

Strengthening International Cooperation on climatE change REsearch



Work Package 5 - Deliverable 5.7
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Streamlining ECCA2021 Webinars and High-level event key findings and messages for next talks (CoP26)

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Introduction

The SINCERE project aims to strengthen international cooperation on climate change research and the delivery of the JPI Climate Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), building on existing collaborations, such as with other JPIs, the business sector and global financial institutions, and other key international research, policy and societal actors.

One of the project's tasks is raising the visibility and attractiveness of JPI Climate for international research partners and promoting climate research cooperation within JPI Climate at international level by increasing the societal impact of climate knowledge through communication.

In 2019 it was decided that JPI Climate will be the host organisation in organising the 5th edition of the European Climate Change Adaptation Conference (ECCA), to be organised in May/June 2021. SINCERE is one of the 3 Horizon2020 projects in helping organising this conference, by replacing communication and dissemination activities in favour of the ECCA conference. This document contributes to efforts performed during this organisational performance and challenges.

Why acting now? Our climate is changing rapidly. Heatwaves, droughts, floods, fires... Extreme events attributable to human-driven climate change escalate in frequency and intensity, striking more and more people, regions, cities and communities.

Are we ready to adapt? While climate change adaptation science is developing fast and improve our understanding of the climate and biodiversity crises, and relevant climate risk management are increasingly developed across Europe, there is an unprecedented need



and opportunity in the EU to scale up adaptation action, through the recovery investment stemming from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the EU Green Deal.

As part of the European Green Deal, the new EU Adaptation Strategy, as well as the Horizon Europe Mission “A Climate Resilient Europe”, place resilience building and climate adaptation high up on the list of priorities. The European Climate Pact, launched in December 2020, gives additional momentum to act for adaptation, inviting all citizens, communities, and organisations in every sector of our society and economy to participate in climate action and build a greener Europe. The New European Bauhaus will explore how to live better together after the pandemic and to accelerate the green transformation of our society.

The European Climate Change Adaptation conference ECCA 2021 came at a right time, after the first global Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021, and before the COP 26 in Glasgow in November 2021, the publication of the IPCC 6th Assessment Report and the upcoming conference Adaptation Futures. ECCA 2021 raised the attention of decision-makers on the pressing need to accelerate the transfer of knowledge from R&I to policies and practices to increase resilience in Europe and beyond in a context of rising climate risks.

Adequate adaptation options and opportunities need to be integrated in pathways that lead to a better resilient future. Alternatives do exist to improve climate adaptation in terms of the infrastructure we build and retrofit, the finance we invest and the decisions we make (business, personal and collective), and contribute to shape a climate resilient and zero carbon Europe. Adaptation science, knowledge and practice can inform decision-making and help accelerate societal transformation. Adaptation actions can have multiple benefits, including recovery, resilience, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation and restoration, job creation, citizen safety, social inclusion, wellbeing, and financial security.

It turned the ECCA2021 spotlight on the pressing need to accelerate the transfer of knowledge from R&I to policies and practices, including societal transformation and behavioural change, to increase resilience in Europe and beyond, in the context of rising climate risks.

Adaptation actions can help boost recovery, resilience, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation and restoration, job creation, citizen safety, social inclusion, wellbeing, and financial security. The goal of the conference was to inspire adaptation by showcasing solutions, exchanging knowledge, creating connections, and encouraging dialogue on how to act more and faster at every level.

Participants included researchers and adaptation experts, policymakers, local authorities, practitioners in climate risks management, the private sector with a focus on businesses already engaged with and acting on climate risk, investors, NGOs, citizens organisations, youth and education organisations, community groups engaged in adaptation, communicators and all interested individuals.

Attendees had the opportunity to actively participate in the conference in many ways and to network with other participants in the virtual marketplace, including the possibility to book 1-on-1 meetings.



About ECCA

The biennial European Climate Change Adaptation conference is convened by projects that have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Framework Programme.

In 2010, the first global conference on adaptation was held in Gold Coast, Australia under the umbrella of the UN Environment Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA). This marked the beginning of the biennial Adaptation Futures conferences and inspired a group of European participants to organise Europe-focused events in alternate years. The European Commission supports the conference series, managing the events together with the project coordinators of three EU-funded adaptation research projects.

ECCA 2013 – Integrating climate into action Hamburg, 18–20 March 2013, weblink <https://cordis.europa.eu/event/id/34600-european-climate-change-adaptation-conference-hamburg-germany>. The first ECCA was organised by EU research projects RESPONSES, CLIMSAVE, MEDIATION and ClimateCost, covering a broad range of adaptation issues. The conference focused on understanding and assessing adaptation in action with topics covering risk and vulnerability assessments, governance, and impact and effectiveness studies, as well as the economics of adaptation.

ECCA 2015 – Integrating climate adaptation action in science, policy, practice, and business Copenhagen, 12–14 May 2015, weblink: <http://ecca2015.eu/about-ecca-2015.html> More than 750 participants from 46 countries took part in ECCA 2015 in Copenhagen. The conference offered a platform for researchers, policymakers, and businesses to share new research results, novel policy developments, and practical implementation experiences on climate change impacts and adaptation. Opportunities for business innovations to support the transition to low carbon societies were also highlighted. Sessions were designed to combine knowledge, policy, practice, and business as well as showcase how climate change adaptation in Europe can contribute to job creation and other societal benefits. BASE, RAMSES and ToPDAd were the EU-funded projects behind the second ECCA.

ECCA 2017 – Our climate ready future in Glasgow, 05–09 June 2017 (website unavailable) The vision for ECCA 2017 was to inspire and enable people to work together to discover and deliver positive climate adaptation solutions that can strengthen society, revitalise local economies and enhance the environment. The City of Glasgow welcomed over 850 people to the third ECCA, which featured for the first time a business and innovation programme. Contributions from young speakers stressed the need for deeper involvement of young people in climate action and policymaking at all levels. A challenge embedded into the city's school curricula led to an exhibition by local schoolchildren of their imaginative solutions to Glasgow flooding problems. ECCA 2017 was organised by the EU-funded IMPRESSIONS, HELIX and RISES-AM projects.

ECCA 2019 – Working together to prepare for change Lisbon, 28–31 May 2019, weblink: <https://www.ecca2019.eu/> Held for the first time in southern Europe, this conference's edition brought together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss recent advances in climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) research, policy and practice, and aimed to inspire collective climate action. Around 1200 participants attended



the 96 Science-Practice and Science parallel sessions. These were organised by the scientific and practice communities to present the current state-of-the-art and to inspire action along the six identified ECCA themes. PLACARD, BINGO and RESCCUE were the EU-funded projects behind the fourth ECCA.

ECCA 2021 - Bringing adaptation solutions to life: Inspiring climate adaptation action today for a resilient future. The 5th European Climate Change Adaptation Conference (ECCA 2021) took place from 25 May to 22 June 2021. A series of 9 webinars was organised from 25 May to 10 June, in the run-up to a high-level event on 22 June. This event was hosted by the European Commission, back-to-back with the annual European Research & Innovation Days (23-24 June).

The Lustrum edition of ECCA built on past conferences and aimed to:

- A platform to exchange practical solutions and knowledge (legacy) on solutions for climate resilience
- A place to connect research, tools and solutions with decision makers and practitioners
- A place to listen and learn new things – and to be inspired to create change
- An event that leaves you with a good feeling and a desire to get involved again
- An event that raises awareness and encourages action at all levels

ECCA 2021 is co-organised by the [European Commission](#), [JPI Climate](#) and three Horizon 2020 projects ([SINCERE](#), [CASCADES](#) and [RECEIPT](#)).



Cooperation with the Change by degrees and VO-Event - Virtual Conference Organiser

The company Change by degrees was hired by the JPI Climate to provide a strategic advice to inform the design and organisation of ECCA 2021. The team of this company designed and facilitated a workshop for the organising committee of ECCA 2021 on the 13th November 2020. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- I. Define the goal and expected outcomes of ECCA 2021
- II. Identify target audiences
- III. Establish key messages (informs title, themes)

Change by degrees used the strategic communications tool GAMPER© to guide the workshop and refine the Goal, identify priority audiences, and start to define key messages. Lessons learned from ECCA 2019 were also taken into consideration along with an appreciation of the changing context for EACC including the COVID 19 pandemic. The Workshop report "ECCA 2021 planning" is available.



The Commission contracted VO-Event to create the ECCA2021 Conferences platform and provide other technical support related to the webinars and High Level Event.

Conference Narrative

There has never been a better time to act. While climate change adaptation science and practice are well established across the EU, there is an unprecedented opportunity to scale up adaptation action given the planned investment in the recovery from the COVID pandemic and the EU Green Deal. From a policy perspective the new EU Adaptation Strategy (as part of the European Green Deal) and the Horizon Europe Mission “A Climate Resilient Europe” place resilience building and climate adaptation high up the list of priorities in the EU. The European Climate Pact, launched in December 2020, gives additional momentum to work on adaptation, addressing citizens, communities, and organisations in every sector of our society and economy. In addition, the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021; COP 26 in Glasgow in November 2021 and Adaptation Futures in 2022 all provide additional context and relevance for the ECCA 2021 conference and its outputs.

We have options and opportunities, and we can choose a pathway that leads to a better future. Options exist in terms of the infrastructure we build and retrofit, the finance we invest and the decisions we make (business, personal and collective) to shape a climate resilient and zero carbon Europe. Adaptation science, knowledge and practice can inform decision making that contributes to societal transformation **Adaptation actions can have multiple benefits**, including recovery, resilience, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, job creation, citizen safety, social inclusion, wellbeing, and financial security.



Priority audiences include researchers and adaptation experts; policy makers (all levels); practitioners; the private sector (with a focus on businesses already engaged with and acting on climate risk); interested citizens, young people and education organisations; community groups engaged in adaptation and communicators.

Conference themes

Four themes will be reflected in each of the webinars and form the connecting thread that shapes the high-level event on the 7th June. All webinars will be designed to reflect these themes and to present their outcomes and findings in line with these themes. Here are also cross cutting themes which should be reflected when and where possible:

- Co-benefits of adaptation
- Connection and relevance to EU policy and EU regions
- Connection and relevance to COP 26

ECCA 2021 Themes

<p>1. Sharing knowledge</p> <p>To include, for example, sharing research findings and local and community knowledge. Sharing knowledge across disciplines and across regions. Showing science at work. Demonstrating the power of education. A focus on digitalisation.</p>	<p>2. Inspiring action for transformation</p> <p>To include, for example, action now and future action. Adaptation solutions and co-benefits in terms of mitigation, social inclusiveness, biodiversity and sustainable development. Opportunities including COVID recovery, prosperity and equality. Guidance on how to achieve transformation. Case studies showing good practice and lessons learned. Incorporating behavioural social science.</p>
<p>3. Creating connections and collaborations</p> <p>To include, for example, connecting stakeholders from research, policy, practice, the private sector and communities. Addressing inclusive adaptation action and participation. Effective ways of building partnerships and connecting with different research communities as well as stakeholders, including young people. Includes a focus on effective communications.</p>	<p>4. Implementing action</p> <p>To include, for example, what is needed to make change happen, including financial and human resources, information and planning, leadership and skills. Could explore ‘the recipe’ for effective action, in the form of a blueprint or guidelines. Addressing lessons learned across sectors, regions, urban, rural etc.</p>



Webinars

A series of 9 webinars was held for the weeks of the 25 May and 10 June 2021 (see list below) and each webinar was led by a champion and a team of experts. Experts were invited to join the Webinar Teams by the Champion, in consultation with the organising committee who also proposed possible Team members.

Each webinar ran for 2.5 hours and was structured to maximise engagement and interaction. As a guide was indicated approximately one third of the time for presentations, one third for Q&A with the experts and one third for discussion / interactive participation (using a cross section of software options to be made available by the VCO – conference organisers VO-Events). The webinar champion and team led on webinar design, with decisions related to content and structure to be decided in consultation with the Organising Committee.

