



Key findings of the EEA report Advancing towards climate resilience in Europe

Angelika Tamášová / EU4Climate – Regional workshop on national adaptation strategies and plans / 4 April 2023





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Agency**



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Europe



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on sustainability solutions and challenges



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technologies



Introduction

EEA Report | No11/2022

Advancing towards climate resilience in Europe — Status of reported national adaptation actions in 2021

THE 2022 EEA REPORT

- an overview of how EU Member States and Türkiye are adapting to climate change
- how countries are progressing through the adaptation policy cycle
- a snapshot of the situation in 2021 (to be updated in 2023)
- where possible, compares with earlier information to describe progress throughout recent years

POWERED BY

- Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action
- 2 implementing regulations on the structure, format, technical details and process
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality ('European Climate Law')
- reporting by EU Member States
- voluntary reporting by non-EU EEA member countries

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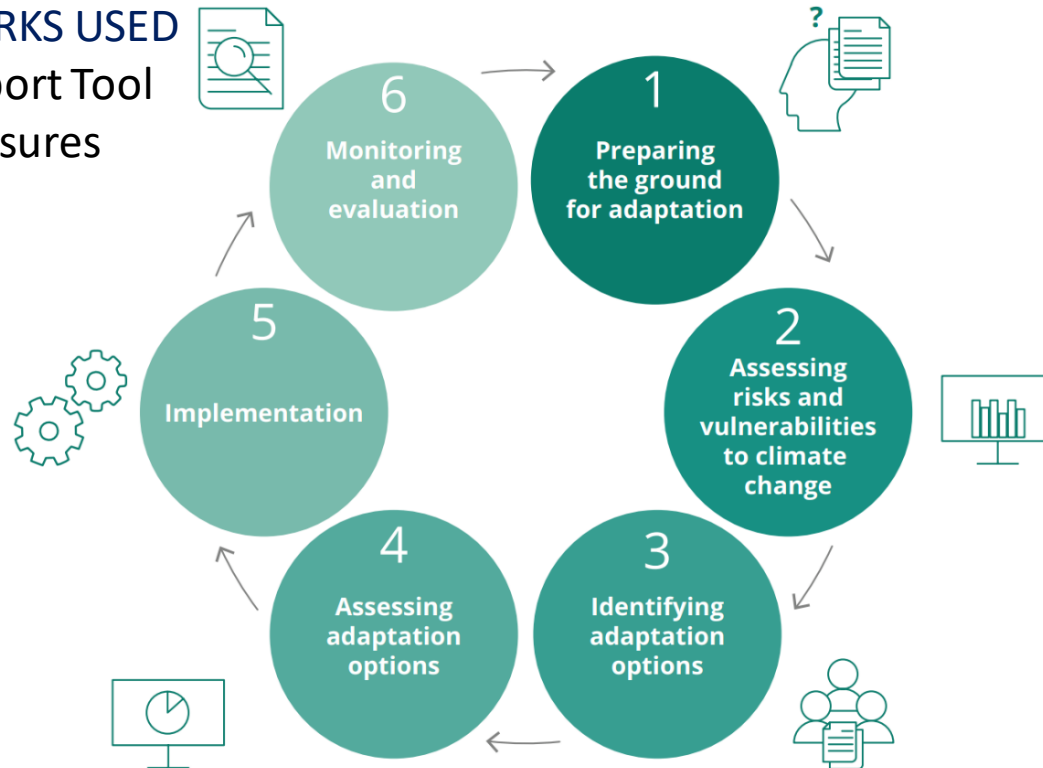


[Advancing towards climate resilience in Europe](#)

Introduction

TOOLS AND FRAMEWORKS USED

- the Adaptation Support Tool
- the Key Type of Measures



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Introduction

2 Chapter 2
Climate-related hazards, vulnerabilities and risks

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Adaptation policies and priorities

