



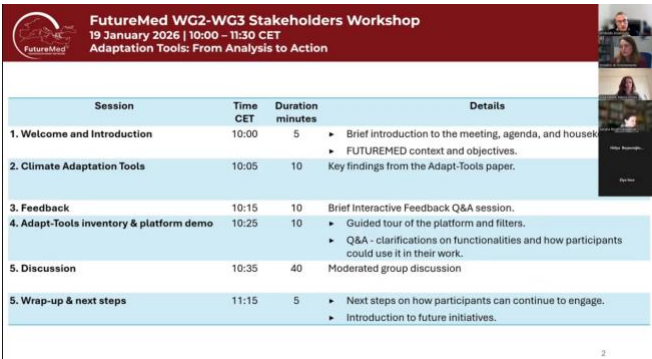
FutureMed WG2-WG3 Stakeholders Workshop on Adaptation Tools January 19th, 2026, virtual (zoom)

Meeting minutes:

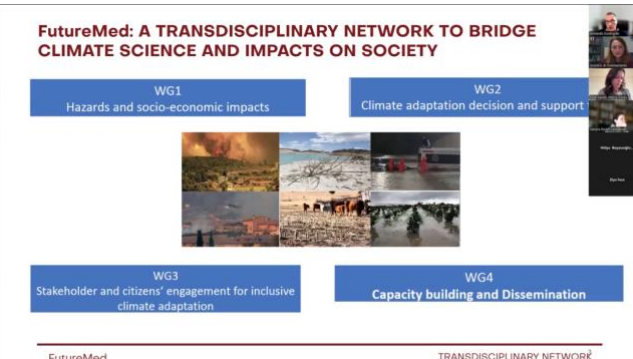
This workshop was jointly organised by Working Groups 2 and 3 of the FutureMed COST Action and focused on climate change adaptation (CCA) tools relevant to the Mediterranean region. It combined a scientific overview of existing CCA tools with a live demonstration of the Adapt Tools platform currently being developed under FutureMed. Through facilitated discussion, participants shared feedback and recommendations to strengthen the platform's functionality and usability, and helped clarify whether future research should prioritise developing more Mediterranean-specific tools or focus on improving understanding, awareness, and uptake of existing tools.

Welcome and Introduction:

The meeting opened with remarks from Aris Koutroulis, who welcomed participants to the joint WG2–WG3 Stakeholder Workshop on Adaptation Tools, convened under the FutureMed COST Action on climate change impacts and adaptation in the Mediterranean region. He presented the agenda, which included short presentations, a guided tour of the platform, and a live discussion on the future of adaptation tools across the Mediterranean. Aris closed by noting that WG2 has completed its first two tasks and outlining the next steps: the third and fourth tasks will focus on developing methods to measure adaptation effectiveness.




Session	Time CET	Duration minutes	Details
1. Welcome and Introduction	10:00	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief introduction to the meeting, agenda, and housekeeping. FUTUREMED context and objectives. Key findings from the Adapt-Tools paper.
2. Climate Adaptation Tools	10:05	10	
3. Feedback	10:15	10	Brief Interactive Feedback Q&A session.
4. Adapt-Tools inventory & platform demo	10:25	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided tour of the platform and features. Q&A - clarifications on functionalities and how participants could use it in their work.
5. Discussion	10:35	40	Moderated group discussion
5. Wrap-up & next steps	11:15	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next steps on how participants can continue to engage. Introduction to future initiatives.