The outputs of each webinar were:

- i) A video with the main findings and policy messages from the webinar (for use online and at the High Level Event) – created with the support of the VO-Events
- ii) A short-written summary of the webinar findings and policy messages
- iii) A presentation of the findings and policy messages at the High Level event

High Level Event

The High Level Event on the 22 June provided an opportunity to share the messages from the webinars with an audience of high level policy makers and other stakeholders. The event was organised by a VO-Events contracted by the Commission. The list of speakers and invitees included EU high level officials and politicians as well as high level representatives from the private sector and NGOs, considering that the visibility in this event was given to the EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Mission on Adaptation to climate change. The webinar outputs captured on video by the VO-Events in collaboration with the webinar champions and expert team. Some of the webinar champions presented key messages from their webinar at the event, organised around the 4 themes and with a focus on policy messages tailored to the audience. The agenda for the event included keynote speakers, panels, feedback from the webinars and interactive discussion.

Role of Champions

Webinar champions led on webinar design, preparation, and facilitation. They assembled a team to support in their work. Some of the champions nominated a moderator as well as key contributors / speakers. As a champion they led on collating the webinar outcomes in writing and in video format (facilitated by the VCO – Virtual Conference Organisers) and champions or someone assigned present the outcomes at the High Level event.

25-May [Financing climate adaptation: from climate proofing investments to mobilising funds for a resilient society](#)

Champion: Giulia Galluccio - CMCC



[Video available on Youtube](#)
[Break out groups highlights and key messages](#)
[Video with key messages from the webinar](#)

- [Climate change and health: Promoting wellbeing through climate action](#)
Champion: Kristin Aunan - Cicero
26-May [Video available on Youtube](#)
[Summary report of the webinar](#)
[A Breath, Oda Aunan, CICERO](#)
- [Nature as a solution - For resilience, mitigation and sustainable development](#)
Champion: Sergio Castellari - National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology
27-May [Video available on Youtube](#)
[Video with key messages from the webinar](#)
- [360° view of climate impacts: Experiencing the future to plan adaptation](#)
Champions: Christopher Reyer - PIK | Hanne Knaepen - ECDPM
31-May [Video available on Youtube](#)
- [Living with Sea Level Rise: Approaches to coastal adaptation](#)
Champion: Bart van den Hurk - Deltares
1-June [Video available on Youtube](#)
[Video with key messages from the webinar](#)
- [Climate action exchange – sharing knowledge and experience of what works across the EU](#)
Champion: Lučka Kajfež Bogataj - University of Ljubljana
7-June [Video available on Youtube](#)
- [At your service: Climate knowledge & information as enablers of climate action](#)
Champions: Roger Street - University of Oxford, Ines Alterio - ANR
8-June [Video available on Youtube](#)
[Video "At your service"](#)
- [Acting locally - citizen engagement and community mobilisation](#)
Champion: Wolfgang Pfefferkorn - CIPRA
9-June [Video available on Youtube](#)
[Video with key messages from the webinar](#)
- [Building back better: COVID recovery, resilience building and societal transformation](#)
Champion: Elisabeth Worliczek - BOKU
10-June [Video available on Youtube](#)

ECCA2021 Conference webpage on JPI Climate

Within WP5 we created a specific webpage <http://www.jpi-climate.eu/ecca2021> dedicated to the ECCA2021. This webpage was strongly linked to the content update activities and knowledge generated in the reports developed by the webinar champions. On this page it is possible to find the programme's contribution from JPI Climate, ERA4CS,



SINCERE, Action Groups, etc, and overview of the programme activities and related information.

- A ECCA2021 report will be published on the SINCERE website and linked to the data platform
- Information from the report is used to update the SINCERE webpage
- The ECCA2021 webpage was promoted in other events to show users what new information is available and timely updated as well as illustrated with a use case in an innovation hub
- Next, 2 weeks later the attendees of the webinars and HLE received a form asking for feedback on the event

Two newsletter issues promoted the programme's contributions. One newsletter was sent at the beginning of the 2021 informing on upcoming conference: and another one with all contributions, such as presentations, pictures, video, etc., after its conclusion.

Social Media

The ECCA2021 communication plan also includes the use of social media networks, such as LinkedIn, YouTube and Twitter in order to increase visibility and reach a wider audience, as well as to contribute to the networking activities of the targeted stakeholders. Participants could interact with ECCA2021 via the hashtag #ECCA2021 and followed on the social media channels:

- Twitter: [@2021ECCA](#)
- [YouTube channel](#)
- LinkedIn: [ECCA: European Climate Change Adaptation](#)
- Instagram: [@ecca2021](#)

Twitter

Twitter [@2021ECCA](https://twitter.com/JPIClimate)

From April 1 on a weekly basis, several tweets were created and sent along the JPI Climate twitter channel. The messages were about general ECCA2021 announcements, mostly sent as retweets, and heading to the ECCA2021 more specified items about the SINCERE's contributions will be tweeted. An example could be: "JPI Climate side-event at @ECCA2019 Conference "5 years of climate services in JPI Climate: state of affairs, lessons learned and the way forward" <http://www.jpi-climate.eu/search/item/10897513/Side-event-at-ECCA-Conference-5-years-of-climate-services-in-JPI-Climate-state-of-affairs-lessons-learned-and-the-way-forward>"

LinkedIn: ECCA: European Climate Change Adaptation

From April 1 on a regular basis a message was posted on the JPI Climate LinkedIn Group <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5011791/> with announcements, relevant JPI Climate



webpages, promotional video, and other materials which can be linked to the ECCA 2019 conference.

Instagram

JPIClimate: [@ecca2021](https://www.instagram.com/ecca2021)

The first JPI Climate Instagram was created and launched in advance of the ECCA 2021 conference. This account was used to post pictures accompanied with a message which is related to the JPI Climate activities during the conference. A group of young people was assigned to use this Instagram account. They were able to post under the following conditions:

- Pictures must be taken during the conference with the aim to telling the story of the conference activities.
- Pictures can be taken showing climate adaptation activities climate impacts, sustainability, and mitigation measures across Europe

JPI Climate has currently around 1200 monthly users and 6400 requested pages each month (date: October 2021). In October 2021 around 700 persons are following JPI Climate on twitter and 220 on LinkedIn. Around 2 newsletters each year are distributed, and dozens of events have been organised.

Tools and means

First a logo and templates for ECCA2021 communication were developed for a consistent conference identity. Factsheets and infographics were used to present specific aspects in a technical and concise set of information and language. Content and language were carefully tailored to the interests and needs of the different target groups. Furthermore, to ensure a wider dissemination, other existing platforms and services were used as online repository (e.g. Climate-ADAPT, Resilient cities related websites).



B2Match platform

B2Match is the main platform that was used for the ECCA event. This platform concentrated most features of the event, such as: the streaming of Webinars & the High-Level Conference plus other features concerning the Champions and the E-library of projects, the participants, the agenda, the networking and private messages.

The basic principles of B2Match as a tool are concentrate all features in one place, and maximize horizontal networking with all people attending, to hold synchronous activities like the webinars or the live event, but also allow people to network, learn and talk to each other for a longer period. All on the same platform.

Registration

Registrations was open on 25 April 2021 and grown very rapidly, increasing significantly in the end of April. Due to the technical arrangements, it was set to have a limited number of participants per webinar - 150 people. In one week, there was a peak of registrations and all webinars reached the set limit. After reconsideration the number of participants per webinar has been raised to 500. The registration continued until the High-Level Event on 22 of June. Overall ECCA 2021 reached the 1987 registrations <https://www.ecca21.eu/participants> .



Geographical Spread

Regarding participants' countries, a total number of 112 countries were represented. Overall delegates joint mainly from Germany (212), Belgium (200), Italy (173), United Kingdom (134) and South Africa (106).

PARTICIPANTS

 Albania	<u>8</u>
 Algeria	<u>1</u>
 Argentina	<u>5</u>
 Australia	<u>21</u>
 Austria	<u>72</u>
 Bangladesh	<u>2</u>
 Belarus	<u>1</u>
 Belgium	<u>200</u>
 Benin	<u>2</u>
 Bhutan	<u>3</u>
 Bolivia	<u>1</u>
 Bosnia And Herzegovina	<u>2</u>
 Botswana	<u>2</u>
 Brazil	<u>11</u>
 Brunei Darussalam	<u>1</u>
 Bulgaria	<u>4</u>
 Cameroon	<u>2</u>
 Canada	<u>18</u>
 Chile	<u>3</u>
 China	<u>6</u>
 Colombia	<u>5</u>
 Congo, The Democratic Republic Of The	<u>1</u>
 Côte d'Ivoire	<u>5</u>
 Croatia	<u>9</u>
 Cyprus	<u>10</u>
 Czech Republic	<u>7</u>
 Denmark	<u>24</u>
 Ecuador	<u>3</u>
 Estonia	<u>2</u>
 Ethiopia	<u>5</u>
 Fiji	<u>1</u>
 Finland	<u>34</u>
 France	<u>95</u>
 Gambia	<u>3</u>
 Georgia	<u>3</u>
 Germany	<u>212</u>
 Ghana	<u>6</u>
 Greece	<u>26</u>
 Guyana	<u>1</u>
 Haiti	<u>1</u>



 Honduras	<u>1</u>
 Hungary	<u>20</u>
 Iceland	<u>4</u>
 India	<u>28</u>
 Indonesia	<u>4</u>
 Iran, Islamic Republic Of	<u>1</u>
 Ireland	<u>59</u>
 Israel	<u>5</u>
 Italy	<u>173</u>
 Japan	<u>8</u>
 Kazakhstan	<u>2</u>
 Kenya	<u>5</u>
 South Korea	<u>4</u>
 Kosovo	<u>1</u>
 Latvia	<u>2</u>
 Liberia	<u>1</u>
 Liechtenstein	<u>1</u>
 Lithuania	<u>7</u>
 Luxembourg	<u>12</u>
 North Macedonia	<u>3</u>
 Malawi	<u>2</u>
 Malaysia	<u>5</u>
 Mali	<u>1</u>
 Malta	<u>15</u>
 Mexico	<u>11</u>
 Moldova, Republic Of	<u>1</u>
 Monaco	<u>1</u>
 Morocco	<u>5</u>
 Nepal	<u>4</u>
 Netherlands	<u>89</u>
 Netherlands Antilles	<u>1</u>
 New Zealand	<u>2</u>
 Nigeria	<u>27</u>
 Norway	<u>31</u>
 Pakistan	<u>5</u>
 Panama	<u>2</u>
 Papua New Guinea	<u>1</u>
 Peru	<u>5</u>
 Philippines	<u>8</u>
 Poland	<u>19</u>
 Portugal	<u>45</u>
 Reunion	<u>1</u>
 Romania	<u>6</u>
 Russia	<u>2</u>
 Rwanda	<u>2</u>
 Saudi Arabia	<u>2</u>
 Senegal	<u>2</u>



Serbia	<u>3</u>
Sierra Leone	<u>1</u>
Singapore	<u>1</u>
Slovakia	<u>2</u>
Slovenia	<u>15</u>
South Africa	<u>12</u>
Spain	<u>106</u>
Sri Lanka	<u>3</u>
Sweden	<u>29</u>
Switzerland	<u>27</u>
Taiwan	<u>19</u>
Tajikistan	<u>3</u>
Thailand	<u>2</u>
Togo	<u>1</u>
Trinidad And Tobago	<u>1</u>
Tunisia	<u>54</u>
Turkey	<u>30</u>
Uganda	<u>3</u>
Ukraine	<u>17</u>
United Kingdom	<u>134</u>
United States	<u>41</u>
Venezuela	<u>1</u>
Viet Nam	<u>1</u>
Yemen	<u>1</u>
Zambia	<u>1</u>
Total	1962

Statistics

PARTICIPANTS

Government, National Public Authority	<u>313</u>
Local Public Authority	<u>75</u>
EU Institutions	<u>83</u>
Academia and Research, Think Tank	<u>638</u>
R&D Organisation	<u>85</u>
Consultancy	<u>162</u>
Climate Adaptation Solution Provider	<u>36</u>
Industry	<u>40</u>
Insurance	<u>3</u>
Investor & Financial Services	<u>17</u>
NGO, Association	<u>184</u>
Journalist, Media	<u>10</u>
Other	<u>177</u>
Total	1823

PROFILE VIEWS

Before event	5901
After event	322
Total	6223



Used ECCA2021 Channels

- Twitter: [@2021ECCA](#) (2200 followers)
- [YouTube channel](#) (195 subscribers)
- LinkedIn: [ECCA: European Climate Change Adaptation](#) (370 members)
- Instagram: [@ecca2021](#) (88 followers)
- Newsletter (777 subscribers)
- Email distributing list (462 recipients)

Information available on the B2Match ECCA2021.eu platform

5th European Climate Change Adaptation Conference

Bringing adaptation solutions to life: Inspiring climate adaptation action today for a resilient future.

