities. Potentially use of expert days of the Partnership.

Implementation risks

There might be delays in the finalisation of the Operational Programs due to the extra time and effort necessary for dialogue meetings and inclusion of recommendations. This risk is to be mitigated by

seeking co-operation of additional contributing institutions, such as member states and Managing Authorities.

Cross linkages with other actions

Action F2 links to action F1 as the existence of a tool which standardises the economics of climate change could be useful for both actions, appliers of an ERDF and managers. It will be a way to assess projects and to see the options to implement them. Action F2 also links to action K6. The existence of Governance structures such as Covenant supporters will be helpful in order to gather information on potential recommendations for OP, also to facilitate project bundling and assess conditions needed to execute measures. A good engagement process between supramunicipal authorities such as provinces, county councils and municipalities will be useful to gather information from Local Authorities in relation to barriers to apply for ERDF-funds and potential solutions to overcome them

Table 9 Action F3

Action F3		A new LIFE for urban adaptation projects	
Short description:	The action consists of enhancing urban municipalities', cities' and towns' capacity to access LIFE funding for urban adaptation projects. It will be done through: 1. dissemination/upscaling the frameworks that exist in some Member States to support cities to win and/or implement LIFE funding for urban adaptation projects; 2. making concrete suggestions to improve access of cities to the LIFE programme, including access to technical assistance (TA) resources for the preparation and implementation of urban adaptation projects, independently from project funding.		
Responsible institution:	EUROCITIES	Contributing institutions:	EIB, French Ministry of Territorial Cohesion, Polish Ministry of Environment, City of Potenza, City of Genova, Province of Barcelona, EASME, DG CLIMA, Covenant of Mayors office
Implementation timeline:	01.2019 to 06.2020	Intermediary deadlines:	03.2019 Good practice review on multi-level coordination 10.2019 Gap analysis on LIFE TA, procedure, etc. 12.2019 European workshop 06.2020 At least one national dialogue 2021 New TA facility (EIB)
Indicators of completion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One European workshop completed with attendance of at least 25 participants; • At least one national dialogue completed by June 2020; • Report on cities bottlenecks to access LIFE funding and list of concrete suggestions to overcome those bottlenecks delivered to EASME and DG ENV as a contribution to the final evaluation of LIFE regulation 2014-2020. 		
Bottlenecks addressed:	6, 7, 12, 16, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28 <i>(see Annex E)</i>	Cross-linkages:	R1

What is the specific problem?

City authorities face difficulties in accessing LIFE funding for their climate adaptation projects, mainly for these reasons:

- **Insufficient co-financing** - The 55% (since 2018) co-financing by LIFE constitutes a barrier for cities of all sizes, to access funding and implementing the projects. Integrating different types of funds (i.e. H2020, URBACT, ERDF) to provide the remaining 45% remains a challenge as well;
- **Complexity** - Many of the LIFE calls are complex, with timetables and conditions that can be different depending on the calls. The one-stage process for climate adaptation projects does not leave much time for cities to apply. City authorities encounter difficulties in identifying the most appropriate TA and project funding sources depending on the characteristics of the project (size, sector, scope and volume of funding needed). This makes the drafting of applications challenging, especially for smaller municipalities or municipalities with no European funding experts;
- **Information gap** - City authorities are not always informed about LIFE funding. This leads to many cities not being able to submit applications. Further promotion should be done at the national level to inform cities about the funding programs and the necessity to work on climate adaptation, in particular through the Covenant of Mayors;

- **Limited support from regional or national authorities** - National ministries or regions are not always aware of LIFE projects submitted by cities and their outcomes, and therefore are not able to support city authorities in the implementation and application of their project. This leads to LIFE projects not delivering their intended climate resilience benefits;
- **Low-quality applications** - Local authorities often lack the in-house capacity required to tackle climate change adaptation. They encounter challenges in identifying climate risks and vulnerabilities, and difficulties in prioritising adaptation projects/activities in relation to climate resilience objectives contained in strategic documents. This results in poor adaptation projects failing to pass the selection process;
- **Size of projects** - small city authorities fail to reach adaptation projects of a sufficient size and need to bundle them in order to get sufficient critical mass of funding;
- **Lack of technical assistance** – Up to now, there has been no technical assistance support specifically targeting cities to support them in the preparation of their climate adaptation projects (only for Member states or Regions to prepare integrated projects);
- **LIFE scope:** The regulation on the LIFE programme does not mention explicitly that LIFE funding can be used to draft or implement the Covenant of Mayors Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans, including their adaptation component.

How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?

In the 2018-2020 work programme, LIFE Climate Action supports projects on climate adaptation, selected through a one-stage application process and a 55% co-funding. LIFE Integrated Projects provide funding for plans, programs and strategies on climate adaptation (and 5 other topics including mitigation), but developed on the regional, multi-regional or national level. TA in LIFE is aimed at (1) projects implementing environmental or climate action plans developed on the regional, multi-regional or national level to cover several cities, this is not suitable for cities which operate at small territorial scales and for which it would be more complicated to gather a critical mass of partner cities; (2) projects in the areas of nature, waste, air and climate change mitigation and adaptation - where adaptation is less known compared to other areas of interest; (3) the preparation of a future project proposal that targets an eligible action plan, strategy or roadmap, hence strongly linked with the project funding.

