



CIRCLE² POLICY BRIEF

Adaptation Platforms in Europe: Addressing challenges and sharing lessons

7 - 8 of November, 2013

Why a workshop on adaptation platforms?

The number and scope of adaptation platforms within Europe is increasing. Web-based platforms are seen as means of enabling and empowering adaptation actions through sharing of information and knowledge and thereby increasing the visibility and understanding of adaptation. The information and knowledge being shared includes policy actions at the transnational, national, and sub-national level, guidance, experiences from practice and implemented adaptation actions, and the results of adaptation research.

There was an expressed need (after a preceding expert meeting held at EEA in June 2013) among web-based platform managers and by those considering developing such an adaptation platform to share knowledge, lessons learnt and challenges. There was also an interest to explore good practices related to platform development and management.

Key messages

- I. The identification of the drivers either at transnational, country/national, regional or local levels (e.g., political and practice) and their ambitions, resources and funding model, structure are fundamental to developing and maintaining a platform as they contribute to its **sustainability and to defining its scope and utility.**
- II. **Creating and maintaining engagement with users, providers and collaborators (a network).** Close contact and communication with individuals whether they are developers, managers, end users or collaborators is essential to further develop, evaluate and improve the information and its presentation on the adaptation platforms.
- III. **Quality control and assurance of the information** provided on the platforms is a key requirement as quality influences if and how users will perceive and the extent to which they will access and utilize this information. The quality control and assurance processes adopted are dependent on the resources available to establish and maintain such processes.
- IV. **Define and engage users from the beginning** in both the design and operational phases and recognise that these and their respective roles may change as you move through the phases.
- V. There is emerging experience in Europe of collaboration and linking web-based adaptation platforms with climate services and with disaster risk reduction platforms and there is a need to strengthen these for the mutual benefit of the platforms and users.

Research gaps and challenges

- I. **The role of information and knowledge in supporting and leading to adaptation.**
- II. **Demonstrating the value added by web-based adaptation platforms.** This includes understanding and demonstrating the role of web-based platforms and the different models that have been adopted
- III. **Means of engaging users in the development, delivery and evaluation of web-based adaptation platforms,** including understanding their differentiate roles.
- IV. **Introducing quality control and assurance** – what is required, what is the value added by including quality control and assurance, what are the different mechanisms and means for ‘effective’ quality control and assurance, and how to communicate the results.
- V. **Relationships between adaptation platforms operating at different scales** – what are the different roles and responsibilities in supporting users, what is the value added of having platforms operating at different scales, what and where is cooperation needed, and what are ‘effective’ models and modalities for cooperation.
- VI. **Explore the relationships between adaptation platforms and climate services and disaster risk reduction platforms** with the purpose of identifying mutually beneficial and sustainable delivery models.

Next Steps

- i) Engage those interested and able to support the further development of adaptation platforms and delivery of the research and next steps as a community of interest.
- ii) Develop on the basis of deliberations during the workshop a living document on an overview of experiences with adaptation platforms and potential good practices that can be used and also improved by the community of platform developers and managers.
- iii) Explore and provide opportunities for this community to network reflecting the expressed desire to continue the dialogue initiated by this workshop (and the preceding workshop organised by EEA, June 2013).

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Presentations and posters are available at <http://www.circle-era.eu/np4/650.html>

A full report on this workshop is available at http://www.circle-era.eu/np4/Adaptation_Platforms.html.