FutureMed: A TRANSDISCIPLINARY NETWORK TO BRIDGE CLIMATE SCIENCE AND IMPACTS ON SOCIETY


WG1
Hazards and socio-economic impacts




WG2
Climate adaptation decision and support



WG3
Stakeholder and citizens' engagement for inclusive climate adaptation



WG4
Capacity building and Dissemination



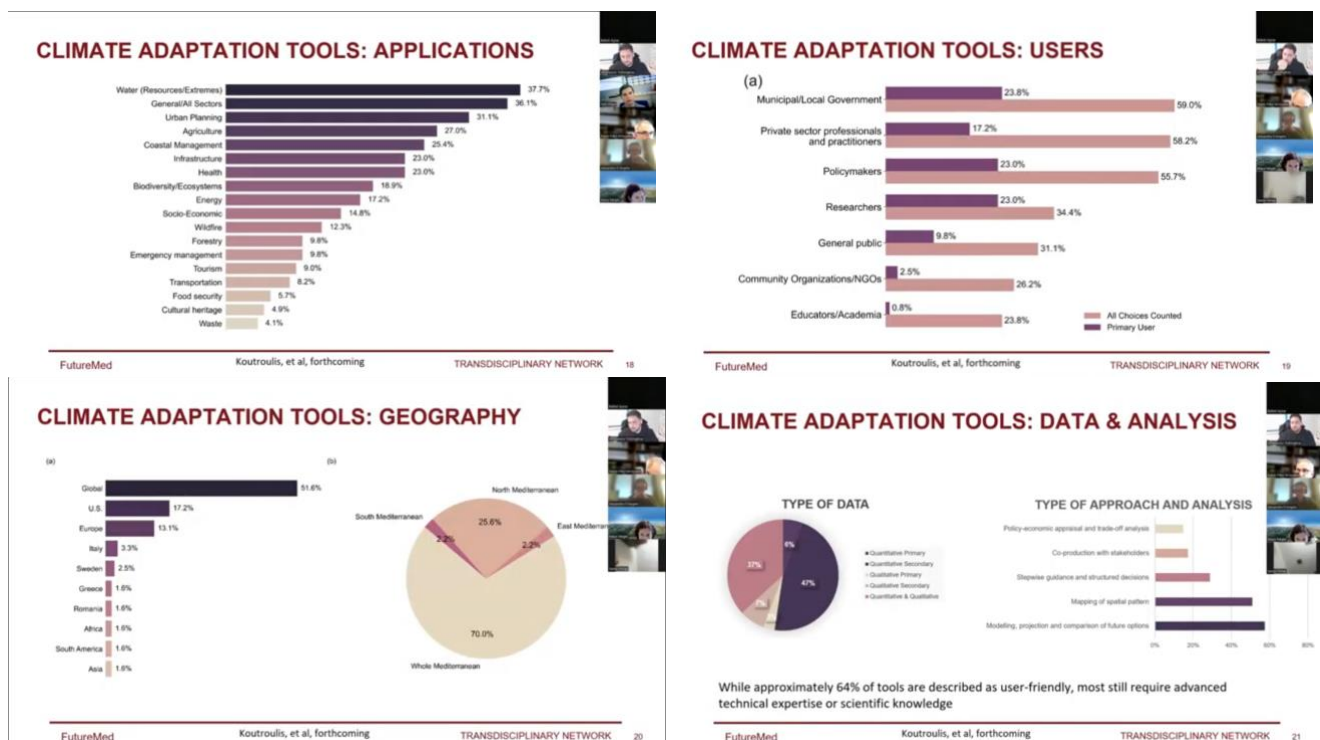
Perspective on Climate Adaptation Tools:

Elisa Savelli presented findings from a FutureMed COST Action study that reviewed more than 120 climate change adaptation tools. The analysis highlighted persistent challenges around accessibility and relevance for Mediterranean users and communities. While many tools are becoming increasingly sophisticated, they often do not respond to the needs and constraints of those most affected by climate change in the Mediterranean.

Elisa noted that only 12% of the tools assessed were developed specifically for the Mediterranean region, and that coverage is uneven, prioritizing European and northern Mediterranean contexts. She also emphasized that most tools are designed primarily for policymakers, public authorities, and the private sector, while NGOs and local communities—despite being key actors in implementing adaptation on the ground—remain underrepresented as intended users.

In terms of usability, around 64% of the tools are described as “user-friendly.” However, using them effectively often requires advanced technical skills. Many rely on modelling and scenario development

and generate outputs such as maps or forecasts, which can be difficult to interpret and apply without specialized support.



Overall, Elisa argued that existing tools, as currently designed, are not yet able to support sustainable and equitable adaptation across the Mediterranean, and they rarely help users “close the adaptation cycle” from planning to implementation, monitoring, and learning. She explained that this gap reflects the complexity of adaptation, which is shaped by overlapping climate, institutional, technological, demographic, and political dynamics that many tools do not capture well. Finally, she underlined that tools are not neutral: they can shape decision-making through embedded assumptions about what counts as “relevant” information and who gets to define priorities.

Participants were then invited to an interactive session to gather information on their background and experience with tools. The discussion highlighted that at least 47% of participants have never used adaptation tools, while a considerable fraction are developers or maintainers.

A. Tool awareness and use are still uneven: Among respondents:

- **43%** had *heard of adaptation tools but never used them*
- **28%** were *occasional users*
- **12%** were *regular users*
- **13%** were *developers/maintainers*
- **4%** had *never heard of them*


B. Finding the “right” tool is a key barrier: When asked whether it was easy to find a tool that fits their needs:

- **38%** selected *not applicable* (they haven’t used tools)
- Among those who *have used tools*:
 - **66%** said “to some extent”
 - **24%** said “yes”
 - **10%** said “no”

Elisa noted that finding suitable tools for specific assessments can be difficult, so the real challenge is not the lack of tools, but their discoverability, fit-to-purpose, and usability. Ultimately, this discussion led to the next session, which showcased another work developed within FutureMed WG2.

