

Information system to support climate change adaptation in Europe

Goal and main elements of CLIMATE - ADAPT

It aims to support policymakers and practitioners in adapting to climate change at EU, transnational, national and sub-national level. Users have access to and can share up-to-date information on:

- **expected climate change** in Europe,
- **current and future vulnerability** of regions and sectors,
- **information on EU policies on adaptation**
- **national and transnational adaptation strategies**,
- **adaptation case studies** and potential adaptation options,
- **tools** that support adaptation planning
- **news and events**

The platform includes a database that contains quality checked information that can easily be searched.

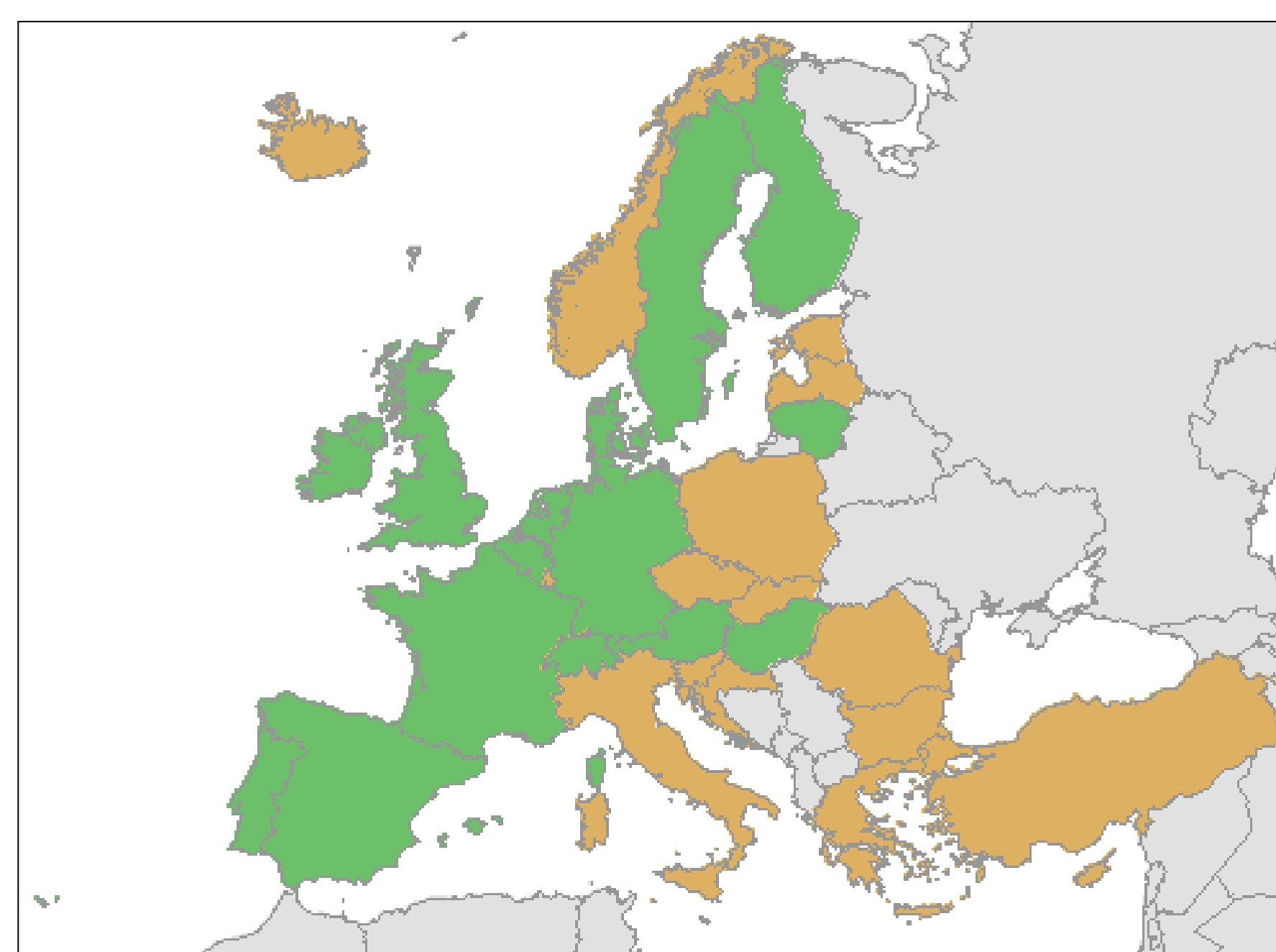
National adaptation strategies, case studies and adaptation options

National adaptation strategies:

- 16 countries have adaptation strategies
- most countries have delivered information (country profiles)

Case studies and adaptation options:

- based on results from EU funded studies and projects
- selection criteria for case studies include e.g. the relevance for adaptation and the status of implementation
- case studies can be searched by impacts, sectors or location
- adaptation options can be explored by selecting a specific impact and/or sector and by specific regions



Governance structure

- Climate-ADAPT is a partnership between the European Commission (DG CLIMA, DG JRC and other DG's) and the EEA; it is hosted by the EEA
- EEA is supported in content review, updating and QA/QC of the metadata by ETC/CCA
- QA/QC of all data and information is done by the provider
- content maintenance workflow has clear defined roles, responsibilities and tasks
- software is improved on a regular basis

Lessons learnt

- useful to define and communicate the goal and the target audience
- a comprehensive knowledge base for adaptation is regarded important by users
- country profiles are regarded as very useful by the member countries
- adaptation information on European level has already supported national and sub-national level adaptation policy and action
- continuous efforts are needed to keep the presented information up to date
- researchers have been engaged and are interested to present their results
- transparency and communication are needed on the uncertainties and boundaries of the information presented

The development of the platform

Development stages

- 2009 (White paper): the need for better use of the knowledge base for climate change adaptation was highlighted
- 2011-2012: the European Commission, supported by EEA, developed the platform which was launched in March 2012; since then regular updating and further development took place
- since April 2013: aim is to meet the needs of the EU Adaptation Strategy

EU Adaptation Strategy (April 2013):

4: bridging the knowledge gap: present the knowledge at Climate-ADAPT
5: further develop Climate -ADAPT as the one-stop-shop for adaptation information in Europe

5.2. Financing Adaptation: deliver information on sources of funding at Climate ADAPT

User engagement

Users become engaged

- by using the different entry points to access the information

Contributors

- should be encouraged to deliver input into the adaptation database

Users

- known based on web statistics and by personal feedback
- explore in future through a newsletter and discussions with member countries

Relations with other platforms

- links to countries' platforms (in country profiles) exist but can be enhanced
- linking to other governance levels has started (transnational regions and cities) but can be enhanced
- further develop the link to the Copernicus climate change services and to disaster risk reduction
- further develop the links to sectors

Challenges

- long-term planning on resources for the platform
- engage users further to uptake the presented information
- engage researchers and others further to share results
- find new approaches to present the information to the target audience
- assess how to use visualisation techniques and interactive tools
- assess the potential to use the platform for future countries' reporting on adaptation
- evaluate the use of the platform

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