IGES Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

CLIMATE RESILIENT PATHWAYS IN CITIES

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Monica Salvia (National Research Council of Italy),
Paris Fokaides (Frederick University).

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20 December 2024

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40 Researchers
28 European countries
885 European cities

The EURO-LCP Initiative

Assessing the State of Local Climate Planning in European Cities:
Updates of Local Climate Plans conducted by a scholarly team of around 40 researchers across 28 European countries on as much as 885 European cities

40	28	885
Researchers	European countries	European cities

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Reference publication

npj | urban sustainability

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Article | Open Access | Published: 03 March 2023

Quality of urban climate adaptation plans over time

Diana Reckien, Attila Buzasi, Marta Olazabal, Niki-Artemis Spyridaki, Peter Eckersley, Sofia G. Simoes, Monica Salvia, Filomena Pietrapertosa, Paris Fokaides, Sascha M. Goonesekera, Léa Tardieu, Mario V. Balzan, Cheryl L. de Boer, Sonia De Gregorio Hurtado, Efrén Feliu, Alexandros Flamos, Aoife Foley, Davide Geneletti, Stelios Grafakos, Oliver Heidrich, Byron Ioannou, Anna Krook-Riekkola, Marko Matosovic, Hans Orru, ... Anja Wejs + Show authors

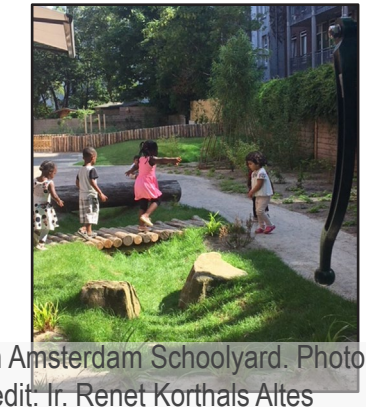
https://doi.org/10.1038/s42949-023-00085-1

INTRODUCTION

- Adaptation is happening;
- But gaps exist between current levels of adaptation and levels needed to respond to impacts (IPCC, 2022) → **the adaptation gap**
- **Why do we see such a gap in adaptation** even in cities most at risk?
- **How can we reduce that gap?**

Addressing the question through rigorous adaptation planning or "Adaptation plan quality"

- → Hypothesis 1: Too little focus on equity/ justice;
- → Hypothesis 2: Inconsistent urban planning points to an adaptation gap



