



Community CONNECT

Reimagining Climate Adaptation

Putting Innovation and Communities at the Centre

We're starting soon...

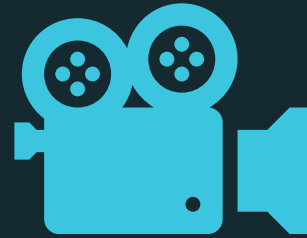
10/07/2025



This action is supported by the European
Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

A body of the European Union





The event is being recorded



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A body of the European Union





Agenda

1. Welcome & Community Updates
2. Adaptation Investment Plans to Bridge the Finance Gap for Regions
3. Building Resilience by Empowering Communities: Adaptation in Action in Tanzania
4. Q&A
5. Group Networking Session
6. Closing





SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2025

Calendar of activities



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COMMUNITY COLAB

Join our in-person workshops!

- **Ljubljana, Slovenia, 11 September 2025**
Bioeconomy & Circular Economy: Designing a new path for Europe
- **Cagliari, Italy, 2 October 2025**
Mobilisation of Capital for Decarbonisation & Nature Restoration
- **Barcelona, Spain, 10 October 2025**
Built Environment & Community-led Social Housing: Real transformation for people and planet





COMMUNITY CONNECT & DEEP DIVES

Join us online!

- **4 September 2025**
Climate & AI
- **14 October 2025**
Regenerative futures with Unearthodox
- **Community DEEP DIVE**
Bioeconomy
Social housing & Built environment





COMMUNITY MOMENTS

Meet us at Global Events

Circular Economy Hubspot
ClimaTech Connect Demo Day
COP30 Brazil
EIT Community Hubs Kick-off
EIT Alumni Connect





Adaptation Investment Plans to Bridge the Finance Gap for Regions



Konstantinos Dellis

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Athens University of Economics and
Business



Adaptation Investment Plans to bridge the Finance Gap for Regions

Community CONNECT: Reimagining Climate Adaptation 10.07.25

Dr. Kostas Dellis

Athens University of Economics and Business

ATHENA RC



Since 1997



Alliance of Excellence for
Research and Innovation on Aephoria



Innovative Systems for the
Sustainable Interaction
between Nature- Society -
Economy

Research and Innovation Centers



ReSEES Research Laboratory - Athens
University of Economics and Business



Stochastic Modeling and Applications
Laboratory - Athens University of
Economics and Business



Sustainable Development Unit - Athena
Research Center



Department of Technology,
Management, and Economics -
Technical University of Denmark

Innovation Acceleration Hubs



UN Climate Change Global
Innovation Hub



EIT Climate-KIC



Brigaid Connect



MENA Maritime Accelerator



Black Sea Accelerator

Science - Policy Networks



Sustainable
Development
Solutions Network
(SDSN)



SDSN Global Climate
Hub



SDSN Europe



SDSN Greece



Water Europe



Nexus cluster



Earth-Humanity
Coalition (EHC)

Scientific Associations and Academies



World Council of
Environmental and
Resource Economists
Associations
(WCERE)



European
Association of
Environmental and
Resource Economists
(EAERE)



World Academy of
Art and Science
(WAAS)



Academia Europaea



European Academy
of Sciences and Arts



InterAcademy
Partnership (IAP)



Academy of
Engineering and
Technology of
Developing World
(AETDEW)

Transformations for Systems Sustainability



Climate
Neutrality - Resilience



WFEB
LULUCF



Oceans
Seas



Socio-Economics
Financial



Innovation
Acceleration



Education
Skills



Prof. Phoebe Koundouri
Founder and Scientific Chair



Sustainable Pathways for Climate Neutrality-Resilience

Develop Pathways to meet Policy Targets

NATURE SUSTAINABILITY
Volume 7, 375-376 (2024)



Climate Data
Platforms and Digital
Applications

Inter-disciplinary mathematical MODELLING: Resilient Mitigation and Adaptation Pathways



