Own Your SECAP

Institutionalising climate adaptation in municipalities: results from the interviews

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Summary

In this report, the OwnYourSECAP consortium presents the outcomes of institutionalizing climate adaptation, a result of collaborative efforts involving 21 expert municipalities representing 11 different countries. These municipalities played a pivotal role in sharing valuable insights into climate adaptation strategies within the framework of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) development.

OwnYourSECAP acknowledges the significance of the expert municipalities' contribution. Serving as key participants, these municipalities bring crucial experiences that shape the project's structured approach. The OwnYourSECAP project aligns energy management systems, climate adaptation concepts based on ISO standards, and innovative engagement strategies. Notably, this approach ensures active municipal participation, fostering a sense of authorship and ownership of the SECAP, thereby influencing its subsequent implementation.

"Learning from Others" is a crucial component of the OwnYourSECAP project, emphasizing the importance of recognizing that municipalities with experience possess valuable insights. These insights encompass successful approaches, roles and responsibilities, stakeholder engagement methodologies, and adaptation measures. Leveraging these lessons, municipalities enhance their governance structures, uniting diverse stakeholders, and departments. Collaborating with experienced municipalities is essential for achieving goals like carbon neutrality and energy independence, helping secure political commitment and resources.

The interviews conducted delved into several key areas. Seasoned municipalities shared their successes, challenges, and tools for climate adaptation. Insights covered engaging municipal employees and stakeholders in SECAP development, defining roles, fostering effective governance structures, and initiating adaptation measures. The interview process serves as a bridge, transferring first-hand knowledge and methodologies from experienced municipalities to those in the OwnYourSECAP network.

This report marks a significant milestone in the OwnYourSECAP journey toward empowering municipalities in climate adaptation. The project benefits from the expertise shared by experienced municipalities, promoting shared learning, and laying the groundwork for heightened climate resilience.

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1. Introdution

This report outlines the outcomes of Tasks 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 within the OwnYourSECAP project, focusing on learning from municipalities that have successfully institutionalized climate adaptation and developing governance structures for climate adaptation in OwnYourSECAP municipalities. The primary goal of these tasks was to identify best practices and approaches that could be adapted and implemented by other municipalities.

Why was the report created?
Climate adaptation stands as one of the most urgent challenges for municipalities today. As the impacts of climate change intensify, municipalities must take proactive measures to safeguard their communities and infrastructure. However, many municipalities lack the necessary knowledge and skills to design and implement effective adaptation measures.

Type of municipalities selected
A total of 21 municipalities from 11 countries were selected to participate in Tasks 3.3.1 and 3.3.2. These municipalities were chosen because they had a demonstrated track record of success in institutionalizing climate adaptation.

How the interview guides were created
The interview guides for Task 3.3.1 were developed through a comprehensive review of the literature and consultations with climate adaptation experts. These guides were crafted to gather information on various topics, including:

- Approaches to institutionalizing climate adaptation.
- Roles and responsibilities of different actors.
- Stakeholder engagement strategies.
- Adaptation measures.
- Main Steps of the Process.

Main steps of the process for Tasks 3.3.1 and 3.3.2
Task 3.3.1: Learning from Others

- Identify municipalities with experience in institutionalizing climate adaptation.
- Develop interview guides.
- Conduct interviews with representatives of selected municipalities.
- Analyse interview data.
- Write a report summarizing the findings.

Task 3.3.2: Developing Governance Structures

- Facilitate discussions with municipalities to identify options for institutionalizing climate adaptation.
- Support municipalities in developing governance structures for climate adaptation.
- Provide guidance on roles and responsibilities for climate adaptation.
- Assist municipalities in integrating climate adaptation into existing working groups.
- Help municipalities to develop innovative approaches to institutionalizing climate adaptation.

2. Resume of Interviews

1.1. Climate adaptation plan typology

This summary provides an overview of the different types of plans implemented across various countries and regions in the project:

1. **Latvia** (*Liepāja* and *Jelgava*): Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP).

2. **France** (*Agen Agglomération* and *Lyon*): Climate action plans, with Lyon's plan set for approval in 2023.

3. **Czechia** (*Prague* and *Starý Lískovec*): Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP), including one for the City of Brno.

4. **Portugal** (*Cascais* and *Figueira da Foz*): Climate adaptation plans and a Municipal Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change (MSACC).

5. **Sweden** (*Ljungby* and *Mörbylånga*): Climate adaptation plans.

6. **Slovakia** (*Považská Bystrica*): Low-carbon strategy.