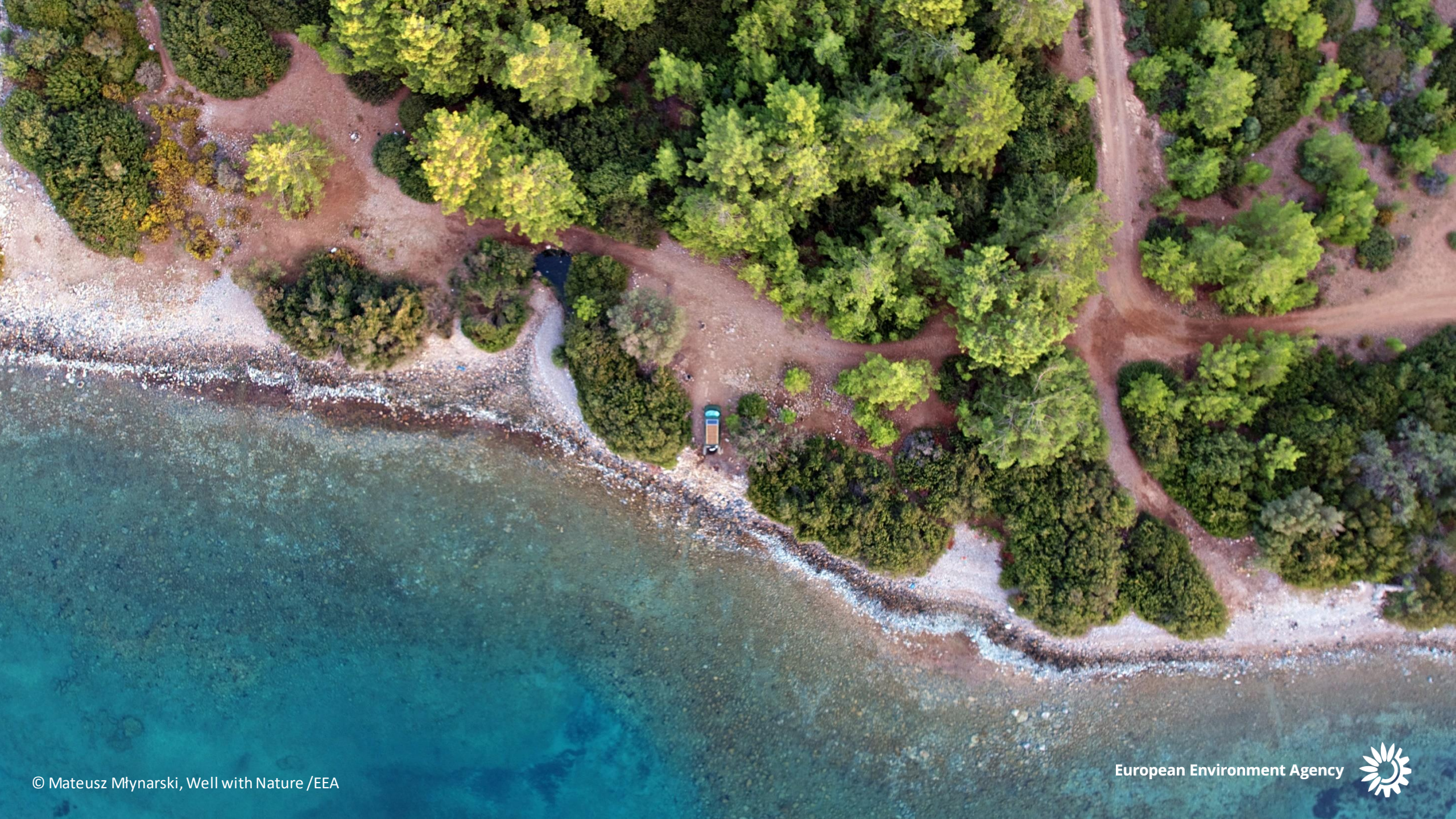
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Adaptation governance

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6 Chapter 6
Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