The 5th European Climate Change Adaptation Conference (ECCA 2021) takes place from 25 May to 22 June 2021. A series of 9 webinars is organised from 25 May to 10 June, in the run-up to a high-level event on 22 June. This event is hosted by the European Commission, back to back with the annual [European Research & Innovation Days](#) (23-24 June).

Rewatch the High-Level Conference	Rewatch the thematic webinars
Tuesday, June 22, 2021	From May 25 to June 10, 2021
All the sessions recordings are available on ECCA's Youtube page.	All the webinar recordings are available here and on ECCA's Youtube page.

WEBINARS

1. Financing climate adaptation: from climate proofing investments to mobilising funds for a resilient society

Champion: Giulia Galluccio - CMCC

25 May 13:25-16:00

484 participants signed up for this session

[Find detailed agenda](#)

[Find here the compilation of speakers' biographies](#)

[Find here the webinar's report](#)



Rewatch the webinar on [YouTube](#).

Thinking ahead – what you need to know for this session

Climate change is happening fast, and we urgently need to scale up significantly adaptation financing from all types of investors, including also public-private partnership, to enable the transition towards a resilient society. In this session, we both present innovative adaptation funding initiatives at international level, and we highlight how advanced knowledge can boost climate-proof investments. In the break-out groups, participants will discuss different key tools, drivers, and solutions for sustainable finance.

As we are increasingly faced with the unpredictable consequences of climate change, urgent action is needed to help the market and society adapt to this new context. The financial system has a key role to play, and Europe is at the forefront: in 2019 the European Investment Bank (EIB), launched an ambitious climate strategy, committing to unlock €1 trillion for climate action and environmentally sustainable investment by 2030 and to increase its green finance to reach 50% of its operations in 2025. At the same time the European policy framework is rapidly evolving to support the main actors of this economic and financial transition.

Through an interactive conversation with representatives from the demand and the supply side, this webinar will present innovative solutions at international level on financing climate adaptation (including public-private partnerships). It will also shed the light on the importance of advanced knowledge as the enabling tool to inspire investors' decision-making and to build on successful business cases of adaptation investments.

Context

The ECCA2021 opening webinar “Financing climate adaptation: from climate-proofing investment to mobilizing funds for a resilient society” shed the light on the urgent need to mobilize public, private, and alternative financing sources to help the society to adapt to a changing climate.

During two live panels, key experts from international organizations and the financial sector presented and discussed innovative solutions on financing climate adaptation, also sharing real-world examples from vulnerable communities across the globe that could be applied in climate vulnerable and economically developing areas of Europe.

In addition, participants provided their ideas and insights on the different key tools, drivers, and services for sustainable finance in four interactive break-out groups which dealt with the following topics:

1. Financing solution for cities
2. New standards and metrics
3. Climate services
4. Business case for adaptation: development of an adaptation investment plan



The main insights and ideas raised during the webinar provided the ground for the elaboration of key messages (outlined below) that will be shared in the 10th webinar held with all webinar champions possibly they will be raised during the High-level event on 22nd June.

Highlights of the webinar

Sharing knowledge

Finance needs to work on the engine: the current operating system should be “upgraded” by opening the rules and taking the toolbox (for example, discussing the accounting standards, fiduciary duties, compensation rules and the financial model).

Key challenges identified concerned the lack of a universal definition of adaptation and metrics that can measure adaptation progress and project outcomes at local level. In addition, very few investors have the resources, knowledge, and expertise to invest in infrastructure. A successful example to address this issue is Amundi’s Green Bond initiative, which provides the tools and motivation through the development of a structural fund with a risk-sharing system.

Additional solutions to fill this gap may deal with the development of standards and metrics for transformative adaptation (instead of only incremental adaptation), as well as of adaptation indices for countries. The design of detailed criteria for implementation of policies and assessment of donor funding is also needed. Governments should play a key role in the provision of clear and stable regulations on open data, and they should support the standardization of data and methods.

Inspiring actions for transformation

The backbone of financial support is the risk return analysis: we need to move towards a more sophisticated approach, based on risk return & impact.

This new paradigm implies to add environmental and social considerations for an investment, in addition to those of risk and return. Therefore, we need to internalize externalities, as for example it is not only a matter of carbon price, but also a question of nature, biodiversity, and social capital. This is a long journey, but Europe has taken the lead through innovative policy frameworks, such as the New Green Deal and the EU Taxonomy.

In order to pursue this innovative pathway, the finance paradigm for adaptation needs to shift from a single asset to systemic investment logic if we are to scale investment adaptation and avoid large-scale maladaptation. This systemic approach provides the opportunity for future projects to move from incremental to transformative change, thus bringing forward the emergent future value of systemic adaptation into business models.

Creating connections and collaborations

Public-Private partnership (PPP) offers a great opportunity: cooperation between financial institutions, international partners, public sector, and civil society is needed



to arrange the often-complex adaptation finance solutions. No single partner can do it alone.

The main learning coming from current successful initiatives on public-private partnership (such as the CPI Lab initiative “[Climate Adaptation Notes](#)”, the commercial banks-institutional investor partnership for the development of a single financing instrument to address water scarcity in Southern Africa) is that this collaboration mechanism needs to be multi-stakeholder and multi-beneficiary groups in order to be effective. For this reason, it is essential that political leadership recognizes the opportunity in bringing together a diverse range of interested actors and institutions.

For instance, research should build trust with the finance sector via 3rd party mutual liaisons and collaborating on concrete goals or in community of practice in addition to provide information that is relevant to the financial sector. At the same time, municipalities should build networks with local businesses and the financial sector to boost and scale up funding opportunities for adaptation to climate change.

Finally, success also hinges on communities knowing their rights and having a legal system where they can exercise those rights. Therefore, it is also crucial to build good, trusted relationships with communities: groups that can benefit can invest as well.

2. Climate change and health: promoting wellbeing through climate action

Champion: Kristin Aunan - Cicero

26-May 13:30-16:00

468 participants signed up for this session

[Find detailed agenda](#)

[Find here the webinar's report](#)

Rewatch the webinar on [YouTube](#).

Climate change and health: promoting wellbeing through climate action

This webinar presents state-of-the-art knowledge on the effects of global warming, linked to heat stress and other climate hazards, on our health in a European context, and discusses how alternative policy options and measures can help safeguard the health and wellbeing of citizens through climate action.

European countries and the European Union are called upon to recognise the need to enhance their adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change. Climate change adaptation requires implementing policies to promote effective, socially acceptable, and practical solutions that limit adverse health effects while also encouraging social and cultural processes to drive behavioural change. Last, but not least,



climate change adaptation must go hand in hand with greenhouse gas mitigation to reap potential co-benefits and avoid costly trade-offs.

Highlights of the webinar

Extreme heat is a key climate change health risk in Europe in the near and long term

- Climate change affects human health in a multitude of ways: Direct impacts (death and disease from non-optimal temperatures, heat waves, droughts), indirect impacts (ecosystem- induced such as vector-borne disease, food and waterborne disease, and air pollution) and indirect related to malfunctioning human institutions (leading to, e.g., undernutrition, issues related to occupational health and mental health, and, under given circumstances, violence, and conflict).
- Extreme heat is a key climate change health risk in Europe in the near and long term, as stated by the IPCC. The ageing populations, combined with a high prevalence of chronic disease and rising levels of urbanisation, has made **the populations in the European and Eastern Mediterranean regions the most vulnerable to the extremes of heat of all the WHO regions** according to the Lancet Countdown report for 2020. This should put our policy makers on red alert.
- Currently, chronic exposure to air pollution is the biggest environmental killer in Europe. Climate change can impact air pollution in several ways and can amplify the health impacts of air pollution. Abating air pollution could become more difficult due to global warming.
- Heatwaves are currently the deadliest climate extreme in Europe. **Europe is warming faster than the global average and is already 2,2 degrees hotter than pre-industrial levels.**
- The physiological impacts of heat range from heat exhaustion to heat stroke, a severe medical condition that can lead to coma and death. Heat exhaustion can occur frequently, and **people with cardiovascular conditions are particularly vulnerable.**
- We need to acknowledge the mental health impact from the impacts of climate change as well as the physiological. Mental health should be a part of the climate change adaptation process. People with mental health challenges are one of the vulnerable subgroups to the effects of climate change, e.g., heatwaves. A holistic approach is necessary.
- There are clear geographical differences in the health risks associated with heat in Europe, largely along north-south gradient. **Whereas heat has a much bigger impact on mortality in southern than in northern Europe, there are also differences within countries.**
- Future impacts on mortality depends on the emission pathways and associated degree of warming in the future. If we keep temperature increase low, we can limit a



- further increase in future mortality from heatwaves. **If emissions continue unchecked, populations in southern Europe in particular will be very vulnerable.**
- **Mortality due to heat stress is the tip of the iceberg, we need to be worried about morbidity as well.** Heat-induced conditions are now seen more often also in Central and Northern Europe. As heatwaves become more frequent, vulnerable people in particular need to realise they are at risk and that they need to take individual action to protect themselves, e.g., by avoiding becoming dehydrated and keeping cool.
 - **Heat is a silent killer.** Epidemiological studies are needed to reveal the full impact of heat stress on death and disease, e.g., linked to cardiovascular disease. Flood victims are more visible in e.g., the media.
 - The continuous temperature rises and extreme heat events underscore the urgency of implementation of climate action and adaptation in Europe. **All populations and all countries will be affected by the rising temperature and health effects of climate change. Taking action is urgent and imperative to prevent adverse impacts.**
 - We already see the knock-on effects of climate change elsewhere impacting e.g. Europe and different sectors. But we still know too little about how it manifests. More research is needed.

Adaptation measures, including heat action plans, contribute to reduced death and disease rates linked to heat stress

- **Excess death and disease from extreme temperatures is largely preventable to the extent that adaptation measures can be tailored to alleviate contextual and individual vulnerability**
- WHO Europe's 2021 publication with updated evidence for heat and health prevention in Europe is the most comprehensive evidence of implementation of heat health action plans in Europe
(<https://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/heat-and-health-in-the-who-european-region-updated-evidence-for-effective-prevention-2021>).
- **Reduction of heat related impacts have been reported in a number of countries and there is a clear indication that heat health action plans play a role.** Heat warning systems are key and almost universally implemented. However, **long-term urban planning interventions to mitigate urban heat are still relatively rare.** More involvement is needed from local governments and non-state actors. There is also a lack of resources for the implementation of heat health action plans.
- Individual and short-term adaptation measures are neither enough nor sustainable in the long term (e.g. increased use of A/C). **More emphasis should be put on long-term solutions for building more heat resilient cities, through green, blue and white urban planning.**
- **An integrated and holistic approach is needed to ensure that climate change and health issues are integrated in all pillars of policy and society,** including at the local level. Dealing with the challenges related to climate change and health should not be a task only for those working in the domain of public health.



- **Heat health action plans should no longer be stand-alone plans** as today but should be integrated with broader policies and be integrated into urban planning, mobility programs, education, and welfare programs etc., and initiatives related to a green COVID recovery in the EU. Climate change and heat response communication should be further interlinked.
- Climate change does not affect health equally, some groups are more vulnerable. **In Europe, elderly is a particularly vulnerable group. This is worrying as the share of elderly is increasing rapidly.**
- Awareness raising and regular communication on risks are key for adaptation among both citizens and institutions. **Information material must be targeted to each vulnerable group.** Positive messaging can have a better effect, e.g., focusing on what you can do during heatwaves, not what you cannot do.
- Health impacts from heat stress can differ from place to place. Hence, **heat adaptation plans should be tailored to national and regional organizations and context, as well as difference in vulnerability.** Warning systems must consider local aspects. Response actions must be tailored to subgroups to address their needs and make sure to reduce the impacts.
- We need to understand why some groups are more vulnerable to identify the best adaptation strategies. We need to involve the vulnerable groups in this to make sure that the adaptation measures fit, and that the adaptation does not worsen their already vulnerable situation.
- **Monitoring and evaluation of the health impacts are central to adaptation planning,** to understand how measures are implemented over time and how people respond to heat. E.g., in Italy, formal identification of susceptible subgroups is carried out yearly. Following that, specific measures are prepared, including active surveillance by the health care sector, and recently also adjusting the measures because of the COVID19 situation.
- **Subgroups more at risk for COVID19 are also more at risk during heat waves,** contributing to add-on effects. There are also long-term effects in vulnerability for COVID-patients, enhancing the vulnerability of the most vulnerable.
- **There is a need for more action-oriented research on adaptation to climate change and engagement from decision-makers on adaptation.** It is important that the Green Deal contributes to increased cooperation between researchers and decision-makers at different levels on evidence-based data and common action on climate change adaptation. Investments in both infrastructure and research are needed. Climate change adaptation supported by Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe is important for informing policies.
- **COVID taught us that a well-functioning health sector is increasing resilience overall.** It also taught us a lot about social inequality that needs to be addressed in order to increase resilience to heat.
- **Multilevel governance collaboration is key for addressing climate change and health** and is often the missing link at national level. The local level needs to address the national level about needs and solutions.