7. **Austria** (*Lustenau* and *St. Pölten*): Climate adaptation plan (KLAR Programme) and Climate framework strategy (Klimarahmenstrategie).

8. **Ireland** (*Kerry* and *Tipperary County*): Kerry County Development Plans, climate adaptation strategies, Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP), and Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP).

9. **Italy** (*Padova* and *Udine*): Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP).

10. **Poland** (*Bydgoszcz* and *Sztum*): Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP) until 2030 and city-level plans for climate change adaptation.

11. **Spain** (*Cieza* and *Lorquí*): Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP).

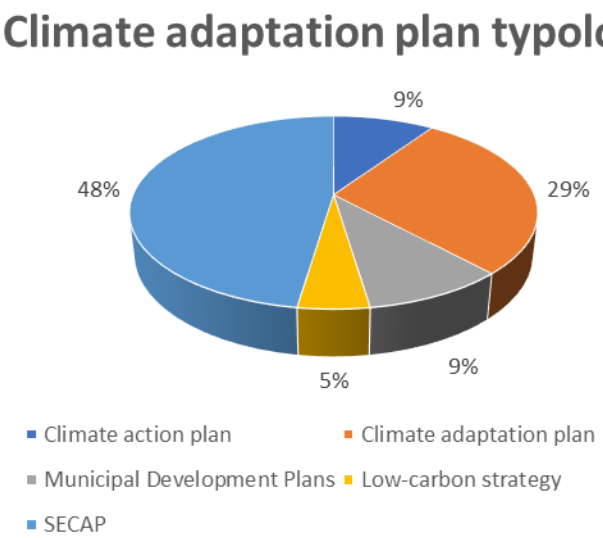

Figure 1: Climate adaptation plan typology.

The data reveals a robust collective commitment among municipalities to tackle climate change, with Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) being prevalent at 48%, placing a significant emphasis on adaptation planning (29%). The adoption of diverse planning approaches, such as climate action plans, municipal development plans, and low-carbon strategies, reflects the unique circumstances and priorities of each municipality.

1.2. Political commitment

This section summarizes the levels of political commitment observed in various cities across different countries during the development, implementation, and monitoring phases of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs).

The commitment levels are categorized into three tiers: "Total commitment," "Not always present, especially when was necessary," and "Without commitment."

Here is a summary of the commitment levels observed in different cities across various countries:

Table 1: Levels of political commitment

Country	Municipality	Commitment level during development phase	Commitment level during implementation phase	Commitment level during monitoring phase
Latvia	Liepāja	Total commitment	Total commitment	Total commitment
Latvia	Jelgava	Total commitment	Total commitment	Total commitment

Country	Municipality	Commitment level during development phase	Commitment level during implementation phase	Commitment level during monitoring phase
France	Agen Agglomération	Total commitment	Without commitment	Not always present
France	Lyon	Total commitment	Not always present	Without commitment
Czechia	Prague	Total commitment	Total commitment	Total commitment
Czechia	Starý Lískovec	Total commitment	Total commitment	Total commitment
Portugal	Cascais	Total commitment	Total commitment	Total commitment
Portugal	Figueira da Foz	Without commitment	Not always present	Total commitment
Sweden	Ljungby	Not always present	Not always present	Without commitment
Sweden	Mörbylånga	Not always present	Not always present	Without commitment
Slovakia	Považská Bystrica	Total commitment	Without commitment	Total commitment
Austria	Lustenau	Total commitment	Without commitment	Without commitment
Austria	St. Pölten	Total commitment	Total commitment	Total commitment
Ireland	Kerry	Total commitment	Total commitment	Total commitment
Ireland	Tipperary County	Total commitment	Total commitment	Total commitment
Italy	Padova	Total commitment	Total commitment	Total commitment
Italy	Udine	Total commitment	Total commitment	Total commitment
Poland	Bydgoszcz	Total commitment	Total commitment	Total commitment
Poland	Sztum	Total commitment	Total commitment	Total commitment
Spain	Cieza	Total commitment	Total commitment	Total commitment
Spain	Lorquí	Total commitment	Total commitment	Total commitment

In next figure we can access the previous information in more graphical presentation.