Chapter 7
Conclusions and future directions



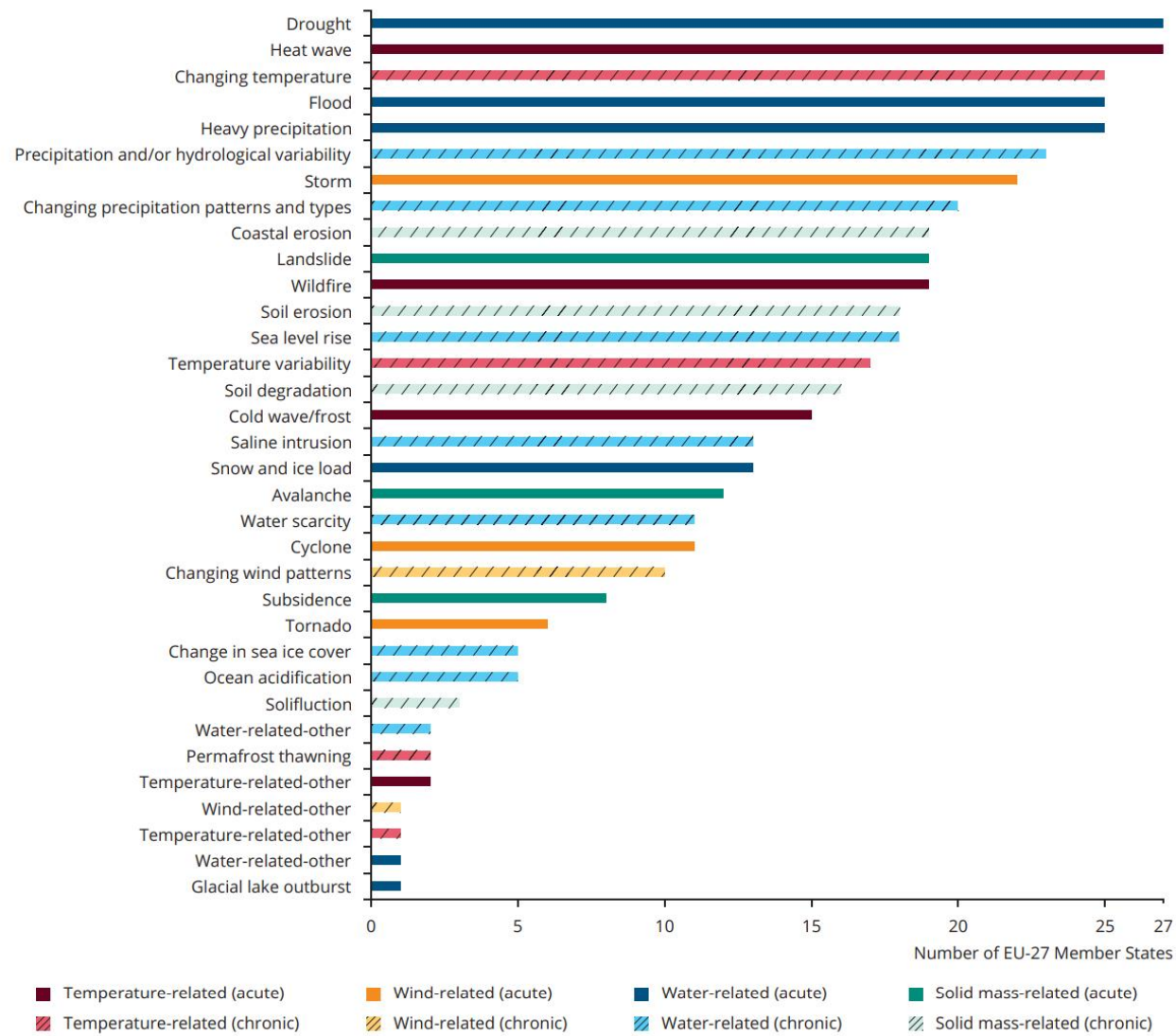


2

Climate-related hazards, vulnerabilities and risks

- Despite the variation in current and future climate change impacts across Europe, there are no significant differences between the key sectors affected in different Member States. Health, agriculture and food, forestry, water management and biodiversity are most often reported.
- New, multi-sectoral risk assessments were reported by a significant number of countries. However, they were complemented frequently by risk assessments that are sector-based or thematically-focused studies in scope.
- Legal requirements or political commitments to institutionalise periodic updating of national climate risk assessments are in place in several Member States. However, their systematic, comprehensive and regular renewal is the exception rather than the rule.