DownScaling
Climate
Scenarios



Energy &
Transport
Systems



Land-use &
Marine-use
Systems



Health
Systems



Innovation
Acceleration for
Climate Neutrality
and Resilience



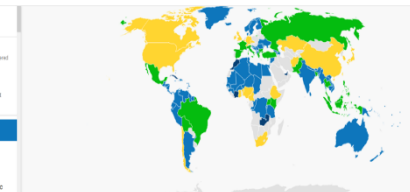
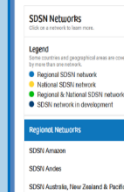
Socio-Economic
Systems



Trans-disciplinary CO-DESIGN: Resilient Mitigation and Adaptation Pathways



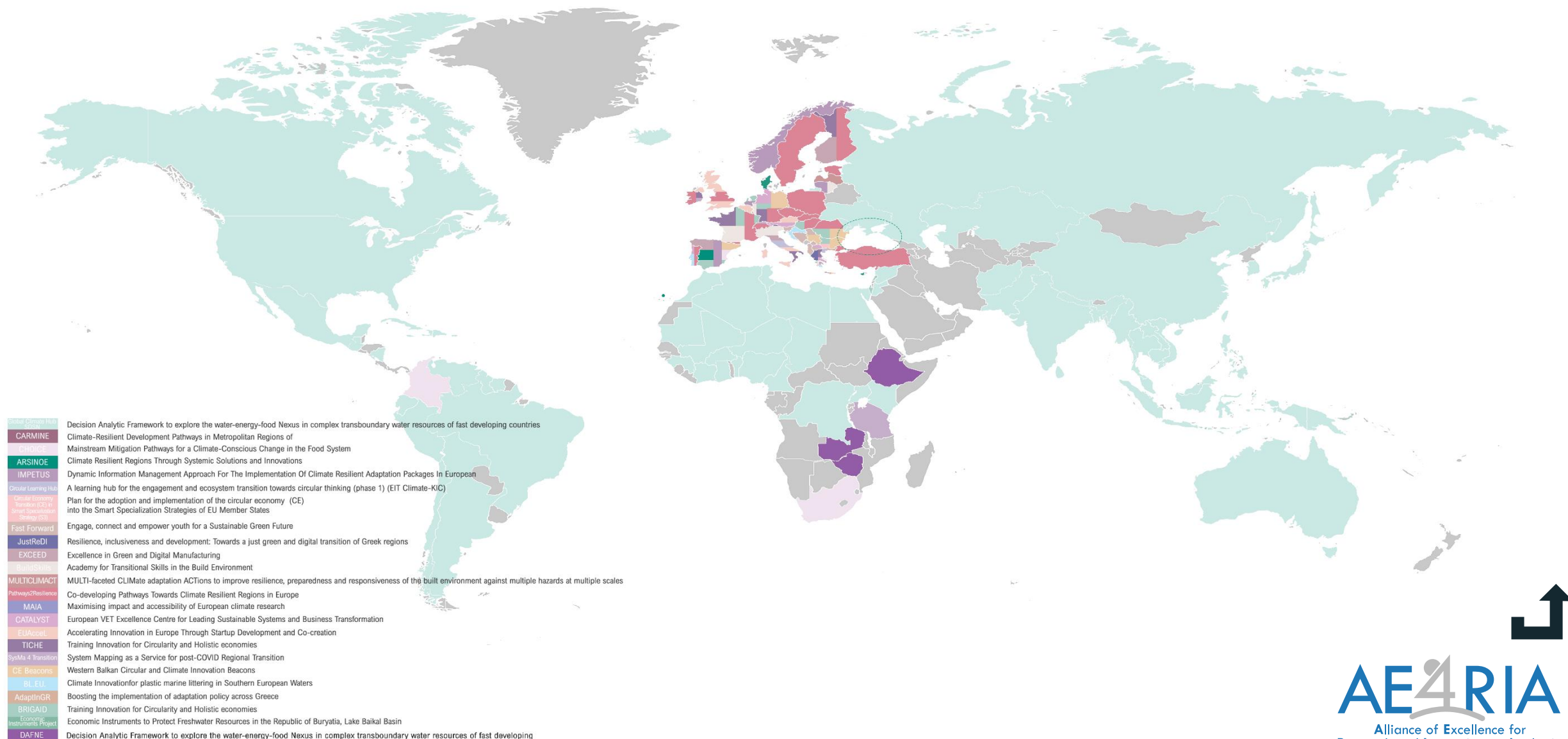
Transformative
Participatory
Approaches: National
Living Labs and
Systems Innovation



