Climate-ADAPT strategy 2022-2024

Sharing knowledge for a climate-resilient Europe





SHARING KNOWLEDGE FOR A CLIMATE-RESILIENT EUROPE

The European Climate Adaptation Platform Climate-ADAPT is a partnership between the European Commission and the European Environment Agency.



European Environment Agency



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1 Supporting the new ambition in EU adaptation policy

New stakeholder demands and knowledge needs

Ever since its launch in 2012, the European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) has been supporting and driving EU adaptation policy and practice. The publication of the new EU adaptation strategy and the adoption of the European Climate Law in 2021 have taken this framework to a new level, turning progress on adaptation into a legal requirement and pushing for more ambitious and faster action. Building on the 2019-2021 strategy, the Climate-ADAPT strategy for 2022-2024 must reflect this new level of ambition.

New Climate-ADAPT knowledge components for a more ambitious EU adaptation policy

The 2021 EU Adaptation strategy, Forging a climate-resilient Europe — the new EU strategy on adaptation to climate change, aims to realise the vision of a climate-resilient society by 2050 by making adaptation smarter, more systemic and faster, and by stepping up international action. Throughout the policy cycle, this translates into improved knowledge and data, support to policy development and climate risk management at all levels, and accelerated adaptation action across the board. With Climate-ADAPT moving from a key established reference tool and knowledge resource to 'the authoritative European platform for adaptation', the platform should be further expanded with new knowledge components. Responding to these new adaptation policy demands and working with new partnerships, the Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) and the EEA will invest in Climate-ADAPT to significantly upgrade the platform. Each new component relies and builds on the proven core Climate-ADAPT structure and benefits from its functionalities.

Climate-ADAPT has already seen an expansion of its knowledge sources, including an upgrade of the country profiles into a monitoring and reporting mechanism, based on the Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. In accordance with the European Climate Law, adopted in 2021, EU Member States must regularly update their adaptation strategies. The reporting scheme on Climate-ADAPT will be aligned to reflect those updates in accordance with the additional reporting requirements. Climate-ADAPT has also been expanded by the European Climate and Health Observatory, launched in 2021 in a partnership between DG CLIMA, the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), the EEA and other partners. The European Climate and Health Observatory's aim, as specified in the European Climate Law, is to better understand, anticipate and minimise the health threats caused by climate change. The focus of its further development is outlined in the 2021-2022 work plan.

A substantial new dimension of Climate-ADAPT evolves from its new role of supporting the EU mission on adaptation to climate change, led by DG CLIMA and designed to directly support at least 150 European regions and communities to become climate resilient by 2030. Climate-ADAPT will assist the mission by serving as the key 'mission knowledge hub' to provide new services at local and regional levels to foster adaptation in those regions and communities, to increase their preparedness for the inevitable changes and extreme events, and to share experiences and solutions to prevent loss of lives and livelihoods. More information on the EU mission on adaptation to climate change can be found in the mission on adaptation's implementation plan.

Climate-ADAPT users will benefit from modelling information generated under the EU Destination Earth initiative. This EU initiative, led by the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT) and supported by the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) and the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (Eumetsat), aims to develop a high-precision digital model of the Earth to model, monitor and simulate natural phenomena and related human activities. Climate-ADAPT will provide an entry point to the open core digital platform and the digital twin on climate change adaptation (DT2). It will offer specific features to make use of big data, artificial intelligence and Earth observation for improved information delivery. The EEA-Eionet (European Environment Information and Observation Network) strategy 2021-2030 aims to deliver data and knowledge to achieve Europe's environment and climate ambitions. As one of the key elements of this strategy, Climate-ADAPT plays a role in achieving all five of its strategic objectives (see Figure 1).

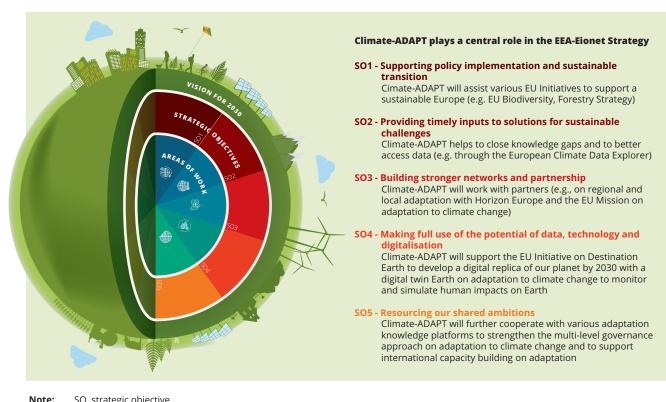
Implementing and further advancing national adaptation policy frameworks