Wadi in Amsterdam Schoolyard. Photo credit: Ir. Renet Korthals Altes

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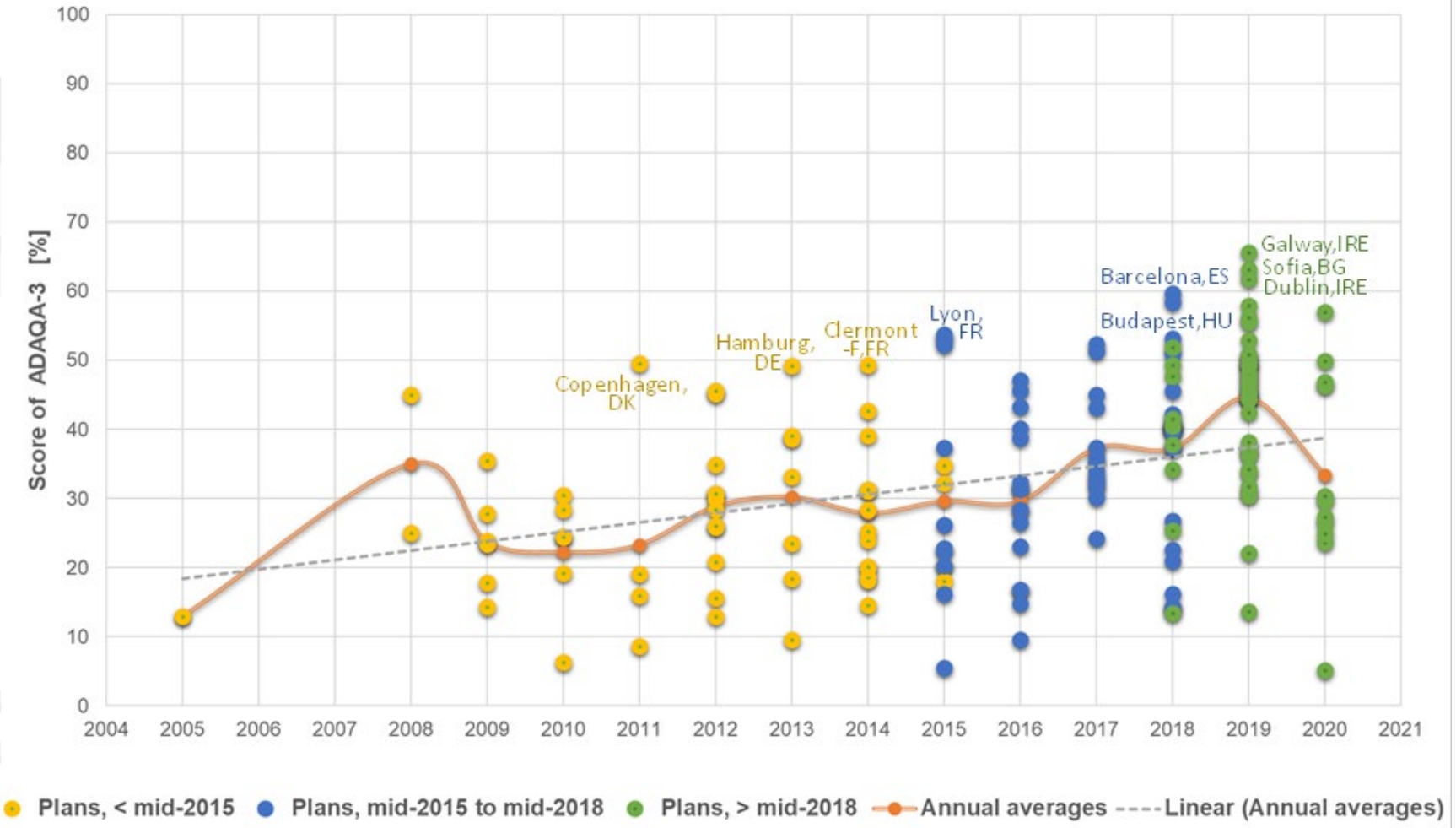
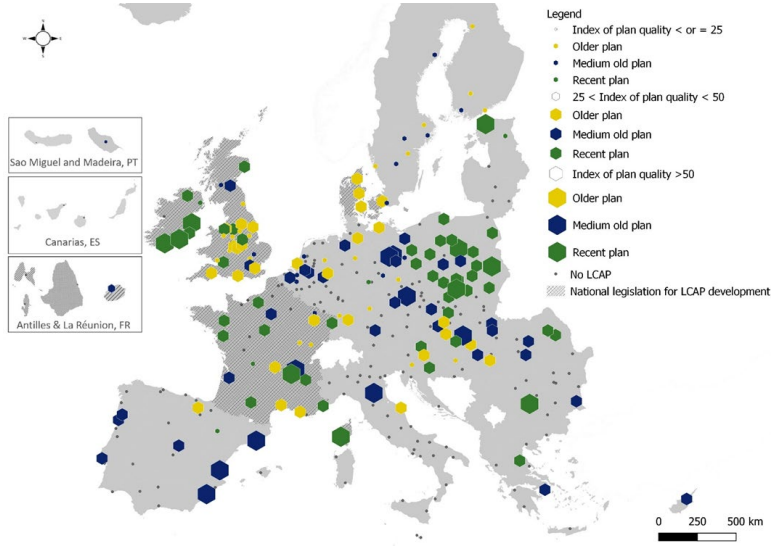
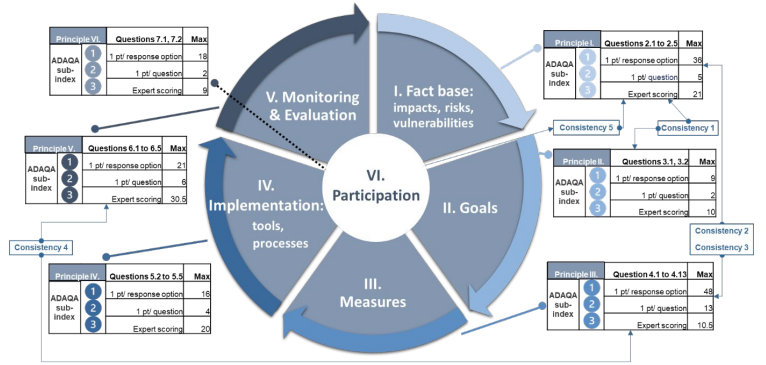
ADAPTATION PLAN QUALITY

Finding#1: Plan Quality in European cities is increasing from 2005 to 2020, by about 1.3 percentage points/ year.







