

## European Commission-funded Projects and Climate Adaptation Platform Webinar 07 February 2024

### Report

#### Framing the discussions

A number of European Commission (EC)-funded projects and the EU Mission Adaptation Community of Practice include as part of their respective work programmes, engaging with European national and regional/transnational climate adaptation (knowledge) platforms (CAPs). These projects include:

- Maximizing the synergy of European research Governance and Innovation for Climate Action ([MAGICA](#)),
- Maximising impact and accessibility of European climate Research ([MAIA](#)),
- A Gathering place to co-design and co-create Adaptation ([AGORA](#)), and
- Supporting and Developing Widening Strategies to tackle Hydroclimatic Extreme Events: Impacts and Sustainable solutions for cultural heritage ([SD-WISHEES](#)).

Discussions among these EC-funded projects and within the Mission Adaptation Community of Practice during the six months leading up to this webinar identified potential advantages from working together, engaging in dialogue with national and regional/transnational CAPs. The prime interest was informing these CAPs about the projects, their respective intentions, and seeking CAPs views as to how best engage them as part of the respective EC-funded projects and the Mission's Community of Practice.

#### Purpose / intentions

These discussions led to the decision to hold a webinar that would bring together these CAPs and EC-funded projects, along with the Mission on Adaptation to explore potential synergies, share insights and foster collaboration to advance climate adaptation initiative. As such, the key objectives of this webinar were identified as:

- Sharing these EC-funded projects' details and intentions and experiences with CAPs.
- Presenting the Mission Adaptation and its Community of Practice – to invite CAPs to join.
- Engaging and fostering a dialogue between these EC-funded projects and European CAPs – exploring how EC-funded projects could collaborate with CAPs and strengthen each other.
- Identifying and exploring opportunities for synergies and collaboration between projects and CAPs.

#### Participants

Fifty-two registered participants of which 20 identified themselves as being from European CAPs. In addition to participants associated with the four EC-funded projects or the Mission Adaptation (15) there were also participants that indicated that they were representing other EC-funded projects.

At the time of registration, those registering were asked to identify topics that they would be interested in discussing during the webinar. The identified topics are included below, as they provide initial insights into the interests of the CAPs and other participants, particularly in considering next steps and the potential for engagement.

There was an expressed interest in establishing a process for sharing project details, experiences and outcomes of EC-funded projects with CAPs. Several participants expressed interest in activities related to enhancing synergies, coordination, and collaboration among CAPs, including opportunities for knowledge sharing and networking. Participants also identified challenges that were related to the need for enhancing collaboration and networking: capacity building, exploring and mitigating barriers to coordinating and harmonising across platforms (including linking and interoperability of local, national and regional platforms); and exploring the need for systematic delivery of adaptation services.

In addition, specific topics were identified based on challenges the platforms are facing: monitoring and evaluating the use of platforms to improve their usability (design and functionality); supporting multiple decision makers with one platform, including supporting national and local adaptation; identifying and dealing with misinformation; sharing and contributing cases studies, tools, publications and 'best' practices; and ensuring /facilitating platform survival and maintenance after the end of projects that they were designed to support or under which they were established.

## **The Webinar Agenda**

The webinar agenda was developed with the aims of reflecting the key objectives and to providing opportunities for seeking feedback and insights from the participants through facilitated dialogues. To these ends, the agenda (see Annex 1) was divided between a brief set of presentations by the EC-funded projects and the Adaptation Mission followed by two sessions seeking to hear from the participants (a Question-and-Answer session and guided open discussion session).

## **Presenting the EC-funded Projects and EU Mission on Adaptation (and its online Community of Practice**

- [Link to presentations](#)

Three take-home messages from each of the presentations related to engagement and collaboration towards connecting knowledge and accelerating climate action.

