

Programme Overview

09.00 – 09.30 Registration

09.30 - 10.30 Opening Session – Taking stock

- Where are we? Did we progress in the right direction?
- Where is adaptation in the urban agenda among other issues?
- Are there new adaptation frameworks promoted by national and European institutions that present opportunities for cities?

10.30 - 11.30 Theme 1 – Mainstreaming Adaptation: Integrating Local Planning Processes and Exploiting Co-Benefits

Session 1A - Making adaptation part of city transformation

Leading questions:

- How can climate adaptation be bundled with and contribute to tackling typical urban development challenges that local governments face?
- Which barriers exist for mainstreaming adaptation into the work of different departments and which concrete successful examples to overcome them?
- Should a shift in perspective from single top-down topics (such as adaptation) to multifaceted bottom-up developments (sustainability) also entail a change of local governance structures?

Session 1B - Reconciling adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction

Leading questions:

- Which opportunities, co-benefits and synergies can arise for local governments by integrating adaptation and mitigation?
- What are the barriers to implementing urban adaptation, disaster risk reduction and mitigation in an integrated fashion as also advocated by European/global initiatives?
- How to reconcile potential conflicts?

Session 1C - Getting support and giving support for mainstreaming

Leading questions:

- Which tools can we use to mainstream climate change policies and measures into "business-as-usual" urban planning and to find innovative ways to finance adaptation action?
- Which stakeholders should be involved in building resilience and adaptation action, how and when?
- Which information and support do citizens and local communities need to play an active role in advancing climate adaptation?

11.30 - 12.10

Marketplace exchange and coffee

12.10 - 13.10

Theme 2 – Nature-based Solutions

Session 2A - Exploiting the full potential of nature-based solutions in cities

Leading questions:

- How can nature-based solutions improve resilience and adaptation to climate change in cities and what co-benefits can they bring?
- Which role can nature-based solutions play in reconciling mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction?
- What are the barriers and opportunities to mainstreaming nature based solutions in urban adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies and how are EU initiatives supporting cities in this respect?

Session 2B - Cities: grey, green or both?

Leading questions:

- How can it be ensured that the potential of nature-based solutions is exploited even in the context of densifying cities?
- Which guiding principles can cities use to decide between grey and green infrastructure or for a combination of both?
- What does practical experience teach us with regard to cost-benefit considerations for grey and green infrastructure measures?

Session 2C - Towards implementing nature-based solutions

Leading questions:

- Are nature-based solutions cost-efficient if compared to technological and grey ones? What does experience tell us?
- How can the multiple benefits of green solutions be translated into policy arguments for their implementation?
- Which possibilities exist to finance nature-based solutions?

13.10 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 15.30

Theme 3: Climate Services – Producing, transferring and using Climate Knowledge

Session 3A – Supporting decisions with climate information

Leading questions:

- What kind of information do cities need to incorporate climate change considerations in their policy-making to develop an adaptation strategy and where are the knowledge-gaps?
- Which steps in a planning cycle can climate information support and how should it be framed to be tailored to cities' needs?
- What are the benefits for cities of different urban climate services provided by researchers, national and EU bodies and how can they support the integration of mitigation and adaptation planning?

Session 3B – Linking cities and research

Leading questions:

- How can cooperation between cities, universities and climate service providers be initiated? Is there a difference between large and small/medium-sized cities?

- How can cities influence the research agendas of local universities and research institutes and create an environment that presents benefits for everybody?
- Are there specific approaches that cities can use to procure climate services smartly?

Session 3C – Keyword: co-creation

Leading questions:

- How can cities set up a co-creation process for acquiring resilience knowledge and who should they involve?
- Which approaches exist for co-creating climate and adaptation knowledge between scientists, policy-makers/ practitioners and citizens?
- What does it take to make the leap from adaptation design to implementation and how should the private sector be involved?

15.30 – 16.15 Marketplace exchange and coffee

16.15 – 17.15 What are we taking home?

Lessons learned and launch of the EEA report on urban adaptation in Europe

- Inspirations from participants' exchange
- Launch of the new EEA report by Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director of EEA
- Next steps and thank you

17.15 – 18.15 Reception hosted by the EEA