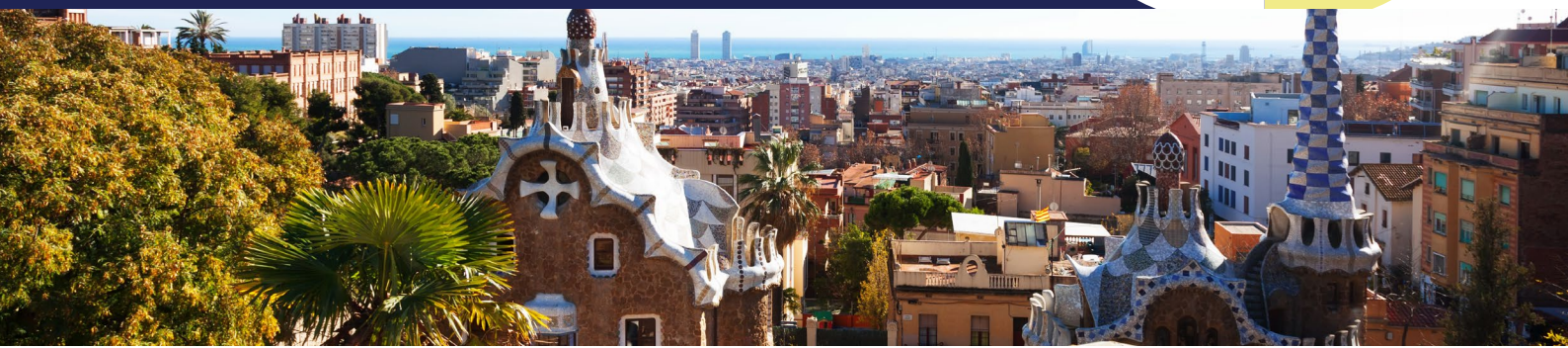


# The Impetus4Change Adaptalab 2025

*Mathew Stiller-Reeve, Village Green.*

*This year Adaptalab demonstrated the strength of ongoing collaboration in I4C: sharing ideas and experiences across urban areas to develop new climate services.*



## Building blocks

We are now **more than two years into the Impetus4Change (I4C) project**, and a great deal of development and collaboration is already underway in all participating cities. **The first Adaptalab in 2023** focused on getting to know one another and defining broader goals and potential climate services. **The second Adaptalab** built on this by strengthening working relationships and, importantly, facilitating the exchange of ideas and experiences across the participating cities: **Barcelona, Prague, Paris, Bergen, Newcastle, and Hamburg.**

We used a **hackathon-style methodology** at the second Adaptalab, held **at BLOC4 in Barcelona** from 11–13 March 2025. This approach emphasises group work and provides time for participants from different cities, sectors, and disciplines to connect, share insights, and co-develop new ideas. **This Adaptalab was designed to feed into the “co-development” stage of the I4C project.** We aimed to build on the processes and ideas already initiated in each city,

and to encourage cross-fertilisation and inspiration across contexts. **We hoped that the experiences gained from being involved in I4C so far would come together at the Adaptalab** to shape concrete approaches within specific themes, approaches that could help define what the project is capable of achieving within the project’s timeframe and beyond.

Compared to the broader framing of the first Adaptalab, the themes this time were much more focused. They were shaped by our experiences working with the cities, as well as by the themes that had emerged as especially relevant during the first Adaptalab.

**The themes participants could choose between were:**

- Flood risk & coastal protection
- Climate risk communication & public awareness
- Drought management & water resources
- Disaster preparedness & emergency response



# What happened at the second Adaptalab?

With the themes providing a clear structure for the group work, **we started the event with inspiration.**

Stakeholders from each of the “demonstrator cities” (**Bergen, Barcelona, Prague, and Paris**) shared stories about how they are working with these themes in their local contexts.

**We thank the following stakeholders for developing and presenting these stories:**

- **Nicolas Laruelle**, L’Institut Paris Region
- **Štěpán Kyjovský**, The Capital City of Prague
- **Silje Lund Sørland**, SWECO;  
**Jakob Grandin & Nazia Zia**, City of Bergen
- **Marc Prohom**, Meteorological Services of Catalonia (MeteoCat)



**These stories were intended to spark discussion and reflection.** Each group then began working on a specific theme. The overarching group assignment was similarly worded across all themes and encouraged each group **to develop a “toolkit”**.

**We chose the word “toolkit” deliberately**, hoping it would allow space for a wide range of solutions and processes, **drawing on the work already ongoing within I4C** and providing opportunities to share and further develop them.

