





## GUIDELINES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANS AT LOCAL LEVEL

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Resilient Cities: from the Plans to the actions of adaptation to climate change

Terra Futura 17 Maggio 2013



# SUMMARY





### WHY THE GUIDELINES? (1)

#### **Climate is changing!**

Climate change impacts are already occurring

Without action, the impacts of climate change will increase rapidly and some changes will be irreversible





Climate change impacts will occur long after the GHGs even in a stabilized scenario

Delaying action will only exacerbates the economic, environmental, social costs

Climate change impacts emerge locally

**High vulnerability** 

City administration is closest to the population



Benefits of adaptation are at local level

Planning for the future can provide benefits to the present



With these guidelines the Partners of the project ACT would like to give their contribution by making available to other communities their **EXPERIENCE**, as well as illustrating **STRENGTHS** and **WEAKNESSES** identified during their local adaptation process.

The Document was prepared by:

the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA, Italy)

in cooperation with the local partners of the project: the Municipalities of Ancona (Italy), Bullas (Spain) and Patras (Greece)

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE GUIDELINES**



 to offer mayors and other city officials a guidance on how to respond to the challenges of climate change adaptation in their cities

 to assist local communities in formulating Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs) or implementing some steps of it, by providing useful theoretical elements together with practical processes deriving by empirical experiences.



### **STRUCTURE OF THE GUIDELINES**





KEY

### **EACH CHAPTER:**

#### THEORETICAL **MESSAGES** CONCEPTS

PRACTICAL **EXAMPLES** from the ACT Project

PRACTICAL EXAMPLES selected among the initiatives of cities in Europe

#### **CHECK LIST**

## **1. GET STARTED**

Before starting it is important to take the right **INITIAL DECISIONS** in order to pave the way to the further future steps and build the critical foundation on which the later stages of the adaptation effort will be based.





### 2. REVIEW THE KNOWLEDGE AND ESTABLISH THE BASELINE

Reviewing the available **KNOWLEDGE** and establishing a **BASELINE** will provide the basis for setting **PRIORITIES** and monitoring of **PROGRESS** in adaptation.

A **BASELINE** can be considered as a reference against which future data will be compared.



local climate trends

 local climate change impacts including economic assessment

- local vulnerabilities
- risks and opportunities
- existing local policies, plans, programmes related to adaptation
- existing actions directly or indirectly related to adaptation



### **3. ASSESS IMPACTS, VULNERABILITIES AND** RISKS

The extent to which climate change have an **IMPACT** on human and natural systems is strictly conditioned by the interaction between **VULNERABILITY** and **RISK** and represents the key input for targeting, formulating and evaluating adaptation policies.





## 4. DEVELOP THE PLAN

Planning can be defined as the process of setting **GOALS**, **OBJECTIVES** and **TARGETS** and developing the appropriate strategies to accomplish them.

At this stage it will be determined how best to address those risks, by identifying a range of **ADAPTATION OPTIONS** and then selecting preferred adaptation options using specific criteria.





### **5. IMPLEMENT**



An implementation plan should set out what needs to be done by whom and by when to convert your adaptation strategy into **PRACTICAL ACTION**. The development of an implementation plan converts adaptation options into action by listing the operational objectives, assigning roles and responsibilities and setting the deadlines for completion.



#### **KEY FACTORS:**

- ✓ Set a clear and robust leadership identifying roles and responsibility for the individuals involved
- $\checkmark$  Describe how preferred adaptation actions should be implemented
- ✓ Ensure that your organization has the right implementation tools (including financial ones)
- ✓ Identify opportunities that could be exploited to synergize climate adaptation actions with other planning and development activities
- ✓ Identify what resources will be required to implement the adaptations and monitor their effectiveness
- $\checkmark$  Identify potential barriers and constraints to action and mechanisms to overcome these

### 6. MONITOR, EVALUATE, UPDATE



Adaptation is an **ITERATIVE PROCESS** that requires regular review in order to verify if the community is adapting well in a dynamic world, to assess what is working well, what is not working and why, and finally to provide regular feedbacks to stakeholders on the **PROGRESS** being made.





### **7. ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS**



The adaptive ability of a city is influenced by the political and societal WILLINGNESS to deal with climate change.



The success of this step relies on the ability to make the community "**BEING PART OF**" the change instead of "taking part" to it.

#### WHY?

Need to join the efforts, commitments and knowledge of different groups and individuals

Achievement of a common goal: the development of a resilient community and territory

#### 2. WHO?

Public Administrations play a key role but need the support and the collaboration of private sector that is influenced by the planning solutions developed.

#### **3. WHEN?**

S t a k e h o l d e r engagement must be realised during the whole process, in order to get relevant subjects joint to the process since the very beginning.

#### 4. HOW?

The main stages of the creation of a Public-Private Partnership are described.

### 8. MAINSTREAM ADAPTATION



In most cases adaptation measures will need to be implemented as part of a broader suite of measures within existing development processes and decision cycles. Adaptation to climate change is a challenge of **POLICY INTEGRATION**.



#### **KEY SECTORS:**

physical land use plans or community plans, infrastructure plans, environmental plans, policies and programs, disaster response and management plans, community health and social development programs, economic development programs or projects, corporate plans and strategies, etc.

### TOOLS AND STRATEGIES:

✓ planning processes;

✓ adjustment of local regulatory and service provision frameworks;

✓ adjustment of local government accountability mechanisms;

✓ engagement of private-sector, civil society organisations and processes.

## 9. COMMUNICATE AND RAISE AWARENESS



**SHARING INFORMATION** is an essential pre-condition for good adaptation.



**Communications options and rates the pros and cons of each** 

- ✓ Community events
- ✓ Press release
- ✓ Issue brief
- ✓ Reporting





## Final Draft of the Guidelines is expected for June 2013

# **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

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