### MAGICA

1. Promote innovative climate knowledge exchange and transfer to enable societal transformation.
2. Facilitate key knowledge and best practices exchange to bolster capacities throughout Europe, bridging the divide between research and policy requirements, while also emphasizing the imperative of translating scientific insights into practical, actionable content.
3. Strengthen the science-policy-society dialogue by leveraging established knowledge exchange platforms and similar initiatives at national, transnational, and European levels, thereby fostering a more robust and inclusive exchange of ideas.

### AGORA

1. Visualize who is doing what in the adaptation space on CAPs using the [AGORA Explorer](#) tool showcasing projects, citizen networks, solutions and organisations working on climate resilience.
2. Visualize the community of [CAPs started in the KE4CAP project](#), which are already hosted on [weADAPT](#) . The Agora Community Hub is a [weADAPT microsite](#) and so this content can be easily integrated.
3. Showcase solutions shared on CAPs through the [Agora Community Hub's Agora Explorer](#), linking back to original source CAPs to increase visibility, traffic, and cross-fertilisation of audiences.

### MAIA

1. Increase the visibility of webinars and events taking place in the climate community to amplify their impact.
2. Support standardisation within CAPs in how knowledge is described, managed, and shared to improve how solutions are translated from one context. This can be done through our work on taxonomies, ontologies and knowledge graphs.

3. Connect knowledge on CAPs to the Connectivity Hub linking back to source CAPs to increase visibility, traffic and cross-fertilisation of audiences.

#### SD-WISHEES

1. Engage CAPs in identifying and exploring pathways and associated instruments and mechanisms that have the potential to enhance the dissemination, reach and uptake of knowledge and R&I outcomes to support adaptation within the cultural heritage sectors.
2. Engage CAPs in co-developing criteria considering the effectiveness, sustainability and potential for upscaling pathways in terms of uptake and widening the push of and pull for R&I outcomes.
3. Providing opportunities to share among the CAP communities those approaches and initiatives undertaken to enhance the uptake of related cultural heritage R&I outcomes.

#### EU Mission Adaptation Community of Practice

1. Engage CAPs with other members of the Community of Practice to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences and practices, strengthening coordination and collaboration among CAPs, European regions and local authorities, mission projects, Friends of the Mission, and EU institutions.
2. Attend and speak on thematic events with breakout rooms with different actors and online discussions on topics of adaptation.
3. Showcase and increase the visibility of CAPs' events, cases and tools through the Online Community of Practice, the Mission Portal, and/or the Mission Newsletter.

#### Questions and Answers

The following draws on those questions submitted within SLIDO and the questions and answers provided within the Webinar chat. For links shared via the Chat during the Webinar, please see Annex II.

- ◇ *Is the connectivity hub already active or are you still working on it? How can we make sure to be included with our CAPs?*

Response: the [Connectivity Hub](#) is still under development, so please do get in touch with [Sukaina Bharwani](#) (SEI Oxford) if you would like to link your CAP to it, the following link will take you directly to the visualisation: [https://connectivity-hub.placard-network.org/?resource=https%3A%2F%2Fplacard.weadapt.org%2Fapi%2Ftaxonomy\\_term%2F3880.jsonld&teaser\\_resource=false](https://connectivity-hub.placard-network.org/?resource=https%3A%2F%2Fplacard.weadapt.org%2Fapi%2Ftaxonomy_term%2F3880.jsonld&teaser_resource=false)

- ◇ *Are taxonomies also connected to climate services platforms?*

Response: In our taxonomy work in MAIA we are trying to narrow down to particular topic areas e.g. climate services which will then feed into the [Connectivity Hub](#).

- ◇ *Is the plan to include all CAPs in the connectivity hub? and if so before or after the taxonomy is ready?*

Response: This depends a little on how information is structured in each CAPs and if there are Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) or other types of feeds available to share the content - please get in touch with [Sukaina Bharwani](#) (SEI Oxford) to discuss further. We have also linked content manually in the past, so this is also possible, but the idea is that that visualization is dynamic with up-to-date content as material on the CAPs is updated and changing.