**We adapted the group work process from the first Adaptalab.** Each group had a coordinator who had received a short training session before the event.

**The work process included the following steps:**

- **Getting to know** one another
- **Exploring the climate situation** in the cities represented in the group
- Defining the aim of the **climate service toolkit** they would co-develop
- **Innovating and designing** the details of their toolkit
- **Communicating their toolkit to the rest of Adaptalab** through a self-designed poster

**Once the groups got going**, they had roughly a full working day to move through this process and **develop innovative and meaningful ideas.**

To encourage interaction between participants across different groups, **we also organised a speed-dating activity.** We brought everyone outside and formed two circles.

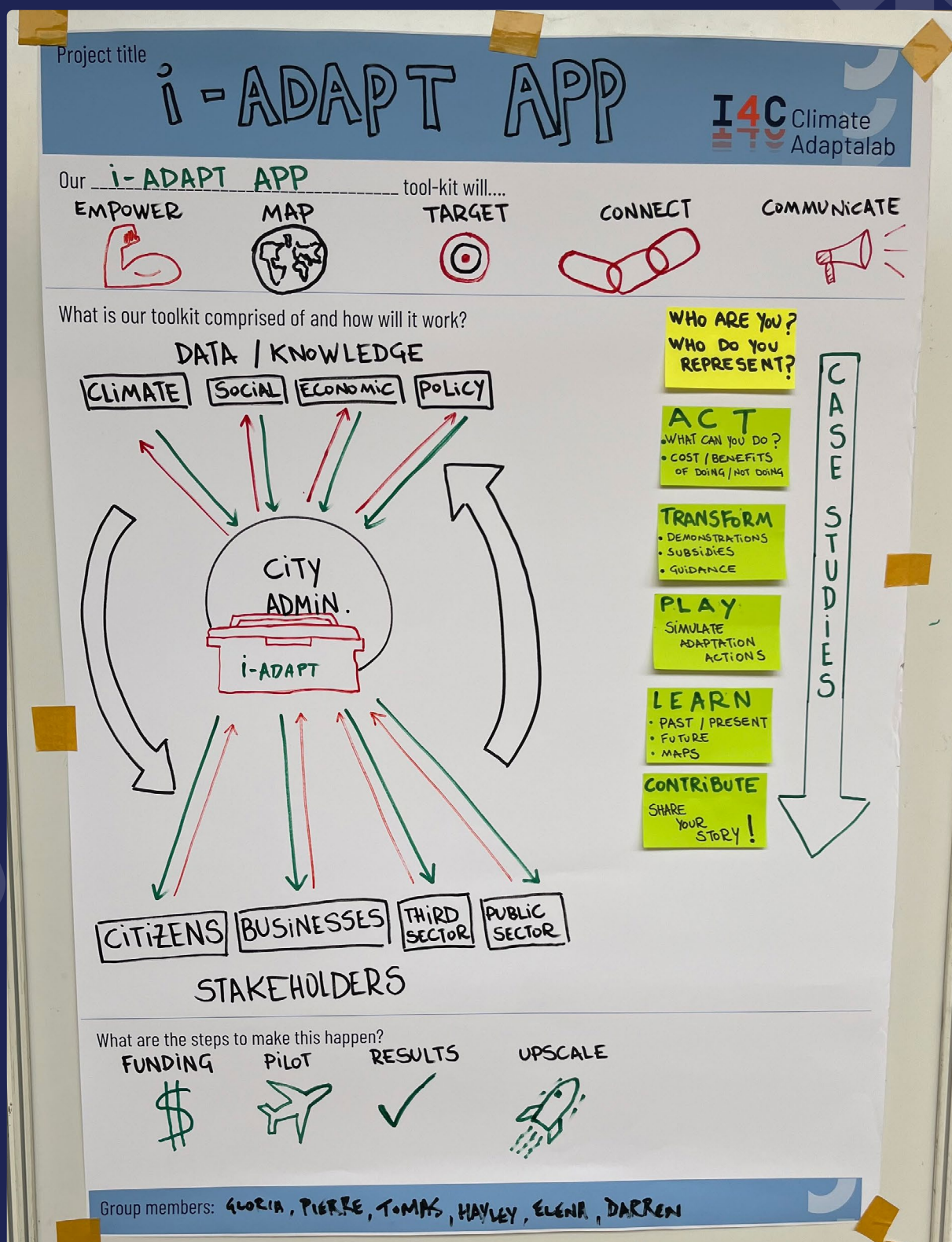
**Each participant had 3-minute conversations** before moving on to the next person.