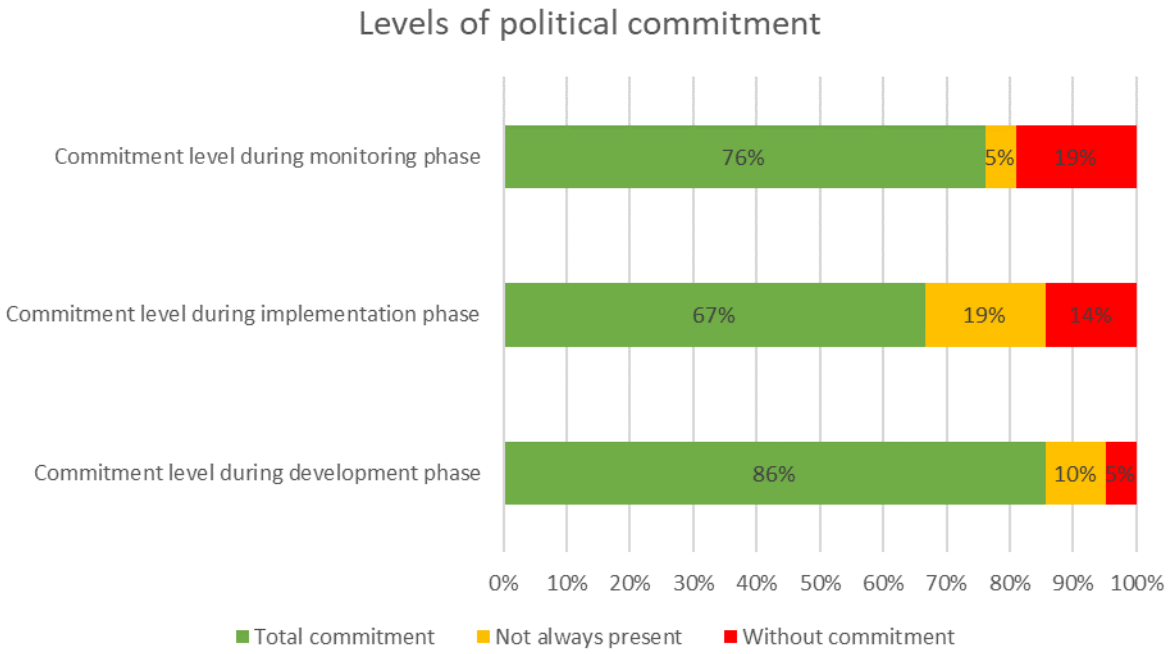

Figure 2: Levels of political commitment.

Here are some key observations from the provided table:

- During the plan development phase, most cities demonstrated a high level of commitment, with 18 out of 21 municipalities showing "Total commitment".
- Commitment levels during the implementation phase varied. While 14 municipalities maintained "Total commitment" others showed varying levels of commitment, including "Without commitment" and "Not always present".
- In the monitoring phase, 16 out of 21 municipalities continued to display "Total commitment".
- 14 cities have shown total commitment during all three phases, while others have shown less commitment during some phases.

It is crucial to note that commitment levels may change over time due to factors such as shifts in political leadership, funding availability, external influences, and the effectiveness of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs). To sustain commitment, cities should focus on building strong political support, securing stable funding, and continuously monitoring the effectiveness of their SECAPs.

1.3. Motivation and external support

This chapter explores why local governments include climate adaptation measures in their SECAPs and how they get help doing it.

- Motivation: The main motivation for municipalities to include climate adaptation measures in their SECAPs is to improve the quality of life of their citizens and to make their communities more resilient to climate change.

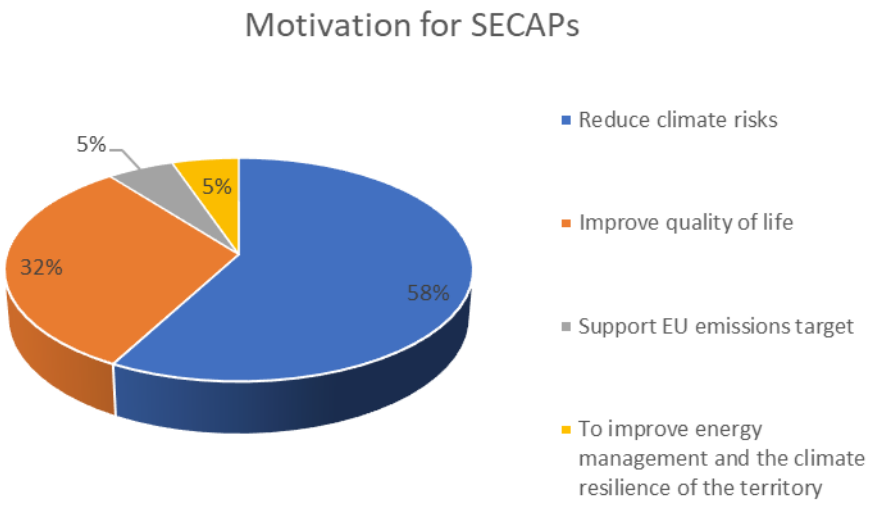

Figure 3: Motivation for the SECAPs

- External support: Some municipalities received external support for the development and implementation of their SECAPs from national and European programs, while others developed their SECAPs on their own initiative, without external support.