Observed climate hazards reported

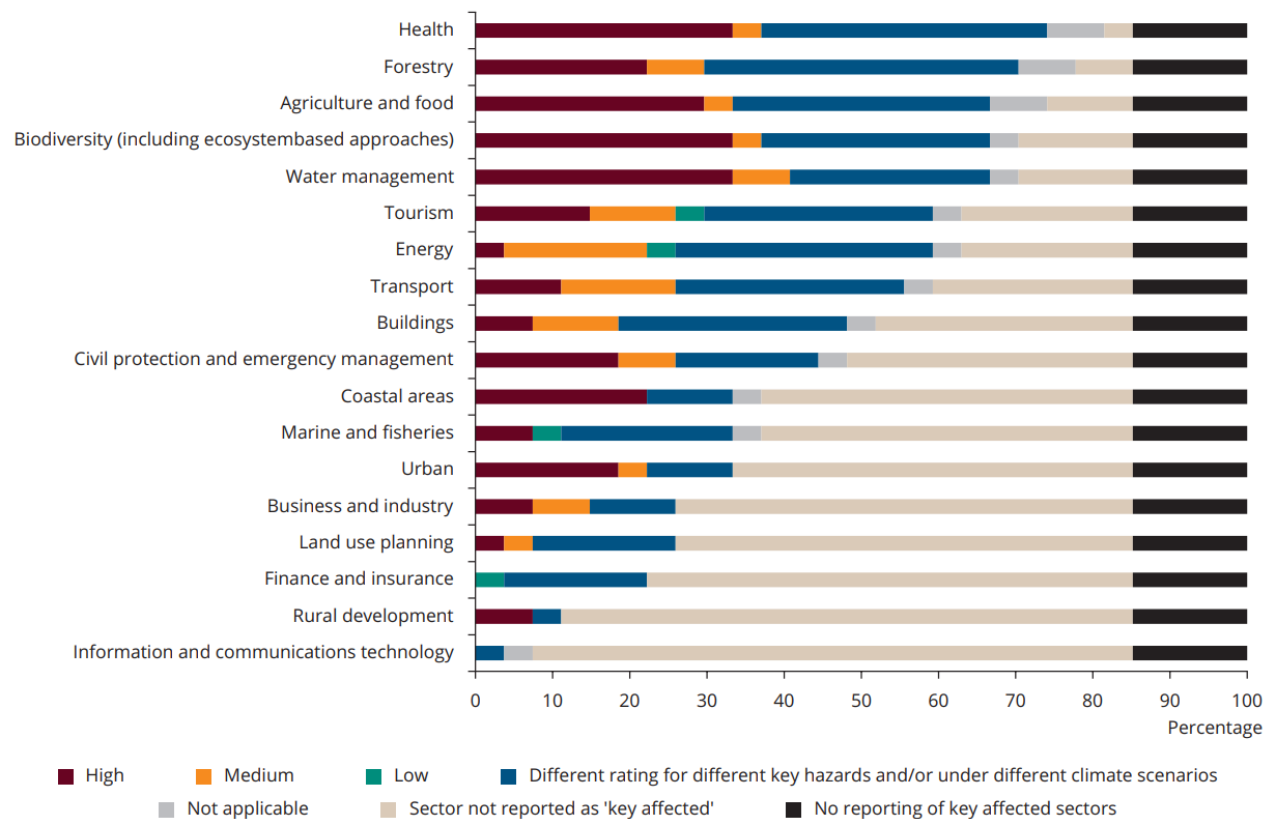


Note: Based on EU-27 Member State reporting.

Source: EEA (2022b).



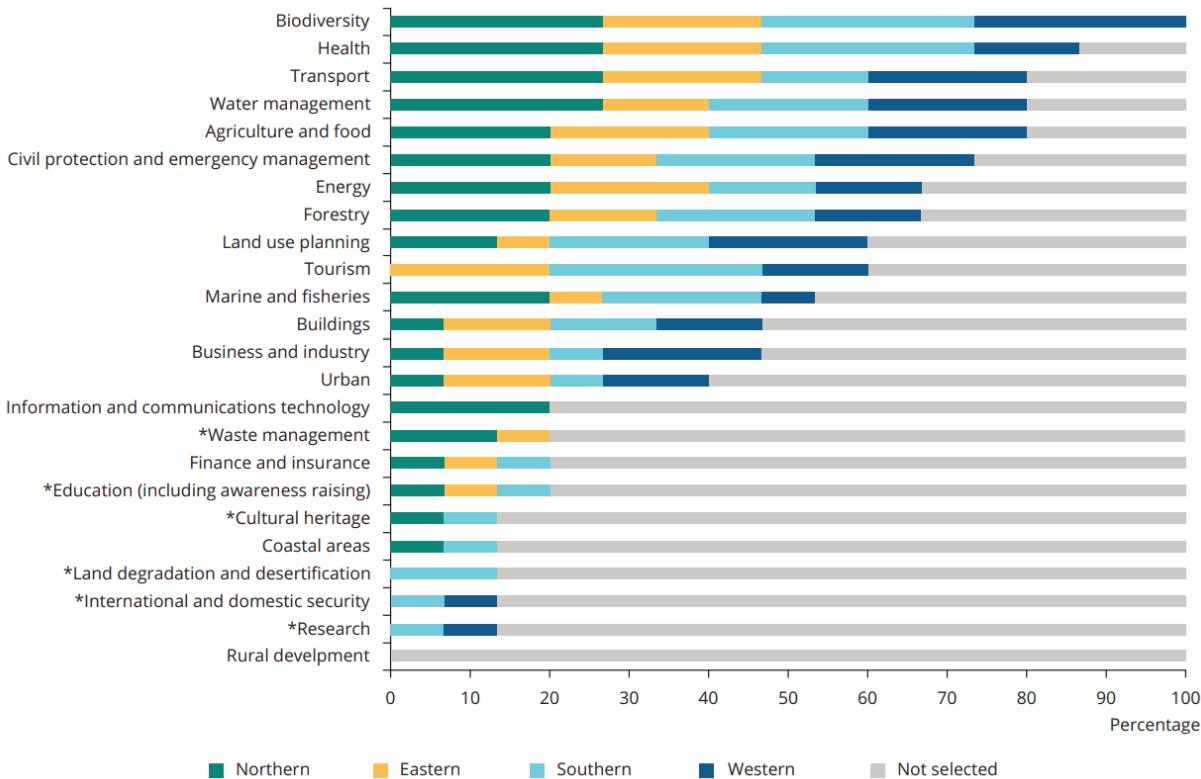
Risk of future climate impacts on key affected sectors



