

Climate-ADAPT use case 10 — Sardinia Region

Supporting cooperation across governance levels and access to European knowledge on Climate-ADAPT for the regional government of Sardinia

Climate-ADAPT features used: database (case studies, search function); countries, regions, cities (country pages); knowledge (adaptation options); networks (organisations); news

Sector: adaptation in general

Governance level: sub-national

Biogeographical region: Mediterranean

Macro-region: southern Europe

Policy stage: policy development

The challenge

The regional government of Sardinia ⁽²⁹⁾, Italy, is acting on adaptation to climate change in various ways.

The President of Sardinia Region chaired the Commission for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE) within the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) ⁽³⁰⁾ until September 2017. Since the CoR is supporting the UNFCCC process as an active stakeholder at EU level, the President is also the rapporteur for the opinion Delivering the global climate agreement — a territorial approach to COP 22 in Marrakesh ⁽³¹⁾, which was approved by the CoR in October 2017.

In this context, Sardinia Region is promoting sustainable methods of energy production and high-level targets for greenhouse gas reduction, as well as considering aspects of adaptation in the field of environmental protection and energy. In addition, in the UNFCCC context, Sardinia Region became part of the Under2 Memorandum of Understanding ⁽³²⁾ (Under2MOU), which is a powerful instrument for aggregation and cooperation, capable of raising international awareness of the crucial role of sub-national governments in achieving global targets for climate change. Signatories from regional governments all over the world intend to contribute to the implementation of the global climate agreement by 'assessing the projected impacts of climate change on communities' ⁽³³⁾.

Supporting the engagement of the European regions on adaptation as part of the UNFCCC process requires up-to-date information on the progress of adaptation policies in European countries and regions.

The Sardinia Region, through its Minister for Environmental Protection, coordinates the Interregional Board on the Italian Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change (SNAC), with the purpose of promoting and monitoring the implementation of regional adaptation strategies and plans consistently with the national strategy. In this regard, overview information on the state of implementation of national strategies and plans on adaptation to climate change in Europe is needed.

Networking is a crucial prerequisite for the LIFE project Master Adapt ⁽³⁴⁾, launched in October 2016, in which Sardinia Region acts in the role of coordinating beneficiary. The project aims to identify and test

⁽²⁹⁾ <http://www.regione.sardegna.it>

⁽³⁰⁾ <http://cor.europa.eu/en/Pages/home.aspx>

⁽³¹⁾ <http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/opinions/pages/opinion-factsheet.aspx?OpinionNumber=CDR%201412/2016>

⁽³²⁾ <http://under2mou.org>

⁽³³⁾ <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/lpaa/cities-subnationals/under-2-mou-inspiring-regional-leadership-on-climate-change>

⁽³⁴⁾ <https://masteradapt.eu/?lang=en>

innovative tools for multilevel governance to support regions and local authorities in defining and developing adaptation strategies and policies. The partnership includes regional and local public institutions, non-profit scientific institutions and associations, environmental consultancies and universities.

The approach

Climate-ADAPT, as the platform of the European Commission and the EEA, represents a useful source of information and in particular examples related to adaptation plans and strategies. The Sardinia Region experts assessed, for example, the individual country pages of France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and others to gain an overview of the state of the art of national plans and strategies among European countries. Links to platforms of other relevant organisations and in the news section of Climate-ADAPT

proved to be helpful for supporting cooperation and strengthening links among governments and other stakeholders.

Climate-ADAPT was regularly consulted to provide briefings to support the President of Sardinia Region in his role as chair of ENVE. This was done by consulting the EU policy pages, which contain summary information related to adaptation measures and policies in Europe.

The clear and intuitive menu allowed rapid movement around the sections of the platform and the user-friendly search engine ⁽³⁵⁾ is an efficient tool that allows users to easily find case studies, publications, reports, etc. The Sardinia Region experts used, in particular, appropriate keywords to quickly find the information they needed. Both the 'Cities and towns' ⁽³⁶⁾ and 'Covenant of Mayors' ⁽³⁷⁾ pages, as well as the

Figure A10 The city of Cagliari, regional capital of Sardinia



Source: Relive Communication © Andrea Iannelli.

⁽³⁵⁾ http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/data-and-downloads#b_start=0

⁽³⁶⁾ <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/countries-regions/cities>

⁽³⁷⁾ <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/eu-adaptation-policy/covenant-of-mayors>

'Country information' page ⁽³⁸⁾ were consulted to find valuable information on the progress of all aspects of adaptation policy implementation at country and city levels in Europe.

Climate-ADAPT was also used to support the reporting of adaptation activities to global initiatives, such as activities related to the UNFCCC Under2MoU instrument involving the submission of adaptation data to the states and regions platform of the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) ⁽³⁹⁾. As a signatory of the Under2MoU, Sardinia Region has committed to adding regional data to the CDP platform. Although Sardinia has not yet joined the RegionsAdapt ⁽⁴⁰⁾ initiative (the new global commitment to supporting and reporting efforts on adaptation at state and regional levels), it has been able to submit regional data related to adaptation measures as requested by the CDP platform. Specifically, using the 'Case studies' and 'Adaptation options' pages on the Climate-ADAPT platform has been useful in undertaking this task.

By providing adaptation policy information at various levels of governance, links to key partners and dissemination services (e.g. the European Climate Adaptation Newsletter), Climate-ADAPT is supporting sub-national-level actors working in adaptation and cooperating with other governance levels.

Future plans

Downscaling climate change adaptation national strategies into regional policies is an essential precondition for influencing climate resilience. Continuing its work within the LIFE Master Adapt project, Sardinia Region will help regional and local public institutions to optimise and effectively integrate sectorial regional policies on climate change adaptation.

In addition, Sardinia Region will continue to encourage a collaborative approach among all Italian regions through its coordinating role in the Environment and Energy Commission of the Italian Conference of Regions, which aims to promote changes in lifestyles and production models at various levels. Efforts are now focused on defining the regional adaptation plan and carrying out innovative projects in the field of climate change funded by the European Commission and based on a memorandum of understanding with Climate-KIC S.R.L. ⁽⁴¹⁾ signed in June 2017. In this context, it would be helpful to have a section of the platform dedicated to regions (sub-national level) to enable easy identification of regions that have developed a regional plan or strategy or that are already implementing specific actions on adaptation.

⁽³⁸⁾ <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/countries-regions/countries>

⁽³⁹⁾ <https://www.cdp.net/en/cities/states-and-regions>

⁽⁴⁰⁾ <http://www.nrg4sd.org/climate-change/regionsadapt>

⁽⁴¹⁾ <http://www.climatekicemiliaromagna.it/en/climate-kic-italy>