  Summary of the external support received by the municipalities:

  - About half of the municipalities received some form of external support for their SECAPs.
  - The most common type of support was financial assistance, followed by technical assistance and capacity-building.
  - Some municipalities received support from national or international organizations, while others received support from local or regional organizations.
  - The level of external support was not always related to the size or complexity of the municipality.

In addition to the information provided it is worth noting that the SECAPs of all the municipalities are aligned with national and European regulations about climate change. However, they are also based on the Covenant of Mayors methodology and EU regulations. This suggests that there is a strong commitment to climate action at both the national and EU levels, which is helping to drive the development and implementation of climate adaptation measures in municipalities.

In conclusion, the information presented above suggest that there is a growing awareness of the importance of climate adaptation at the municipal level and that municipalities are increasingly seeking external support to develop and implement climate adaptation measures.

1.4. Municipality maturity level considering the climate adaptation policy implementation

The maturity level of a municipality's climate adaptation policy implementation refers to the extent to which the municipality has developed, implemented, and monitored its climate adaptation plans. A Completed level indicates that the municipality has fully developed and implemented its plans, while a Working level indicates that the municipality is still in the process of developing or implementing its plans. This information was asked to assess the overall progress of municipalities in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Based on the information provided, the following municipalities have a maturity level of **Completed** for climate adaptation policy implementation:

- Agen Agglomération, France
- Lyon, France
- Považská Bystrica, Slovakia
- Bydgoszcz, Poland
- Sztum, Poland
- Cieza, Spain
- Lorquí, Spain

These municipalities have developed and implemented climate adaptation plans and are using performance indicators to track the progress and outcomes of their initiatives.

The following municipalities have a maturity level of **Working** for climate adaptation policy implementation:

- Liepāja, Latvia
- Jelgava, Latvia
- Prague, Czechia
- Starý Lískovec, Czechia
- Cascais, Portugal
- Figueira da Foz, Portugal
- Ljungby, Sweden
- Mörbylånga, Sweden
- Lustenau, Austria
- St. Pölten, Austria
- Kerry, Ireland
- Tipperary County, Ireland
- Padova, Italy
- Udine, Italy

These municipalities have all developed climate adaptation plans but are still in the process of implementing them and monitoring their progress.

Overall, the municipalities are making good progress on climate adaptation policy implementation. However, there is still room for improvement, and it is important for all municipalities to continue to develop and implement climate adaptation plans to protect their communities from the impacts of climate change.

1.5. Climate adaptation plan importance to the municipality

This chapter presents a concise overview of the countries with very important, important, and neutral climate adaptation plans importance:

Very important:

- Latvia (Liepāja and Jelgava)
- Portugal (Cascais and Figueira da Foz)
- Sweden (Ljungby)
- Slovakia (Považská Bystrica)
- Austria (St. Pölten)
- Poland (Bydgoszcz, Sztum)
- Spain (Cieza, Lorquí)
- Italy (Padova, Udine)

Important:

- Czech Republic (Prague)
- Sweden (Mörbylånga)
- Ireland (Kerry, Tipperary County)

Neutral:

- France (Agen Agglomération, Lyon)
- Austria (Lustenau)

Not very important:

- Czech Republic (Starý Lískovec)

As is evident from previous information, 13 cities consider climate adaptation plans to be very important. This is likely because these countries are all experiencing the impacts of climate change firsthand. For example, Latvia and Poland have experienced more frequent and severe flooding in recent years, while Portugal and Spain have experienced more heat waves and droughts.

It is important to note that there are a few countries in the table that do not consider climate adaptation plans to be as important. This may be due to several factors, such as the country's location, the specific climate risks that it faces, or the availability of resources. However, it is important for all

countries to consider developing and implementing climate adaptation plans, as the impacts of climate change are only going to become more severe in the future.

1.6. Adopted organizational structure

The overview of the organizational structures that municipalities have implemented to address climate change adaptation. This chapter highlights the diversity of approaches, the emphasis placed on adapting to climate change, and the growing trend towards more formal organizational structures. It also underscores the importance of stakeholder involvement and knowledge sharing among municipalities to foster effective climate adaptation strategies.