- ◇ *Will the SD-WISHEES Workshops be open for CAPs? And how do we get the Information for the events?*

Response: The strategy and plan for these workshops is currently being developed and CAPs are welcome to join. There will workshops in several locations in Europe and in Africa, as well as on-line workshops. Information on these workshops will be available on the SD-WISHEES website, but please contact Roger Street if you are interested in participating.

- ◇ *Is the disinformation academy going to explore why there is disinformation – why people develop it and others attracted to it e.g. the psychology behind this?*

Response: This academy is being created as part of the AGORA project. We are still determining the priorities for content and information that will be available on the academy. If interested, please contact [Sukaina Bharwani](#) and [Rosie Witton](#) (SEI Oxford) via e-mail to get involved.

- ◇ *Which CAPs are already working on cultural heritage? We would like to push this topic as well.*

Response: Interest in cultural heritage and climate change is really starting to grow. For example, CAS in the Netherlands has created a sector page on its CAP in the Dutch language (<https://klimaatadaptatienederland.nl/kennisdossiers/cultureel-erfgoed/>) and they are working on climate impact atlases for the provinces. For more info: Koen Veenenbos. Norway also has provided information on cultural heritage and climate change (<https://www.miljodirektoratet.no/klimatilpasning/>). Greece is also interested in providing information on cultural heritage and climate change as this is an interest within their national and subnational adaptation strategies/plan. If your CAP is or is interested in addressing cultural heritage and climate change adaptation, please contact Roger Street.

## Open Discussion

The open discussion was targeted at engaging participants to share their perspectives and insights on four guiding questions:

1. What are the challenges that need to be overcome to achieve synergies and collaborations between the EC-funding projects and CAPs?
2. What are potential enablers to achieving such synergies and collaborations?
3. What do you see as critical next steps (next 2-3 years) towards realising such synergies and collaborations? – exchanges / processes for sharing across platforms and projects, roles of CAPs within EC-funded projects, etc.
4. Aligning this initiative with EC-funded projects and activities.

There was a wide-ranging discussion, and the following are highlights as they relate to the four guiding questions.

1. *What are the challenges that need to be overcome to achieve synergies and collaborations between the EC-funding projects and CAPs?*
  - Lack of understanding of who the other stakeholders are, their interests, and what they are doing in the adaptation space.
  - Collaboration, including cross-portal connections, sharing and exchanging content, will require institutional agreements – who are the owners and the owners of the rights.
  - Collaboration within a competitive funding environment – multiple sources, but also limited funding and limited attention of our target groups.
  - Changing adaptation space. The provision of catalogues of existing solutions are illustrative but not enough. The challenge is to enlarge that vision to looking for ways where stakeholders can use available data and information to tailor their own solutions that is

consistent with their vision of adaptation – solutions that are owned by them and maximise the benefits of what is available.

2. *What are the potential enablers to achieving such synergies and collaborations?*

- There is a need for a community/space that enables these projects and CAPs to engage (and trust) each other. This community/space could provide an overview to the broader adaptation community about what is happening, where, and by whom.
- Using existing initiatives, events, and workshops as potential locations and mechanisms for engagement between projects and CAPs. Gathering together in one space and looking at broadening the community engaged could be done at:
  - European Climate Change Adaptation (ECCA) conference in Italy in 2025.
  - EEA's EIONET.
  - EU Mission Adaptation Community of Practice – participate in online forums that involves a wide range of projects and local communities.
- Enhance the visibility of discussions and forums, including to the general public (note: many of the events on the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change Portal are open to the public - see link in Annex II),
- Within the Mission Platform on the map identifying European regions and mission signatories, [Regions and local authorities \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu) it would be useful to include the respective major risks and what is being done to address those risks – a visual element.
- A national mission implementation supporting the Mission Adaptation – example within Austria. Includes clusters of local authorities working together and information on what different platforms are providing to inform users where they can access what they require.