Notes: Data are for the EU-27. The graph includes 236 out of 249 reported key affected sectors.

Source: EEA (2022b).

Reported priority sectors per geographical area



Notes: Priority sectors (%) as reported by 15 EU Member States, where possible made consistent with the classification of key affected sectors in the regulation (EU, 2020, Annex I, Footnote 4).



2

Climate-related hazards, vulnerabilities and risks

- National climate risk assessments that are initiated by government, centrally-coordinated and linked to the national adaptation policy process predominate. However, sector-driven, project-based and bottom-up scientific assessment initiatives also occur.
- National climate risk assessments rely heavily on domestic research capacities, the alignment of national research programmes with adaptation policy needs and stakeholder engagement.
- Knowledge gaps related to non-climatic factors, cross-border and international climate risks, cross-sectoral interactions, and complex, compound and cascading risks tend to persist.

3

Adaptation policies and priorities

- Various policy instruments addressing climate change adaptation have been adopted. They reflect each country's specific national circumstances in terms of governance structure and institutional frameworks.
- Most countries still rely on rather soft policies without legally-binding commitments and on voluntary, informal and non-hierarchical cooperation. More and more Member States are using national climate laws to have more stringent legal instruments available to enforce their adaptation objectives and strategies.
- In the country reports, the prevailing strategic approach is based on avoiding and reducing climate risk. In tandem, these Member States favour 'no-regret' and 'soft' measures to address knowledge gaps, the lack of climate awareness and the lack of management capacity.
- The social justice dimension of adaptation is not yet integrated in all countries. However, this increasingly important aspect aims to address the uneven distribution of climate risks among various vulnerable groups.

Overview of adaptation policy instruments in EEA member countries , 2005-2022

Country	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Austria													*					
Belgium																		
Bulgaria																		
Croatia																		
Cyprus																		
Czechia																		
Denmark																		
Estonia																		
Finland																		
France																		
Germany																		
Greece																		
Hungary																		
Ireland																		
Italy																		
Latvia																		
Lithuania																		
Luxembourg																		
Malta																		
Netherlands																		
Poland																		
Portugal																		
Romania																		
Slovakia																		
Slovenia																		
Spain																		
Sweden																		
Iceland																		
Liechtenstein																		
Norway																		
Switzerland																		
Türkiye																		

	No adaptation policy adopted
	National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) adopted
	NAS adopted and one or more Sectoral Adaptation Plans (SAPs) adopted and reported (2021 reporting)
	NAS adopted and one or more Regional Adaptation Plans (RAPs) reported (2021 reporting)
	NAS adopted and SAPs and RAPs reported (2021 reporting)
	National Adaptation Plan (NAP) adopted
	NAS and NAP adopted
	NAS and NAP adopted and one or more (SAPs) adopted and reported (2021 reporting)
	NAS and NAP adopted and one or more (RAPs) reported (2021 reporting)
	NAS and NAP adopted and SAPs and RAPs reported (2021 reporting)
*	NAS revision adopted



4

Adaptation governance

- The diversity of institutional arrangements and processes for steering adaptation policies across different government levels and sectors has increased, depending strongly on countries' overall governance set-up.
- Legal requirements to enforce horizontal policy integration are in place in only a minority of countries. The situation is the same for binding vertical governance frameworks engaging regional and local authorities into adaptation planning.
- Effective, multi-level governance embodies a variety of networks and a set of collaborative mechanisms across sub-national governments. Those networks and collaborations play an essential role in supporting local governments to develop and implement their local adaptation strategies and action plans.