In resume from the information for the adopted organizational structures is:

- Most of the municipalities have adopted organizational structures for climate adaptation that are designed to be efficient and effective. The structures typically involve a team of dedicated staff who are responsible for coordinating the implementation of adaptation measures across different departments and agencies. In some cases, municipalities have also established specific committees or working groups to oversee the climate adaptation process.
- The long-term benefits of implementing climate adaptation plans are clear and well-articulated. These benefits include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, increasing safety for residents, and adapting the city to climate change.
- There is a diversity of organizational approaches to climate adaptation among the municipalities listed in the table. Some municipalities have created dedicated departments or teams for climate adaptation, while others have integrated climate adaptation into existing structures. There is no one-size-fits-all approach, and the best approach for a particular municipality will depend on its specific circumstances.

The municipalities are placing significant emphasis on adapting to climate change and are implementing a variety of innovative strategies to effectively address this pressing issue.

Some additional conclusions that can be drawn from the information provided:

- There is a trend towards more formal organizational structures for climate adaptation. This is likely due to the increasing recognition of the importance of climate adaptation and the need for a coordinated approach.
- Municipalities are increasingly involving stakeholders from different sectors in the climate adaptation planning and implementation process. This is essential for ensuring that adaptation measures are comprehensive and effective.
- Municipalities are learning from each other and sharing best practices. This is evident in the similarities in the organizational approaches that have been adopted by some of the municipalities listed in the tables.

Overall, the information provided is a positive picture of the progress that municipalities are making in adapting to climate change.

1.7. Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities in climate adaptation vary depending on the context, but municipalities typically play a central role. Other stakeholders, such as government agencies, businesses, and civil society organizations, also have important roles to play.

Key roles and responsibilities include developing and implementing climate adaptation plans, integrating climate adaptation into other municipal policies and programs, and raising awareness of climate change and engaging stakeholders in the adaptation process.

Challenges to effective stakeholder engagement include a lack of resources, lack of awareness and understanding, and competing priorities. Strategies for overcoming these challenges include allocating resources to stakeholder engagement, raising awareness and understanding, and building partnerships.

Some examples of the information provided in the interviews:

- **Liepāja, Latvia:** A project working group, including representatives from the municipality, stakeholders, and the Executive Director and his deputies, is responsible for discussing and developing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.
- **Jelgava, Latvia:** This city manages flood risk through a collaborative approach that involves the Department for Development and Urban Planning, the Investment Plan development process, private companies, and a digital center. The city uses technology to enhance flood risk monitoring and communication.
- **Agen Agglomération, France:** The municipality plays a very important role in coordinating the climate plan, while the consular chambers and businesses play a key role in its development. An independent third party was commissioned for the technical part of developing the climate plan.
- **Lyon, France:** The municipality's operational departments were involved in developing the climate plan, along with an external service provider who was commissioned for the technical part.
- **Prague, Czechia:** The Adaptation Unit coordinates adaptation measures of municipal agencies and municipal subsidiary companies.
- **Starý Lískovec, Czechia:** Adaptation measures are informally institutionalized as part of the maintenance of municipally owned apartment buildings and all public spaces.
- **Cascais, Portugal:** The municipality involved citizens and residents in the planning and prioritization of adaptation measures through participatory events and a survey. Eight working sessions were also held with representatives from the municipality, Public Health, Civil

Protection, Education, Tourism, civil society, and residents. The research center Ce3C1 was consulted for the elaboration of the Action Plan.