What action is needed?

Three streams of action are needed:

1. Identify good practices of Member States or regions working effectively with cities on urban adaptation using LIFE funding. In some countries, national, regional or supra municipal governments assume part of the co-financing needed in LIFE. In some other countries, the Ministry for Environment contracts an association to support project developers, including in municipalities, and helps them apply to LIFE projects (*inter alia*). This can be done through support to develop project proposals; co-funding; development of integrated projects that involve or benefit cities; or targeted technical assistance provided by national/regional authorities. The take up of such practices in other Member States and regions should be encouraged, with special attention to be paid to small and medium sized cities;
2. Disseminate those good practices across the EU by making them available to cities, regions and Member States, through city networks and initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors, in national languages when possible;
3. Convey cities' feedback on the LIFE programme to the European Commission and make concrete suggestions to improve access of cities to LIFE programme, including during the negotiation of

the June 2018 Commission proposal on the [Programme for the environment and climate action \(LIFE\) 2021–2027](#), and to feed in the final evaluation of the LIFE regulation 2014-2020, expected in 2020 (the [mid-term evaluation](#) was released in November 2017). Concrete suggestions could include the improvement of technical assistance, specifically targeting the development of urban adaptation projects under the “traditional project call” and the “integrated project” call⁷.

How to implement the action

Two strands of actions in parallel:

1. Coordination across national/local levels (local also including small and medium sized cities):
 - Review of good practices on collaboration between national ministries and cities on LIFE (desk research) – lead: EUROCITIES;
 - Organisation of a European workshop on LIFE, inviting national ministries to present how they support cities to access LIFE funding possibly back to back with an existing city event to maximise participation - lead: EUROCITIES;
 - Organisation of at least one national dialogue between national ministries, regions and cities, as well as interested stakeholders such as city networks, initiatives, funders and investors on better cooperation on LIFE funding for urban adaptation in national languages – preferably back-to-back with or during a (broader/larger) national event. Expected long-term outcome at national level: established dialogues in place between national ministries or regions and cities, to reinforce awareness and when possible, support cities’ access and use of LIFE funding for urban adaptation projects – Lead: Covenant of Mayors.
2. Review of LIFE scope, conditions and application process and improvement of technical assistance
 - Gap analysis reviewing application procedures and timeframes, co-financing thresholds, language barriers– Lead: EUROCITIES;
 - Input into final evaluation of the LIFE regulation 2014-2020 – Lead: EUROCITIES;
 - Gap analysis reviewing where improvements to the existing TA facilities are necessary, in addition to those already identified. Based on previously identified bottlenecks, the new TA facility could provide: (1) Focus on local projects from smaller municipalities which may or may not become bankable; (2) Depending on resources available, provision of adaptation specialists speaking the local language who would work with the municipality for a certain amount of time (1-2 years) in order to help cities (a) build internal capacity, (b) plan specific adaptation measures and (c) create resilience strategies. The specialist would be able to assist cities in numerous tasks, as adaptation measures are usually not stand-alone projects; (3) Streamlining of procurement procedures. Lead: EIB.

Funding sources and needs

Use of partners' own resources, collaboration with the Covenant of Mayors, use of the TAIEX-EIR peer- to-peer instrument to fund national dialogues.

Implementation risks

- Risk of low attendance of European experts – mitigated through organising the workshop on LIFE back-to-back with an existing event;

⁷ An alternative option could also be, after the first stage is passed, to provide the project partners with a lump sum to developed further the project with the support of technical experts (i.e. URBACT projects).

- Risk of low uptake of national dialogues or recommendations from national dialogues by National ministries and other sub-national authorities - mitigated through the involvement of the national ministries of France and Poland as contributors to this action and their willingness to organise a national dialogue, hereby inspiring their colleagues;
- Risk of little feedback from cities (and other stakeholders) on the LIFE programme - mitigated through use of networks such as EUROCITIES and initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors.

Cross linkages with other actions

Action F3 leaders will liaise with action R1 leaders, which will collect information on climate adaptation governance, to integration in action R1 survey questions about LIFE funding.

3.3 Better Knowledge

Reliable data is important for portraying the diversity of structures and tasks of urban authorities, for evidence-based urban adaptation planning and implementation. Knowledge on the vulnerabilities of urban areas to climate change needs to be further developed and brought to the users and decision-makers in local authorities; and successful experiences need to be better exploited. Initiatives taken in this context will be in accordance with the relevant EU legislation on data protection, the reuse of public sector information and the promotion of big, linked and open data.