**This helped build connections** that carried into the evening networking dinner and beyond.



**The final session of Adaptalab was a poster session**, where all groups displayed their work, explained their ideas, and explored the solutions developed by others through informal discussions and feedback.

### HERE ARE THE 8 POSTERS THE GROUPS DEVELOPED:





Project title

# REST ACT → CLIMATE RISK COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC AWARENESS

**I4C** Climate  
Adaptalab

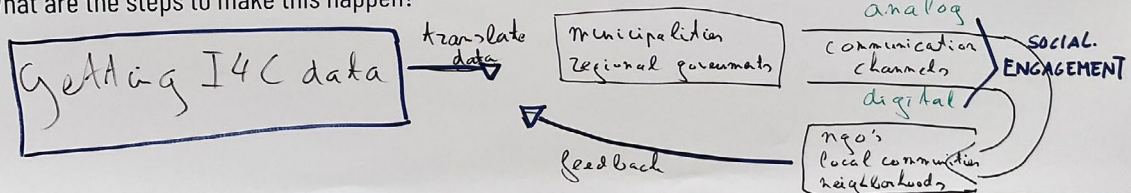
Our **RES-ACT** tool-kit will...

build social resilience to act efficiently in front of climate hazards and crises

What is our toolkit comprised of and how will it work?



What are the steps to make this happen?



Group members: HILDE, GONZALO, MARIA JOSÉ, THEA, ANTOINE, IVAN, FRANCINE

I4C

2



Project title

# ADAPTORY

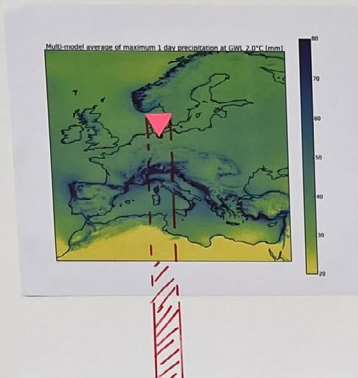
ADAPTATION  
STORIES

**I4C** Climate  
Adaptalab

Our **I4C** communication tool-kit will....

share stories about successful adaptation action, to enhance mutual learning in European cities.

What is our toolkit comprised of and how will it work?



MAP shows

how cities are  
affected by  
hazards

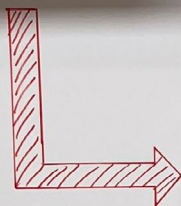
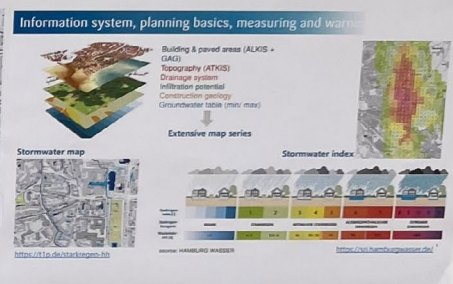
"Story" about  
each solution

different  
EU cities

city: hyperlink  
to adaptation  
solutions

## EXAMPLE CITY

- description of hazard
- background into the city
  - solution I
  - solution II
  - solution III



## SUCCESS STORY

- Problem
- approach
- co-benefits
  - to vulnerable people
- next steps

BEFORE



AFTER

What are the steps to make this happen?

## TARGET AUDIENCE

- ▶ City governments
- ▶ Civil society actors

## DISSEMINATION

- ▶ ICLEI
- ▶ C40
- ▶ Eurocities

## FUTURE STEPS

- ▶ High resolution data for indicators
- ▶ Networks for detailed information flow <-> cities

Group members: Sofie, Štěpán, Roberto, Senja, Steffi, Pia, Astrid



Project title

# DRY - ACT

**I4C** Climate  
Adaptalab

Our **DRY-Act**

tool-kit will.... **CAPTURE** STORIES & KNOWLEDGE OF PAST DROUGHT EVENTS

IN EUROPEAN CITIES. THE TOOL ENABLES SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES ~~AND~~ TO DECISION-MAKERS RESPONSIBLE FOR DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AND WATER RESOURCES AT LOCAL LEVEL IN EUROPEAN CITY REGIONS. DRY-Act ALSO HELPS RAISE AWARENESS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT DROUGHT EVENT AND POTENTIAL PRACTICES AND SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS FUTURE DROUGHTS.

What is our toolkit comprised of and how will it work?

