Interreg Co-funded by the European Union

Alpine Space

ADAPTNOW

Newsletter #2

October 2023

Climate resilient and green Alpine region

IN THIS EDITION …….

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the second edition of the ADAPTNOW Newsletter. In these pages we would like to introduce you to our project pilot areas, implemented activities and some of our news. This newsletter contributes to the commitment towards a more sustainable, carbon neutral, climate resilient and green Alpine region and we hope that you find it just as interesting as we do. The consortium of 12 project partners will focus their efforts in implementing and evaluating the adaptive capacity of pilots within predominant hazards in the Alps: Heatwaves, Heavy rains/floods and Gravitation/landslides.

The climate is changing faster than we might think - it's happening right now. Just two years ago, the whole world was hit by a virus, and now a lot of countries faces with floods, fires and drought. We need to make decisions faster to keep up with all these changes.

Follow us over the next years as we share experience, solutions, and good practice.

www.alpine-space.eu/project/adaptnow/

ADAPTNOW AT A GLANCE

The main objective is to increase the risk management and adaptation capacities of Highly Affected and Exposed Alpine Territories (HAET) through different approaches coordinated by regional and local public authorities with the support of sectoral agencies and research institutes.

DURATION:
11/01/2022 – 30/10/2025

ERDF: €1.525.987,54

Read about ADAPTNOW at:

www.alpine-space.eu/project/adaptnow/

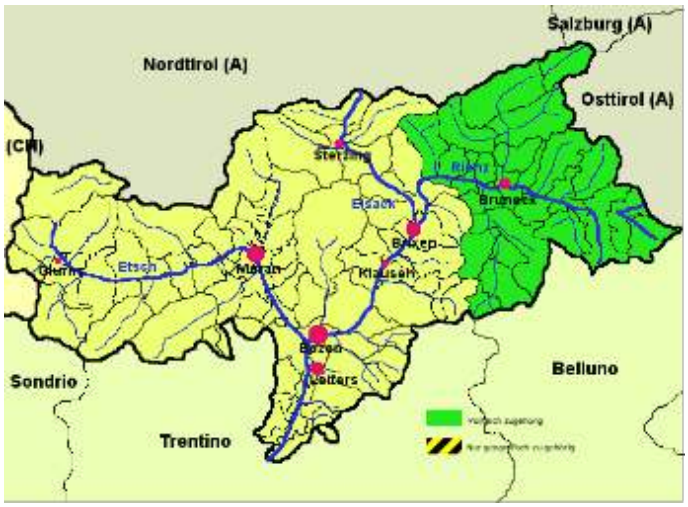
ADAPTNOW is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme

Discover our pilot areas

ADAPTNOW brings together regional sectoral agencies and research centers from 5 AS countries (France, Italia, Austria, Germany and Slovenia) to support Pilot Actions and help set up and run Climate Services in support of 7+ Highly Affected and Exposed Alpine Territories (HAET) in the Alps. Their efforts will be focused in implementing and evaluating the adaptive capacity of pilots within predominant hazards in the Alps: Heatwaves, Heavy rains/floods and Gravitational/landslides. Key sectors have been identified to assess related impacts: Urban infrastructure, Forestry, Tourism and Health. Some of the pilots' areas are described below.

Italy pilot site in Comunità Comprensoriale Val Pusteria

The Italian ADAPTNOW pilot is based in Comunità Comprensoriale Val Pusteria / Bezirksgemeinschaft Pustertal, in north-east South Tyrol, Italy. The valley is composed of 26 municipalities across 2701 km^2. Its 83.747 inhabitants live at an altitude between 750 and 1180 m a.s.l. The area is characterized by its rich natural and cultural UNESCO heritage, important tourist hotspots, trilingual settings and an aging population, though it maintains a positive migratory balance and birth rate.



The pilot area is subject to natural hazards such as gravitational and extreme precipitations, which are all expected to increase following an average temperature rise of +2°C. The pilot sectors relevant to ADAPTNOW, in particular, are Forestry and Tourism, in relation to which it has been reported the phenomena of over tourism, "resortization" and labour shortage. In addition, 22 of its municipalities are currently developing an Action Plan for Sustainable Energy and Climate (PAESC).

The overarching objective of the Comunità Comprensoriale Val Pusteria / Bezirksgemeinschaft Pustertal pilot activities is to test the adapting capacity of Forestry and Tourism sectors within HAET (Highly Affected and Exposed Territories) to develop more integrated and agile adaptation planning.
To achieve this objective, ADAPTNOW plans to:

- Acquire throughout comprehension of the pilot area´s geographical and socio-economic context;
- Assess the relevance of climate risk analysis;
- Identify and assess key climate risks related to selected hazards and sectors;
- Map stakeholders and identify existing measures in policies and inventory;
- Encourage a participatory discussion on needs and shortcomings relating to the ability to adapt;
- Identify the most appropriate adaptation tools that need to be developed.