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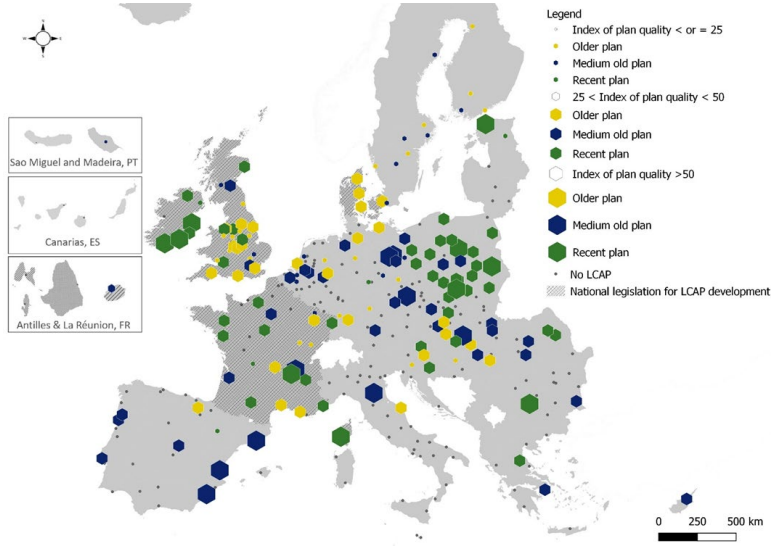
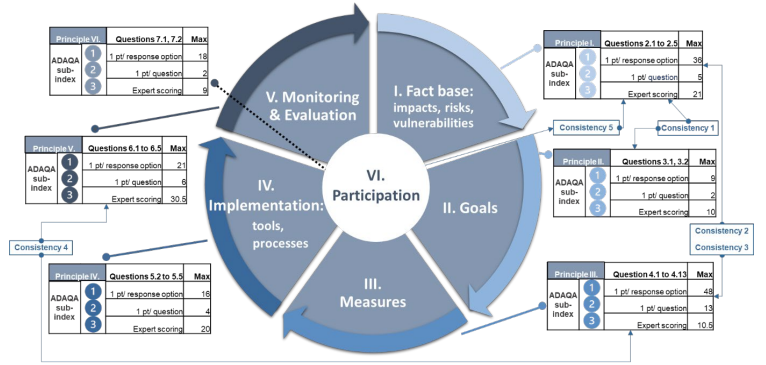
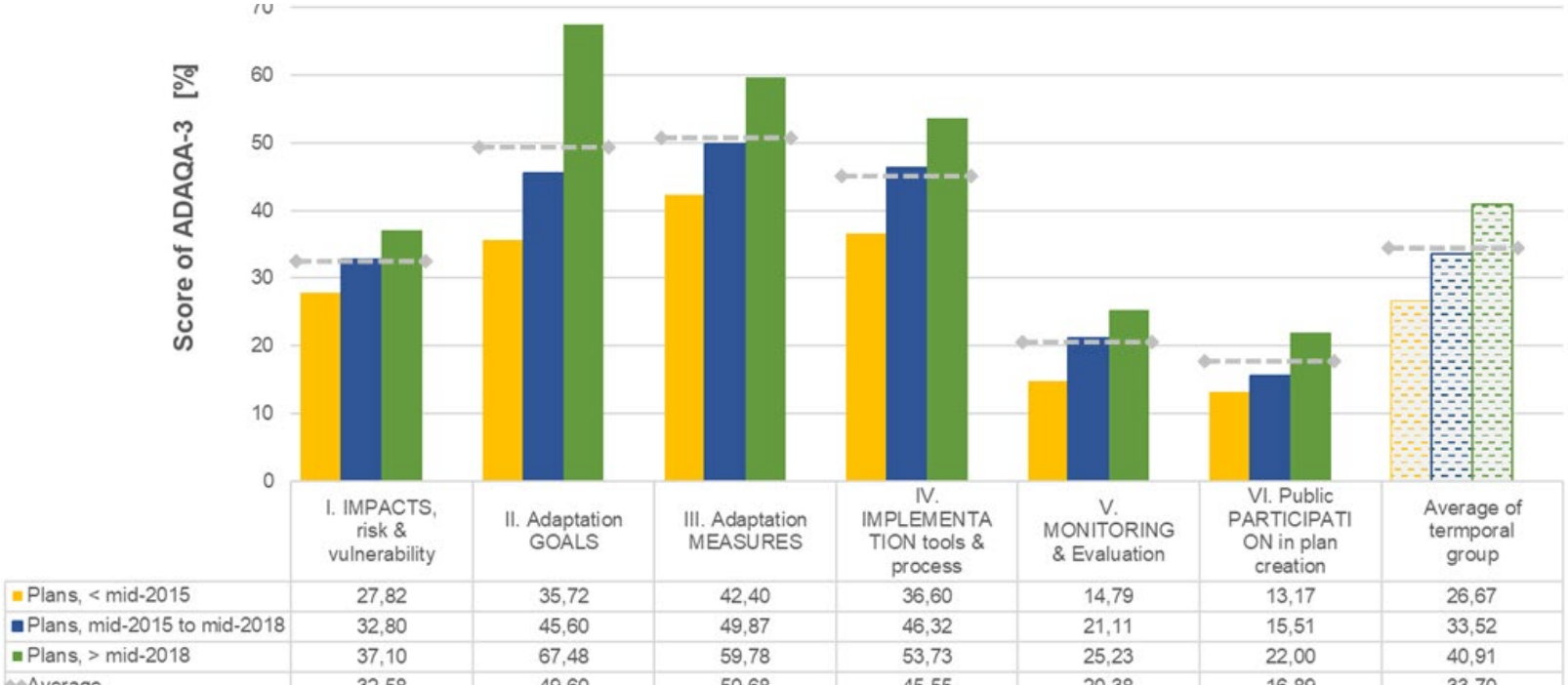
Finding#3: Specifying adaptation goals improved most. Specifying M&E, and participation is generally low.