On the two remaining guiding questions, please share your thoughts, particularly regarding critical next steps over the next two-three years and on specific roles of the CAPs within these or other EC-funded projects.

### **Concluding remarks**

A considerable amount of information has been shared and hopefully this short report will provide you with an opportunity to further digest it and inspire you to provide further thoughts to better shape this initiative.

There is a well expressed need to continue these types of dialogues within the right types of forums and engaging a broader community. We can see the potential of such, including more focused dialogues on particular projects, outcomes, or issues. We will keep you informed. But also use this community to get engaged (potentially the focus of a subsequent webinar and see suggestions above and contacts and links below). Express your interests in how you and your constituencies could benefit from such engagement and having access to more consistent and up to date information on these projects and CAPs.

## Annex I: Agenda shared for the webinar

Agenda item	Description	Speaker - <u>TBC</u>	Duration (min)
<b>Welcome &amp; opening remarks</b>	Welcoming CAPs, housekeeping information and agenda  Key objectives	Roger Street and Kim van Nieuwaal	5
<b>Presentation on the Mission on Adaptation</b>	Brief presentation on the EU Mission on Adaptation and its Online Community of Practice	Erlend	5
<b>Presentations on the EC-funded projects</b>	Presenting the EC-funded projects: 7-10 minutes per project  General topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to project</li> <li>• Objectives</li> <li>• Interest/interaction with CAPs</li> <li>• Future plans for this year</li> </ul>	MAGICA	3
		MAIA	
		AGORA	
		SD-WISHEES	
<b>Q&amp;A</b>	Slido open throughout the entire event and use of chat function – participants can send their questions.	Co-moderators: Roger and Kim	10
<b>Open discussion</b>	<b>Topics and Guiding questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•What are the challenges that need to be overcome to achieve synergies and collaborations between the EC-funding projects and CAPs?</li> <li>•What are potential enablers to achieving such synergies and collaborations?</li> <li>•What do you see as critical next steps (next 2-3 years) towards realising such synergies and collaborations? – exchanges / processes for sharing across platforms and projects, roles of CAPs within EC-funded projects, etc.</li> </ul>	Co-moderators: Roger and Kim	30
<b>Closing remarks</b>	Next steps? Envisions as how to continue the engagement with CAPs  Potential feedback survey	Roger and Kim	5

## Annex II

This Annex includes useful links and relevant information from the webinar and shared via the Chat during the webinar.

Project/CAPs	Description	Link
<b>Presented project Links</b>		
A Gathering place to co-design and co-create Adaptation (AGORA) Project	The AGORA project promotes societal transformation to empower local communities to address the climate crisis. AGORA aims to achieve this through a multidisciplinary, integrated approach and four pilot studies all around Europe, and through an online platform.	<a href="https://adaptationagora.eu/">https://adaptationagora.eu/</a>
Maximizing the synergy of European research Governance and Innovation for Climate Action (MAGICA)	MAGICA aims to accelerate knowledge exchange between research, innovation, and policy-making for climate action. It will achieve this via improved coordination among climate initiatives at various levels and optimizing resource utilization.	<a href="https://www.magica-project.eu/">https://www.magica-project.eu/</a>
Maximising impact and accessibility of European climate Research (MAIA) Project	MAIA maximises the impact and synergy of climate change research and innovation, by working to make currently dispersed knowledge more interoperable, accessible, usable and economically viable.	<a href="https://maia-project.eu/">https://maia-project.eu/</a>
Supporting and Developing Widening Strategies to tackle Hydroclimatic Extreme Events: Impacts and Sustainable solutions for cultural heritage (SD-WISHEES) Project	SD-WISHEES project aims to enable strategic coordination and cross-sector collaboration between national (R&I) funding members, researchers, innovators and a wide variety of stakeholders to address together the protection of cultural heritage in Europe and beyond in response to more and more frequent and severe hydroclimatic extreme events such as droughts and floods.	<a href="https://sd-wishees.irsa.cnr.it/">https://sd-wishees.irsa.cnr.it/</a>
<b>Useful links shared/discussed</b>		
EU Mission Adaptation Community of Practice	Shared in the webinar chat - Sign up for the online Mission Adaptation Community of Practice	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/MissionAdaptationCommunity">https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/MissionAdaptationCommunity</a>
EU Mission Adaptation Community of Practice	Shared in the webinar chat - You can share your cases and tools to be shared on the Mission Portal here:	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/MissionStoriesAbstract">https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/MissionStoriesAbstract</a>
EU Mission Adaptation Community of Practice	Shared in the webinar chat - Helpdesk form that you can use to contact MIP4Adapt if you want to be a speaker on one of our events:	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/MIP4AdaptHelpDesk23">https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/MIP4AdaptHelpDesk23</a>

