



**Transforming knowledge
into adaptation solutions**



Contact us:

To sign up to BASE's 'European Adaptation Newsletter' and find more information about our research activities, please visit: www.base-adaptation.eu

BASE Project Coordinator

Dr. Hans Sanderson
Aarhus University
Nordre Ringgade 1
DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark
E-Mail: hasa@dmu.dk
Telephone: +45 8715 8632
Fax: +45 8715 0201
www.au.dk

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www.base-adaptation.eu

BASE 
**BOTTOM-UP CLIMATE
ADAPTATION STRATEGIES
TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE EUROPE**

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The challenges

Climate change may lead to serious ecological, economic and social disruptions across Europe. Carefully planned adaptation can reduce these disruptions and in some cases yield benefits and business opportunities, but decision makers face obstacles when devising appropriate and sustainable strategies. These obstacles include:

- **Uncertainty:** The ability to plan and design adaptation options is limited by uncertainties on physical changes, socio-economic developments, and the costs and benefits of different approaches or time scales. Reducing this uncertainty will help to devise strategies that are resilient to extreme events and can deliver net benefits under a range of scenarios.
- **Assessment:** Integrated Assessment Models can provide strategic long-term and quantitative insights but these require more accurate data and critical assessment of which scale of analysis is most appropriate. At the same time, assessments of bottom-up processes need to build on past lessons and increase the comparability of individual cases. Improvements to both types of assessment are needed to assist critical decision making.
- **The adaptation gap:** Strategic policy making is needed from the 'top-down' to avoid mal-adaptation and ensure coherence between measures and sectors. However, adaptation is context specific, requiring 'bottom-up' measures that reflect local realities. There is a need for stakeholder engagement and analysis of policy-making processes to identify ways of bridging this adaptation gap.

Our aims

From 2012-2016, the BASE project will foster sustainable adaptation in Europe by improving the knowledge base on adaptation and making this information easier to access, understand and act upon. Specifically, BASE will:

- **Compile and analyse** data and information on adaptation measures and their effectiveness towards a publicly available comprehensive, integrated knowledge base. This includes analysis of social and economic benefits, sectoral adaptation costs, and policy making implications.
- **Improve and develop** new assessment methods and tools for assessing climate impacts, vulnerabilities, risks and policies.
- **Identify conflicts and synergies** at different policy levels as well as between and within sectors to highlight strategies for improving policy coherence and effectiveness.
- **Integrate bottom-up knowledge with top-down** processes through innovative approaches to assess the effectiveness, costs and benefits of adaptation strategies at different scales.
- **Bridge the gap** between assessments of specific adaptation measures and 'top down' implementation of comprehensive and integrated strategies.
- **Increase the integration of local knowledge** and perceptions of adaptation pathways through novel participatory methods and deliberative tools to create co-designed and effective adaptation strategies.
- **Disseminate project results** to policy makers, practitioners and other stakeholders to increase awareness of the impacts, costs and benefits of adaptation for sustainable adaptation strategies through tools such as Climate-ADAPT.

Case studies

To gather insights from the local level, the BASE project examines climate change adaptation case studies from across Europe. The case studies focus on key adaptation sectors such as water and ecosystem services, rural and urban areas, food production and coastal zones. Many case studies cover multiple sectors or policy levels, examining the interactions between sectors and across scales.

Case study sectors

- Coastal zones
- Agriculture & forestry
- Water resources
- Human settlements & infrastructure
- Biodiversity & ecosystems
- Health

- City/Municipality
- Regional/National level

For more information, please visit:
www.base-adaptation.eu/case-studies



The BASE team

The BASE team is an interdisciplinary expert group of research scientists from across Europe working on climate change scenarios, impacts, vulnerabilities and risks. The team has a wealth of expertise in policy analysis and development. All partners have a proven track record as well as the mission and ambition to increase the knowledge base to understand the societal implications of climate change and adaptation.

- Aarhus University, Denmark
- Ecologic Institute, Germany
- Fundacao da Faculdade de Ciencias da Universidade de Lisboa (FFCUL), Portugal
- Euro-Mediterranean Center For Climate Change (CMCC), Italy
- Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Germany
- University of Exeter, United Kingdom
- Deltares, Netherlands
- BC3 Basque Centre for Climate Change, Spain
- The Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Finland
- Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), Italy
- Czech Globe – Global Change Research Centre AS CR, v.v.i. (CZEG), Czech Republic
- University of Leeds, United Kingdom
- Technical University of Madrid (UPM), Spain
- The Danish Board of Technology (DBT), Denmark

For more details, visit: www.base-adaptation.eu/partners

Get involved

In order to provide insights on climate change adaptation activities in Europe, the BASE project highlights several kinds of local and personalised stories about adaptation. These include:

- **The Adaptation Snapshot** is a regular photo competition showing an aspect of 'adaptation in action'. Entries are welcome from all interested parties and can be submitted via the BASE website. Winning entries will be featured on the site and in the European Adaptation Newsletter. Creativity is highly encouraged!
- **The Adaptation Dialogues** are a moderated discussion between two stakeholders involved in climate adaptation at different levels (e.g. the head of a local committee and a national parliamentarian). Stakeholders discuss an aspect of climate adaptation (e.g. how to evaluate and prioritise different adaptation measures) and the dialogue will be featured on the BASE website and The European Adaptation Newsletter. If you have an idea for a Dialogue or can suggest people who would like to participate, let us know!

For more details, visit: www.base-adaptation.eu/get-involved