Climate-ADAPT is informing the adaptation policy, planning and practice of EEA member countries. The platform supports the development, reporting and revision of national adaptation strategies (NAS) and/or national adaptation plans (NAP) and addresses the varying knowledge needs of countries in different phases of the adaptation policy cycle, with a growing focus on implementation and on monitoring, reporting and evaluation (MRE) of adaptation. Presenting actionable knowledge on Climate-ADAPT and its connectivity with national adaptation platforms could help to broaden its focus and to shift the focus from raising awareness, developing policies and institutional organisation to rolling out solutions and increasing the climate resilience of EEA member countries.

Regional and local adaptation

A major EU initiative and key element of the EU adaptation strategy is the Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy, led by DG CLIMA. It aids local authorities committed to developing a sustainable energy and climate action plan (SECAP), which includes local adaptation strategies and reporting on their progress. By hosting guidance and knowledge on urban adaptation, such as the Urban Adaptation Support Tool, Climate-ADAPT provides the knowledge base for this initiative. Climate-ADAPT also supports the current initiative, led by the Covenant of Mayors and supported by an informal group of organisations and Directorate-Generals with an interest in subnational adaptation. The initiative intends to tackle the fragmentation of adaptation information for cities and improve knowledge transfer on adaptation methodologies among cities and the access to and quality of data for and about cities in terms of resolution, standardised methodologies and indicators.

Figure 1 Climate-ADAPT in the EEA-Eionet strategy 2021-2030



Note:SO, strategic objective.Source:EEA.

2 Driving and supporting adaptation policy and practice

Upgrading Climate-ADAPT's mission and objectives and setting the 2022-2024 priorities

The new Climate-ADAPT mission and extended objectives

Climate-ADAPT is a key resource for achieving and supporting Europe's objective to become climate resilient by 2050. Climate-ADAPT supports the implementation of the new EU adaptation strategy and other relevant EU initiatives under the European Green Deal. Climate-ADAPT should become the authoritative European reference information system and European provider of adaptation knowledge. It supports peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchanges and provides data and knowledge at the EU level, such as that from Copernicus, and thus supports coherent and mutually supportive adaptation policies and actions at EU and EEA member country levels.

Five objectives guide the implementation of this new Climate-ADAPT mission in the period 2022-2024. Those objectives reinforce the three objectives of its past missions since 2013 and include two new objectives, evolving from the extended tasks of the platform. The set of five objectives will also be used to measure the progress of Climate-ADAPT in a future evaluation.

Climate-ADAPT mission

As a key resource for the EU adaptation policy framework, the European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) supports climate change adaptation across all policy levels and in all relevant policy areas in Europe. It provides access to the necessary adaptation data and information, turns it into reliable knowledge, catalyses the uptake of adaptation solutions, and mobilises people and organisations to make adaptation happen.

Climate-ADAPT objectives

1. Providing trusted data and information.

The European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) provides reliable, accessible, up-to-date and high-quality knowledge on climate change hazards, vulnerability and adaptation.

2. Promoting solutions for action.

Climate-ADAPT provides actionable knowledge to enable better informed adaptation planning, policies and practice.

3. Empowering people for action at multiple levels.

Climate-ADAPT supports more coherent and effective adaptation policies at all governance levels and in all policy sectors in Europe.

4. Driving regional and community resilience.

Climate-ADAPT provides direct knowledge support to at least 150 European regions and communities under the EU mission on adaptation to climate change to become climate resilient by 2030.

5. Supporting international adaptation action and exchanges. Climate-ADAPT helps to increase climate resilience globally and supports cooperation and exchanges with third countries on climate adaptation at all levels.