The Climate Adaptation Partnership proposes the following actions under the objective Better Knowledge:

Table 10 Actions under the objective Better Knowledge

Actions under the objective Better Knowledge	
K1	Improving EU Municipalities knowledge in the framework of Copernicus Climate Change Service
K2	Enhancing the local content of Climate-ADAPT
K3	Political training academy on climate adaptation
K4	Enhancing stakeholder involvement at regional and local levels
K5	Promote open access of insurance data for climate risk management
K6	Further engagement of national and sub-national government's associations as key facilitators (and relevant Covenant of Mayors supporters) to best support local authorities in their adaptation process

Table 11 Action K1

Action K1				Improving EU municipalities knowledge in the framework of Copernicus Climate Change Service			
Short description:	This action aims at improving the abilities of local authorities to better exploit the knowledge value resulting from the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) ⁸ to better plan climate adaptation strategies. It will focus on knowledge-sharing through the delivery of city-tailored training, workshop and webinar.						
Responsible institution:	DG JRC		Contributing institutions:	ECMWF, DG CLIMA, DG GROW Potenza and Genova municipalities			
Implementation timeline:	01.2019 - 06.2020		Intermediary deadlines:	06.2019 Progress report ⁹ and survey 09.2019 CDS C3S City-tailored training 12.2019 Progress report 03.2020 Webinar			
Indicators of completion:	Survey completed (at the latest by Q2-2019) CDS C3S City-tailored training delivered (at the latest by Q3-2019) CoM ¹⁰ -run Webinar delivered (at the latest by Q1-2020) PESETA Workshop delivered (at the latest by Q2-2020)						
Bottlenecks addressed:	5, 10 (see Annex E)		Cross-linkages:	K2 and K3			

What is the specific problem?

Municipalities need effective tools for territorial analysis to better plan climate adaptation strategies and inform policy-makers at a local level. Information available from the Copernicus Climate Change (C3S) Service CDS (Climate data Store) can be freely used by the cities and helps them to formulate more effective adaptation strategies. In particular, the combination of C3S data in combination with local sources of information are important for the different steps of climate adaptation planning, including vulnerability and risk assessments as well as the definition of different local climate adaptation plans.

However, the wealth of information made available by C3S needs to be well understood to be used in an accurate way.

How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?

COPERNICUS represents a significant EU investment and the available output products on territorial analysis have already boosted the knowledge in a number of domains, including climate change (C3S). The level of the disaggregation of datasets is an important aspect of the available data and certainly needed for city-level planning of climate adaptation strategies.

In this direction, C3S Sectoral Information Services have already developed Essential Climate Variables (ECV) and impact indicators based on temperature and other climate variables specifically for some case study cities, to bring more consistent and useful data to different sectors operating in urban areas.

⁸ Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).

⁹ Progress report will be a maximum 2-page report, possibly following a standard template provided by the Partnership.

¹⁰ Covenant of Mayors.



What action is needed?

The data made available by C3S CDS can be effectively used by cities and municipalities to develop their climate adaptation plans. Although the disaggregation of data at city-level can still be an issue, the data already available, if properly used can be a useful tool in the drafting and implementation of the plans.

There is, however, a gap between the knowledge available and the potential users, which can be covered by appropriate, targeted training tools directed to technical staff of the municipalities or support consultants.

How to implement the action?

In order to implement this action, four main steps (or sub-actions) have been identified; each led by one of more responsible/contributing institution:

1. Survey targeting cities to understand 'what cities would expect from the use of the C3S CDS'. Delivered by Q1-2019; main responsible(s): Potenza and Genova Municipalities;
2. Training tailored to cities' needs (based on the results of the survey) on the use of the C3S CDS. Delivered by Q2-2019; main responsible(s): ECMWF;
3. Webinar prepared by Covenant of Mayors (CoM) Office on how to benefit from Copernicus data. Delivered by Q3-2019, main responsible(s): DG CLIMA;
4. Workshop for cities on the use of the outputs of the PESETA¹¹ project. Delivered by Q1-2020; main responsible(s): DG JRC.

Funding sources and needs

The sub-actions will be implemented within the responsible institution's budget. The Workshop on the PESETA project is planned to be organised at JRC-Ispra premises and participants will have to cover their own travel/accommodation expenses.

Implementation risks

There is a minor risk of identifying gaps in knowledge outside the partners' area of expertise. When this occurs, it remains to be seen how this could potentially be addressed.

Cross linkages with other actions

Possible links with other actions have been identified on support to drafting local adaptation plans as the training tools provided by this action will also support the drafting of local adaptation plans; and action K2 and K3 on content of Climate-ADAPT platform and political training, respectively, as complementary knowledge-sharing initiatives.

¹¹ PESETA: Projection of Economic Impacts of climate change in Sectors of the EU based on bottom-up Analysis.

Table 12 Action K2

Action K2		Enhancing the local content of Climate-ADAPT	
Short description:	To enhance the local content of Climate-ADAPT, its usability and uptake by cities and other local municipalities.		
Responsible institution:	European Environment Agency	Contributing institutions:	DG CLIMA; Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy; DG REGIO; EASME; DG Research; EIB; Eionet; leaders of EU funded projects
Implementation timeline:	01.2019 to 06.2020	Intermediary deadlines:	01.2019 New version of Climate-ADAPT launched 06.2019 Progress monitoring 12.2019 Progress monitoring
Indicators of completion:	Increased use of Climate-ADAPT by municipalities, measured by number of views and downloads of local-level content; At least 3 funding and financing local adaptation case studies completed; Webinar on local-level content of Climate- ADAPT carried out.		
Bottlenecks addressed:	2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 27 (see Annex E)	Cross-linkages:	R1, K1 and K5

What is the specific Problem?