Education
Training

Projects and initiatives since 2001

Climate Neutrality-Resilience



Context

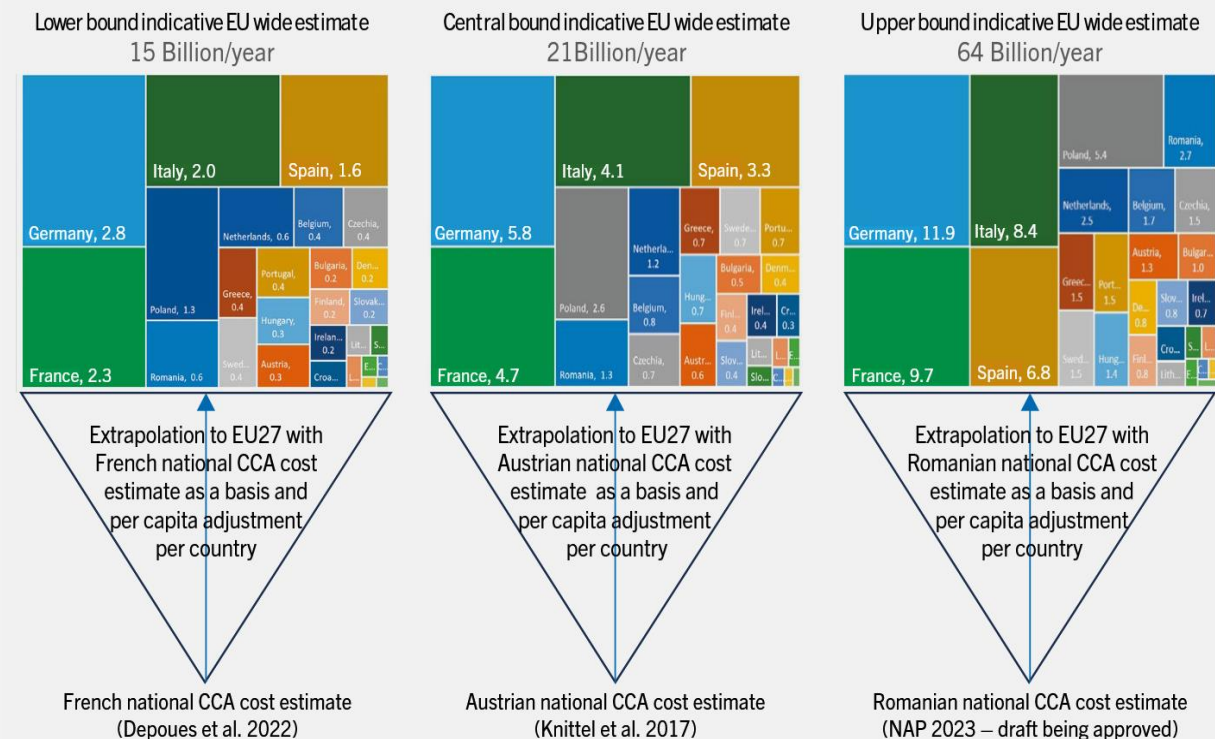
Europe at the epicenter of acute CC Impacts (EUCRA)

Estimated EU adaptation investment needs of €15bn - €64bn / year until 2030

Most optimistic estimates reveal a finance gap of €7bn– €56bn /yr

Regional Adaptation at the forefront (EU Mission)
→ intertwined with Regional Development

Disproportionate burden on Public Sources in times of fiscal pressures



Source: World Bank (2024)

Stylized (scary) Facts

Scientists estimate that CC caused **62 k deaths** in Europe in 2022 – the world's fastest warming continent