Pilot city of Kempten in Germany

With 70.000 inhabitants Kempten is the largest city in the Allgaeu region located at the northern foothills of the Bavarian Alps. With its hilly terrain in close proximity to the river Iller, impacts of climate change are already quite present in the city of Kempten. Predominant hazards considered during ADAPTNOW are heatwaves and heavy rain events with their impacts on the key sectors urban infrastructure, health and tourism.


City of Kempten (source: Kempten tourism office)

Since 2012 the city of Kempten has participated in the European Energy Award (gold status certification in 2020) and already developed an ambitious climate protection strategy in 2013 which was updated in 2022 with the aim to reach climate neutrality in 2035. In recent years the city also developed a solid basis of climate adaptation related concepts. Since 2021 an urban climate study and heavy rain analysis have been available and after several workshops with local stakeholders the climate adaptation plan was adopted by the city council in 2022.

Pilot region KLAR! Plan B in Austria

From a climate analysis over a check of natural hazard to action

Even before the start of the ADAPTNOW project, the KLAR! region commissioned a climate analysis. In order to carry out targeted climate change adaptation, it is necessary to know how the climate will develop.

© B. Gröger

The analysis includes the development of temperature and precipitation. Based on the climate model and various existing data, a precautionary check on natural hazards in climate change will be carried out. This includes hydrological and gravitational natural hazards, as well as climate-related natural hazards. Hydrological natural hazards include floods, mudflows and heavy rainfall events. The gravitational natural hazards include landslides, rockfalls and avalanches. Other risks such as heat, drought, wild fires, storms, snow load, late frost or threats to biodiversity will be dealt with in the area of climate-related natural hazards.

As soon as the precautionary check on natural hazards has been carried out, concrete measures are derived and implemented for the KLAR! Region is derived and implemented.

Slovenian Pilot site Municipality Selnica ob Dravi

Selnica, a small rural municipality with 4.600 inhabitants located in the Drava River valley, is actively engaged in sustainable development, particularly in addressing climate change. Its vulnerability to climate-related challenges, such as landslides, heavy rainfall, hail, wind, and heatwaves, due to its hilly surroundings and nearby villages, has prompted the municipality to initiate a pilot project focused on climate mitigation and adaptation.

As a pilot in the project Selnica will establish good and efficient process of designing and implementing Climate adaptation strategy and its Action plan in the principal PLAN-DO-ACT-MONITOR-REACT-PLAN. Selnica is also actively involving stakeholders to enhance civil protection activities.

This year Selnica has already experienced unpredictable climate disasters, resulting in significant economic and environmental damage. To prepare for such events, Selnica is developing climate adaptation plans that incorporate financially and technically feasible actions. Additionally, the municipality is also utilizing various climate tools to calculate greenhouse gas emissions and create their climate-energy plans.

Italian Pilot site Chivasso Municipality

The city of Chivasso is one of the main municipalities of the metropolitan city of Turin, with a population of 26,224 inhabitants, a surface area of 51.24 km² and a density of 511.81 inhabitants/ km². It is located at an altitude of 183 m above sea level, about 25 km from Turin, the capital city of the Piedmont region.

It is the reference city of the Chivassese area, a homogeneous area of 100,000 inhabitants and 24 municipalities, which is one of the 11 areas into which the metropolitan city of Turin is divided.

The city of Chivasso is located in a railway hub (lines for Turin, Milan, Casale, Ivrea-Aosta and Asti) and road junction on the Turin-Milan motorway.

The municipal administration of Chivasso is currently engaged in the revision of the general master plan and, as a pilot territory of the ADAPTNOW project, supported by the partner iiSBE Italia R&D, intends to introduce into the Strategic Environmental Assessment (VAS – Valutazione Ambientale Strategica, in Italian) also the assessment of risks due to climate change and the consequent definition of adaptation strategies and measures.

French pilot site Grenoble-Alpes Métropole

Through ADAPTNOW project, Grenoble-Alpes Métropole wish develop and improve the decision support tools, highlight, decline and transfer the tools to the local stakeholders and ADAPTNOW European partners and lead a local community of risks with the technicians and local rulers. Grenoble-Alpes Métropole ADAPTNOW project is based on three different tools:

- The local risks and resilience community explained just below;
- The Local Map Application for Crisis Management (LMACM) is a tool created from the development of an internal vulnerabilities database: LMACM assemble different data like the hazards, the vulnerabilities, crisis procedures and many issues information of the area. It includes some research, statistical, maps and table edition and sharing tools. LMACM enable to give some risks and vulnerabilities data to reduce vulnerability, risk and crisis management.
- The metropolitan guide to resilient urban design to flood hazard: The land planning and building construction in Grenoble Alpes Metropole are subject to risks adaptation rules. These risks are increased by climate change. The different stakeholders of urban planning asked us to have a guide with strategical and technical solutions to adapt their projects. The guide gives many solutions for each phase of urban planning and building and each stakeholder. It includes explanations, diagrams, local and national demonstrations, help in understanding the different rules, etc… The constitution of the guide has been realized with the participation of stakeholder's representatives during work meetings.