EU Mission Adaptation Community of Practice	Shared in the webinar chat - In the Mission Portal you can find events open for the public to attend and not restricted to the members of the online Community of Practice:	<a href="https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/events">https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/events</a>
EU Mission Adaptation Community of Practice	Shared in the webinar chat - EU Mission Adaptation Portal	<a href="https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/">https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/</a>
REGILIENCE Project	Shared in the webinar chat - REGILIENCE Project website	<a href="https://regilience.eu/">https://regilience.eu/</a>
Climate Adaptation Netherlands	Shared in the webinar chat - Cultural heritage is indeed becoming a big thing in The Netherlands. CAS has created a sector page on its CAP in the Dutch language and we are working on climate impact atlases for the provinces. For more info: Koen Veenenbos.	<a href="https://klimaatadaptatienederland.nl/kennisdossiers/cultureel-erfgoed/">https://klimaatadaptatienederland.nl/kennisdossiers/cultureel-erfgoed/</a>
JPI Climate	Shared in the webinar chat - Equinox Process – JPI Climate. The next Equinox Summit takes place under the Belgian Presidency of the EU council in Brussels, 26 <sup>th</sup> March	<a href="http://jpi-climate.eu">JPI Climate - Connecting climate knowledge for Europe (jpi-climate.eu)</a>
weADAPT	weADAPT is one of the world's leading and longest-running collaborative platforms for climate change adaptation. Find the latest knowledge, share your work and connect with others working on similar issues.	<a href="https://weadapt.org/">https://weadapt.org/</a>
Placard Project	The Placard Projects Connectivity Hub, mentioned and discussed during the open discussion section of the webinar.	<a href="https://connectivity-hub.placard-network.eu/?resource=https%3A%2F%2Fplacard.weadapt.org%2Fapi%2Ftaxonomy_term%2F3880.jsonld&amp;teaser_resource=false">https://connectivity-hub.placard-network.eu/?resource=https%3A%2F%2Fplacard.weadapt.org%2Fapi%2Ftaxonomy_term%2F3880.jsonld&amp;teaser_resource=false</a>
<b>Useful resources shared/discussed</b>		
Heritage/Culture question in the open discussion	Shared in the webinar chat - The National Trust in the UK have been doing quite a lot on heritage - see their recent report	<a href="https://nt.global.ssl.fastly.net/binaries/content/assets/website/national/pdf/a-climate-for-change-adaptation-and-the-national-trust-report-full.pdf">https://nt.global.ssl.fastly.net/binaries/content/assets/website/national/pdf/a-climate-for-change-adaptation-and-the-national-trust-report-full.pdf</a>

## Contacts



<b>Project and Activities</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
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SD-WISHEES	Roger Street	<a href="mailto:Roger.street_oxf@outlook.com">Roger.street_oxf@outlook.com</a>
EU Mission Adaptation Community of Practice	MIP4Adapt Team	<a href="mailto:info@mip4adapt.eu">info@mip4adapt.eu</a>