The tools, guidelines and resources useful to city-level adaptation are available through Climate-ADAPT, however while there is a high-level categorisation aimed to “tag” resources relevant for local stakeholders, a more detailed categorisation or rating is not provided. As a result, local practitioners may have difficulties selecting the resources appropriate to their situation. Accessing climatic data at local resolution is another problem for urban practitioners due to data formats and complex user interfaces of many climate services, combined with uncertainty built into climate scenarios. The information on EU funding for urban adaptation requires more promotion, also through best practice case studies.

How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?

In the EU Adaptation Strategy, Climate-ADAPT is intended as the platform supporting better-informed decision-making, branded as the 'one-stop shop' for adaptation information in Europe. Climate-ADAPT includes local content, however it does not have a specific local focus. Climate-ADAPT is being revised as of 2018. This also offers an opportunity for addressing the problems listed above, along with a continuous management and enhancement in following years. Importantly, Climate-ADAPT contains the Urban Adaptation Support Tool (UAST)¹² developed by the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (CoM) and EEA to support development of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans by CoM signatories.

The information on EU funding for local adaptation is currently available through Climate-ADAPT, CoM website and DG REGIO Cities page. The 'Financing urban adaptation report' (EEA, 2017) provides examples of funding use.¹³

¹² <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/knowledge/tools/urban-ast>.

¹³ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/financing-urban-adaptation-to-climate-change>.



Copernicus Climate Services and other climate services¹⁴ provide some information for Municipalities on climate hazards (e.g. Sectoral Information System activities¹⁵; see also Action K1).

What action is needed?

Specific consideration of local practitioners' needs in the ongoing (2018) revisions and development of Climate-ADAPT in 2019-20, including: improvement of UAST content and its promotion; provision of access to climate services and climate data; promotion of information on and examples of local adaptation funding and financing, through collaboration between EEA, CoM, DG CLIMA, DG RTD (Research and Innovation), EASME and other partners; providing a space for the case studies on use of insurance data (see Action K5).

How to implement the action?

- Review of the UAST text and evaluation of its resources (EEA, CoM, other partners (e.g. RESIN¹⁶ project); 2018);
- Provide a page containing information on available Copernicus data and its use to cities and other local municipalities as well as guidance on the uncertainty of climate scenarios (see also Action K1);
- Improving the visibility of the EEA-held urban and local data and information on climate change on Climate-ADAPT;
- Establishing mechanisms for promoting the outcomes of LIFE, Interreg and Framework Programme (FP) projects on local adaptation on Climate-ADAPT (EEA, EASME, DG RTD and DG REGIO);
- Collection of case studies relating to funding and financing local adaptation (EEA, CoM, EIB, EC, Eionet), including a possible publication of an updated report on local adaptation/financing (2020);
- Improving coherence of information on EU funding for local adaptation among Climate-ADAPT, CoM, DG REGIO Cities website (EEA, CoM, DG REGIO);
- Exploring the possibility of providing summary sheets on funding and financing of adaptation in several national languages (translation not to be done by EEA, but e.g. by CoM or translated by Member States; and
- Promotion of local contents of Climate-ADAPT through e.g. webinars on UAST organised jointly by CoM, EEA and DG CLIMA; distribution of information about the launch of the revised Climate-ADAPT website (Jan 2019).

Funding sources and needs

To be managed within existing budgets or actions to be considered within future budgets.

Implementation risks

One risk could be a difficulty in identifying relevant case studies, to be mitigated by using the (contacts of the) Climate Adaptation Partnership as platform to discuss how the most relevant case studies can be identified. Another risk is a potential lack of dedicated resources for this action, to be mitigated by periodic monitoring of progress. Finally, the risk of a potential lack of coordination with other platforms such as CoM, DG REGIO Cities website, DRMKC is to be mitigated by periodically discussing this issue within the framework of the Climate Adaptation Partnership..

¹⁴ see e.g. JPI Climate: see e.g. JPI Climate: <http://www.jpi-climate.eu/ERA4CS>.

¹⁵ <http://climate.copernicus.eu/sectoral-information-system>.

¹⁶ <http://www.resin-cities.eu/home/>.

Cross linkages with other actions

The action primarily links to actions on the revision of urban development and planning regulation tools (Action R1), both in case of such tools provided to local authorities on a national level, and through the Climate-ADAPT portal. The incorporation of additional local content on Climate-ADAPT will both directly and indirectly support the drafting of local adaptation plans which is at the heart of a number of other actions. Beyond the development of guidance and case studies supported through this action, the enhancement of local use of data sources such as Copernicus is further explored in Action K1. Linkages should also be made between the local content of the Climate-ADAPT portal and alternative climate adaptation tools such as insurance (Action K5).

Table 13 Action K3

Action K3		Political training on climate adaptation	
Short description:	Give specific training to local politicians (mayors, councillors, political local leaders...) on the benefits of climate change adaptation, how to deal with adaptation in a city, how to communicate with the citizens and involve all actors affected by climate issues. Raise awareness of the costs of inaction – what are the risks of not adapting. Provide knowledge of the co-benefits of adaptation actions. Inform about the risks of maladaptation. The final outcome should be that politicians are decided to prioritise adaptation in public policies.		
Responsible institution:	CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and Regions)	Contributing institutions:	Energy adaptation partnership cities (Glasgow, Genova, Loulè, Potenza) and other interested ones; EUROCITIES, COSLA (Scottish Association member of CEMR).
Implementation timeline:	01.2019 to 06.2020	Intermediary deadlines:	2019 political training academy 1 and 2 2020 political training academy 3 TBC sessions in the cities 06.2019 Progress monitoring 12.2019 Progress monitoring
Indicators of completion:	Number of local politicians (mayors or other) attending/number of sessions Communication material produced (e.g. booklets for the academy sessions)		
Bottlenecks addressed:	3, 9, 27 (see Annex E)	Cross-linkages:	R1, F1, F3, K2 and K4

What is the specific problem?

