

Climate Adaptation Platforms in Actions and Networks

The practical challenges and lessons learned from designing and operationalizing web-based platforms

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Welcome and introduction

Kim van Nieuwaal, Climate Adaptation Services (CAS), the Netherlands



This session brings together users and developers of climate adaptation platforms, but also those considering developing and using such platforms. The session seeks to answer the following questions: What are the strengths and weaknesses of web-based platforms in enabling effective climate adaptation? Which tools (e.g. maps, visualisations, databases) are most suitable for integration in web-based platforms and which are not (and why not)? How to communicate uncertainties when working with web-based platforms? How to address practicalities of developing and using web-based platforms (incl. funding, institutional aspects, and continuity)?



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Overview of EEA activities including recent reports and Climate-ADAPT

Kati Mattern, European Environment Agency (EEA), Denmark



In her presentation Kati will give an update on the features of the European Climate Adaptation Platform ([Climate-ADAPT](#)) which is a complementary activity of the European Commission to the Member states and one of the key elements of the [EU Adaptation Strategy](#) (2013). By offering official governmental reporting on national adaptation policies, the results of European research, adaptation support tools, inspiring case studies, and easy accessible knowledge in a database the platform aims to share the growing knowledge on climate change adaptation across Europe. The presentation will highlight how the European Environment Agency is developing the platform in response to user's needs within the limits of the given budget. Further experience on the supporting role of the platform in the policy process beyond the lessons learned summarized in the 2015 EEA technical report "[Overview of climate change adaptation platforms in Europe](#)".



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Challenges for adaptation platforms

Roger Street, UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP), United Kingdom



In his presentation, Roger Street will observe that traditional means of communicating climate adaptation related information are insufficient in meeting the needs of end-users. Web-based climate change adaptation platforms are considered an effective means to address the issue. Realising the potential benefits of web-based knowledge exchange, however, is not without challenges. Roger Street will touch upon some of these challenges, and the benefits to be achieved through sharing knowledge and experience in meeting these challenges. For example, as will be argued, web-portal development to support adaptation is not a common topic of research and most of the platforms already developed or in development and based on different business and development models and have different strengths and weaknesses. In that light, Roger Street will announce a promising new network initiative.



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Climate Ireland: A case study on facilitating local authority planning for climate change

Barry O'Dwyer, Center for Marine and Renewable Energy (MaREI), Ireland



In his presentation, Barry will provide a case study example of the employment of [Ireland's Climate Information Platform](#) in facilitating adaptation strategy development at the local level. The presentation will highlight the potential of adaptation platforms in facilitating adaptation decision making through the provision of pre-requisite understanding, essential climate information and decision making frameworks and also discuss the challenges presented for the effective employment of climate adaptation platforms in adaptation decision making at the local level.



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The Australian adaptation strategy and practical experience in adaptation support products

Robert Webb, Australian National University (ANU), Australia

David Rissik, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF), Australia



Growing with your users. Demand driven tools to support adaptation

We use examples and lessons from recent Australian experience to illustrate how understanding the needs of users, can help to deliver tools that support best practice, and are pitched at the needs of users. Understanding how users will use products, and avoiding a one-size-fits- all approach supports uptake.



We show how one approach does not suit all, both in the guidance, information and data that are provided, but also in the level of detail within products. We emphasise the need for providing multiple entry points to tools and information, to support users to obtain information suited to their needs. We illustrate how barriers to adaptation can be overcome with delivery of particular directed products. Our approaches help to develop user capacity in what is a rapidly expanding field and are designed to grow as user capacity increases.

We identify some of the continual challenges we face in ensuring long-term support and viability for products.



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The Dutch national climate adaptation portal and the real time use of the touch table

Hasse Goosen, Climate Adaptation Services (CAS), the Netherlands



In his presentation, Hasse will present the [national platform for Spatial Adaptation in the Netherlands](#). He will share the lessons learned with regard to initiating, developing, and maintaining the platform. For instance, Hasse will explain the modular set-up of this platform. The use of tools such as the touch table and story mapping will be highlighted. Also, the stress test for municipalities and the [climate effect atlas](#) will be paid attention to in the light of the portal. One of the conclusions that Hasse will draw is that portals are a matter of continuous co-creation and innovation.



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