- **Collaboration, partnerships, and integrated actions are key for putting the urgency of health impacts of climate change in Europe higher on the agenda.**
- The **European Climate and Health Observatory** is a new European tool and web portal for promoting climate adaptation, the first deliverable of the new EU adaptation strategy. It is a **core partnership between the European Commission, the European Environment Agency and other key partners in the realm of climate change and health.** The goal is to provide easy access to resources on climate change and health for target audience such as policy makers, policy advisers as well as researchers. <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/observatory>
- **Climate adaptation must go hand in hand with greenhouse gas mitigation to reap potential health co-benefits and avoid costly trade-offs**
- **Mitigation is the best way of preventing the health impacts of climate change.** Policymakers need to show greater commitment to urgent climate action. **We need to see transformation and reduction in CO2 in this decade to avoid the most catastrophic impacts.** EU's Green Deal is a unique opportunity to protect health from the threats of climate change. There should be no more financing for climate and health harming activities if we are to succeed in 'building back better.'
- Health and wellbeing are recognised in EU policy documents as essential in a climate resilient Europe (EU Adaptation Strategy, etc.) and the EU is pushing for climate action goals. However, member states are less proactive and ambitious and are lagging in implementing policies. **We need to hold national leaders accountable.**
- Through mitigation action, we protect health today and get less vulnerable societies in the future.
- **Evidence on health impacts can be an effective way of mobilising people for climate action** (e.g., by NGOs). We need to talk more about the health co-benefits of climate action and make the business case for it.
- **Reducing greenhouse gases through more sustainable transport, food and energy use can have substantial health co-benefits,** e.g., from reduced air pollution, enhanced physical activity (cycling and walking), and healthier diets. It is crucial to communicate avoided health damage both in the short and the long term as outcomes of mitigation action.
- Across the nine countries studied by the Lancet Countdown it was estimated that, by 2040, ambitious NDCs that put health at the center of new climate policies and meet the 'well below 2°C' goal of the Paris Agreement, could reduce annual deaths due to air pollution by over 1.6 million, annual deaths due to diet-related risk factors by over 6.4 million and annual deaths attributable to physical inactivity by almost 2.1 million.
- In Europe, modest actions to promote cleaner energy and transport was estimated to reduce the number of deaths from PM2.5 from 62 per 100 000 in 2015 to 59 in 2018. As air pollution is transboundary, mitigation actions can improve health across the region.
- **We don't have the luxury of addressing one health challenge at a time: Adaptation and mitigation – and now the COVID pandemic – need to be addressed at the same time.**



- **Aligning COVID19 recovery with response to climate change offers a triple win – improve public health, create a sustainable economy, and protect the environment.**

Emission pathways will define future global warming and decisions we make today will define the world of tomorrow. But we have a choice: we can cut emissions and thereby reduce the number of deadly heatwave days to come. Regardless of mitigation we cannot avoid a certain level of global warming, and adaptation is key to making the future climate more liveable.

3. Nature as a solution for resilience, mitigation and sustainable development

Champion: Sergio Castellari - National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology

27 May 13:30-16:00

495 participants signed up for this session

[Find detailed agenda](#)

[Find here the compilation of speakers' biographies](#)

Rewatch the webinar on [YouTube](#).

Climate change and biodiversity loss/degradation of ecosystems are linked and interdependent challenges. Healthy ecosystems with rich biodiversity and the ecosystem services they provide are fundamental to life on earth. Even small changes in climate can result in large changes in habitats and biodiversity, with strong impacts on society, economy, human health, and well-being. Climate and biodiversity crises need to be addressed in an integrated manner. Synergies can be enhanced by building on the multifunctionality and multiple benefits of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, captured under Nature-based Solutions (NbS).

This webinar is structured on four topics: (1) the policy support, (2) the knowledge base, (3) the applications and (4) the way ahead of NbS for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Europe. It provides presentations and discussions with key experts on different aspects of NbS and offers the opportunity to the participant to interact with them. The participants registered for this webinar can write questions to the Champion via the networking option of ECCA2021 platform prior the webinar. These questions could be addressed in the webinar.

[Resources and further reading](#)

Highlights of the webinar



On sharing knowledge

- The importance of a robust evidence base on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) performance, impact and cost-effectiveness cannot be overstated. It is essential that we continue to work together to build a comprehensive, accessible knowledge base in order to derive the greatest possible benefit from NbS actions, support key policy initiatives from the international to local level, and inform future policy instruments.
- NbS are in general contributing to increase local biodiversity, but we need to ensure that this is explicitly considered in NbS planning, design and implementation and dedicate more efforts to monitoring the impacts of NbS on biodiversity. The IUCN standard and guidelines from the NBS Initiative of the University of Oxford provide support on this.
- More effort is also needed to enhance maximum delivery of ecosystem services, for which biodiversity is essential.
- Having a full evidence on the multi-functionality of NbS across different scales and the diverse contexts in Europe is a challenge. But many projects are working on this through a new level of collaboration across initiatives and actors involved.
- The adoption of common indicators and metrics supports comparative analysis of many different types of NbS across multiple scales, and in diverse contexts.
- Effective management of data, through ICT tools and data governance structures, is also important for the right implementation of cross-sectoral approaches and integrating knowledge acquired through monitoring activities.
- More data is still needed for the economic valuation of the benefits associated to NbS to make the business case for them, in particular to cover the diversity of socio-economic and environmental contexts in Europe and making sure that all the benefits are considered.
- Impacts of climate change will substantially affect NbS performance so more knowledge is needed on their long-term sustainability

On inspiring action for transformation

- Climate change and biodiversity loss are twin crises that we must address simultaneously.
- The EU Green Deal can promote a new economic growth strategy, by decoupling economic growth from resources usage. NbS can make the European Green Deal real. NbS can be an engine for sustainable job creation.
- NbS are becoming popular at global level. They work with Nature; they preserve Nature and fight climate change through adaptation and mitigation. If planned and implemented well, NbS can support real sustainable development.
- NbS has an umbrella concept to describe different solutions in working with Nature to solve societal challenges.
- We have many challenges, and we are lacking space. Therefore, we need an integral long-term vision based on NbS for Europe to work on together.



On creating connections and collaborations

- There is a balanced level of expertise and skills on the relevant sectors that can contribute to the rollout of NbS in cities. However new urban governance arrangements and cross-sectoral institutional structures (avoiding working in silos) are needed to ensure a full engagement of all stakeholders through the full cycle of NbS.

On implementing action

- Many cities already are working in NbS and GI at urban and periurban level.
- The EU Green Deal provides an improved framework to mobilise implementation and improve financing (e.g., 'do no harm' oath; new European Bauhaus initiative; BD2030 goal to unlock 20 billion/year for spending on nature; Post-2020 EU Forestry Strategy; Ecosystem Restoration Plan binding targets).
- Boost investment in NbS, e.g. integrate biodiversity commitments in EU climate policy and climate investment, as well as COVID-recovery ('build back better').
- Use public investment as leverage for more / better private investment.
- Need to strengthen existing policies and accelerate implementation of key legal commitments.
- While there is increasing supporting material to guide on the implementation of NbS, maintenance requirements of NbS remain less addressed.
- Several bottlenecks for NbS are hindering the translation from policy to practice:
 - Inadequate implementation
 - Lack of coherence
 - Lack of indicators and targets
 - Inadequate allocation of funds

4. 360° view of climate impacts: experiencing the future to plan adaptation

Champions: Christopher Reyer - PIK | Hanne Knaepen - ECDPM

31-May 10:00-12:30

137 participants signed up for this session

31-May 13:30-16:00

135 participants signed up for this session

[Find detailed agenda](#)

[Global food price crisis of 2008-2012 - presentation](#)

Over the past 30 years, climate impact science has painted a more complete picture of how natural and human systems are already affected by climate change and how they are



projected to further change with ongoing warming. However, in many cases, climate impacts are considered in isolation, and integration across different types of impacts in different sectors, such as agriculture, water, biodiversity, trade, or transportation is lacking. Likewise, impacts are usually considered at the place where they occur even though there is mounting evidence that impacts can transcend boundaries (e.g., through trade or migration) and trigger effects in distant locations.

In this session, **the latest climate impact science that considers climate impacts as interconnected, co-occurring, cross-border changes in the innovative format of a policy simulation were presented.** Participants in this simulation game confronted with a scenario of dramatic events caused by the climate crisis in regions surrounding Europe. These events can lead to severe consequences for the EU and the rest of the world. The participants worked on propositions of actions to counteract the crises that can emerge from transboundary climate impacts.

The cutting-edge simulation exercise helps to visualise the complexity of cross-border and cross-sectoral climate impacts. After unpacking this complexity, participants actively took part in developing adequate adaptation responses. Concretely, taking part in this webinar had three key benefits:

1. To learn about the latest research findings on climate impacts (including cross-sectoral climate impacts, compound events and cross-border impacts) across a wide range of disciplines and regions and from existing climate impact portals.
2. To share practical knowledge about developing and implementing adaptation strategies to cope with climate impacts and explore synergies between adaptation policies for addressing impacts in a coherent way.
3. The format of the session, the policy simulation, create networks between the participants by engaging every participant in the session. The software facilitating the simulation enables participants to meet and discuss while being part of the session. Furthermore, the participative format allows participants to experience the outcomes of their choices and helps to create a deeper understanding of what is needed to implement such adaptation options.

Highlights of the webinar

On sharing knowledge

- Over the past 30 years, climate impact science has painted a more complete picture of how natural and human systems are already being affected by climate change and how they are projected to further change with ongoing warming. However, in many cases, **climate impacts are considered in isolation and integration across different types of impacts in different sectors, such as agriculture, water, biodiversity, trade, or transportation is lacking.** Likewise, impacts are usually considered at the place where they occur even though there is mounting evidence that impacts can transcend boundaries (e.g., through trade or migration) and trigger effects in distant locations. Yet, transboundary climate impacts, i.e., impacts occurring in one place having effects elsewhere, pose risks in a highly interconnected world. As a



result, **climate impact science is increasingly considering climate impacts as interconnected, co-occurring, cross-border changes.**

- Compound events are ubiquitous in the Earth system, and basically all climate-related disasters that affect human society are caused by compound events. Zscheischler et al. (2020) have created a typology to structure the huge diversity of events, which can cover many different climate variables as well as multiple temporal and spatial scales: (1) **preconditioned events** (i.e. a hazard causes an impact only because of a pre-existing, climate-driven condition, such as events that affect vegetation or crop health); (2) **multivariate events** (i.e. the co-occurrence of multiple hazards in the same region, causing an impact, such as co-occurring droughts, heatwaves or concurrent precipitation and wind extremes); (3) **temporally compounding events** (i.e. succession of hazards that affect a given geographical region, leading to an impact, such as when a flood is followed by an extreme heatwave), and (4) **spatially compounding events** (i.e. occurring when multiple connected locations are affected by hazards concurrently, thereby causing an impact. For instance, in the global food system, synchronous crop failure due to spatially co-occurring hazards can threaten food security with wide-ranging economic impacts). The notion of compound events will play a major role in the upcoming IPCC report, but **many adaptation policies are likely to underestimate interactions between multiple hazards, which can occur both in time and space.** In particular, experience is only of limited use when assessing risks of high-dimensional events in a changing system. Therefore, **better understanding, and modelling compound events is key for disaster risk reduction and effective adaptation.**
- **Water is key in the transboundary nature of climate change:** changes in its availability have a severe impact on our ability to adapt. Whether there is too much, too little, whether it is polluted or salinated, it is challenging the fragile balance within our systems. Water shortages in the EU affect agricultural output, which result in economic losses and food insecurity. For example, the drought of 2018 has cost the Dutch agricultural sector 1.4 billion EUR. This example illustrates how climate change -and our slow response to mitigate and adapt- cost economic output on top of human lives. On top of that, decreased and more unreliable agricultural output causes food insecurity. Food insecurity hits the fastest and hardest in those places that are generally most vulnerable to global warming. A higher risk of famine, increased droughts and more extreme weather inevitably led to migration pressures in the most vulnerable locations, such as the Sahel and the Arabian Peninsula. Higher migration pressures and more conflicts inescapably threaten the security of not only the directly affected places but of Europe as well. This makes international climate adaptation efforts not merely a matter of solidarity, but also of strategic autonomy and self-interest for the EU and its Member States.
- **Food price volatility** is an important impact of transboundary climate risks. However, food prices tend to mix with many other events extraneous to agriculture making their prediction a difficult task.
- The **best adaptation strategy** is to curb emissions, i.e. by mitigation.