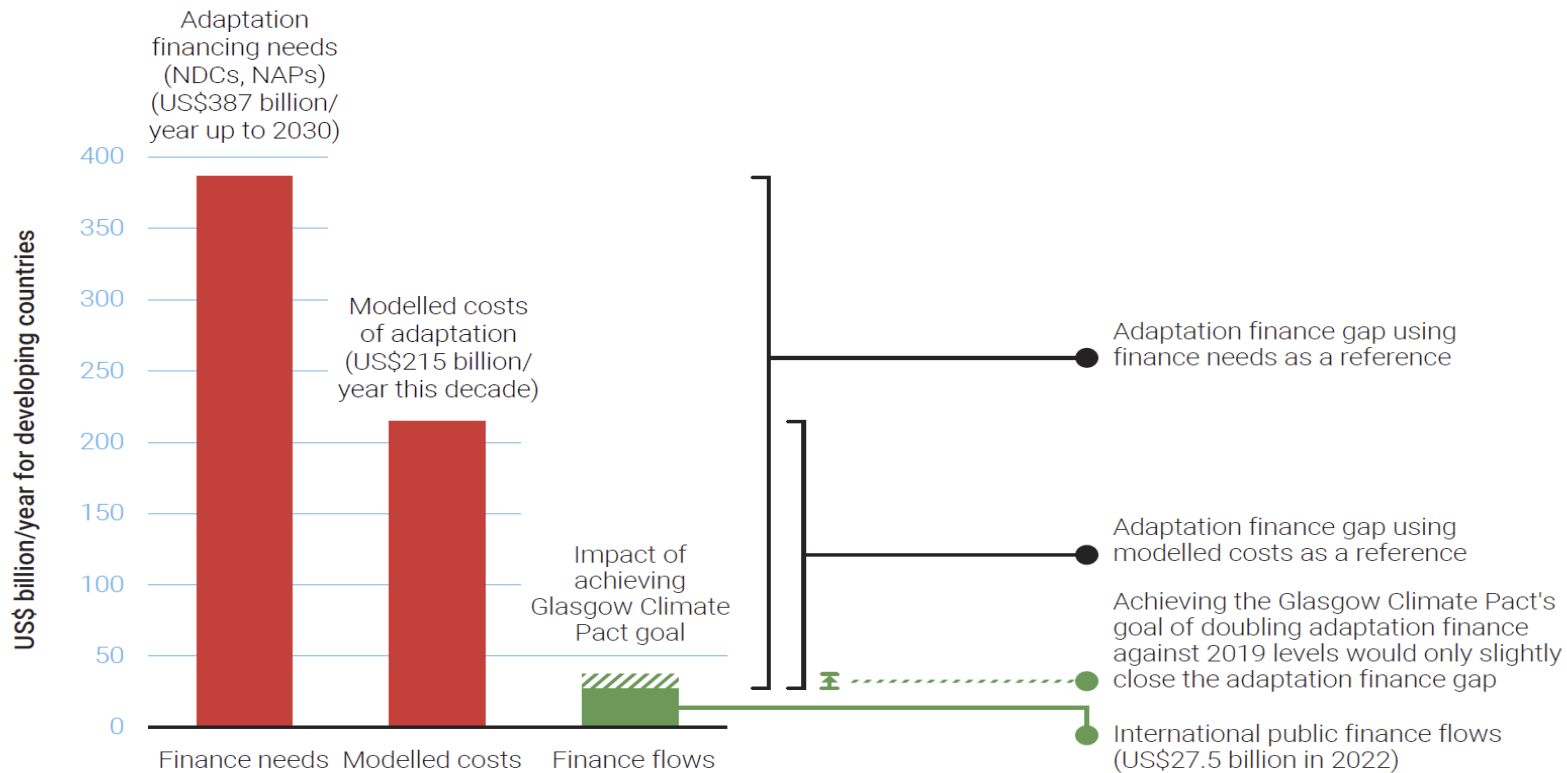
The melting of the world's glaciers reaches the equivalent of **three Olympic swimming pools each second**