Priority actions of the Climate-ADAPT strategy

To implement the Climate-ADAPT strategy 2022-2024 and achieve the objectives in a focused and targeted way and in line with available resources, the development and promotion activities will focus on achieving one milestone per year and prioritise key and cross-cutting actions that build on each other (see Table 1). In 2024, an in-depth evaluation of the platform will assess to what extent those priority actions have been implemented. Annex 1 informs Climate-ADAPT users and providers about key priority actions on the platform in the period 2022-2024. It is not a complete list, and the priority actions are not described in detail. All actions will be allocated and refined per year in the annual action plans of the European Topic Centre on Climate Change Adaptation and LULUCF (¹) (ETC CA), the European Topic Centre on Human Health and the Environment (ETC HE) and potentially other European Topic Centres. The focus on key priorities leaves room to adjust the implementation of this strategy in a flexible way. For ease of reading, all actions are assigned to one of the specific Climate-ADAPT objectives, despite possible overlaps.

Table 1 Milestones and priority actions of the 2022-2024 Climate-ADAPT strategy

Year	Priority objectives	Milestone	Priority action
2022	Empowering people for action at multiple levels	Providing Climate-ADAPT in the EU national languages	Implementing the EU eTranslation tool on Climate-ADAPT
2023	Promoting solutions for action Driving regional and community resilience	Supporting participants in the EU mission on adaptation to climate change with new knowledge and subnational-level solutions	Making the EU 'mission knowledge hub' operational
2024	Providing trusted data and information Promoting solutions for action Empowering people for action at multiple levels Supporting international adaptation action and exchanges	Providing substantial support for implementing adaptation measures in EEA member countries through coherent and mutually supportive knowledge provided on adaptation platforms on Climate-ADAPT and at national levels	Fully implementing links to transnational, national and subnational adaptation platforms, as well as connecting and developing interoperability with relevant resources on climate impacts at the EU level
	All objectives	Assessing Climate-ADAPT's achievements until 2024 and identifying lessons learned	Undertaking an in-depth evaluation of Climate-ADAPT

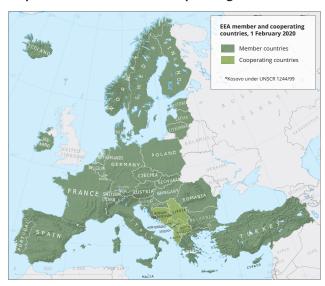
⁽¹⁾ Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF).

3 Working in partnerships with new stakeholders

Matching Climate-ADAPT's target audience and governance to the new mission and objectives

Geographical scope

The **geographical scope** of Climate-ADAPT remains unchanged. The platform covers the 32 EEA member countries: the 27 EU Member States (²), together with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey (see Map 1). It also covers the EEA cooperating countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Kosovo (³).



Map 1 EEA member and cooperating countries

Source: EEA.

Working with new stakeholders in partnerships — extending the governance of Climate-ADAPT

The Climate-ADAPT **stakeholders**, directly involved in the development of the platform, are policymakers working on adaptation to climate change at EU and national levels. They set the policy framework for adaptation through the EU legislative bodies, provide the funding for improving the adaptation knowledge base, report on progress and revise the adaptation policies as needed.

Climate-ADAPT is jointly managed by the European Commission (DG CLIMA) and the EEA. The governance scheme of Climate-ADAPT consists of strategic and operational roles and responsibilities. DG CLIMA chairs the Climate-ADAPT Advisory Group, sets the objectives of the platform, ensures its alignment with the EU Member States, coordinates the input from the Commission Directorates-General and provides information technology (IT) funding for emerging new functionalities. The EEA hosts Climate-ADAPT and undertakes the regular IT management and content development by working with all organisations that share adaptation knowledge in Europe. Based on a criteria-based quality assurance scheme, the EEA ensures that Climate-ADAPT will provide a reliable, timely and consistent adaptation knowledge base that is coordinated with the Eionet Group on climate change impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation in EEA member countries and other relevant stakeholders across the EU. The EEA also defines the priorities of the annual activities on Climate-ADAPT through the annual action plans of the ETC CA, which supports the EEA in the operational management of the platform by maintaining the Climate-ADAPT database and web content, supporting Climate-ADAPT's dissemination and its monitoring, reporting and evaluation, and supporting IT-related work.

⁽²⁾ The Withdrawal Agreement concluded between the EU and the United Kingdom establishes the terms of the United Kingdom's orderly withdrawal from the EU, in accordance with Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. The Withdrawal Agreement entered into force on 1 February 2020, having been agreed on 17 October 2019.

⁽³⁾ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence (http://www.eionet.europa.eu/countries).