On inspiring action for transformation

- The **EU Adaptation Strategy** lays the groundwork for inspiring action. How? (1) the Strategy contributes to growing public awareness about the urgency and value of adaptation; 2) It puts focus on transboundary climate impacts and the international



dimension of climate change, also for adaptation. The importance of systemic risks has been demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic and its ripple effects. Transboundary climate impacts require a similar understanding of systemic risk and coherent policy responses for successful adaptation.

Better understanding and modelling compound climate events is key for disaster risk reduction and effective adaptation.

On creating connections and collaborations

- Effective adaptation requires **building strong connections between climate impact science and the policy-making world**. The policy simulation allowed to show the latest research findings on climate impacts (including cross-sectoral climate impacts, compound events and cross-border impacts) across a wide range of disciplines and regions, based on existing climate impacts portals, like [ISlpedia](#). At the same time, it allowed to co-develop and to formulate policy propositions to further adaptation. The participative format allowed participants the outcomes of their choices and helped to create a deeper understanding of what is needed to implement adaptation options.

On implementing action

- Food price volatility is an important impact of transboundary climate risks. However, food prices tend to mix with many other events extraneous to agriculture making their prediction a difficult task. So, knowing this, what is needed to build resilience? (1) a global food price projection system that takes all risk factors into consideration; (2) flexible food supply chains: food supply chains tend to be fixed in a short term. There is a need to understand food supply chains, make them resilient by making them more organic/flexible to take advantage of short-term shifts in supply and demand; (3) rely on local food supply chains and remove dependency on global supply chains; (4) smart food buffer stocks: that are linked to the medium and long-term climate projections and short-term weather changes.
- To reach a truly sustainable level of adaptation in every corner of the planet, we need to discuss finance. We have to close the gap on climate finance. Funding of climate adaptation is still only 10-15% of what we need per year to meet the UN Environment Programme's estimates to respond adequately to climate risks. Funding is only the first step. We need governments and the financial sector to track and account funding to make sure that it is reaching the right communities and invested in effective interventions.
- Adapting to climate change requires us to zoom out, to rethink our economic system. When we design a new system, it should be adaptive, inclusive and in balance with the world around us. This asks for new perspectives and ideas, doing this together with others is the way forward.



5. *Living with sea level rise: approaches to coastal adaptation*

Champion: Bart van den Hurk - Deltares

1 June 11:00-13:30

469 participants signed up for this session

[Find detailed agenda](#)

Rewatch the webinar on [YouTube](#).

Outline: In our session “Living with sea level rise” we will tackle a diverse set of challenges and explore approaches in the management of coastal sea level rise impacts.

IPCC lead authors will review the current state of adaptation preparedness, and three experts on both sea level rise research and policy implementation will elaborate on specific (sub)national coastal adaptation strategies in Germany, UK and the Netherlands. In parallel group discussions we will take a deeper dive into case studies and document similarities and key differences in the risk profile, the policy governance, and the engagement with local stakeholders. We will conclude the session with an inventory of how scientific support is optimally configured to accommodate this diversity in adaptation challenges.

Expected outcomes:

- We understand the “local dimension” of coastal adaptation to sea level rise.
- We identify bottlenecks that can be resolved by tailored knowledge and science/policy interaction.
- We contribute to a vital network of scientists and practitioners on the topic.

Key discussion questions:

- What characterises local adaptation programmes (scale, challenges, options, governance, methodological approach, values and beliefs).
- Which (scientific) information is needed to guide the adaptation implementation?

Sharing knowledge is addressed by a variety of keynotes on adaptation case studies, and by small group discussions where local experiences are shared. Inspiring action is encouraged by giving room to ideas on how to tackle local bottlenecks and promote progress. Creating connections is addressed by organising groups for trans- and multi-disciplinary discussions, moderated by the team. Implementing action is the prime scope of the session: make an inventory of science/policy interactions that promote implementation.



Highlights of the webinar

On sharing knowledge

What are the main new understandings in your theme that have emerged since the last ECCA 2019?

- Uncertainty (in sea level scenarios, societal impacts and options) is not a topic that can be expected to be only reduced when new research findings come in, but given the inherent long-time scales and large uncertainty is also to be treated as an underlying principle requiring adaptation decision frameworks that make this uncertainty manageable
- The societal response to sea level rise triggers new perceptions and questions of public versus private interest, societal acceptance of risks and measures to reduce these, and organizational structure of the adaptation strategy and associated knowledge development

What are most inspiring and effective examples of knowledge sharing that are currently taking place related to the webinar topic? (think also about digitalization, social media and education)

- In many implementation programs exploring sea level rise adaptation options very participatory communication and science/public interaction techniques are used. The art of “designer science” is maturing, where landscape architects, localized visualization of impacts (floods, salinization, erosion) and serious gaming are rapidly developing

What would you recommend improving knowledge sharing related to the webinar topic?

- Scientific findings need to be (and are being) shared internationally via diverse scientific outreach channels. The same could be promoted also for the societal response to sea level rise: scenarios used, concrete adaptation solutions, sharing expertise on stakeholder intervention, comparison of legal structures etc.

On inspiring action for transformation

What have been inspiring actions that have fostered the recent transformations? What can we learn from them?

- Historical overviews of sea level rise adaptation have learned that many societies are moving from a project-oriented to a long-term management strategy of adaptation as a policy theme, and science as a supporting service. We must take this topic on a long-term perspective
- Germany, the Netherlands, and UK all have evolving policy processes which can be traced back many decades and longer which are assimilating insights from sea-level rise and continuing to transform as a result. Rises of up to 1 m over the century are challenging, but evolving adaptation systems can probably cope with such change: unlikely but plausible high-end rises above this magnitude raise more fundamental questions. Considering change over multiple centuries also raises the prospect of large rises in sea level.



- A myriad of local sea level rise solutions based on ecosystem-based approaches is emerging, which contribute to societal engagement and acceptance of far-reaching measures but with exceptions remain experimental and requiring detailed testing.

What are recommendations to overcome remaining bottlenecks in the transformation?

- A thorough analysis of adaptation solutions, tipping points, and societal acceptance must make the inherent uncertainty in the long way ahead manageable. Sea level rise is one of the (often many) drivers of local measures involving e.g. spatial planning, fresh water resources or governance. Ways to deal with this integration of topics need to be further developed.

On creating connections and collaborations

What successful collaborations/initiatives are taking place today to analyse, design or plan solutions?

- At the national level many initiatives emerge bringing fruitful inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration.
- At the European level a newly formed Knowledge Hub on Sea Level Rise is aiming to promote internationally coordinated assessment of scientific and policy developments and share findings.
- At the global level the WCRP Grand Challenge on Regional Sea Level Change and its Impacts is planning the Sea level 2022 conference in Singapore (11 to 15 July 2022) as a follow up to the [Sea Level 2017 conference](#) held in New York

What can we learn from these collaborations and initiatives?

- A societal transformation can only be expected to be successful when it is supported by tailored and well-documented scientific evidence, and when societal acceptance is seen as a key requirement for the policy governance.

What are recommendations for future collaborations?

- Seeking ways to increase interaction between science, policy and local stakeholders is recommended, as well as international exchange to share and learn from other experience.

On implementing action

What adaptation solutions are the way to go for the longer term?

- For sea level rise solutions need to be fit to the local scale. But interesting ecosystem-based approaches, and processes to sketch long-term strategies and pathways that are used as a benchmark for short-term decision taking are promising ways forward.

When it comes to successful implementation of actions and solutions, what are is the key ingredients for a recipe for success?

- Similar to the recommendations on collaboration and transition

What recommendations were made to improve implementing adaptation action in the future?



- An extraction of the above: share scientific findings and experiences with adaptation solutions and policies; increase science/public engagement; think in long terms, also when addressing relatively short-term decisions.

A draft paper from the webinar was compiled and it is currently being reviewed for Climate Risk Management.

6. Climate action exchange – sharing knowledge and experience of what works across the EU

Champion: Lučka Kajfež Bogataj - University of Ljubljana

7 June 13:30-16:00

526 participants signed up for this session

[Find detailed agenda](#)

[Find here the compilation of speakers' biographies](#)

Rewatch the webinar on [YouTube](#).

From droughts to floods, from hotter summers to green winters, from drinking water to food production, climate change already affects us all.

Our responses can alleviate the consequences, the aim of this webinar was to showcase what works across the EU in terms of adaptation action.

The discussions focused on a regional acknowledgement that the Southeast of Europe is probably one of the most vulnerable regions in Europe.

The webinar was structured around the following central messages:

- Good practices in the field of climate change adaptation that can be shared across the EU are those that have multiple benefits and address emissions reduction, biodiversity and other goals at the same time as addressing climate change impacts.
- To improve resilience, countries must cooperate and the needs of the most vulnerable have to be addressed. The EU can learn from countries on the frontlines of climate change and can help developing countries as we are only as strong as our weakest link.
- The action is needed in deepening and transferring the knowledge and understanding for adaptation as well as to raise awareness, education and funding to take the work further on.



7. At your service: climate knowledge and information as enablers of climate action

Champion: Roger Street - University of Oxford, Inès Alterio - ANR

8 June 12:00-14:30

585 participants signed up for this session

[Find detailed agenda](#)

[Find here the compilation of speakers' biographies](#)

[Rewatch the webinar on YouTube.](#)

Pitch: Join us in an opportunity to explore and consider means of enhancing the use and development of climate services and climate adaptation (knowledge) platforms as enablers of climate action. By doing so, you will be able to share your views, knowledge and experiences on associated opportunities and challenges, as well as explore and learn from a selection of initiatives that are enabling climate action. The intention is to engage participants towards identifying and disseminating critical and priority directions (e.g., connections and collaborations, knowledge exchanges, innovations, and research) that would enhance the roles of these enablers in supporting the evolving nature and scope of required action.