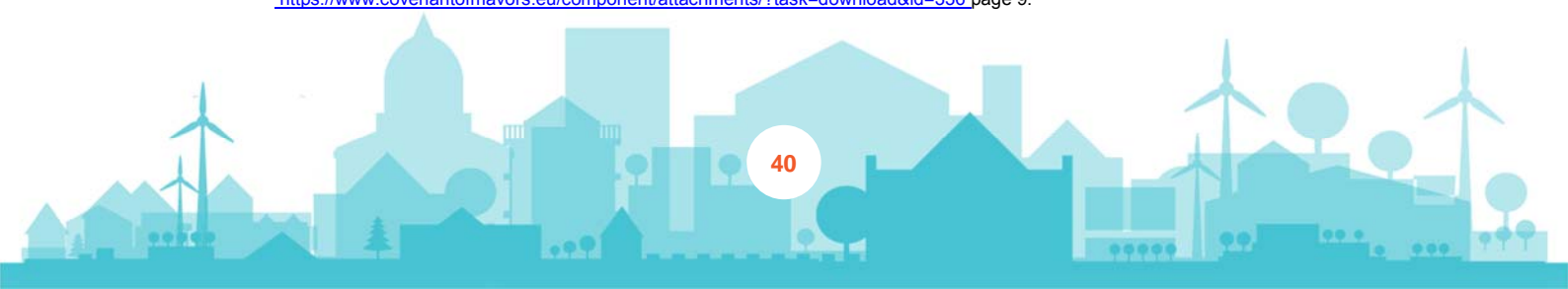
Not every local politician (mayor or not) has a deep knowledge of what adaptation means to the city and its' citizens and which specific actions can be proposed. In the same way that there are trainings for technical experts, politicians can also benefit from a target training dedicated to them on the same topic.

Adaptation measures sometimes requires substantial investment that can only be secured if there is sufficient political buy-in. This political support is often missing: the Covenant of Mayors needs-assessment report indicates that “Changes in the local political priorities” is the third most important barrier faced by city officers for the implementation of their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans.¹⁷ Sometimes there is a lack of political coordination on how to maximise the actions at city level. Communication at the level of the public also plays a key role from the mayor's side.

How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?

Since 2013, the EU Adaptation Strategy encourages national, regional and local adaptation action to contribute to a climate-resilient Europe. The review of the EU Adaptation strategy will be adopted at the end of 2018. Although there is a lot of work done on adaption so far, there is a need to understand more from the local politicians' side in general, so that they can complement the work proposed by the technical experts. A right balance of understanding the challenge is a key to success.

¹⁷ <https://www.covenantofmayors.eu/component/attachments/?task=download&id=336> page 9.



What action is needed?

In principle, two local political training academies can be held in Brussels in the period mentioned (co-organised by CEMR/EUROCITIES, alongside a major EU event) and then different smaller sessions in the cities involved in parallel with national, regional or local events which they have already planned.

Political trainings on climate adaptation further provide opportunities to make linkages to other urban challenges. Communities and groups which are often impacted by climate change can also be vulnerable to other social challenges and inequalities (e.g. women, children, elderly, ethnic minorities, and the homeless). Consequently, adapting to climate change provides opportunities to promote policy synergies and holistically address such challenges. For example, through the regeneration of Urban Deprived Areas and Neighbourhoods, to simultaneously improve Air Quality and mitigate urban heat waves (see also Urban Agenda for the EU, 'Urban Poverty' and 'Air Quality' Partnerships).

How to implement the action?

The action is proposed to be implemented from 2019, once the new EU Adaptation Strategy review is published. Local politicians will learn about the new measures proposed in this review, in order to gain a deeper knowledge on adaptation, be innovative, propose specific adaptation measures in their cities and have more effective communication with the public and citizens. Attention will be paid to the inclusion of small and medium sized cities in this action.

Funding sources and needs

The resources would be provided by the partners involved, depending on the number of participants/location.

Implementation risks

The risk of a low attendance of local politicians is to be addressed with targeted communication and coupling with other events where the politicians are participating;

Cross linkages with other actions

The actors involved in K3 will consider some aspects from the other actions in the programs of the training sessions so mayors can be informed of the latest developments, key pieces of information, news at EU level.