4

Adaptation governance

- EU funding instruments, macro-regional strategies, international conventions and transboundary cooperation bodies are strong enablers of transnational adaptation efforts. They have directly supported national adaptation policy processes in a number of Member States, which can be seen in the large number and diversity of forms and modes of transnational cooperation.
- Vulnerable groups were involved in the development of national and regional adaptation policies and have been considered in prioritising measures in several Member States.
- The private sector has been involved in some development and implementation of national adaptation policies. It has also been engaged in adaptation actions such as capacity-building, generating and providing information, and developing public-private collaborations at the sub-national level.

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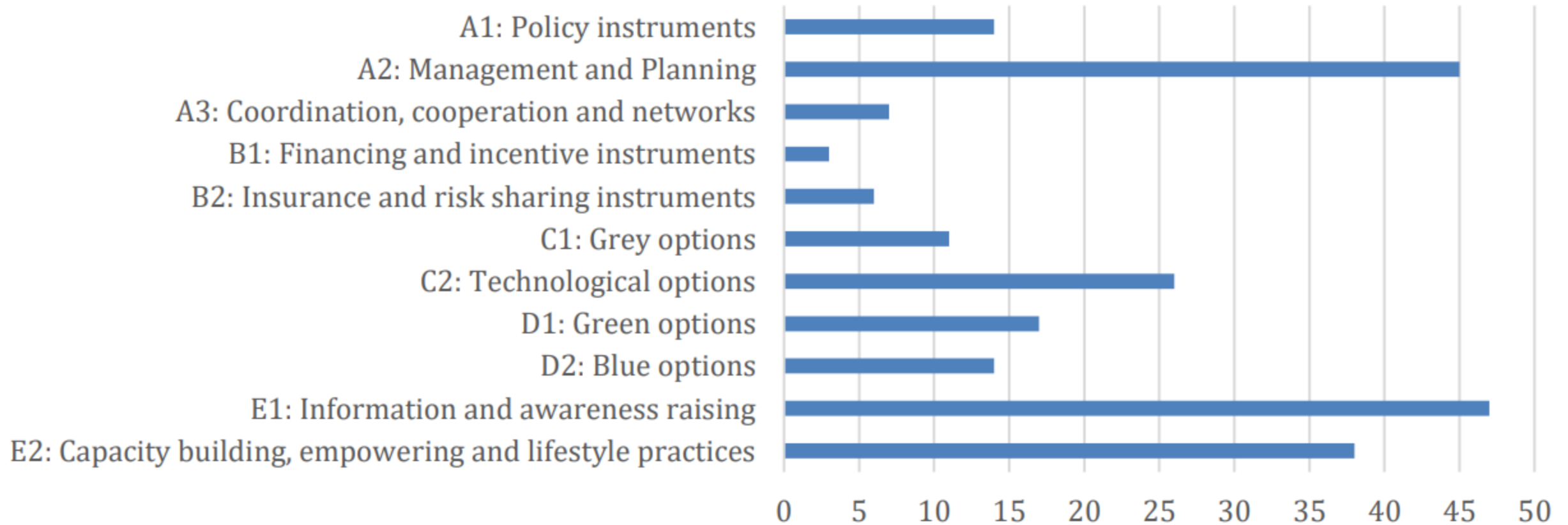
Implementation and financing

- Mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into sectoral policies and regulatory frameworks is increasing. Adaptation is becoming an integral part of agricultural, urban, water, and disaster risk management policies, and sustainable development. Despite being embraced at the project level, integration into strategic environmental impact assessments at the programme or plan level is only partial when adaptation is mainstreamed.
- The most reported measures deal with increasing adaptive capacity: activities that support awareness raising, capacity building, education and training, strategic project implementation, and adaptation at regional and local levels.
- Only a minority of national adaptation strategies and plans have budgets earmarked for financing the implementation of adaptation actions. Most Member States do not have dedicated national funds to finance the implementation of national or sectoral adaptation plans.