Highlights of the webinar

Current situation

- Complex and dynamic landscape even within Europe with a diversity of organisational cultures and capacities (users and providers) – lack of sufficiently broad networks
- Climate services are primarily developed based on a siloed (climate hazard) perspective and have been developed based on climate science and an understanding of users' needs for climate data and information
- Services available are failing to create trust and to create an appetite for the services with barriers to picking up CS
 - Not always produced to 'high enough' standard (no agreed standard)
 - Available knowledge and information are not easy to use often leading to misuse and unintended consequences
 - Limited accessibility to data, knowledge and information
 - Not linking climate knowledge and information with that needed to inform action (adaptation and resilience)
 - Huge gap between what is required and what is or can be provided
 - User focus is in its infancy
 - Co-X (co-design, co-production and co-evaluation) are recognised concepts but not well understood, embraced or delivered in practice



On sharing knowledge

Inspiring and effective examples of knowledge sharing

- Much has been learnt on the best way to interact within users and there is now a need to upscale what has been learnt to serve more users
- European climate data explorer has the potential to link users to climate data and information

Recommendations to improve knowledge sharing

- Linking science and enhanced learning including through communities of practice and knowledge exchange – more could be done by sharing learning and addressing together common challenges
- Investing in and exploiting the potential of knowledge and information enablers in bringing knowledge and information to those that need it so that they are closer to the skills and requirements of targeted users, as well as investing in addressing the need for upscaling and building capacity
- Establishing and supporting new partnerships where data and knowledge providers interact
- Build trust between data, knowledge and information providers and users
 - To understand each other's needs and capabilities before collaborating and co-designing and co-developing methods and tools – providing opportunities for learning and generating knowledge
 - Co-defining and co-developing climate service guidelines and standards working with users and science-informed
- Working with national or regional knowledge and information hubs and collaborative roundtables could be an effective way of enhancing, supporting and demonstrating knowledge sharing
- Successful initiatives at the local level using aspects of Co-X (co-design, co-production and co-evaluation) approaches but these need to be upscaled and knowledge and lessons learnt shared.
- Democratising climate services for the wider user community and integration of climate and non-climate data, knowledge and information are essential to support adaptation decision-making

On inspiring action for transformation

Inspiring actions that have fostered the recent transformations

- Investments in science to support the development of implementation of EU and national climate action policies
- Being able to include transformational adaptation will require different knowledge and information with emerging needs related to transformation processes and methods, strategic system-level climate risk assessment, governance modelling, decision support tools, and models for financing adaptation
- Improving the availability, reliability and accessibility of climate information with the 'right' spatial resolution
- Improving information on adaptation costs and effectiveness through systematic gathering and comparison across countries, regions and sectors
- Developing rapid analysis methods collaboratively with the intended users in such way that they can be streamlined with decision-making processes



Recommendations to overcome remaining bottlenecks in the transformation

- Need to better articulate what is and what is not working – case studies / users' journeys co-designed and co-produced
- Need for both science-ready and audit-ready knowledge and information
- Investments targeted at meeting the increasing demand (nature and scope) for knowledge and information enablers (enhancing and retaining European leadership) that can inform and support transformation
- Shift gears in the development and use of knowledge and information enablers such as these enablers and their use better reflect societal and political priorities and an agreed vision – support moving us towards a Paris Agreement lifestyle and wellbeing.
- Investing in and exploiting the potential of these knowledge and information enablers in bringing knowledge and information to those that need it and so those available are closer to the skills and requirements of targeted users, as well as addressing the need for upscaling and building capacity
- Investments in science to support the implementation of EU and national climate action policies – reflective of the need for climate action that is smarter and systemic, and recognising the urgency and international dimensions of that action (adaptation, resilience, and mitigation)

Creating connections and collaborations

Successful collaborations/initiatives taking place today to analyse, design or plan solutions

- Investment in building communities and networks (e.g., Climateurope, KE4CAP, ERA4CS and JPI Climate) – coordination, knowledge exchange and networking such as these are essential to effective knowledge sharing, building trust and capacities
- Enhanced level of engagement is showing dividends in terms of building European and national capacities and leadership
- The European research and innovation Roadmap for Climate Services providing a framework for dialogue and investments
- Investments in natural, physical, social and engineering sciences and humanities, as well as in inter-disciplinary research and innovation
- Research and innovation investments at the European level and by national funders are supporting the development of knowledge and information as enablers
 - Informing European (EU Adaptation Strategy, EU Climate Law and Green Deal) and national (NASs/NAPs) policies and practices
 - Enhancing European capabilities in developing and providing these enablers

Recommendations for future collaborations

- Engagement and collaboration of users and providers across all of Europe reflecting the diversity of the user community and their needs to deliver climate actions
- Need to bring the user communities and CS community closer together – collaboration to develop the right knowledge and tools, and enhanced effort supported by investments in knowledge and information translation (user-friendly and relevant knowledge and information)
 - Industry-academic partnerships / networks supporting, promoting co-design, co-development and co-evaluation of knowledge and information supporting action
- Reimagining the role of climate services that recognises the collaboration required across science, policy, practice, and humanitarian processes to deliver sustainable and just



climate action and lifestyles – more than just climate data, knowledge, and information, but that needed to inform the complexity of decisions (e.g., enhanced integration of the non-climate and climate data, knowledge, and information)

- Provision of tools to facilitate extraction, processing, and integration (climate and non-climate) of data, knowledge, and information.
- Enhanced ability to integrate and create new knowledge – drawing on multi [trans]-disciplinary and novel ways – respecting the different types of knowledge and using wisely the different technologies

Implementing action

Key ingredients for a recipe for success

- Users' journeys need to be supported especially in the move to support adaptation decision-making
- Working together, understanding together, and trusting each other
- Establishing and supporting new partnerships where data and knowledge providers interact
- Crucial to build trust between the data, knowledge and information provider and user and to understand each other's needs and capabilities before collaborating and co-design in creating methods and tools – providing opportunities for learning and generating knowledge
- Leveraging participatory and knowledge co-production processes that can create understanding of the larger social-ecological systems in which climate actions are nested
- Knowledge and information needs should be co-defined from the onset working with the intended users – effective climate action is more likely to follow from knowledge and information co-designed and co-developed (decision-driven and science-informed)
- Transdisciplinary, action-oriented research is critical towards delivering knowledge and information that can support actionable adaptation solutions.

Recommendations to improve implementing adaptation action in the future

- Building trust by co-developing QA/QC, common standards, and ethics considerations
- Improve roles of those along the value chain, including addressing concerns related to equity and inclusion (e.g., enhanced democratising, sharing and access to knowledge)
- Enhanced understanding of what Co-X (co-design, co-production and co-evaluation) should be and of how these should be delivered in practice
- Learning from other areas where data, knowledge and information are being used to inform decisions (e.g., COVID-19 response and recovery)
- Periodic / regular assessment of knowledge and information as enablers of climate action with a supportive taxonomy of use cases and users' journeys
- Investing in and exploiting the potential of action-oriented research and innovation to address priority knowledge gaps and co-develop relevant and usable knowledge and information
- Research should be demand-driven, solutions oriented, and emphasise realising positive societal impacts
- Investments in moving the climate services developed in past R&D projects to operations (increasing the TRL through an appropriate co-development process)
- Identifying appropriate business models that support the operationalisation of climate services developed through R&D projects



8. Acting locally: citizen engagement and community mobilisation

Champion: Wolfgang Pfefferkorn - CIPRA International

9-June 13:30-16:00

528 participants signed up for this session

[Find detailed agenda](#)

[Find here the compilation of speakers' biographies](#)

[Rewatch the webinar on YouTube.](#)

Societal transformation towards climate resilient European regions and cities is a key policy target at all levels. In this webinar we want to identify the key factors that contribute to accelerating and scaling up local action in the field of climate change adaptation to support this target.

Highlights of the webinar

Key message 1: Strengthen trans-disciplinary research in climate change adaptation to ease the science-practice interaction that helps to mobilise communities.

Knowledge, communication, awareness raising education and local action belong together and should become a “continuum with various inter-relations”.

Trans-disciplinary research can make this happen!

Therefore, Horizon Europe and future JPI Climate calls should explicitly strengthen trans-disciplinary projects, meaning that communities take an active and steering role, and adapt the eligibility criteria for projects accordingly.

Key message 2: Improve science communication in the field of climate change adaptation

The transformation towards a post fossil society is based on every-day language, close to the experiences of people (their house, health, neighbourhood). Scientists must put the citizens in the focus of their work and take much more into account the needs of the receivers of our communication activities. Scientists may find it much easier to communicate their work when they are closely involved in the citizens' initiatives themselves.

Key message 3: Go beyond projects

In research as well as in practice most activities are based on a project logic. When projects are accomplished and funding is over, activities often stop and are not carried further. We have to overcome the project logic and focus more on initiatives, co-operation models and



strengthening networks that go beyond projects and better ensure the sustainability of local action.

9. Building back better: COVID recovery, resilience building and societal transformation

Champion: Elisabeth Worliczek - BOKU

10 June 13:30-16:00

532 participants signed up for this session

[Find detailed agenda](#)

Rewatch the webinar on [YouTube](#).

European research often has a focus on local or regional aspects of transformation, in the context of COVID recovery. We want to broaden our horizon and put local aspects of societal transformation into a global context – from a citizen perspective. COVID has reset the global scene in many ways and offers a chance to rethink our approach to climate change (including resilience, transformation, adaptation, recovery, and structural change). This is a chance to address (in)justice and (in)equalities to build back better. Based on one set of ongoing and past societal transformation project themes, questions will be asked to a broad range of actors (activists, scientists, citizens, policy makers).

Highlights of the webinar

- The COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis affect populations very differently and emphasizes existing inequalities and injustices. Fostering a sense of a global common good in a participatory way by bottom-up initiatives can help us in tackling multiple objectives and empowering people
- We must find ways to co-create knowledge for decision-making and behavioural change, that is able to address our perceptions and values and touches our emotions and gives faith/hope that triggers community and locally led responses
- COVID has worked as a magnifying glass highlighting the interdependencies, interlinkages, and solidarity between the different elements of the web of life - humans and nature interconnected and not separate elements of this web. This magnifying glass also highlighted the need for a balance between local and global issues are communicated and the critical role of science in achieving this balance
- Economic policies and activities should focus on pursuing social and ecological goals directly, wherein money (such as GDP and profit) is treated as a means rather than an end, to achieve the common good rather than private gain. This can be done by using multidimensional and integrated socio-ecological goals and information systems. Goals and progress need to be measured in global terms, that consider consumption and production-based impacts
- Obvious issues from COVID:
 - Visibility of inequalities (that already existed) and that were sharpened with Covid.
 - Not more hierarchical care structures between humans and nature.



- Health matters. Open and green spaces are important for health.
- We were able to distinguish what was more or less important in different economic sectors - critical and uncritical sectors for economic development.
- Fragility and dependence from different institutions- just a few have control.
- Nature is important, place making practices are important.
- For the future, we need to nourish the same human spirit that we faced during the first stages of the pandemic: compassion, support, caring for each other. This should be done not only during a crisis but after the crisis as well- sustaining humanity and not selfishness, greed, etc
- We saw it was possible to react and react quickly. The necessity to show, concretely, what climate change does, now (not in 2100) is a key
- Self-sufficient communities are more resilient to shocks
- Indigenous practices and knowledge can bring a shift on the way we see our societies and systems of living
- Potential opportunities for cooperation during and post-Covid
- How is EU perceived between EU and outside the EU?
 - EU should not impose its policy/model (e.g. Green New Deal) to other countries outside the EU- they have different contexts and cultures. The EU should rather co-create with other countries
- Rules and behaviours can change very fast. Voluntarism gaining importance
- The importance of fighting fake news - importance of clear communication for channelling efforts and activation. The link from information/knowledge to decision / change in behaviour is always the challenge
- Considering issues faced by women because of working from home plus household responsibilities
- The pandemic gave us a chance to hold back and develop awareness of our lives, physical neighbourhoods, other people, our lifestyles and where the planet is heading to with respect to the natural resources, our future, access to food, water, clean air etc. We perhaps inspired ourselves in many ways, but we should not forget the vulnerable and poor
- We first have to 'get prices right' within the current economic hegemonical thinking but then need to co-develop a radically different socioeconomic approach which is at least agnostic to the conventional quantitative growth paradigm, which also has to include alternative wellbeing and development measures and indicators. In the transition phase we will experience traditional quantitative growth due to the massive investments needed but after that we need something completely different. This puts a lot of pressure of course on the economists to come up with new theories
- It's about shifting away from prioritizing financial value to prioritizing social and ecological value. Many communities already have their priorities right in this sense. But the global capitalist economy pushes them out, oppresses them, etc, in the pursuit of private financial value
- We need a more positive view on conflicts and have to abandon the idea of 'consensus' and replace it with the notion of 'compromise', as there are no simple or elegant solutions for wicked problems like the climate crisis