23/30 most severe European **heatwaves** have occurred after 2000

Deaths linked to hot weather **increased in 94 %** of the European regions monitored over the past two decades

Total economic losses from weather- and climate-related events between 1980 and 2021 amounted to more than **EUR 560 billion in EU-27**

Adaptation Finance Gap (UNEP, 2024)



- Global funding needs range **from \$215 to \$387 billion per year**
- Adaptation finance more than doubled between 2018 and 2022, reaching **USD 76 billion in 2022**, still far from bridging the Gap

Adaptation Finance

**Financing
Adaptation is
hard(er)**

Adaptation often doesn't generate direct financial returns

Returns are **uncertain** and discounted from deep in the future

Adaptation projects can be small-scale. (small municipalities and communities)

Adaptation needs to shift from reactive to anticipatory

Adaptation is context-specific. coupled with varying solutions and approaches

Barriers to Adaptation Finance

Economic and Market Barriers

- Financial limitations, market failures, and economic disincentives
- Uncertain revenue streams in non-market sectors
- High Competition for regional funding (priorities)

Socio-cultural and Behavioral Barriers

- Social norms, cultural values, and individual behaviors
- Inadequate community engagement
- Behavioral and cultural lock-ins

Knowledge & Awareness Barriers

- Lack of information, understanding, and expertise regarding climate change risks and adaptation options
- Managerial and informational shortcomings → Inefficient design and delivery of adaptation actions

Political, Institutional and Governance Barriers

- Policy frameworks, institutional arrangements, and governance structures that hinder adaptation efforts
- Myopic regional governments focusing on short-term issues
- Lack of cooperation and multi-level communication within and across sectors/stakeholders

Technological Barriers

- Limited availability, access, and utilization of technologies needed for effective adaptation
- Inefficient/Absent innovation systems
- Data gaps and lack of reliable indicators to determine environmental & socioeconomic vulnerability

Climate Resilience Investment Plans – The Missing link?

Opens new possibilities to fill funding and financing gaps for Strategies and Action Plans

Regions cost their total finance needs, appraise economic and financial benefits of pathways, and use a diverse range of sources and instruments

Maximises economic benefits and help fit adaptation needs within limited public sector budgets

By sequencing and prioritising actions based on timings of risk, benefits, and existing policy and investment decisions, to meet fiscal space and maximise VFM.

Activates and mobilises stakeholders

Increasing the visibility of investment needs and opportunities.

Strategic use of Public Finance

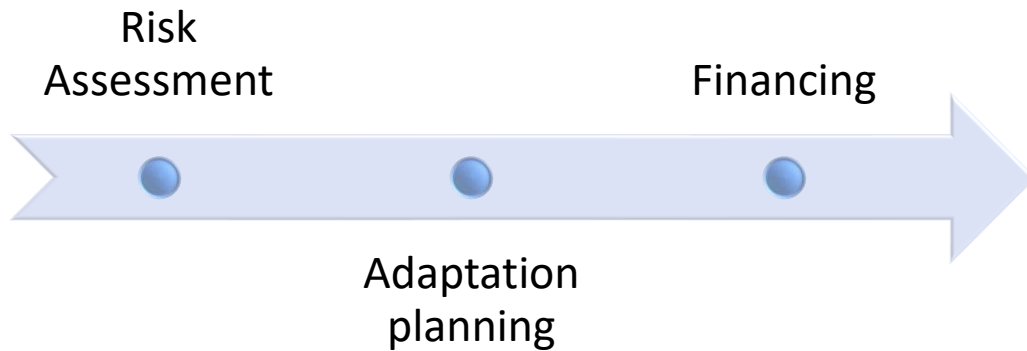
Focus on non-market sectors with public good characteristics and crowd-in Private investment

