



TURNING CLIMATE ADAPTATION COMMITMENTS INTO KEY ACTIONS ACROSS EUROPE

Why climate adaptation matters

Europe is already facing the cost of climate inaction. Between 1980 and 2023, climate-related economic losses totalled €738 billion – and that figure could rise to 4% of EU GDP annually by the end of the century without effective adaptation.

The IMPETUS project

IMPETUS is an EU-funded project active across seven biogeographical regions – arctic, atlantic, boreal, coastal, continental, mediterranean and mountain. It aims to turn adaptation commitments into real-world actions that protect people, ecosystems, and infrastructure.

The project develops and tests tailored climate adaptation solutions, combining:

- technological and nature-based innovations,
- financing mechanisms,
- strong stakeholder and policy engagement.

Project title: IMPETUS – Turning climate commitments into action

Programme: Horizon 2020, Grant Agreement No. 101037084

Duration: 2021–2025

Demo sites: 7 biogeographical regions across Europe

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Actionable recommendations for decision-makers

This fact sheet presents EU-level policy recommendations based on the IMPETUS policy brief (D6.10). It draws on experience from the project's demonstration sites and aims to bridge the gap between high-level strategy and local implementation.



Governance

- Strengthen multi-level governance to reduce financial and administrative burdens on local authorities.
- Establish regional working groups to support national climate policies with locally grounded guidance.



Funding

- Expand and incentivise public-private partnerships (PPPs) to mobilise private investment in climate adaptation solutions.
- Involve private stakeholders – such as investors, startups and business angels – through shared goals and targeted financial incentives.
- Clarify funding responsibilities across national, regional and local levels.



Awareness

- Include vulnerable communities and conduct social impact assessments.
- Promote engagement and communication to prevent maladaptation and uphold do-no-harm principles.



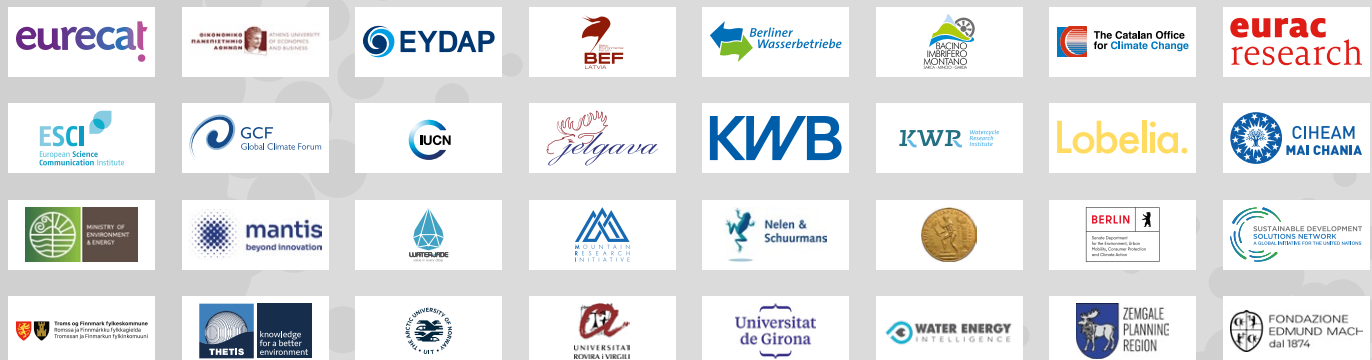
Legislation

- Standardise and enforce early-warning systems for climate hazards across the EU to improve preparedness and response.



Policy

- Prioritise climate adaptation alongside mitigation in EU climate strategy.
- Elevate climate adaptation as a political priority, focusing on long-term resilience and anticipatory planning.



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