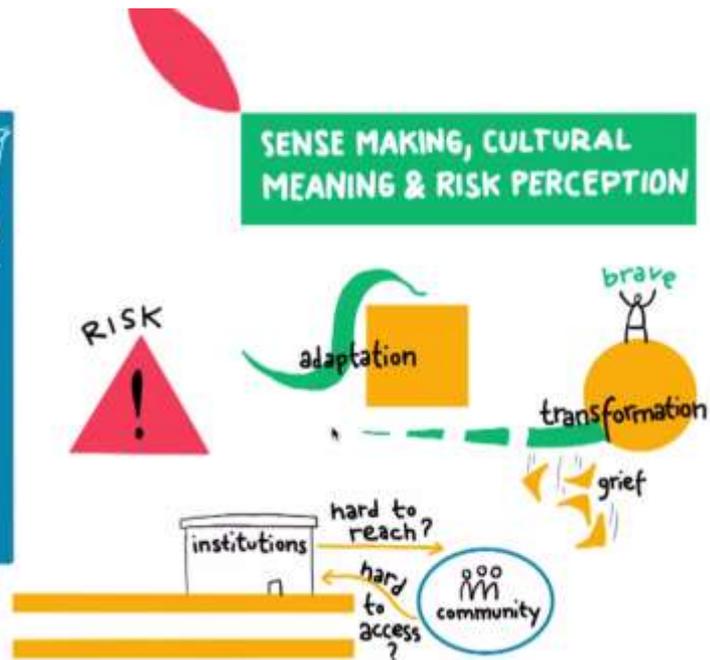
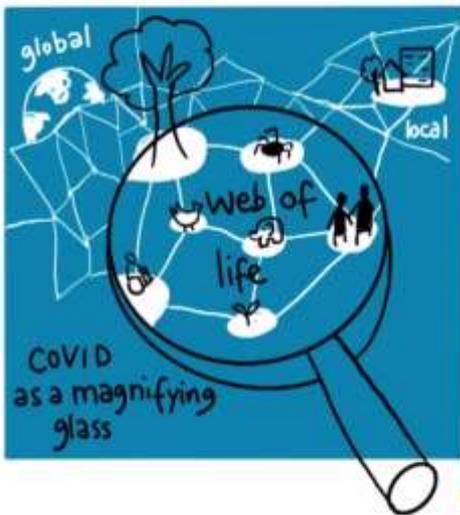


Visualisations

LIVE on Custom Live Streaming Service



LIVE on Custom Live Streaming Service





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LIVE on Custom Live Streaming Service

A thorough and at the same time global perspective on visions for a just recovery.

Exploration of different fields where climate change and COVID recovery intersect.

Identification of indicators for scientists in which fields there is real demand for research from a practitioner's point of view



Workshop on consolidation of Key messages

The workshop was held on 15 June collectively finalise the key messages based on the discussion outcomes from the webinars to be considered for the High-Level panel discussions of the Final ECCA Conference on 22 of June.

Within the task group on key messages, material was collected during the webinars and received contributions by champions and their teams. Each champion received a template with the structure organised around the four THEMES of ECCA2021

- Sharing knowledge
- Inspiring action for transformation
- Creating connections and collaborations
- Implementing action

The aim of this workshop was to gather the key messages along those four themes responding to the overall goal of ECCA 2021 which is *bringing adaptation solutions to life – inspiring action today for a resilient future*. In the end of workshop, the team came up with **10 key messages** to be brought to the High-Level Event.

All panel moderators including the Master of Conference were invited to play an important role in integrating the key messages in the panel discussions and transferring them to a broader audience.

The panel discussions were introduced by those messages in the format of a video. The messages focused on new policy and action relevant insights and linked to EU and International processes.

Reflection questions

- What collaborations/initiatives are taking place today to analyse, design or plan solutions? (or-where are we in the adaptation transformation?)
- What solutions are (perceived by the ECCA community as) the way to go for the longer term? (what are the solution perspectives that are currently in full exploration?)
- What has been the main drivers/factors of the progress that has been made in the past years? (looking back, how did we get, where we are now, what explains the progress)
- What are remaining bottlenecks that should be overcome to bring the solutions to life
- Based on the webinar dialogue: what would you recommend to your main target group?) - to EU and international organisations (and local/national level) (looking forward, what would the ECCA community advice as next steps in the adaptation transformation)

Questions to formulate the key messages from ECCA webinars

On sharing knowledge:

What are the main new understandings in your theme that have emerged since the last ECCA 2019?



- What are most inspiring and effective examples of knowledge sharing that are currently taking place related to the webinar topic? (think also about digitalization, social media and education)
- What would you recommend improving knowledge sharing related to the webinar topic?

On inspiring action for transformation

- What have been inspiring actions that have fostered the recent transformations? What can we learn from them?
- What are recommendations to overcome remaining bottlenecks in the transformation?

On creating connections and collaborations

- What successful collaborations/initiatives are taking place today to analyse, design or plan solutions?
- What can we learn from these collaborations and initiatives?
- What are recommendations for future collaborations?

On implementing action

- What adaptation solutions are the way to go for the longer term?
- When it comes to successful implementation of actions and solutions, what are the key ingredients for a recipe for success?
- What recommendations were made to improve implementing adaptation action in the future?

ECCA2021 High Level Event opening & Sessions

Live-stream - ECCA Conference 2021 | 22 June (09:00 - 16:00)

1,358 participants signed up for this session

DESCRIPTION:

Welcoming words, Master of Ceremony, Katrina Sichel

Conference opening

Frans Timmermans, European Commission, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal (video)

Session 1: Inspiring action for a climate resilient Europe

9:10-11:00: *Context and inspiration for adaptation action and societal transformation in Europe*

Interviews by the Master of Ceremony, Katrina Sichel

- Connie Hedegaard, Chair of the Mission Board on “Adaptation to Climate Change including Societal Transformation” and former European Commissioner for Climate Action



- Jean-Eric Paquet, European Commission, Director-General DG RTD
- Portugal's Presidency of the Council of the EU, João Pedro Matos Fernandes, Minister of Environment and Climate Action (Video)
- Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC (video message)

Panel 1:

9:40-10:15: *Inspiring climate adaptation action for transformation in Europe and beyond*

Moderated by Frank McGovern, Chair of JPI Climate

- Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, Member of the European Parliament
- Vasco Cordeiro, First Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions
- Youssef Nassef, Chair of World Adaptation Science Programme, Director of Adaptation Programme at the UNFCCC
- Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Co-President of the Club of Rome
- Anne-Marie Trevelyan, UK Minister of State, COP26 international champion for adaptation and resilience (video)

Interactive activities (moderated by Katrina Sichel)

Master of Ceremony, Katrina Sichel

- Key messages from the spokespersons of the ECCA 2021 webinars (video)
- Interactive activities

Panel 2:

10:30-11:00: *Sharing knowledge on climate adaptation - Science inspires action*

Moderated by Tara Shine, Director of Change by Degrees

Exchange of experience between climate scientists, IPCC experts and EU policymakers

- Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency
- Hans-Otto Pörtner, IPCC, 5th Assessment Cycle, Co-Chair of WG2 (Summary for Policymakers)
- Hervé Le Treut, Chair of AcclimaTerra, Regional Scientific Committee in Nouvelle-Aquitaine



Session 2: Bringing adaptation solutions to life

11:15-12:30

1,430 participants signed up for this session

DESCRIPTION:

- Andrej Vizjak, Slovenian Minister of Environment (video message)
- *Video Key messages from the spokespersons of the ECCA 2021 webinars (video)*

11:20 - 11:50 : **Panel 3:** *Implementing local adaptation action*

Moderated by Lučka Kajfež Bogataj, University of Ljubljana

- Elly Schlein, Vice-President of the Region Emilia-Romagna
- Kirsten Dunlop, CEO of the EIT Climate KIC
- Arnoud Molenaar, City of Rotterdam, Chief Resilience Officer
- Gerry O'Connell, Dublin City Council

Master of Ceremony, Katrina Sichel

- Interactive activities
- Video message from the EU Climate Pact Ambassadors
- Key messages from the spokespersons of the ECCA 2021 webinars (video)

12:00 - 12:30: **Panel 4:** *Creating connections and collaborations for climate adaptation action*

Moderated by Sally Stevens, Institute for Environmental Analytics

- Tine Heyse, Deputy Mayor of Climate of the City of Ghent, Co-president for Climate Alliance
- Carmen Madrid Gonzalez, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Senior Policy Officer, Knowledge for Finance, Innovation and Growth
- Katarzyna Smętek, President of the Polish Youth Climate Council
- Céline Phillips, Coordinator of the Multilateral Initiatives Team, European and International Directorate, ADEME French Agency for Ecological Transition

12:25-12:30: Wrap-up and what is coming next



Session 3: Inspiring action for societal transformation & Closing remarks

22 June 14:00-16:00

1,307 participants signed up for this session

DESCRIPTION:

Prof. Dr. Johan Rockström, Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Professor in Earth System Science at the University of Potsdam

Video Key messages from the spokespersons of the ECCA 2021 webinars (video)

14:20-14:50: **Panel 5: Inspiring individual and collective action for climate adaptation**

Moderated by Virginia Murray, Public Health England

- Lidia Pereira, Member of the European Parliament
- Barbara Buchner, Climate Policy Initiative, Global Managing Director and Executive Director at Climate Finance
- Adriana Valenzuela, Youth Leadership Program at the Global Center on Adaptation
- Mikko Ollikainen, Head of Adaptation Fund

14:55 - 15:10: Master of Ceremony, Katrina Sichel

- Interactive activities
- Mairead McGuinness, European Commissioner for Financial services, financial stability and Capital Markets Union (video message)
- Key messages from the spokespersons of the ECCA 2021 webinars (video)

15:05-15:45: **Panel 6: "What next for climate resilience? "Forward looking session on COVID-19 recovery and green societal transformation**

- Hugo Sobral, Head of Cabinet Commissioner Elisa Ferreira - European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms
- Thomas Dermine, Belgian State Secretary for Economic Recovery and Strategic Investments
- Laura Piovesan, Deputy Director-General for Projects, European Investment Bank
- Tasneem Essop, Climate Action Network international, Executive Director
- Leonie Bremer, FridaysForFuture, Germany



15:50 - 15:55 - Closing remarks

- John Bell, European Commission, DG RTD, Director Healthy Planet

15:55-16:00: Wrap-up and what is coming next

16:00: End of the conference: Master of Ceremony, Katrina Sichel

RECEIPT project report on High-Level Event

The High-level day on 22 June 2021, started with words from the Executive Vice President for the European Green Deal, Frans Timmermans. He reminded participants of the importance of the Climate Pact, of nature-based adaptation and of local solution and of scaling up adaptation solutions and the Horizon Europe missions: “We are only as resilient as the most vulnerable among us”.

The first session: ‘Inspiring action for a climate resilient Europe’, established some context and provided inspiration for adaptation action and societal transformation in Europe. Former European Commissioner for Climate Action Connie Hedegaard stressed the importance of sharing data, sharing knowledge, and sharing digital solutions to meet climate adaptation challenges. Her words were echoed by João Pedro Matos Fernandes, Portugal’s minister of environment, who added that “Momentum for climate action is in our favour”.

During the panel discussion on ‘Inspiring climate adaptation action for transformation in Europe and beyond’, we were rewarded a powerful quote by Sandrine Dixson-Declève, co-President of the Club of Rome: “Adaptation should no longer be seen as the poor cousin of climate action”

In the panel moderated by Tara Shine from Change By Degrees, we were reminded that we’re not adapting to a different situation. Rather, we’re adapting to a changing situation over time. That requires flexibility and courage as we go along. Panellist Hans Bruyninckx stressed that, to base strong adaptation on nature, we first need strong nature.

The panel on ‘Implementing local adaptation action’ reminded us that there’s no best approach when leveraging stakeholder inputs, but we need to connect multiple approaches and learn from natural systems. Panellists emphasised the need to look at adaptation at all scales, “from the paving in the garden from the paving in the cities”, but also across sectors.

The last panel of the morning: ‘Creating connections and collaborations for climate adaptation action’, took us through examples where successful inclusion of communities in adaptation action made a difference. These examples showed the importance of having bottom-up initiatives meeting the wider objectives defined at a policy maker level. “Without that enthusiasm and inclusion from the community, we’re not going to meet our Paris Agreement targets,” concluded Sally Stevens.



Opening the afternoon session, Prof. Dr. Johan Rockström explained how, “at 1.2-degree Celsius warming, the point we’ve reached right now, we are already starting to see invoices being sent back from the earth into communities, cities, nations and regions in terms of extreme events.” Droughts, heat waves, disease patterns, increased frequency and magnitude of different storms are just early warnings of what can continue amidst global warmings.

Prof. Dr. Rockström concluded that “We’re seeing the emergence of a new narrative. It is not only necessary to avoid irreversible tipping points, but it also gives better outcomes for health, security and on the long term for peace.” We are in a very challenging, but also exciting moment. And that new narrative of sustainability as a pathway to success and equity must be central in discussions on adaptation and resilience.

