

ESPACE: European Spatial Planning: Adapting to Climate Events

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Barriers identified

- Lack of institutional frameworks to support adaptation to climate change
- Lack of policies / legislation
- Lack of awareness amongst planners and decision makers
- Complexity of planning systems / frameworks
- Inability of institutional frameworks to support adaptation
- Uncertainty of impacts of climate change
- Uncertainty of extent of adaptation required
- Uncertainty of which adaptation measures are appropriate or will be successful



ESPACE

- **A**daptation
- **S**patial planning
- **A**wareness
- **P**olicy guidance



ESPACE aimed to..

1. **E**nsure adaptation is recognised and incorporated into spatial planning systems at the European, national, regional and local levels.
2. **D**evelop adaptation strategies and policy guidance to deal with the long-term impacts of climate change.
3. **R**aise awareness amongst a wide range of stakeholders.



The ESPACE Partnership



Extended Partnership



Over 200 Members:

- European Commission
- European Environment Agency
- National, regional and local governments
- Non-government organisations
- Universities
- Other European projects (e.g. ASTRA)

Purpose:

- Ensures results delivered will be implemented
- Provide expert advice
- Contribute to development of outputs
- Target audience



ESPACE Transnational Outputs



“Planning in a Changing Climate Strategy”

Launched at the ESPACE Final Conference

June 29th 2007



Launch Event June 29th 2007



Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency

“one of the first trans-boundary projects for raising awareness on the need for spatial planning systems to adapt to climate change, establishing trans-national and sub national networks and contributing to EU policy development.”



The Strategy

“Putting adaptation at the heart of spatial planning”

1. Partners spent 4 years developing both the overarching strategic outputs and the detailed policy guidance, tools and policies
2. Working within the project was undertaken at a range of levels:
 - Partner specific case studies
 - Case study specific smaller groupings of partners
 - Collectively as part of the wider ESPACE partnership
3. Workshops and conferences built on the work of the partnership but also allowed for input from a much wider audience
4. Range of outputs have been delivered targeted at different levels (i.e. organisations, through to governments to the European Union)



14 Recommendations

- The 14 recommendations are the “fundamental principles” of the ESPACE Project
- Each recommendation is complemented by a series of case studies, tools and examples of policy advice
- Aimed at all levels of governance including European Institutions, national governments and regional and local authorities.



14 Recommendations

- The recommendations also cover a number of themes which speak to a range of functions:
 - Technical
 - Political/strategic
 - Methodology/tools
 - Change management
- Collectively the recommendations set a framework that supports:
 - Setting a long term vision
 - Community engagement



3 Key Recommendations

1. Make Climate Change adaptation a core objective of spatial planning
2. Look beyond the lifetime of your plan by understanding your climate risks
3. Combine two approaches for integrating adaptation into spatial planning
 - Managing change
 - Risk management



The 4 A's for Change

1. Awareness
2. Agency
3. Association
4. Action & Reflection



Further Barriers

- Conflicting objectives & priorities
- Lack of clarity over appropriate & effective measures
- Lack of obligation and legal requirements
- Plethora of sectoral plans
- Poor link between water management and planning
- Rigid top-down planning – hinders innovation
- Inertia and lack of urgency



The Next Steps for ESPACE

ESPACE has been granted a one year extension until May 2008 to look at barriers to the delivery and implementation of adaptation to climate change at the local level.

- Identifying common policies, processes and mechanisms that hinder the implementation of adaptation at the local level
 - UK Case Study – explore issues surrounding the implementation of the South East Regional Spatial Strategy & the South East Climate Change Implementation Plan
 - Dutch Case Study – explore barriers and issues surrounding the implementation of water storage models at the local level.



ESPACE Extension - Tools

1. Developing an adaptive capacity benchmarking tool that will be designed to develop the ability of an organisation to make changes in technology, policies and practices that will help them avoid risks associated with adaptive capacity
2. Develop “Decision Trees” – a tool to help planners play out decisions that may have to be made in the future to adapt to climate change. The tool would be used to understand ideas of flexibility, adaptability, robustness, precaution and resilience, vital concepts for planners to use to assess long-term performance of their planning decisions.



Future for ESPACE

ESPACE has developed a strategic response to integrating adaptation into spatial planning.

The next step is to explore the policies and processes needed to deliver adaptation.

We are interested in practical implementation of adaptation responses and exploring the role of risk and change management.



Other Future Project Interests

1. adaptation to the impacts of climate change on coasts
2. risk management, in light of climate change, within the context of emergency and spatial planning
3. how to combine change (behaviour change) and risk management approaches for integrating adaptation into spatial planning
4. the optimal air quality programme for a community in terms of climate change
5. in coastal and terrestrial policy responses to the impacts of climate change on biodiversity. Specifically interested in the migration of habitats and how this can be managed



Further Information



www.espace-project.org

