



## Mayors Adapt

### Promoting local leadership in adaptation to climate change

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#### About the Mayors Adapt initiative

- First pan-European initiative to support local authorities in leading the way on adaptation to climate change,
- Launched in March 2014 by the European Commission's Directorate General Climate Action,
- Building upon the EU adaptation strategy and the results of past EC projects,
- Implemented within the framework of the Covenant of Mayors.

#### Covenant of Mayors vs. Mayors Adapt – similarities and differences

Taking coherent action on mitigation and adaptation will benefit the local authorities. In parallel with reducing greenhouse gas emissions, local authorities also need to strengthen their resilience to the inevitable impacts of climate change. Taking effective action on mitigation will reduce the need to adapt. However, extreme weather events show that climate change impacts are already increasing vulnerabilities, and hindering social cohesion and economic development - therefore action on adaptation is also needed.

Mayors Adapt follows the model of the Covenant of Mayors initiative (e.g. voluntary commitment, political ownership) – it is a **parallel exercise for adaptation**. The objective is to support local authorities in taking coherent action on both mitigation and adaptation, by **promoting an integrated approach**.

#### Mayors Adapt's key objectives are:

- to **inspire** local authorities to show leadership on climate change adaptation,
- to **support** them in developing strategies for concrete action,
- to **translate and accelerate** action on adaptation to improve local resilience to climate impacts.

#### Why to join?

Mayors Adapt helps your local authority to:

- become a **forerunner** and demonstrate your political leadership in adaptation,
- **showcase your action and expertise on adaptation**, thanks to the initiative's pan-European activities and outreach,
- **set up and implement local adaptation plans** by providing first-class support through a dedicated helpdesk,
- **gain quick access to expertise** with targeted guidance materials and tools tailored for local authorities,
- **network with other European cities** and benefit from their experiences and good practice through dedicated events and access to comprehensive city profiles,

**Make your  
local authority  
more  
attractive,  
livable,  
healthier and  
safer!**



## Sign up to the initiative

To join the Mayors Adapt initiative, local authorities will present the Mayors Adapt Political Commitment Document to the municipal council. Once an official resolution has been adopted by the council, they can sign the Mayors' Commitment and get in contact with the Mayors Adapt Helpdesk for the next steps. More information about the adhesion process on the [www.mayors-adapt.eu](http://www.mayors-adapt.eu) website > [How to Sign Up](#).

## Signatories' Commitments

By signing up to the initiative, local authorities commit to translating EU Adaptation Strategy into concrete and effective local adaptation action by either (1) developing a comprehensive local adaptation strategy or (2) integrating adaptation to climate change into relevant existing plans within 2 years after joining. The resulting plan(s) should include main outcomes of a risk and vulnerability assessment. Mayors Adapt signatories will also report on progress every second year according to the framework of the initiative (more information on the reporting requirements on the website).

*"Mayors Adapt initiative is a real milestone in making the EU better prepared to face existing and future impacts [...] it will bring together mayors from across the continent, taking decisions on the direction of climate change adaptation and engaging on a direct dialogue between the EU and our cities."* - **Connie Hedegaard**, European Commissioner for Climate Action



Download the **Full Commitment Document** on the [www.mayors-adapt.eu](http://www.mayors-adapt.eu) website, [Materials](#) section for more information.

## Step-by-step process

Mayors Adapt Signatories commit to:

Fulfil the following step-by-step approach:	And submit (within predefined time frames):
<b>1. Get started: secure commitment and ensure management,</b>	✓ A <b>local adaptation strategy (1) or the respective relevant adaptation documents (2)</b> , including the results of the risk & vulnerability assessment, identifying clear responsibilities and resources, and outlining the adaptation actions - <u>within two years</u> following the formal signing of the Commitment;
<b>2. Assess risks and vulnerabilities as a basis to prioritise adaptation actions,</b>	
<b>3. Identify adaptation options,</b>	
<b>4. Assess adaptation options,</b>	
<b>5. Implement adaptation options,</b>	✓ An <b>Implementation Progress Report</b> <u>every second year</u> according to the framework of the initiative (see the proposed self-assessment checklist in Appendix).
<b>6. Regularly monitor and evaluate progress, and adjust the local adaptation strategy accordingly.</b>	



**MAYORS ADAPT**

THE COVENANT OF MAYORS INITIATIVE  
ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

### Why taking adaptation action at local level?

- Local authorities, in all socio-economic situations and geographical locations, are vulnerable to the various impacts of climate change (shift of regional climatic conditions: more heat/ rain, changes in biodiversity, sea-level rise & coastal erosion...)
- The new magnitude of extreme weather events has high impact on population (e.g. heat waves), buildings, infrastructure (e.g. floods) and possible cascade failure (e.g. energy / ICT networks).
- ➔ **Local authorities are key drivers in the implementation of adaptation actions, improving the overall resilience of local territories.**

### What Mayors Adapt offers?

- **Practical support** offered by a dedicated Helpdesk for operational questions,
- **Knowledge support** via targeted guidance materials - specifically tailored to local authorities,
- Possibilities of **networking and peer-to-peer learning activities** through dedicated events,
- **Visibility and communication** on cities' commitment to adaptation via personalised Signatory profiles on the Mayors Adapt website,
- **Synergies with the Covenant of Mayors** and other relevant initiatives such as **Climate-ADAPT**.

Funding for adaptation action is available through various EU funding streams and instruments. For example the new LIFE programme will encourage urban adaptation projects, in particular those linked to Mayors Adapt. This call will be launched later in 2014.

### About the Mayors Adapt office

Support is provided through a dedicated office, composed of a team of experts from across Europe, including: Climate Alliance, Ecofys, Fresh Thoughts and IFOK GmbH.

### Want to learn more?

For more information about the Mayors Adapt initiative, contact the dedicated helpdesk:  
[helpdesk@mayors-adapt.eu](mailto:helpdesk@mayors-adapt.eu) | (+32)-2-808 44 92

For further information on how to join the initiative and take action, please visit: [www.mayors-adapt.eu](http://www.mayors-adapt.eu)

### Want to join us at our events?

- Mayors Adapt Signature Ceremony: 7 October 2014, Brussels
- Other local outreach events in different Member States: check the online calendar on the Mayors Adapt website.



Initiated within  
the framework of