- **Figueira da Foz, Portugal:** The municipality involved stakeholders in the development of the Municipal Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change through workshops. Stakeholders are also involved in monitoring the implementation of the Strategy through a Local Monitoring Council
- **Ljungby, Sweden:** Each measure in the plan of measures has an appointed official in charge for the accomplishment. Managers for the various municipal administrations and officials in the four working groups are also involved.
- **Mörbylånga, Sweden:** Each measure in the strategic plan has a responsible part in one or more political entity and each activity in the action plan has a responsible part in the organisation.
- **Považská Bystrica, Slovakia:** A project coordinator worked with relevant departments and stakeholders to develop a low-carbon strategy. An external company was hired to prepare the final document.
- **Lustenau, Austria:** There is a key coordinator for climate adaptation initiatives within the municipality, ensuring seamless collaboration between departments and integration of climate adaptation strategies into the municipality's overall plan.
- **St. Pölten, Austria:** A project team, including external experts and a municipal employee, developed the climate framework strategy. The team collaborated to create measures addressing climate change while ensuring alignment with municipal structures.
- **Kerry, Ireland:** A project working group was established to discuss and develop climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. Each identified measure has an appointed official in charge.
- **Tipperary County, Ireland:** A Climate Action Team, comprising senior representatives of all sections, is responsible for discussing, agreeing, and developing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. The team meets every two months and includes representatives of the TEA (Transport, Environment and Agriculture).
- **Padova, Italy:** The activities and responsibilities for drafting the SECAP (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan) were distributed within the framework of the LIFE VenetoADAPT project. Internal departments of the Municipality of Padua worked with technical partners, including SOGESCA (energy and GHG balance), IUAV (vulnerability and climate analysis), and stakeholders (action plan).
- **Udine, Italy:** Various sectors of the Municipality were involved in developing the SECAP, which contains indications and objectives from the urban planning, mobility, public construction, public green areas, territorial planning, and private construction sectors.
- **Bydgoszcz, Poland:** The Energy Management team coordinated the work on the SECAP plan, collecting information from different departments and contacting external stakeholders. The execution of the inventory and preparation of the report were outsourced.
- **Sztum, Poland:** The Integrated Development Department coordinated the work on the SECAP plan, collecting information from different departments and contacting external stakeholders.

An implementation task force is planned, which will include people from the Sustainable Development Referral and other municipal units.

- **Cieza, Spain:** Coordination between different municipality areas, stakeholders, and citizens was key to the distribution of roles and responsibilities. The energy and environmental departments were present in the coordination group and played a vital role in the SECAP development.
- **Lorquí, Spain:** The environmental, urbanism, and energy departments were all involved in developing the SECAP.

The information given suggest that municipalities are taking climate adaptation seriously and are developing a range of innovative approaches to address this challenge. The case studies also highlight the importance of coordination, external expertise, dedicated teams or task forces, and stakeholder engagement.

1.8. Municipality long-term vision for climate adaptation

In the face of the growing threat of climate change, municipalities across Europe are increasingly taking steps to adapt to its impacts. These impacts include rising sea levels, more extreme weather events, and changes in precipitation patterns.

The long-term visions of these municipalities for climate adaptation are ambitious and forward-thinking. They reflect a growing recognition of the importance of climate adaptation and a commitment to building more resilient and sustainable communities.

Specific goals and objectives vary from municipality to municipality, but some common themes emerge. These include:

- A focus on mainstreaming adaptation into all aspects of municipal planning and policy.
- The involvement of stakeholders and the community in the planning and implementation of adaptation measures.
- The use of innovative technologies and solutions to address climate change impacts.

Some examples of specific adaptation measures being implemented by municipalities include:

- Building sea walls and levees to protect coastal communities from rising sea levels.
- Developing green infrastructure to help mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events.
- Improving water management to reduce flooding and drought.

By taking these steps, municipalities are working to build more resilient and sustainable communities that can withstand the impacts of climate change.

1.9. Climate change adaptation measures

Municipalities can navigate the complexities of climate change by implementing innovative approaches that have been successfully employed by pioneering cities. This chapter highlights the key elements that contribute to successful adaptation efforts, including innovation, critical success factors, key achievements, and lessons learned. By understanding these insights, municipalities can empower themselves to effectively tackle the challenges of climate change and build resilient urban environments for the future.

Innovation	Critical success factors
• Participatory governance: Engaging stakeholders and citizens in the planning, design, and implementation of adaptation measures. • Green-blue infrastructure: Integrating natural and engineered systems to manage stormwater, reduce flooding, and improve air quality. • Cross-sectoral collaboration: Working together across different municipal agencies and departments to implement adaptation measures. • Innovative financing: Exploring new ways to finance adaptation measures, such as public-private partnerships and green bonds. • Technology solutions: Developing and using new technologies to monitor and manage climate risks.	• Strong support from municipal leadership/politicians and personnel: This is essential for creating a favourable environment for the development and implementation of adaptation measures. • Motivated and engaged staff: All levels of staff need to be committed to adaptation to achieve success. • Stakeholder engagement: It is important to involve stakeholders from various sectors in the planning and implementation of adaptation measures. • Adequate funding: Adaptation measures can be costly, so it is important to secure funding from a variety of sources. • Technical capacity: Municipalities need to have the technical expertise to develop and implement effective adaptation measures. Apart from the common success factors, certain specific factors are essential for various types of adaptation measures. For instance, measures that involve the private sector must engage and cooperate with them to ensure successful implementation. Measures that require significant public awareness and education must integrate targeted communication

	strategies. Additionally, measures that involve technological advancements will require collaboration with relevant industries and experts.