Adapt-Tools inventory & platform demo:

Athanasios Tsilimigkras, a researcher at the Technical University of Crete, presented the Adapt Tools platform: a curated, open-access inventory of CCA tools. He demonstrated how users can identify relevant tools through a simple three-step filtering process (e.g., by sector, scale, and other key characteristics). He highlighted the platform's focus on transparent curation, comparability across tools, and the ability for users to contribute content and feedback. Athanasios illustrated this through two stakeholder "user journeys": (i) a municipal planner looking for tools to support local adaptation planning, and (ii) a climate risk consultant seeking asset-level screening tools. The discussion then shifted to how the platform could be used in practice and how it could be improved. Participants proposed several enhancements, including AI-enabled search and recommendations, multilingual functionality, and features to support a community of practice.

Journey B – Consulting firm		Journey A – Municipal Planner	
<p>Goal Same urban context, different need: <i>asset-level risk screening for clients</i></p> <p>Roleplay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are a climate-risk consulting team supporting a real-estate / insurance client with assets in EU cities.• We need to screen portfolios quickly for flooding + heat exposure and produce outputs the client can use in investment decisions. <p>What you're looking for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• User group: Private Sector• Tool type: Risk & Vulnerability Assessment• Outputs: Maps & Visualizations + Decision Facilitation• Cost: Subscription-based (we want supported, operational tooling)		<p>Goal Find an <i>easy-to-use, Europe-relevant</i> tool to structure an urban adaptation plan</p> <p>Roleplay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You are the climate adaptation planner in a mid-sized coastal city in Southern Europe.• You need to design and update an adaptation plan for heat + pluvial flooding. <p>What you're looking for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• User group: Municipal / local government• Tool type: Planning & Policy / Decision Support• Outputs: Reports & guidelines• Usability: High (non-technical team can use it)	

C. How stakeholders want to use Adapt-Tools: In the multi-select question on platform use cases, the most selected purposes were ranked as:

- Support local communities to identify adaptation options
- Teaching & training (students, staff)
- Preparedness / risk management
- Help identify/compare policy measures
- Improve governance & coordination
- Advocacy & awareness raising
- Build trust (transparency, evidence)
- Support funding applications / donor requirements

D. What stakeholders want improved:

- More user-friendly navigation and guidance (examples, "how-to", decision support);
- User feedback mechanisms (so tools can be assessed and improved over time);
- Better language support / accessibility;
- Interest in AI-enabled support to help users find relevant tools and reduce complexity.

Final reflection and Next Steps:

In the closing discussion, participants considered whether the Mediterranean needs more region-specific adaptation tools or stronger uptake of existing global tools. The main takeaway was that tool relevance is highly context-dependent, and progress will require both better matching of tools to local needs and stronger support for real-world adoption. Many participants felt that developing additional tools is not necessarily the best priority.



Looking ahead, FutureMed will expand the Adapt Tools inventory through community contributions on adapt-tools.org, building a more complete picture of the tools available and improving the platform's value for Mediterranean users. In parallel, the team will implement targeted platform upgrades, including improved usability, multilingual access, and stronger feedback and engagement features. Finally, WG2 will also launch a new research stream using case studies to better understand why flood and drought adaptation succeeds or fails across different Mediterranean contexts. As a follow-up event, this activity will be aligned with the Virtual Living Lab (VLL) framework currently under development and coordinated by WG3 (Sandra Ricart), with the aim to co-create narratives on adaptation tools and stakeholders' needs across the Mediterranean.

Staying connected and how to contribute

We warmly welcome continued engagement from workshop participants and colleagues who could not attend. If you would like to **stay involved**, please visit us here: [FutureMed-Action](#) and feel free to get in touch—we are happy to share additional information and materials.

Contribute to the Adapt Tools platform (adapt-tools.org): We are expanding the inventory and improving the platform's usability and features. You can support this work by:

- suggesting additional CCA tools to include in the inventory;
- sharing feedback on platform functionality, navigation, filtering, or overall user experience;
- highlighting gaps in tools, sectors, geographies, or user needs that the platform should better address.

Participate in the WG2 case-study research on floods and droughts: WG2 is launching a new research stream based on case studies to better understand why flood and drought adaptation succeeds—or fails—across Mediterranean contexts. If you are interested in contributing case examples, evidence, or ideas for the research design, please reach out. More details will be shared soon.

Contact

Please contact any of the organisers:

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You can also contact the COST Action team at: info@futuremedaction.eu

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To collaborate more actively with FutureMed, you can register as a member via the FutureMed registration page: <https://futuremedaction.eu/en/futuremed-registration/>