	I. IMPACTS, risk & vulnerability	II. Adaptation GOALS	III. Adaptation MEASURES	IV. IMPLEMENTATION tools & process	V. MONITORING & Evaluation	VI. Public PARTICIPATION in plan creation	Average of termporal group
Plans, < mid-2015	27,82	35,72	42,40	36,60	14,79	13,17	26,67
Plans, mid-2015 to mid-2018	32,80	45,60	49,87	46,32	21,11	15,51	33,52
Plans, > mid-2018	37,10	67,48	59,78	53,73	25,23	22,00	40,91

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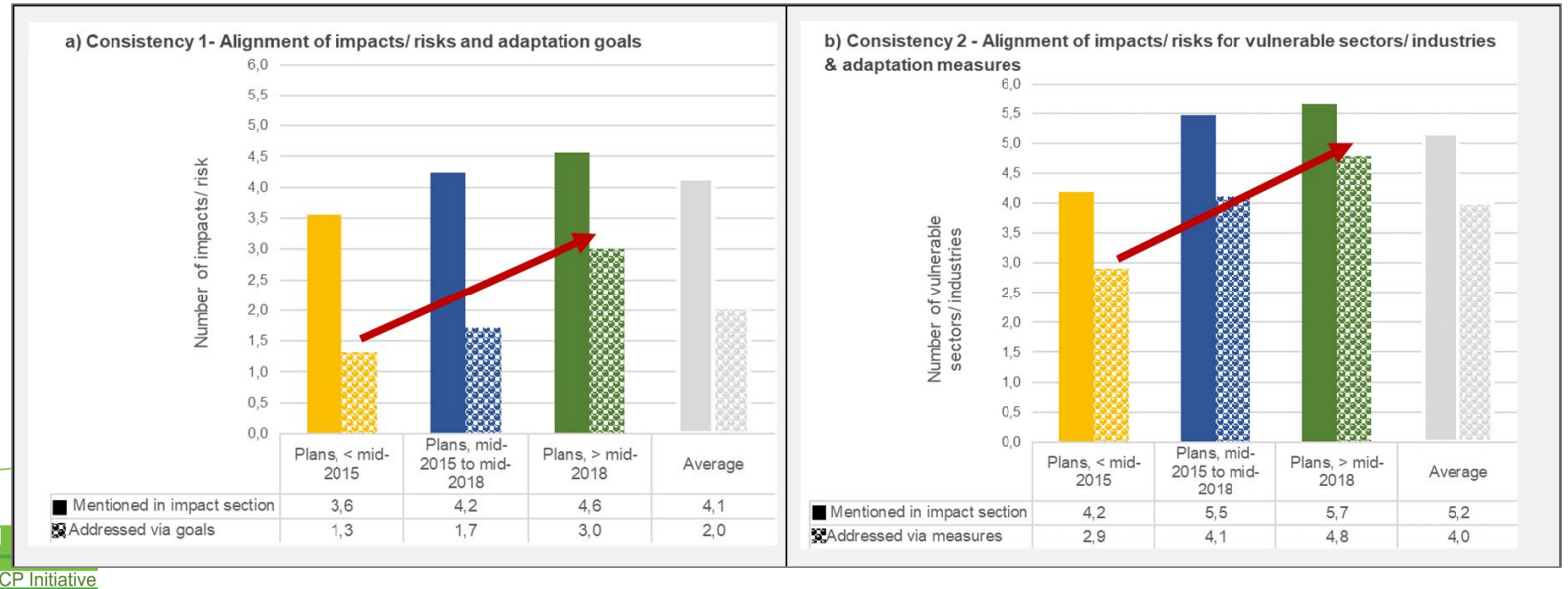
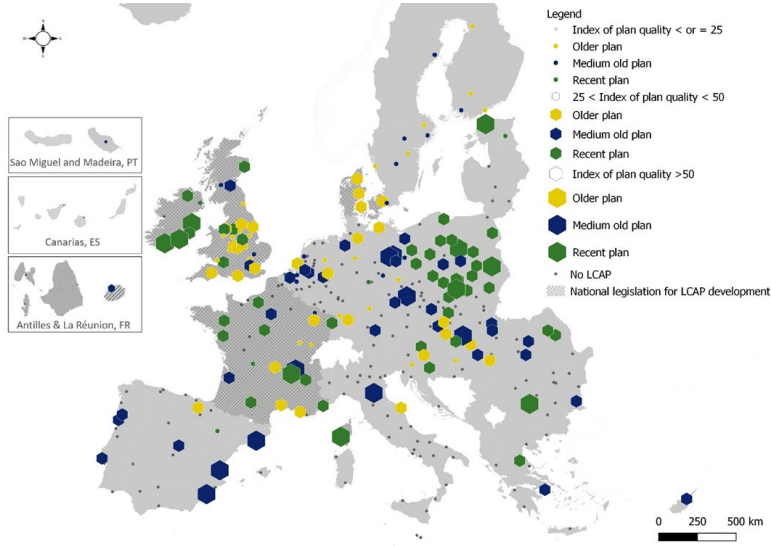
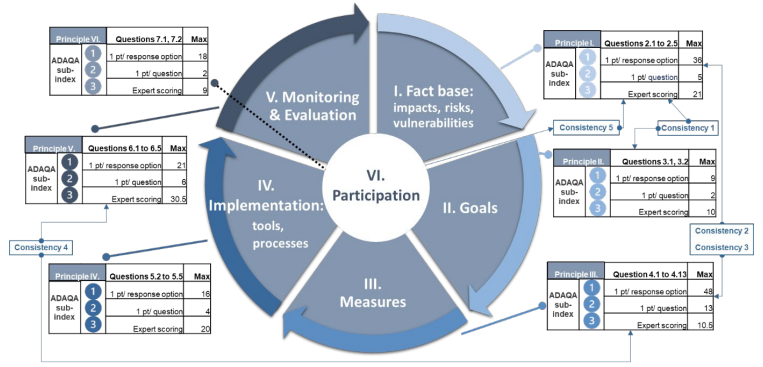
Finding#4: Adaptation plans are consistent to a degree between risks/ hazards and adaptation goals, and risks to industries and measures.