[ONLINE PLATFORM]

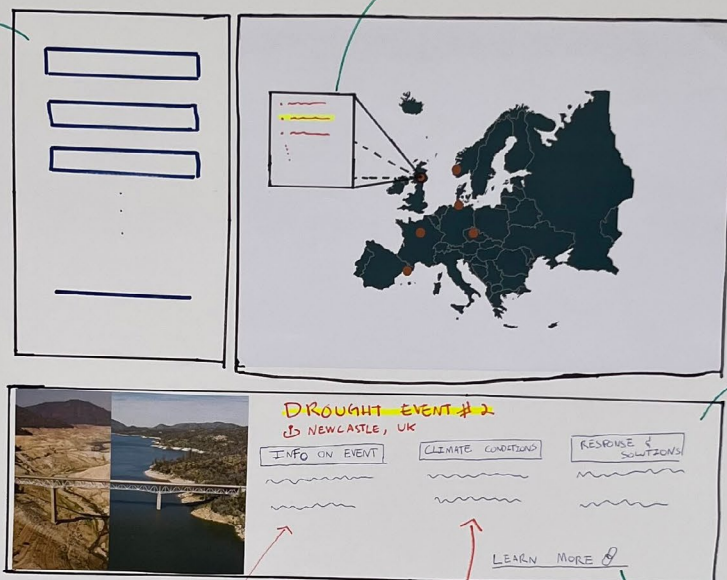
3 ways of exploring droughts:

- ↳ interactive map
- ↳ list of filters
- ↳ carousel of droughts management

EXAMPLES OF FILTERS:

- select a city
- select an indicator  
SPI-6
- select practices
- select type of event

INDICATORS  
APPLIED  
RETRO ACTIVELY  
BASED ON LOCAL  
DROUGHT DEFINITION

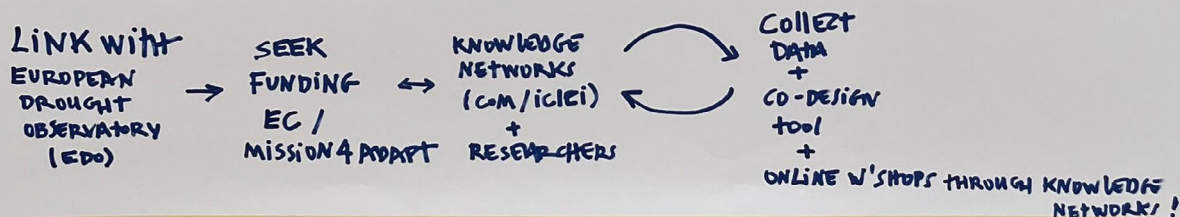


DROUGHT EVENT  
DEFINED  
LOCALLY → CLIMATE CONDITIONS  
DESCRIBE DROUGHT  
EVENT WITHOUT  
CONSTRAINING ITS  
DEFINITION

- CAROUSEL HIGHLIGHTS SPECIFIC DROUGHT EVENTS IN SELECTED CITIES
- EVENT CHARACTERIZED BY FEATURES, CLIMATE DATA & POLICY RESPONSE

DEDICATED PAGE  
WITH FULL EVENT  
INFO

What are the steps to make this happen?

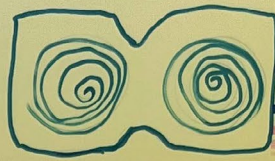


Group members: LÉA, CHRISTINA, NICOLAS, SILIUS, MARIA, MARTA



Project title

# Looking into the FLOOD-TURE



**I4C** Climate  
Adaptalab

Our TWO-LEVEL URBAN FLOOD-RISK tool-kit will.... **HELP DECISION-MAKERS**  
**IDENTIFY EXPOSED AREAS AND IMPACTS, AND PRIORITIZE**  
**ADAPTATION MEASURES**

What is our toolkit comprised of and how will it work?