With the development of the European Climate and Health Observatory and the prospective role of Climate-ADAPT in the mission on adaptation to climate change, the current Climate-ADAPT governance of DG CLIMA and the EEA is now extended by involving **new stakeholders** and **new ways** of collaboration, **working in partnerships** for the co-creation of new knowledge components of Climate-ADAPT.

The European Climate and Health Observatory is managed by a partnership of DG CLIMA, DG SANTE and the EEA based on a service-level agreement; it mobilises the active contribution of further partners, i.e. European Food Safety Agency (EFSA), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Copernicus Climate Change Services (C3S), World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe and the Lancet Countdown. The Observatory furthermore has its own 2-year workplan, setting priorities for 2021-2022 in alignment with this strategy. Through Eionet, the Eionet expert groups on environment and health share knowledge and tools through the Observatory. In addition to the ETC CA, the ETC HE assists the EEA in content creation for the Observatory.

The prospective role of Climate-ADAPT in the EU mission on adaptation to climate change requires another extension of the Climate-ADAPT governance structure, with a close collaboration between DG CLIMA and the EEA. The expected, but not yet clearly defined, role of Climate-ADAPT in supporting the evolving Destination Earth initiative of DG CNECT will require another extension of Climate-ADAPT's governance scheme, probably following a comparable approach.

Addressing segments of the primary target audience more directly

Governmental decision-makers, and the organisations supporting them in the development, implementation and evaluation of climate change adaptation strategies, plans and actions at the EU, transnational, national and subnational levels, are the primary target audience of Climate-ADAPT (see Figure 2). The policy developments and the new and prospective roles of Climate-ADAPT in the EU adaptation policy context require some groups of the platforms' **primary target audience** to be addressed more directly through tailored knowledge and features, including **regional and local policymakers** participating in the EU mission on adaptation to climate change, policymakers in the **health sector** and the organisations supporting them.

Because the primary target audience of Climate-ADAPT also contributes to Climate-ADAPT through actively sharing its knowledge, it also represents the Climate-ADAPT knowledge providers.

Figure 2 Overview of the primary Climate-ADAPT target audience and its needs

TYPE OF ORGANISATION	TARGET AUDIENCE	KNOWLEDGE NEEDS			
 European Commission, European Parliament Transnational Organisations National governments National Focal Points (Eionet) Regional governments and municipalities Partners of the European Climate and Health Observatory 	Governmental decision-makers, working on adaptation at all governance levels and in specific policy sectors	Condensed information (summaries, synthesis products)			
 EU Working Group on Adaptation under the Climate Change Committee (WG 6) Transnational regions' focal points on adaptation Eionet expert groups on Climate change, impacts, vulnerability and adaptation and on environment and health and potentially other Eionet expert groups Consultants, intermediaries (government institutes, researchers) 	Organisations supporting governmental decision-makers at all governance levels in all policty sectors	 Efficient search engine to quickly find relevant information Structured information for comparisons Exchange methodologies and findings from EU funded projects Exchange experiences (peer-to-peer training) 			
Regional and local governments and their advising organisations (consultants, intermediaries such as government institutes, researchers)	Regional and local decision-makers, participating in the EU Mission on adaptation	Practical information to implement adaptation on the ground, to exchange experiences and to report on progress			
Source: EEA.					

Source: EEA.

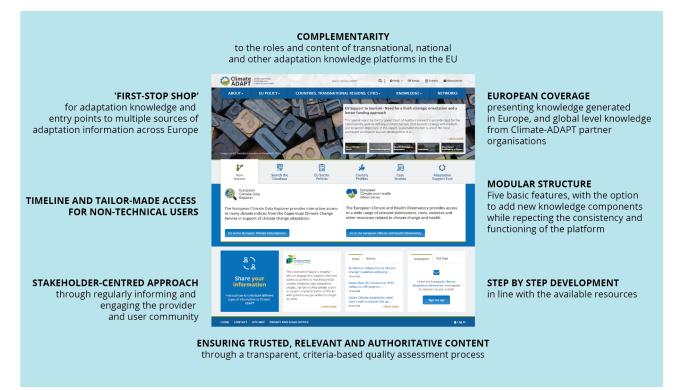
In addition to this core audience, the platform has a wider spectrum of users, consisting of decision-makers from all societal groups, such as businesses and business associations, non-governmental organisations, religious communities, trade unions, social partnership organisations, researchers and practitioners. They often act as 'multipliers' of information for interested citizens, who in turn become more engaged in planning and implementing adaptation. Responding to the new priority of the EU adaptation strategy to support stepping up adaptation internationally, governmental decision-makers outside Europe and their supporting organisations are now also considered part of this wider spectrum of users. The needs of this audience will be addressed by making Climate-ADAPT knowledge accessible in the best possible way to support building the capacities needed for increased adaptation action at international levels.