In the panel ‘Inspiring individual and collective action for climate adaptation’, Virginia Murray said that “Climate change doesn’t have a vaccine, but we do know that governments, scientists, businesses and citizens can work together to overcome unprecedented challenges”. And now is the time to apply this collaborative approach to manage climate risks and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The concluding panel tackled the difficult question of “What do we want the EU to focus its attention on?”. Panellists evoked the need to create a recovery process that safeguards both people and the planet, and to make sure that the Just Transition really is just and inclusive.

To close the ECCA 2021 conference, John Bell, Director Healthy Planet from the DG Research and Innovation, took participants through his main takeaways of the day. He stated that “anxiety is not a policy”, we have to move together as we did for the pandemic. There has to be involvement from all levels, and the enthusiasm and ownership from the most local levels has to have support from regional, national and international policies. He concluded that adaptation and mitigation are part of the same approach. There will not be a climate neutral continent if there isn’t a climate neutral society ready to take on challenges that are already on their way.

E-library

Under the official website of ECCA 2021, was developed a virtual library presenting videos of successful European projects which provide concrete and actionable solutions for climate change adaptation. <https://www.ecca21.eu/marketplace>

E-Library Projects videos [here](#).

ECCA2021 resources

Title: “Recent knowledge and information assessments from the European Roadmap for Climate Services onwards”



Document : [Pathway forward enabling action](#)

Contact: [Roger Street](#)

Title: "Legacy of ERA4CS"

Document: [Legacy of ERA4CS](#)

Contact: [Philippe Bougeault](#)

Title: JPI Climate e-magazine of projects

Document: [JPI Climate e-magazine of projects](#)

Contact: [Petra Manderscheid](#)

Title: SOLSTICE call on societal transformation

Document (video): [SOLTICE video](#)

Contact: [Elisabeth Worliczek](#)

Title: New EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change of 24 February 2021

Document: [New EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change](#)

Links: [EU Adaptation Strategy](#) & [Climate ADAPT](#)

Climate-ADAPT: European Climate Adaptation Platform

<https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/>

European Climate and Health Observatory

<https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/observatory>

H2020 BiodivERsA

Network of national and regional funding organisations promoting pan-European research on biodiversity and ecosystem services and offering innovative opportunities for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.

<http://www.biodiversa.org/>

Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE)

<https://biodiversity.europa.eu/>

CORDIS Results Pack on Nature-based solutions: A thematic collection of innovative EU-funded research results

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/5bd86975-084f-11eb-a511-01aa75ed71a1>

Oppla platform: EU Repository of Nature-Based Solutions

<https://oppla.eu/>



JRC Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC)

<https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

Joint Research Centre - EU Science Hub - Bringing together scientific knowledge for Europe

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en>

Report on “Nature-based solutions for microclimate regulation and air quality”

[Microclimate regulation and air quality](#)

Air quality and temperature significantly affect human health, especially in urban areas. This report highlights different kinds of Nature-based Solutions that help improve air quality and regulate microclimate and that present a combination of other environmental and social benefits, including mental health.

[Improving water quality and waterbody conditions](#)

This report presents evidence on Nature-based Solutions improving water quality and waterbody conditions, and highlights how NBS can support water policy implementation.

[Flood mitigation and coastal resilience](#)

This report presents evidence on the contribution of Nature-based Solutions to flood mitigation and coastal resilience and highlights how NBS can support flood-related policy implementation.

Contact person: [Tiago Freitas](#) / tiago.freitas@ec.europa.eu

Title: Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change including Societal Transformation

Document: [Accelerating the transition to a climate prepared and resilient Europe](#)

Link: [Accelerating the transition to a climate prepared and resilient Europe](#)

Contact: RTD-HORIZON-EUROPE-MISSION-ADAPTATION@ec.europa.eu

ECCA feedback

At the end of ECCA 2021, delegates were sent a link via B2match platform to fill a survey and give their feedback concerning the conference.

The message sent:

On behalf of the European Commission and the co-organisers JPI Climate and the Horizon 2020 projects SINCERE, RECEIPT and CASCADES, we would like once again to **thank you for your participation in the 5th European Climate Change Adaptation conference, ECCA 2021**. The event was a great success, and this could not have happened without you!

ECCA 2021 gathered **more than 3000 participants** in total from academia, policy and decision making, NGOs and other stakeholder organisations, and more than **200 European and international speakers with a variety of backgrounds and expertise**.

We are delighted to let you know that the recordings of the high-level event, the thematic webinars, as well as the videos of the climate change adaptation projects of the e-library are **available on the ECCA website**. You can also have a look at the [wrap-up video of ECCA 2021](#) to re-live the key moments of ECCA 2021.



We would like to hear your thoughts and get your feedbacks on the event! Your responses will help us to prepare and improve the future edition of the European Climate Change Adaptation conference in 2023. You can have your say by responding to this [short survey](#). If you wish to keep in touch with and continue being part of the European Climate Change Adaptation community, please [Subscribe](#) to the ECCA newsletter, powered by JPI Climate, and stay in the loop for ECCA 2023.

We hope to see you again soon, in person or online!

Yours Sincerely,

The ECCA 2021 Event's Organisation Team

Questions of the ECCA2021 survey

5th European Climate Change Adaptation Conference ECCA 2021 - Your opinion matters!

Disclaimer

The European Commission is not responsible for the content of questionnaires created using the EUSurvey service - it remains the sole responsibility of the form creator and manager. The use of EUSurvey service does not imply a recommendation or endorsement, by the European Commission, of the views expressed within them.

How did you learn about the European Climate Change Adaptation Conference ECCA 2021?

Did you take part in a previous edition of the European Climate Change Adaptation Conference?

What did you find most interesting and useful / enjoy the most about the ECCA conference this year?

What did you get out of the experience?

How would you evaluate the ECCA 2021 as a whole?

ECCA 2021 was a fully virtual event. What do you think about its implementation in a virtual setting?

How would you evaluate the opportunities to participate and to interact during sessions (i.e. webinars, high-level conference, 1:1 meetings and networking)?

Did you visit the [E-library of projects](#) that showcases concrete climate change adaptation solutions?

How would you rate the [E-library of projects](#) on the event's website?

What did you get out of the networking features of the [event's platform](#)?



Did you register for at least one of the webinars?

How would you rate the webinar(s) you attended?

Did you attend the webinar(s) you registered for?

Did you attend the high-level conference on 22 June?

How would you rate your experience of the high-level conference?

Which of the following categories best describes your work affiliation?

Please indicate your range of age

Please specify the capacity in which you attended the ECCA conference

How would you rate the usability of the [event platform](#) and functionalities?

If you could change one thing about the platform for next edition of the ECCA conference what would it be, and why?

If you could change one thing about the platform for next edition of the ECCA conference what would it be, and why?

Overall, 21 delegates responded to at least one of the questions in the questionnaires with a response rate concerning the ECCA 2021 Evaluation of 1,06%. The delegates who responded were mostly from the research sector.

The recommendations from the respondents:

Display agenda and speaker for each session clearly in advance, topic and description is not enough for sufficient planning.

Use a different platform.

Not to set a limited number of the participants per webinar

Time. I would suggest 16:00 CET. This would make it possible for students to attend. Attend physically to get more opportunities to interact.

ECCA 2021 was nearly complete filled by projects financed by the EU, no possibility to suggest own session. Sessions had been very strict; it was hard to really discuss and get inspired with new ideas. There was no (transparent) way to feed in further research and knowledge (e.g. sessions by regional networks or other international institutions). This time ECCA was a closed shop. A clear decline compared with Lisbon 2019.

Please keep up the inviting approach from Lisbon and combine it with participatory approach for session at the Adaptation Future 2018 in Cape Town. Future ECCA



management need to apply knowledge from transformational research, because we want to initiate transformation in the world.

Enough notification to enable more participants to be notified and participating

Skip the breaks instead of pushing the speakers

Conduct in a physically attendable platform

The delegates were invited to subscribe to the ECCA newsletter to receive relevant updates and information on ECCA 2023.

ECCA2021 results are collated in the JPI Climate ECCA webpage <http://www.jpi-climate.eu/ecca2021/results>

Wrap-up video [here](#).

ECCA2021 key messages at COP26

The Organising Committee together with the webinar champions prepared a proposal for a side event in the EU Pavilion programme at COP26 to convey the key messages from the ECCA2021 Conference. The proposal was approved but merged with additional topics. The organisations involved: AFD, UNDP & NAP-GN support the design and implementation of adaptation policies/projects with a focus on capacity-building. CASCADES is an EU-funded H2020 programme, looking at transboundary climate impacts. The EC, JPI Climate, SINCERE, RECEIPT and CASCADES co-organised the ECCA2021 Conference. The title of the merged proposal is "Adaptation beyond the EU: perspectives for stronger cooperation with Africa".

The side event "Adaptation beyond the EU: perspectives for stronger cooperation with Africa", in which the key messages from ECCA 2021 were presented, took place on 9 November, 2021 in the EU Pavilion at the COP26, in Glasgow.

The event, co-organised by JPI Climate, the CASCADES project, the French Development Agency (AFD), the African Union Development Agency (NEPAD), the Walker Institute, and the University of Reading, had more than 70 participants and a group of 6 engaging speakers, including Frank McGovern and Hanne Knaepen.

Frank presented JPI Climate, ECCA 2021 and links to the global conferences on adaptation (e.g. Adaptation Futures) and Hanne presented the key messages from ECCA 2021 and their relevance to the implementation of the EU Adaptation Strategy, in particular its international dimension.

The interventions by the speakers captured the attention and interest of the audience, as demonstrated by the lively discussion (including questions to the speakers) that was going on in the chat. This was all brilliantly moderated by Sally Stevens.



The side event was recorded and can be replayed in the event platform.
<https://youtu.be/LNRFA3IQ1Ao>



ECCA2021 key messages inspiring dialogue at the COP26

1. The way we do business today will not deliver effective adaptation. Finding new ways to integrate the true costs of our economic actions on society and on nature is critical to avoid further harm. Europe has the opportunity to redesign the financial system to deliver value for its citizens and to finance and support adaptation action in partner countries experiencing the impacts of climate change.

2. We are at a pivotal point in the human story. We face unprecedented risks and opportunities. We know that change is both necessary and desirable.

Planning sensitively and collectively – we can use science to inform solutions that create benefits for all.

3. ECCA is a dialogue amongst people that generate knowledge, people who use knowledge and those who shape our decision making processes. Together we shape people-centred solutions that build resilience to climate change.

4. The COVID pandemic has shown us the value of working collaboratively to manage global crises such as the climate and biodiversity emergencies. Governments, scientists, businesses and citizens working together can overcome unprecedented challenges. Now is the time to apply this collaborative approach to managing climate risks, including health related issues, and by adapting to deliver a climate-resilient, just and sustainable society



5. The ECCA community invites you to reimagine climate change adaptation – what is your vision of the society you want to live in? What are you doing as an individual, a business or a leader to do to achieve that vision? What are you prepared to do?

The ECCA community invites you to collaborate with us to integrate wider social, economic and environmental goals into our efforts to manage climate risk.

6. The ECCA community will work together to generate, co-create and share climate knowledge and information to support those delivering climate action on the ground. We are committed to science for society and bring together local and indigenous knowledge with science to inform practical solutions.

Nature-based solutions are a good example of how different actors and types of knowledge can come together to shape climate solutions.

7. Climate and adaptation knowledge must be available and applicable to local contexts. Local hubs that connect people, problems and solutions can accelerate climate action. These hubs bring together scientists, policymakers, NGO's, citizens and investors are a place to innovate, learn, share, build trust and collaborate, to scale and deliver impact.

8. Climate action is all about people. When people participate in planning and implementing climate action, they feel ownership and have more capacity to deliver changes that improve well-being, contribute to social justice and safeguard the climate system. Empowering people and building networks allows climate action to be replicated at scale.

9. A just transition is only possible if diverse voices are brought to the decision making table, with equal weight given to all perspectives and respect shown to minority groups. Traditional processes may not enable this level of inclusivity so new innovative models of dialogue will need to evolve.

10. The future we face is uncertain. Making this uncertainty manageable is an important role for science and policy. Moving past adaptation projects and taking a long term approach can help to manage uncertainty and balance trade-offs across different development objectives.