Key achievements	Lesson learned
• Coastal protection: Liepāja, Latvia has implemented a range of coastal protection measures, including strengthening the seashore, installing drinking water taps, deploying landslide warning signs, maintaining amelioration systems, cleaning up fortress channels, and constructing a sea embankment. • Multifunctional infrastructure: Jelgava, Latvia has constructed a multifunctional riverbank dam that provides flood protection, recreational opportunities, and access to nature. • Strategic planning: Agen Agglomération, France has conducted a strategic environmental assessment to identify climate vulnerabilities and inform adaptation planning. Lyon, France has developed a comprehensive climate adaptation plan that is integrated with other city policies and plans. • Mainstreaming adaptation: Prague, Czech Republic has mainstreamed climate adaptation into metropolitan policy and budgeting. • Green infrastructure: Starý Lískovec, Czech Republic has implemented green infrastructure solutions, such as green roofs and rain gardens, to improve stormwater management and reduce flooding. • Nature-based solutions: Cascais, Portugal is developing nature-based solutions, such as urban forests and green roofs, to improve climate resilience. • Stakeholder engagement: Figueira da Foz, Portugal has engaged stakeholders and the public through participatory	• Active participation in international initiatives can be a significant motivator and facilitator for climate adaptation. • Establishing a more structured decision-making process and investing more resources towards risk assessment and modelling can improve the effectiveness of adaptation efforts. • Involving diverse stakeholders, including socio-economic players and local residents, can enable new development opportunities and ensure the success of adaptation initiatives. • Raising awareness of climate change and local risks, getting the personnel involved in the elaboration of actions, and understanding local prerequisites are important factors in successful adaptation planning. • Cooperation with municipalities and schools, as well as subsequent publicity, can be effective in disseminating knowledge about climate adaptation and building support for adaptation measures. • Making communities and citizens happy and agreeing to the terms of adaptation measures is crucial, especially when these measures require physical involvement. • Thinking progressively and coming up with new adaptation actions embedded with a scientific approach is essential to meet the challenges of climate change. • The methodological approach of VenetoADAPT can be replicated in any European municipality, while the experiences of the City of Udine in participating in European projects and creating synergy between projects

workshops in the development and implementation of its climate adaptation plan. • Knowledge building: Ljungby, Sweden has conducted a comprehensive study of water flow and drainage patterns to inform adaptation planning. • Sustainable transportation: Mörbylånga, Sweden has developed a strategy to promote the ownership and use of sustainable vehicles, including electric vehicles. • Public space revitalization: Považská Bystrica, Slovakia has revitalized public spaces with the involvement of citizens, schools, and civic associations. • Community-led initiatives: Kerry, Ireland has supported a community-led coastal conservation group. Tipperary County, Ireland has conducted a pilot study on HVO fuel, a renewable and sustainable alternative to diesel. • Ecological restoration of Rhine river: Lustenau, Austria is promoting adaptation of river to make it more ecologic, e.g. more water surface, woody plants, shading and etc…	within the SECAP can be applied in Local Authorities of the same territorial dimensions. • The most important success factor for climate adaptation projects is the appropriate preparation and distribution of tasks at the project proposal stage, as well as ongoing monitoring of the phases being carried out. • The participation approach followed, at internal and external levels, has great potential for replication in municipalities of different sizes and characteristics. • It is always important to start with SECAP development, implementation, and monitoring, even if there is a lack of information or human resources. • The SECAP should relate to other strategic plans, address a wide range of municipality areas and external actors, and involve private entities through CSR approaches.

1.10. Climate adaptation monitoring

The climate adaptation monitoring practices of 21 municipalities in 11 European countries. The key findings are as follows:

- Monitoring approaches: Most municipalities (18) use a dedicated monitoring team or unit to track the implementation of adaptation measures. However, some municipalities (3) rely on the sustainability strategist or generalist staff to oversee monitoring activities.
- Monitoring tools: A variety of tools are used for monitoring adaptation measures, including national tools (2), regional tools (1), and in-house developed tools (15). Some municipalities also utilize GIS systems (4) to enhance monitoring and evaluation.
- Monitoring frequency: Most municipalities (19) conduct regular monitoring of adaptation measures, with annual or biannual assessments being the most common practice. However, a few municipalities (4) only monitor measures when specific milestones are reached.
- Data collection: The data collected for monitoring adaptation measures varies depending on the municipality's specific needs and the type of measures being implemented. However,

common data elements include project progress, cost-effectiveness, and impacts on climate change risks.