Table 14 Action K4

Action K4		Enhancing stakeholder involvement at regional and local levels	
Short description:	Stakeholder engagement is key in municipal policy-making and climate change adaptation planning. Therefore, additional efforts need to be made to inform and raise awareness among citizens and other stakeholders on adaptation-related issues, as well as account for their expertise and priorities. This implies encouraging stakeholder consultation and participation as common practices at the municipal level when planning climate adaptation actions (i.e. in the framework of the Covenant of Mayors).		
Responsible institution:	DG CLIMA	Contributing institutions:	European Commission DGs, CoM and city networks (CEMR, Climate Alliance)
Implementation timeline:	01.2019 to 06.2020	Intermediary deadlines:	06.2019 Progress monitoring 12.2019 Progress monitoring
Indicators of completion:	<p>Identification of at least 3 best practice examples of particular LIFE projects that demonstrate the value of stakeholder engagement, and to ensure they are accessible through resources such as climate-ADAPT.</p> <p>Information and guidance on stakeholder engagement in local climate adaptation actions provided through resources such as climate-ADAPT (see Action K2).</p> <p>Analysis of feasibility to add stakeholder involvement at regional and local levels as supporting criteria when allocating climate adaptation funding.</p> <p>Webinar on stakeholder engagement (importance and lessons learned) at regional and local levels.</p>		
Bottlenecks addressed:	4, 5, 33, 39 (see <i>Annex E</i>)	Cross-linkages:	K2 and K3

What is the specific problem?

Beyond political commitment, climate adaptation calls for a long-term strategy. Drafting such local strategies in consultation with citizens and other relevant stakeholders is a key success factor in strategic decision making on climate adaptation policies and investments. However, sometimes there is a lack of political coordination on how to maximise the actions at city level. Moreover, there is a lack of effective tools and methodologies for communication concerning the connection between risk management and planning for the adaptation to climate change.

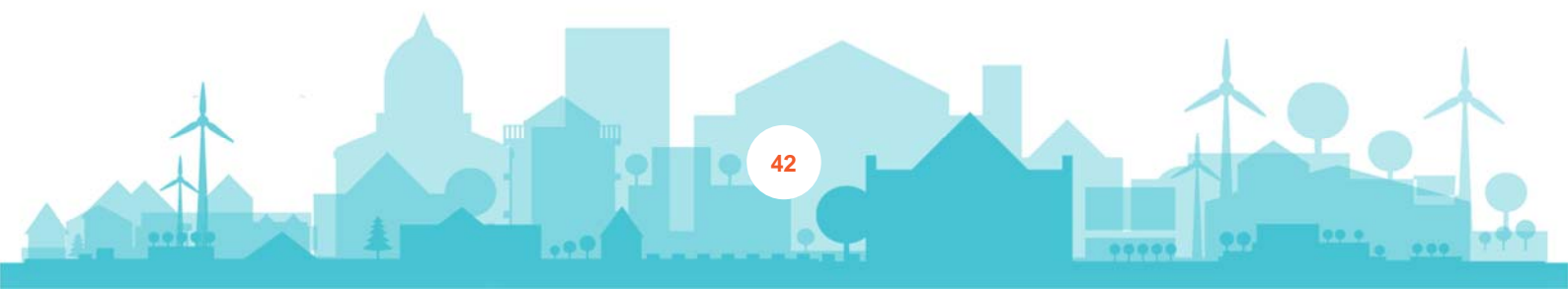
How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?

EU and National governments and institutions have the means to further encourage stakeholder involvement in climate adaptation policy development as a driver for a greater participation at local level.

Currently, the EU Guidelines on developing adaptation strategies, the Urban Adaptation Support Tool (UAST step 1.6) on Climate-ADAPT, and the EU Covenant of Mayors guidance on developing Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) and reporting guides encourage the engagement of stakeholders. However, additional measures are required to ensure the information effectively reaches decision-makers. For example, through increased awareness raising and training, and increased resources to support stakeholder engagement.

What action is needed?

The local players have already largely demonstrated their capacities to directly engage with civil society and sufficiently empower other relevant stakeholders (e.g. universities, research institutes,



thematic agencies, SMEs). Yet more action is needed to further promote local stakeholders' role and ability to participate to the development of local adaptation plans.

The Commission and its initiatives for cities (e.g. the Covenant of Mayors and URBACT) shall therefore continue exploring new ways that encourage and facilitate a more participatory and collaborative approach where citizens and other players have their say in the decision making and planning stages at local level. For example, through user-centred research concepts such as 'Living Labs'. This will ensure a greater awareness and commitment of citizens and other local stakeholders in climate adaptation policies and actions.

How to implement the action?

- Investigation of citizens' and other stakeholders' involvement in climate adaptation practices through an assessment of developed adaptation strategies, and assessment to identify potential gaps and opportunities;
- Investigate opportunities to incorporate stakeholder engagement as supporting criteria for allocation of climate adaptation funding;
- Continued promotion of urban adaptation projects incorporation of stakeholder engagement through funding streams such as LIFE (see Action F3);
- Continued promotion of stakeholder engagement in development of local adaptation strategies by city-networks through events, training programs, webinars and guidance.

Funding sources and needs

The resources needed for the implementation of this action will be found internally; no external funding needs are currently foreseen.

Implementation risks

There is a risk that this Action is not given enough priority. This risk could be mitigated by monitoring progress and defining clear intermediate products and steps to be followed in the implementation phase.

Cross linkages with other actions

This action relates to K2 as information and guidance on stakeholder engagement in local climate adaptation actions will be provided through resources such as climate-ADAPT. Moreover, the importance of stakeholder engagement in local climate adaptation actions could also be underlined as part of the training academy foreseen (Action K3).