Key type of measures (KTM)

*reported in 2021



5

Implementation and financing

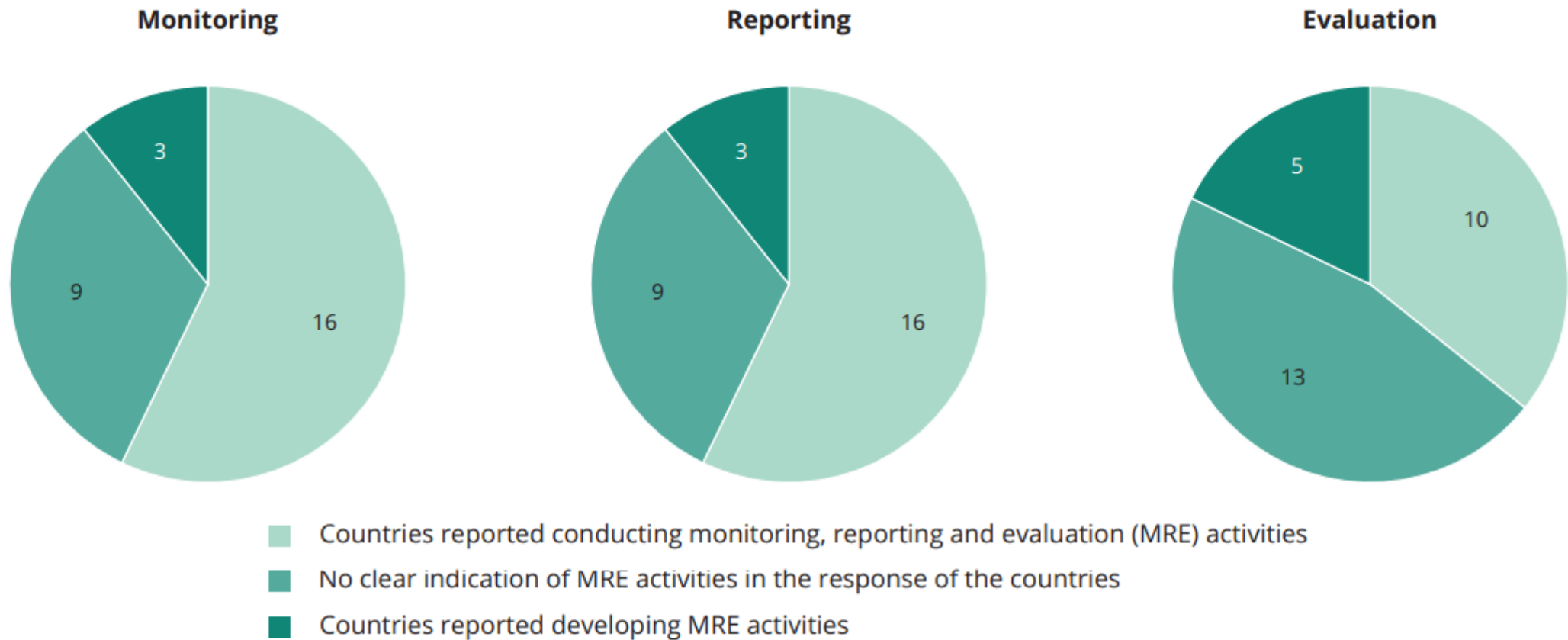
- Many Member States report challenges related to the immaturity of the monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems for tracking implementation (and especially financing). Some Member States report quantitative adaptation finance information, mainly from EU and other (research) funds, but also from public budget annual expenditure.
- Only a few Member States report having dedicated national adaptation funds to finance the implementation of national or sectoral adaptation plans. Only a minority of national adaptation strategies and plans have budgets earmarked for financing the implementation of adaptation actions.

6

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

- Member States use MRE mainly for the following three objectives: to gain a better understanding of (adaptation) policy implementation, to identify climate risks and vulnerabilities and to measure the effectiveness of policy in reducing climate change impacts, risks and vulnerabilities.
- Using various methodological approaches and combining qualitative and quantitative data are key for more effective MRE. However, a limited number of Member States report using or planning to use mixed-method, participatory and indicator-based approaches to MRE.
- MRE has the potential to influence decision-making throughout the adaptation policy cycle. However, few Member States are explicitly reporting how MRE is supposed to feed back into policy. More careful consideration of the role of MRE in the adaptation policy cycle would be beneficial.

Number of countries performing monitoring, reporting and evaluation activities



Note: Based on EU-27 Member State and Türkiye reporting.

Source: EEA (2022b).