Builds knowledge and capacity

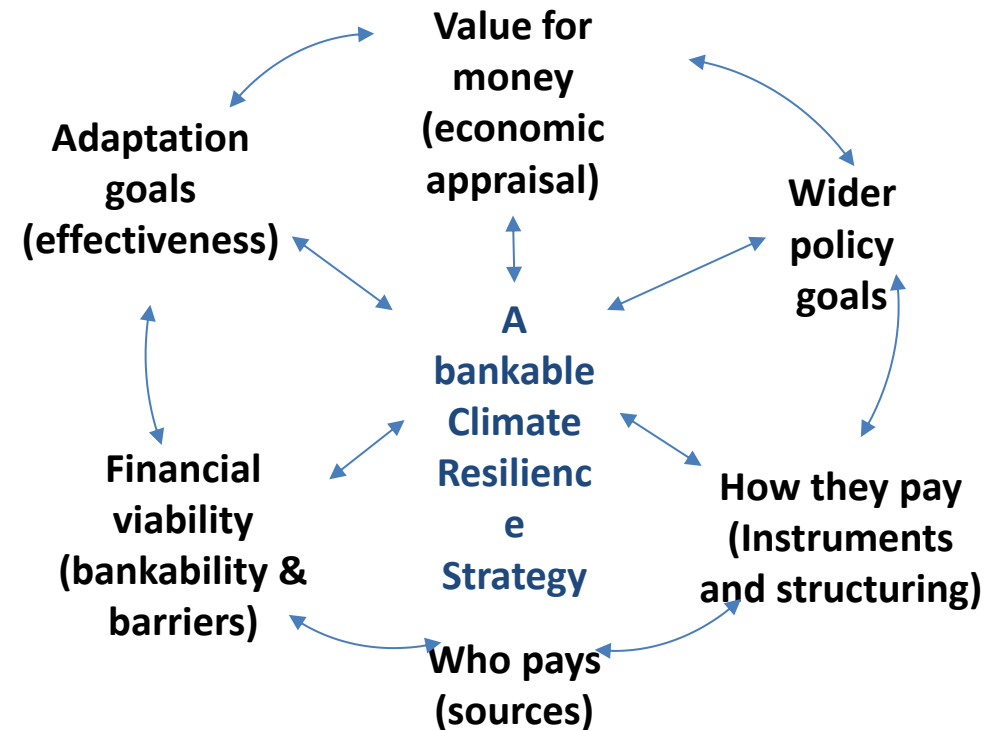
Helps regions better understand the state of play, and builds region's collective skills, knowledge and capabilities in adaptation finance.