Key principles of developing Climate-ADAPT

To progress towards achieving the objectives of Climate-ADAPT, some key principles — already applied in the previous Climate-ADAPT work plans and now further developed provide strategic guidance to further develop the platform (see Figure 3).

Detailed information on the governance structure, roles and responsibilities, dissemination strategy and approach to monitoring, reporting and evaluation of Climate-ADAPT will be provided on Climate-ADAPT.

Figure 3 Climate-ADAPT development principles



Source: EEA.

4 Jointly disseminating and promoting Climate-ADAPT

The **objectives** of the dissemination and promotion of Climate-ADAPT are in line with the Climate-ADAPT objectives. The dissemination and promotion activities intend to further improve the use of the platform among all current and potential users, promote the exchange of information to gain new providers, assist the uptake of knowledge and the coordination among sectors and governance levels, and mobilise individual and collective actions for climate change adaptation.

The **target audience** of the dissemination and promotion activities is the primary target audience of Climate-ADAPT; it comprises governmental adaptation decision-makers at all governance levels in Europe and the organisations supporting them. The Climate-ADAPT dissemination and promotion **approach** comprises a broad range of activities in the fields of information, communication, participation, networking and capacity-building. The considerable enlargement of Climate-ADAPT with new content and functionalities, the involvement of new partners and the intensified involvement of the target audiences also requires an extension of the communication activities of Climate-ADAPT. Some key actions are outlined in Annex 1.

An upcoming Climate-ADAPT dissemination and promotion strategy will further refine the roles and activities of the Climate-ADAPT partners.

Annex 1 Key Climate-ADAPT actions 2022-2024

This is an overview of key Climate-ADAPT actions to achieve the platform's yearly milestones in the planning period. For ease of reading, all actions are assigned to one of the specific Climate-ADAPT objectives, despite possible overlaps.

Key actions for objective 1: providing trusted data and information

Climate-ADAPT will help to close adaptation knowledge gaps and to translate the information available into customised, user-friendly tools for decision-making. Climate-ADAPT will provide accessible data and information for all steps of the adaptation policy cycle, with a specific focus on the following priorities:

- further improving access to climate change hazards, impacts, exposure and vulnerability data, e.g. through the European Climate Data Explorer or the Urban Vulnerability Map Viewer;
- exploring options to provide access to impact, vulnerability and resilience data on oceans through the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet);
- providing interfaces to climate risk and loss data from the Join Research Centre (JRC) Risk Data Hub and the Commission Knowledge Centre on Earth Observation;
- contributing to and setting up an interface to Destination Earth and its digital twin on adaptation;
- advancing information available for adaptation in key vulnerable EU policy sectors (forestry, urban adaptation);
- providing more comprehensive and better structured information on adaptation, covering new actions in EU policy sectors (e.g. on business and industry; information and communications technology, ICT) and cross-cutting actions (e.g. in land use planning);
- presenting information on national adaptation action reported by EU Member States, towards making the EU climate resilient by 2050.

Key actions for objective 2: promoting solutions for action

Climate-ADAPT uses its web pages and database to present the new data and information in relevant policy and knowledge contexts. This contextualisation turns the information into solutions to make the knowledge actionable to enable better informed adaptation planning, policies and practice through the following key actions:

- presenting an overview of information and providing an entry point into knowledge on nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation, generated through EU funding;
- offering knowledge on key cross-cutting adaptation approaches at the EU level (e.g. just resilience, costs of adaptation and of inaction, sustainable finance);
- collect, disseminate and promote knowledge on how to adapt forests to climate change and strengthen their resilience (e.g. good practices, case studies, guidance, knowledge exchanges);
- supporting a systemic transition to a sustainable society by extending the links to knowledge platforms for other policy domains (e.g. climate mitigation, biodiversity, forestry) and by increasing the synergies through building a shared understanding of concepts and terms between different communities of research and practice on European adaptation.