Conclusions and future directions

right measures are the key
from Paper to Action

Good Foundation

Safeguarding The Most Vulnerable

from Soft to Binding

Risk Informed Planning

unique approaches

move towards implementation

Overarching Solutions on Horizon

All Countries Are In

actionable stakeholders

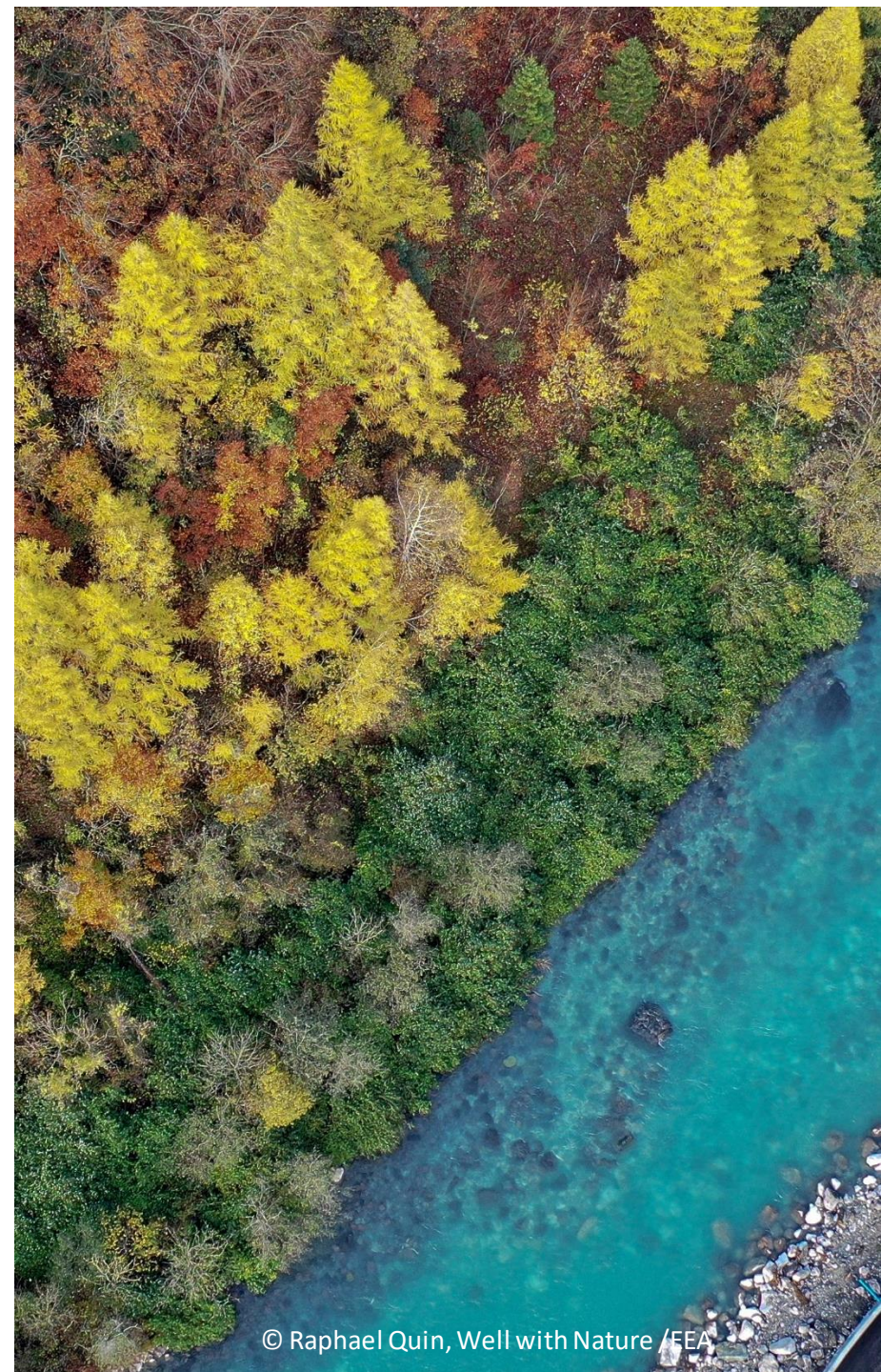
Top Down & Bottom Up

Know Your Influence

accelerate adaptive capacity

wide scale of options

diversity the spice of Europe





Conclusions and future directions

OUTLOOK FOR EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS

- Implementation of the EU strategy on adaptation to climate change
- European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA)
- Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change
- Update of the EU Member States' NECPs
- 2023 Governance Regulation reporting cycle and progress reporting
- European Climate Law progress assessment

OUTLOOK FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- national communications
- adaptation communications
- the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement
- the 'global goal on adaptation' agenda
- reporting of the Energy Community community





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