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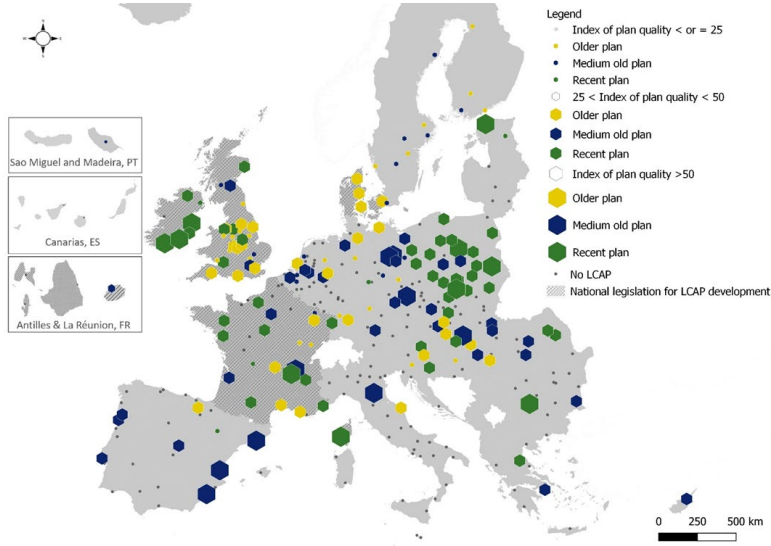
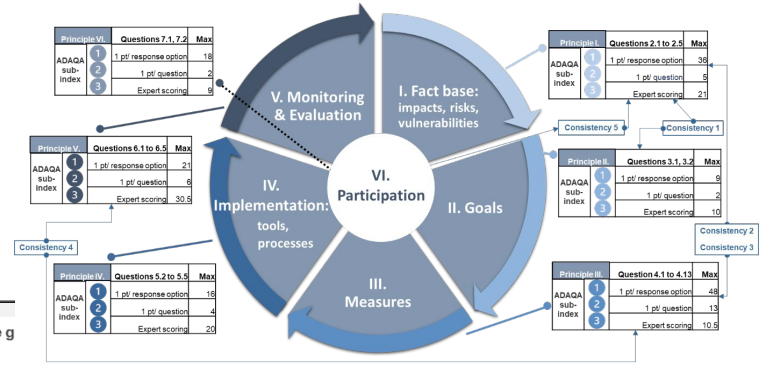
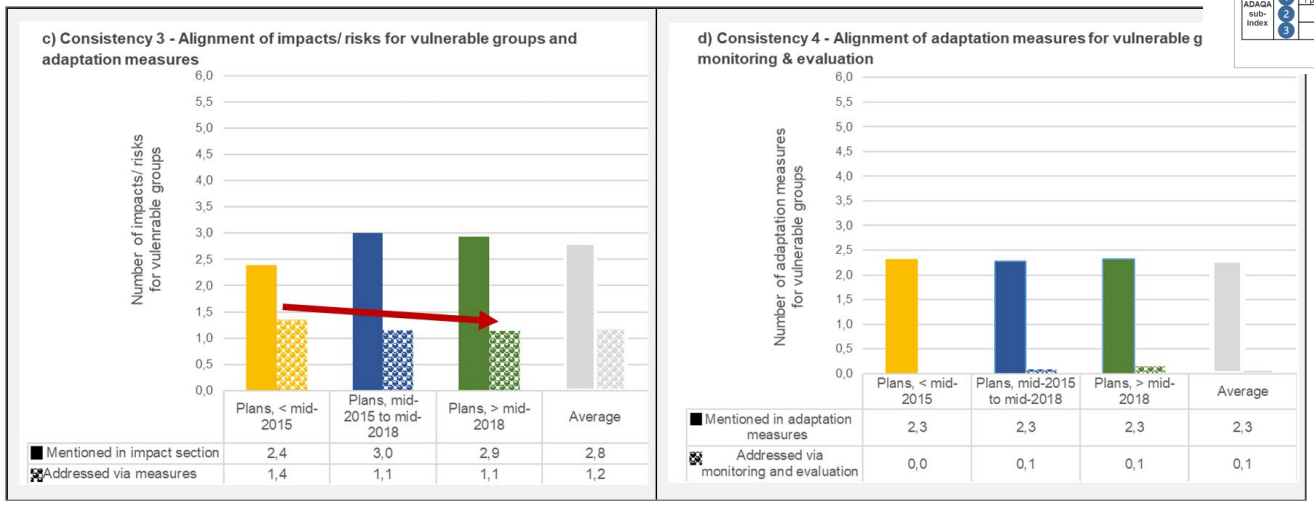
Findings#5: We are missing out on focusing on people most in need.
Consistency decreased over time when looking at risks for vulnerable groups and measures;
measures for vulnerable groups and M&E &
risks for vulnerable groups and participation is nearly non-existent.