Financing as symbiotic to project development

Typical Approach



Ideal Framework

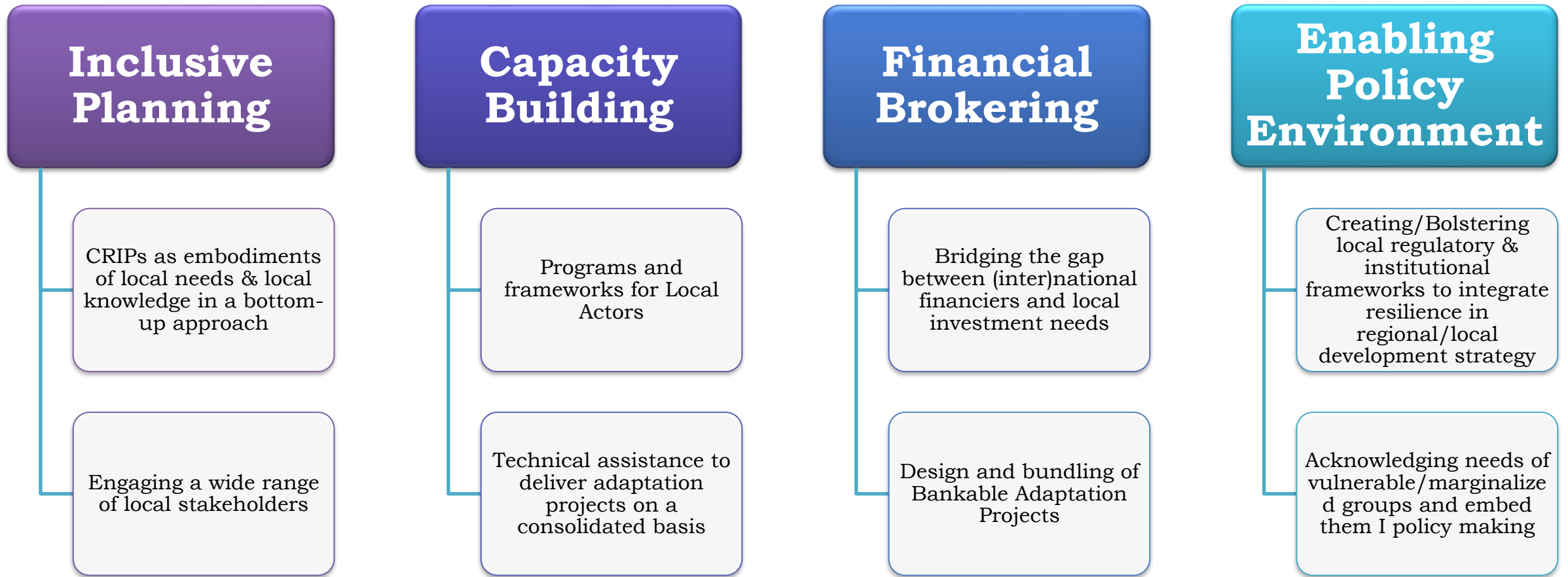


Climate Resilience Investment Plans

- **Key tool for regions to mobilise investment in adaptation**
- Translates regions' high-level vision and pathways to **bankable investments** alongside Climate Neutrality Investment Plans
- Economic and financial planning tools, providing detailed climate investment information within public financial management criteria to enhance **deliverability, credibility, and scalability**.
- **Region-wide, place-based approach**, providing a comprehensive statement of current and future investment needs and opportunities
- Key for **engaging private sector** and attract major financial players (e.g., EIB)



Climate Resilience Investment Plans for Local Communities



Pathways2Resilience (HEU)



Pathways2Resilience is a flagship project implementing the Mission Adaptation's objectives.

- Its objective is to **empower at least 100 European regions and communities to design pathways to climate resilience.**
- Focus on Transformational Adaptation
- Total budget: 29,609,362.50 EUR from which 21M EUR is reserved for funding regional projects through public calls
- Duration: 5 years