The group during the explanation of Frederic Berger (under the rain!)

Pilot city of Genoa in Italy

The Civil Protection office of the Municipality of Genoa will develop, in collaboration with the University of Genoa, new studies to assess natural risks deriving from windstorms, sea storms and heat/cold waves.

These studies will provide the Civil Protection with thematic hazard maps for each natural risk, as well as a cutting-edge hi-resolution urban wind forecasting model to prevent damage from severe windstorms.
With the help of these new tools, and by conducting roundtables with local stakeholders, it will be possible to improve the municipal Civil Protection planning, making it more fitting to the actual needs of institutions, citizens and economic actors.

Spot-on risk mitigation measures will be made possible by the high accuracy of the hazard maps and wind model, increasing the effectiveness of our action.

ADAPTNOW News & Events

Become a ClimaSTORY® facilitator

AURA-EE is organising a new training session to become ClimaSTORY® facilitator on the 17th and 18th October 2023 in Clermont-Ferrand. ClimaSTORY® is a pedagogical tool which offers participants the chance to think about a (fictional) territory from the angle of climate change and to consider adaptation solutions for 5 areas of economic activities. Placed in a real-life situation, the participants are invited to choose the most relevant solutions and keep in mind the specifics of this fictional territory. AURA-EE who created the tool works with ASDER, as partner for the training session organisation. Tool can be adapted to all public and these training sessions are proposed to public and private organisations who support communities, and communities them self.

UNIBW was very active with organizing events and present interactive natural hazard model

One of the events was organized within **3-day Munich Science Days "FORSCHA"** where the University of the Federal Armed Forces Munich provided information about the ADAPTNOW and presented two tools for risk communication. Many visitors and especially children and pupils were able to playfully understand different extreme events with the interactive natural hazard model and implement solutions for prevention and mitigation. **MORE**

The second event happened at the **Open Day at the University of the Bundeswehr Munich** on 24th of June. There were many informative discussions about the perception of natural hazards and climate change. UNIBW again presented the interactive natural hazard model. And the third event was a meeting with Firefighters of the State Fire Brigade School Geretsried to discuss current climate change induced challenges in disaster and crisis management.

ADAPTNOW triggers further adaptation action in the city of Kempten

Energy and Environmental Centre Allgaeu (EZA!) has organized a roundtable on climate change adaptation on 5th of July 2023 in Kempten. A newly established climate adaptation working group were discussed about adaptation measures. **MORE**

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Stakeholder Workshop in Brunico – Bruneck

On 19th of July 2023, Eurac Research organized the first ADAPTNOW local stakeholder workshop in collaboration with Regional Management LAG Pustertal and Comunità Comprensoriale Valle Pusteria.

The workshop took place in Brunico/Bruneck to discuss how to strengthen the adaptive capacity to climate change within the tourism and forest management sectors in Pusteria Valley. **MORE**

Grenoble-Alpes Métropole first events

The first meeting has launched the work group with a roundtable discussion about the municipality's requirements, the local risks management tools and the work plan of the community.

The second meeting was a work filed trip about forest fire, rockfall and protection forest and rules about the cleaning of brushwood against forest fire. The trip has been animated by the metropolis, the municipality of La Tronche which hosted us, Frederic Berger of INRAE institute, the national forest office and the Isère prefecture with the presence of AURA-EE. **MORE**

Stakeholder roundtables held in Genoa

In September the Municipality of Genoa organized, with the support of professional facilitators, three thematic roundtables with local stakeholders.

The themes discussed belonged to the impacts of windstorms, seastorms and heatwaves on Health, Tourism and Urban Infrastructure. We gathered plenty of suggestions and ideas from the participants, who were mainly institutional representative from municipal and regional agencies. **MORE**

What is new on the ADAPTNOW website?

Our project website was launched in January. It is constantly updated with new information.

Follow us on https://www.alpine-space.eu/project/adaptnow/

Project partners

- Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Energy Environment Agency
- Regional Agency for Infrastructure development, building Renovation and Energy of Liguria – IRE spa
- EURAC Research
- National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment
- University of the Bundeswehr Munich
- iiSBE Italia R&D S.r.l. - I.S
- Energy and Environmental Centre Allgaeu
- Energy Institute Vorarlberg
- Energy and Climate Agency of Podravje
- Municipality of Genoa
- Municipality Selnica ob Dravi
- Grenoble-Alps Metropole

LET'S STAY IN CONTACT!

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This Newsletter provides information about the Interreg Alpine Space project ADAPTNOW as well as other information about news, events and initiatives in thematic areas covered by or connected with the project and the Alpine Space programme.