Table 15 Action K5

Action K5		Promote open access of insurance data for climate risk management	
Short description:	Investigate and promote open access of insurance data for climate risk management.		
Responsible institution:	DG CLIMA	Contributing institutions:	Municipalities, regional authorities, insurance and re-insurance companies and EIOPA (European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority)
Implementation timeline:	01.2019 to 06.2020	Intermediary deadlines:	06.2019 Progress monitoring 12.2019 Communication established and a cooperation initiative in place
Indicators of completion:	At least 5 urban and regional plans that integrate climate and risk related information from the insurance sector since the commencement of this action. At least 1 case study on the local use of insurance data in climate adaptation planning on the Climate-ADAPT platform.		
Bottlenecks addressed:	4, 5, 10, 33 (see Annex E)	Cross-linkages:	F1

What is the specific Problem?

Risk transfer and disaster risk response are important elements of strategies on adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction. Climate related damage is expected to increase with climate change, due to increasing numbers of extreme weather events that will also be increasingly powerful (storms, floods, heat waves, droughts). In terms of financial and economic damages, this will increase the burden on governments and citizens. The adaptive capacity of cities is an important factor in preventing damages. The insurance sector and public sector at municipal and city levels are not structurally sharing their information on disaster loss data in local risk assessments and identification of adaptation options, which may lead to sub-optimal adaptation practices, leading in turn to higher damages, higher recovery costs and higher premiums charged by insurers.

How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?

The EU Adaptation Strategy (2013) includes Action 8: Promote insurance and other financial products for resilient investment and business decisions. It promotes the use of products and services by insurance and financial markets. The 'adaptation preparedness scoreboard' that was developed as a tool in the EU Adaptation Strategy is also addressing the topic where one of the indicators (8e) states 'Adaptation is mainstreamed in insurance or alternative policy instruments, where relevant, to provide incentives for investments in risk prevention'. Insurance aimed towards natural and man-made disasters was addressed by the Commission in a Green Paper adopted along with the EU Adaptation Strategy. This focuses on a number of questions related to the adequacy and availability of appropriate disaster insurance. Its main objective was to raise awareness and to assess whether action at the EU level could be appropriate or warranted to improve the market for disaster insurance in the EU. As a response to the public consultation, sharing of data was one of the main desires support broadly by both the public and the insurance sector respondents. A recent study was conducted by DG CLIMA on 'Insurance of weather and climate related disaster risk: Inventory and analysis of mechanisms to support damage prevention in the EU'. It delivered important new insights and analysis in the field as well as policy recommendations, specifically on shared vulnerability assessments, transparency in public-private cooperation and risk allocation. The study also proposed a number of measures such as the use of community rating systems and allowing cities to pool their

insurance. However, important gaps exist, particularly in terms of specific next steps. A key issue here is the lack of a critical mass of pilot cases, where sharing of risk data and loss data has been applied to improve local, urban or regional resilience.

What action is needed?

This action will be a specific roll-out of action 8 of the EU Adaptation Strategy, serving the policy objectives of the Green Paper on Insurance of Man-Made and Natural Disasters and following a number of key recommendations made in the DG CLIMA study on insurance, disaster risk and climate change. The action will lead to insights into structural data sharing to improve adaptation action, risk prevention, risk transfer and disaster risk management. It will also provide experience and potential evidence of how integrating insurance in adaptation and disaster risk management can improve climate resilience, lower climate risk and adjust the insurance business model to the consequences of climate change.

How to implement the action?

An outreach to municipal, regional and insurance stakeholders should be conducted before commencing this action. The action is proposed to be implemented once the next Commission will assess the need for the revision of the Adaptation Strategy and will consider including any new or reinforced action¹⁸:

1. Analysis of 20 regional and urban adaptation plans to see which actions and investments are being planned to prevent or reduce the negative impacts of climate change;
2. Integration of the economic development plans for the same regions and cities into the analysis under step a;
3. Mapping of the extent to which insurance loss-data of climate-related extreme weather events have been used in those plans;
4. Improvement of the plans selected in step a, based on insurance data.

An outreach to municipal, regional and insurance stakeholders should be conducted before commencing this action.

Funding sources and needs

The resources required for the implementation of this action will be found internally; no external funding needs are currently foreseen.

Implementation risks

Failing to engage the insurance sector and getting access to the required information. This risk could potentially be mitigated through an enhanced dialogue with relevant stakeholders on the value of insurance data in adapting to climate change, and potential benefits for the insurance sector in information sharing.

Cross linkages with other actions

This action primarily links to Action F1 through its role in enabling further economic analysis of adaptation projects.

¹⁸ <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/4f366956-a19e-11e7-b92d-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

Table 16 Action K6

Action K6 Further engagement of national and sub-national government's associations as key facilitators (and relevant Covenant of Mayors supporters) to best support local authorities in their adaptation process			
Short description:	To enhance/strengthen the role and reinforce the commitment of (sub-) national government associations as facilitators (and supporters?) for local municipalities to implement their climate adaptation strategies.		
Responsible institution:	CEMR/Covenant of Mayors Office	Contributing institutions:	Cities (e.g., Potenza), Local and National Authorities involved in the partnership and National municipality associations
Implementation timeline:	01.2019 to 06.2020	Intermediary deadlines:	07.2019 Case Studies/examples 12.2019 Progress monitoring
Indicators of completion:	Number of trained associations in "train the trainers" sessions Number of activities carried out by the trained associations after the training sessions Number of cities and regions supported through the above-mentioned activities carried out by the associations Number of case-studies/examples Number of briefings sent to associations		
Bottlenecks addressed:	39 (see Annex E)	Cross-linkages:	K4 and R1

What is the specific problem?