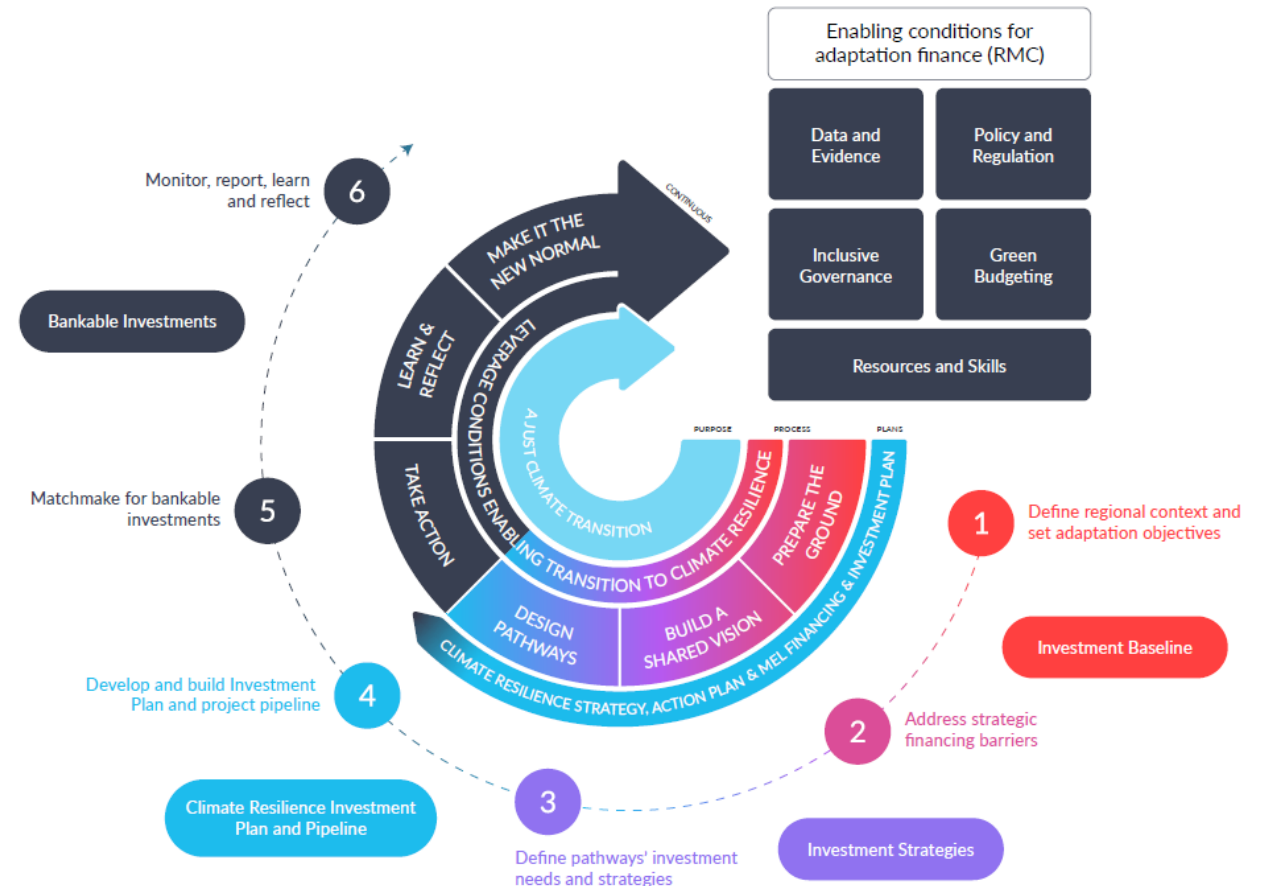
P2R Adaptation Investment Cycle (AIC)

Comprehensive & *flexible* 6-step
Process to complement the P2R
Regional Resilience Journey

Adaptive to Regional Adaptation Plans
and focus on specific sectors (KCS)

Economics and finance considered as
early as step 1 (≠ Traditional Adaptation
Plans)

P2R Supporting Regions up to Step 4
through enhanced Capacity Building



AIC Addressing Barriers to Adaptation Finance

Economic & Market

Identifies economic and social benefits of adaptation and encourages the development of an economic narrative

Financial

Encourages the diversification of funding sources and prioritizes *bankability* considerations from early on

Political

Streamlined process acknowledging regional priorities and processes

Behavioral

Co-creates value propositions with all relevant stakeholders

Technological

Embedded in Innovation Agendas + introducing financial innovations

Knowledge & Awareness

Steers regional planners to directly address the systemic financial barriers

AIC for enhanced Local Engagement

Flexibility

- Blueprint in principle but encouraging regions to have ***different entry points***

Integration

- Acknowledging *existing* **regional financial planning** and providing touch points for adaptation investment

Adaptability

- Considering **local contexts, barriers and challenges** in shaping pathways and expanding portfolio of financial solutions

Justice & Equity

- Considering **all population groups** and accounting for future costs & costs of inaction from the onset



THANK YOU

Professor Phoebe Koundouri
phoebekoundouri.org



Alliance of Excellence for Research and
Innovation on Aeiphoria
ae4ria.org



SDSN Global Climate Hub
unsdsn.globalclimatehub.org





Building Resilience by Empowering Communities: Adaptation in Action in Tanzania



Veronica Bey
Executive Director
EmpowerHER





Q&A



Konstantinos Dellis
Researcher
Athena Research and Innovation Center
Athens University of Economics and
Business



Veronica Bey
Executive Director
EmpowerHER





Group Networking Session

Start by introducing yourself, your work and/or organisation.

1. How do you work with diverse stakeholders and local communities to ensure your work is truly inclusive?
2. Reflect on the last 6 months. What have you achieved and what are you most looking forward to for the next half of the year?





Thank you!

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TO OPEN THE FEEDBACK SURVEY



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