Key actions for objective 3: empowering people for action at multiple levels

Climate-ADAPT will support more coherent and effective adaptation policies at all governance levels and in all policy sectors in Europe with a specific focus on supporting the regional and local levels through the following key actions:

 overcoming the language barrier by setting up the CEF Digital's eTranslation tool to make Climate-ADAPT available in the EU national languages and in Norwegian and Icelandic;

- providing improved guidance for national adaptation strategies through aligning the Adaptation Support Tool with new EU guidance;
- building better connections and increasing the complementarity with adaptation platforms and operational services in EEA member countries to improve preparedness for extreme events and a climate-resilient future;
- assisting improved uptake of knowledge by making the Climate-ADAPT design and navigation more customised and user-friendly and by embedding the platform into the modernised EEA website.

Key actions for objective 4: driving regional and community resilience

Climate-ADAPT will contribute to increasing regional and community resilience through its role as the central knowledge hub for the mission on adaptation to climate change. This mission knowledge hub will be a dedicated space that builds on existing tools and features of Climate-ADAPT and which will be complemented with databases, functions and user interfaces that are necessary for the mission. Specifically, the mission knowledge hub on Climate-ADAPT will provide access to the following:

- knowledge on climate risks for the regions through a dedicated interface, providing tailored access to data and information from ongoing projects, such as by embedding JRC's Risk Data Hub and linking to the European Climate and Health Observatory, the European Climate Data Explorer, the Urban Adaptation Support Tool, the Urban Adaptation Map Viewer, the Copernicus Climate Change Service and other Copernicus services;
- guidelines and tools for developing and implementing adaptation solutions, by providing access to a database of potential adaptation options and case studies that illustrate the implementation of adaptation actions;
- a monitoring, reporting and evaluation component of the achievement of the mission's objectives implemented through a tailor-made reporting tool for the mission's beneficiaries.

Key actions for objective 5: supporting international adaptation action and exchanges

Strengthening international engagement and exchanges on adaptation is one of the intentions of the EU adaptation strategy, and this builds on the EU's extensive experience in implementing adaptation policies. Climate-ADAPT aims to contribute to the support offered by the EU to partner countries in assessing climate risks and preparing adequate adaptation responses. This is envisaged in the following ways:

- expanding the geographical focus of Climate-ADAPT by presenting policy information for the Western Balkan countries and the Energy Community/EU neighbourhood countries once available;
- supporting the reporting to and communication of the outcomes of the global stocktake on adaptation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- reinforcing and promoting the role of Climate-ADAPT in the multilevel governance of adaptation;
- continuing to support capacity building on adaptation platforms, building on previous EU initiatives, including the Knowledge Exchange Between Climate Adaptation Platforms (KE4CAP).

Key actions for Climate-ADAPT dissemination and promotion

Key actions that will be further detailed in a Climate-ADAPT dissemination strategy and refined in the annual action plans of the ETC CA include the following:

- raising awareness of the new knowledge components through the Climate-ADAPT dissemination materials and outreach channels (all partners);
- further improving collaboration with key providers of adaptation knowledge in Europe through EU-funded projects, such as Horizon Europe and the European Climate Change Adaptation Conferences, LIFE and Interreg, to boost the uptake of this knowledge (EEA);

- further updating of regular online Climate-ADAPT reporting to increase awareness of the platform's outreach to incentivise the engagement of additional information providers (EEA);
- regularly presenting and explaining Climate-ADAPT components to support the uptake and use of the knowledge (EEA, Climate-ADAPT partners);
- continuing to improve outreach to include user groups that have not yet been sufficiently reached, i.e. sectoral experts and users from eastern and central European countries (DG CLIMA, EEA);
- more directly addressing core user and provider groups at all governance levels to make Climate-ADAPT knowledge more actionable, e.g. through presenting the platform at national-level online events (EEA);
- collecting feedback from the Climate-ADAPT users and providers on the planned priorities for the platform's development, e.g. through webinars (EEA).

Key actions for all objectives: evaluating the achievements of Climate-ADAPT

As part of the Climate-ADAPT monitoring, reporting and evaluation procedures, a regular online reporting informs the Climate-ADAPT stakeholders about key elements of the performance of the platform. Building on the 2017 Climate-ADAPT evaluation, which informed the 2018 evaluation of the 2013 EU adaptation strategy, an in-depth evaluation of Climate-ADAPT will be carried out in 2024 to assess whether the platform fulfilled its role as the key resource to the EU adaptation policy framework.