- Reporting and evaluation: Most municipalities (20) report their monitoring findings to relevant stakeholders, such as local authorities, regional agencies, or national governments. Some municipalities also conduct periodic evaluations to assess the overall effectiveness of their adaptation strategies.

3. Conclusion

Deliverable 3.2 represents a significant milestone in the OwnYourSECAP Project, showcasing the collective progress of 21 expert municipalities from 11 countries. These municipalities have collaborated to share invaluable insights on climate adaptation within the framework of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) development.

In Task 3.3.1, experienced municipalities shared knowledge of successful approaches, roles, stakeholder engagement, and adaptation measures. Their participation is pivotal for ambitious goals like carbon neutrality and energy independence. The interviews facilitated knowledge transfer within the OwnYourSECAP network, emphasizing the project's goal to empower municipalities in SECAP development and ownership.

This deliverable underscores the importance of climate adaptation at the municipal level. Most municipalities recognize the significance of climate adaptation plans, actively seeking external support for development and implementation. This engagement aligns with national and European regulations, following the Covenant of Mayors methodology and EU regulations, affirming robust commitment to climate action at multiple levels.

The maturity levels of municipalities concerning climate adaptation policy implementation provide insight into their dedication. While some have completed plans, others are actively working on these measures. All municipalities are making commendable progress, emphasizing the importance of continuous efforts to protect communities from climate change impacts. Implementation of climate adaptation policy is a continuous cycle of improving measures.

Municipalities' long-term visions for climate adaptation, as outlined, are ambitious and forward-thinking. Goals vary but share common themes, reflecting a growing recognition of climate adaptation's importance and a commitment to building resilient and sustainable communities.

Furthermore, the data emphasizes the significance of organizational structures, stakeholder engagement, and innovative financing in climate adaptation. Municipalities are placing significant emphasis on adapting to climate change and implementing various strategies. There's a growing trend toward more formal organizational structures, involving dedicated teams coordinating measures across departments for comprehensive and effective adaptation.

Information on climate adaptation measures, success factors, achievements, and lessons learned offers insights into the innovative approaches adopted. Participatory governance, green-blue infrastructure (GBI), cross-sectoral collaboration, innovative financing, and technology solutions contribute to success. Leadership and personnel commitment play a crucial role in creating a favourable environment for adaptation efforts.

Lessons learned to provide valuable insights, emphasizing structured decision-making, comprehensive risk assessment, stakeholder involvement, funding, and technical capacity for effective adaptation. External partnerships, community involvement, and ongoing pursuit of innovation are crucial in tackling climate change challenges.

Comprehensive monitoring practices highlight a growing recognition of the importance of climate adaptation monitoring. While no one-size-fits-all solution exists, municipalities actively monitor using various tools and approaches. To advance monitoring, municipalities should develop tailored plans, share experiences, and seek guidance from national and regional governments.

In conclusion, Deliverable 3.2 encapsulates municipalities' commitment to climate adaptation, reflecting global awareness of climate change challenges. The OwnYourSECAP Project, in collaboration with expert municipalities, drives innovation and knowledge-sharing, fostering a united approach to governance and enhancing climate resilience. As municipalities continue building resilient communities, their experiences will inspire others toward a more climate-resilient future.

4. Annex - Interview Summary

4.1. Latvia – Liepāja and Jelgava
4.1_Latvia.pdf

4.2. France - Agen Agglomération and Lyon
4.2_France.pdf

4.3. Czech Republic- Prague and Starý Lískovec
4.3_Czech_republic.pdf

4.4. Portugal – Cascais and Figueira da Foz
4.4_Portugal.pdf

4.5. Sweden – Ljungby and Mörbylånga
4.5_sweden.pdf

4.6. Slovakia - Považská Bystrica
4.6_Slovakia.pdf

4.7. Austria – Lustenau and St. Pölten
4.7_Austria.pdf

4.8. Ireland – Kerry and Tipperary County
4.8_Ireland.pdf

4.9. Italy – Padova and Udine
4.9_Italy.pdf

4.10. Poland – Bydgoszcz and Sztum
4.10_Poland.pdf

4.11. Spain – Cieza and Lorquí
4.11_Spain.pdf