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ADAPTATION PLAN QUALITY

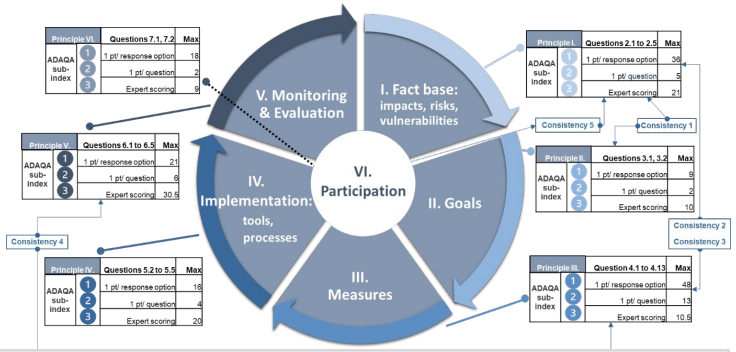
CONSISTENCY

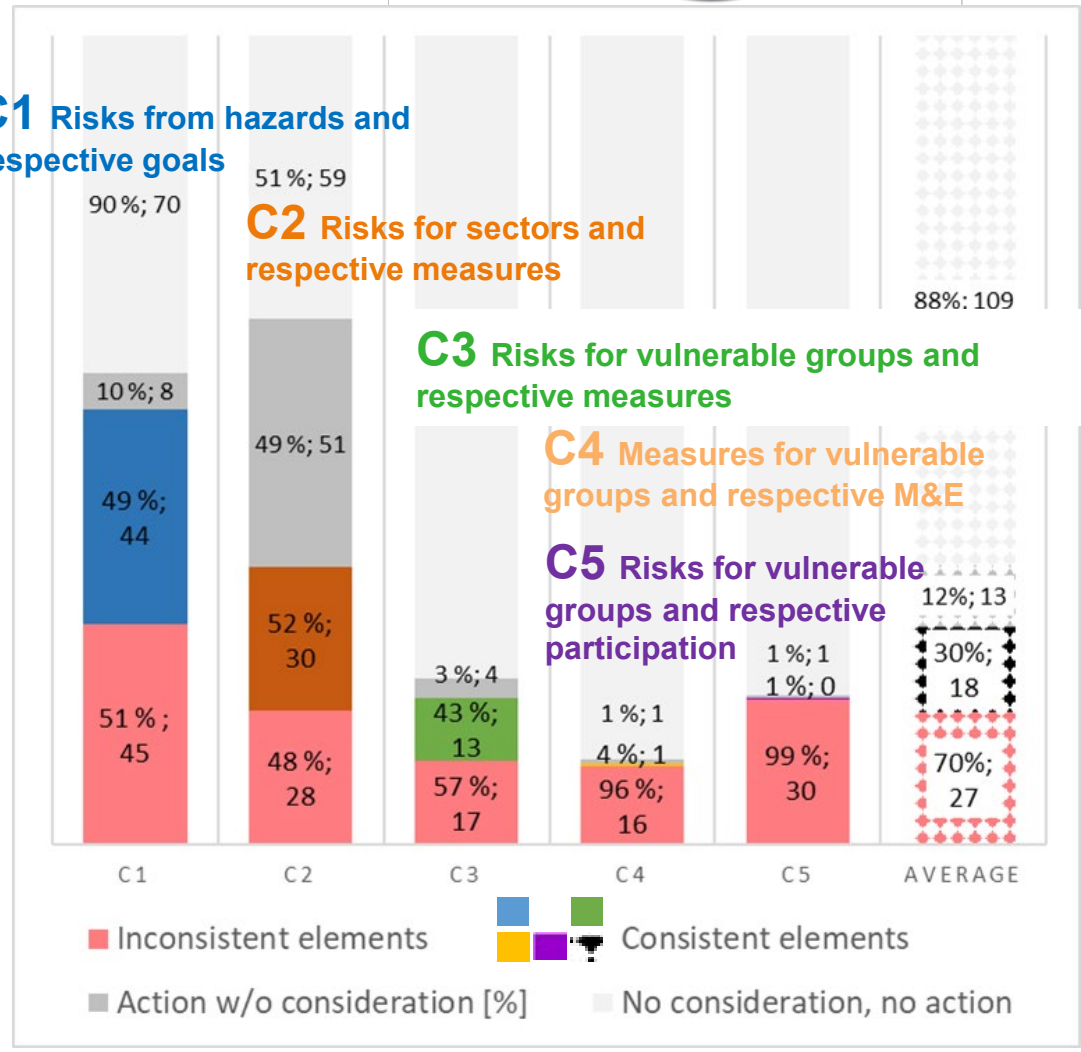
→ On average, 8% of plans do “something” (grey checker)

→ Only 11% of plans are consistent (colored/ checker part)

→ On average, 16% of plans identify risks that are not followed up with action (rosé checker)