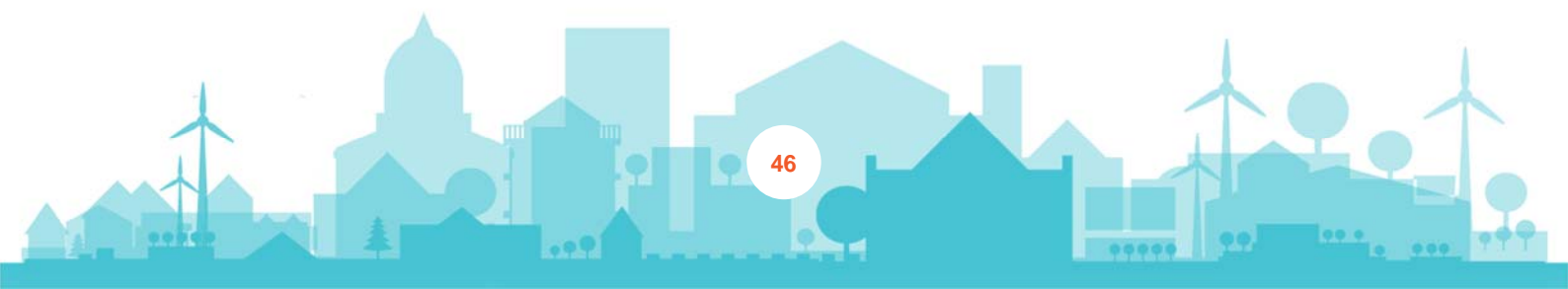
Climate adaptation often calls for the development long-term strategies, and this is not always the main dimension of political will and decision making at the municipal level. This represents a distinct weakness for the municipality in the process of application in the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy. Additionally, small- and medium-size cities are often still struggling to actually translate their commitment into effective adaptation actions and need further support in the process. Therefore, the municipalities must be supported, and additional efforts need to be made in order to stimulate political commitment and best support for the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy community.

How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?

The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy includes intermediate bodies with the specific function of coordinating municipalities' engagement in the region. An effective role could be played by national municipality associations and networks representing an effective horizontal organisation with significant capacity to influence political willingness on common operational objectives. They are as important allies to support Covenant of Mayors signatories in meeting their commitments and increase the impact of the initiative - notably on the adaptation side.

What action is needed?

Reaching out to additional associations/networks and looking for new partnerships in order to be able to further support Covenant signatories and other local authorities in their adaptation process to utilise such resources and harness expertise in the adaptation field.



Implementing and supporting national networks of cities committed to the adaptation process by means of National municipal associations.

How to implement the action?

The National municipality associations and networks are already engaged in promoting a wide participation of their associated municipalities in the Covenant process, e.g. supporting them to reach their targets, develop and implement their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (the so-called SECAPs).

The main actions proposed would be the following:

'Train-the-trainers' sessions

- **Aim:** to train national associations, who will in turn train their associated municipalities and regions;
- **Deadline:** one session during the European Week of cities and regions in October 2019 and a second one during the CEMR congress in Innsbruck on 6-8th May 2019;
- **Comments:** Action K3 on "Training academy" has been proposed for the same period, so synergies can be made.

Compilation of case studies/examples to distribute at the train-the-trainers' session

- **Aim:** compile relevant case studies to share with trainers, to be disseminated in sessions provided by the trainers;
- **Deadline:** In time for the train the trainers' sessions;

Input to national roundtables organised by CoM at national events.

- **Aim:** provide recommendations to national associations to liaise with Member states to involve local and regional governments (including small and medium sized cities) in the development of their national climate and energy plans;
- **Deadline:** each national association involved will define their timing and this action will feed into it.

Progress monitoring

- **Date:** December 2019
- **Objective:** Assess if there has been an increase in number of national associations involved deeply, what they have done and plans for the future:
 - Number of trained associations in "train the trainers" sessions;
 - Number of activities carried out by the trained associations after the training sessions;
 - Number of cities and regions supported through the above-mentioned activities carried out by the associations;
 - Number of case-studies/examples;
 - Number of briefings sent to associations.

Funding sources and needs

Additional resources have to be provided for the Covenant to further engage national municipal associations and networks, and for the National municipal associations to support cities in their action.

Implementation risks

Implementation prospects depend on the CoM capacity to establish an effective working network, and consequently on the efficacy of each national municipal association to act as a facilitator to influence political willingness. National municipal associations may not have sufficient resources to properly support local municipalities on these topics. Potential mitigation measure will be formulated if needed when progress is regularly monitored by the Partnership.

Cross linkages with other actions

The actors involved in K6 will consider some aspects from the other actions in their discussions, more to be informed than to take a specific action.