→ Huge impact on adaptation gap





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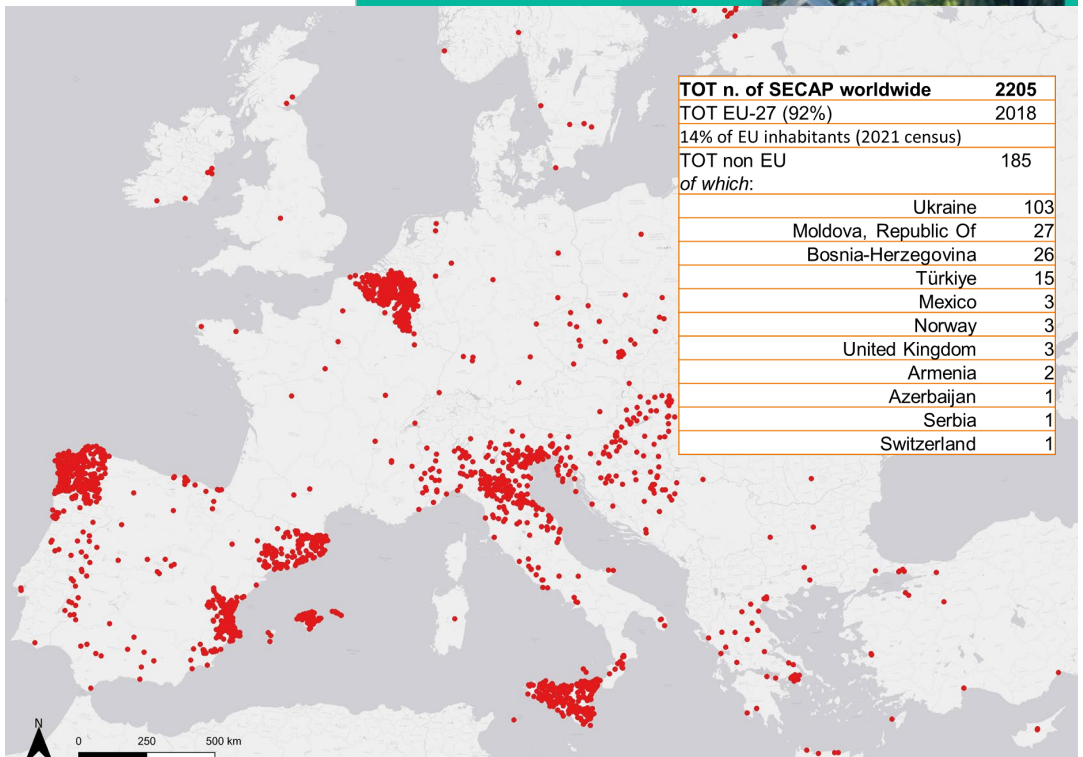
ADAPTATION PLAN QUALITY

Related follow-up projects:

→ **with Global Green Growth Institute: Adapt assessment to National Adaptation Plans (50 NAPs) "NAP-GGGP"**

→ **with EU Joint Research Centre: Apply this assessment of plans to the Global Covenant of Mayors Database, called "ADAQA4GCoM"**

→ **As a quality check**



Joint Research Centre JRC

GLOBAL COVENANT of MAYORS for CLIMATE & ENERGY

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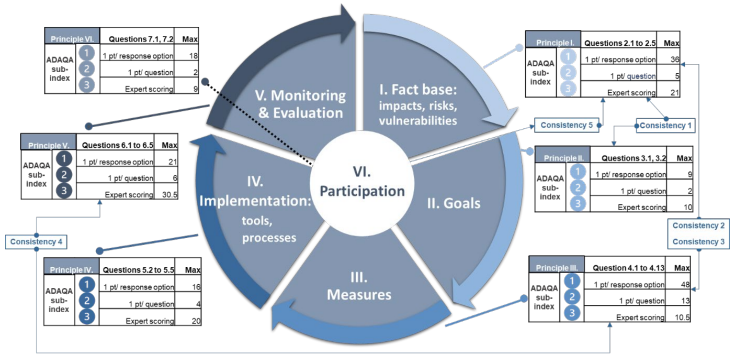
SUMMARY



How current academic research can be useful for local decision-making?

1) Adaptation planning lacks focus on justice
→ A lot of sectoral actions without risk assessment (grey)
→ Plan more for those in need

To what extent research on adaptation done on one city can be translated to another city?

2) Adaptation lacks internal consistency in planning
→ On average, 8% of plans do "something" (grey checker)
→ Only 11% of plans are consistent (colored/ checker part)
→ On average, 16% of plans identify risks that are not followed up with action (rosé checker)

→ I assume this is because cities are copying from each other without reflecting on their needs/ vulnerability aspects
→ "Blind" copying & quick fixes should be prevented

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UCCRN Urban Climate Change Research Network The Climate School | Columbia University

ARC 3.3 Climate Change and Cities

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References to our work

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