## DATA

I4C

- HOURLY PRECIP.
- HIGH RESOLUTION
- CLIMATE PROJECTIONS

STAKEHOLDERS

- HIGH RES. DTM
- FEATURES (BUILDINGS, ROADS, ETC)
- LANDUSE
- PIPE NETWORK

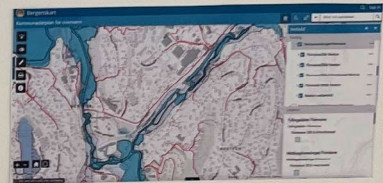
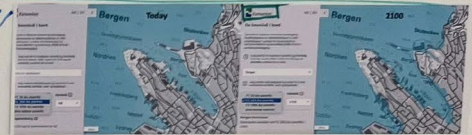
MUNICIPALITY

- HISTORICAL FLOOD EVENTS

UPDATE RETURN VALUES

## SCREENING

CHECK IF AREA IS EXPOSED / NOT EXPOSED



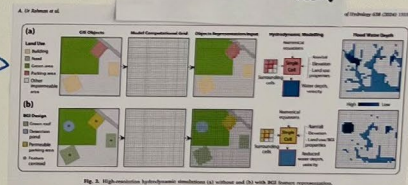
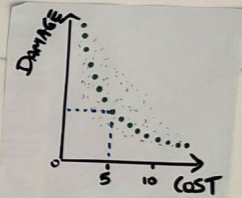
IF EXPOSED

## REGIONAL PLANNING

- IMPACT MODEL

SCENARIO ANALYSIS

SOLUTIONS



SCREENING  
UPDATED  
EVERY 5-10Y

What are the steps to make this happen?

ALIGNMENT WITH LEGISLATION

AVAILABILITY OF OPEN SOURCE DATASET

AUTHORITY GUIDELINE

VERIFICATION OF MODEL RESULTS

END-USERS:  
URBAN PLANNERS!

STAKEHOLDERS:

ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES  
MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES  
SCIENTIFIC & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTES  
WATER COMPANIES  
REAL ESTATE AGENCIES

Group members: ⑥ Marie, Silje, Nazia, Francesca, SAM, VASSILIS, FLORENCE



# Project title **RISK MAP** Rainfall Inundation & Solutions Kit for Municipal Adaptation Planners

**I4C** Climate  
Adaptalab

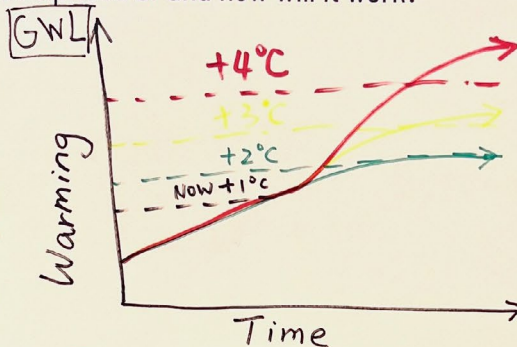
Our flood risk & coastal protection tool-kit will.... help municipal climate adaptation officers to communicate flood risks and benefits of short and long-term adaptation solutions to the population

What is our toolkit comprised of and how will it work?

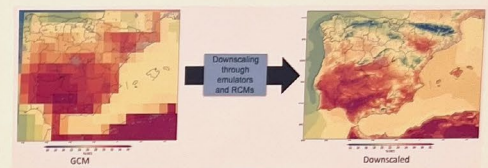
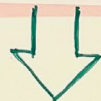
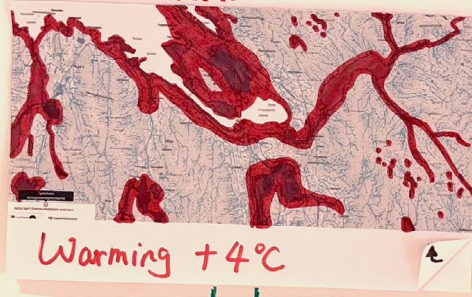
**Why?**

Population isn't...  
→ aware of (future) risks  
→ aware of benefits of adaptation solutions

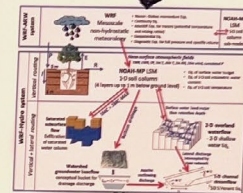
Population doesn't...  
→ undertake own adaptation  
→ support public long-term adaptation



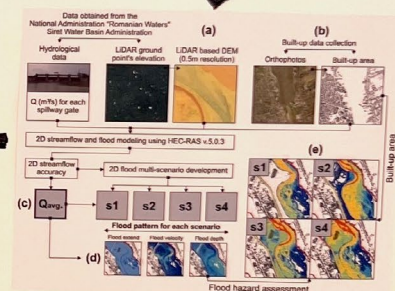
**RISK MAP**



**BIAS CORRECTION**



**HYDROLOGICAL MODEL**



**HYDRAULIC MODEL**

**Solutions**



What are the steps to make this happen?

- High-resolution Climate data analysis
- Visualization of Risk MAP
- Solutions !

Group members: Jonathan, Lu, Ingrid, Eren, Natalia, CARL & Lise ⑦



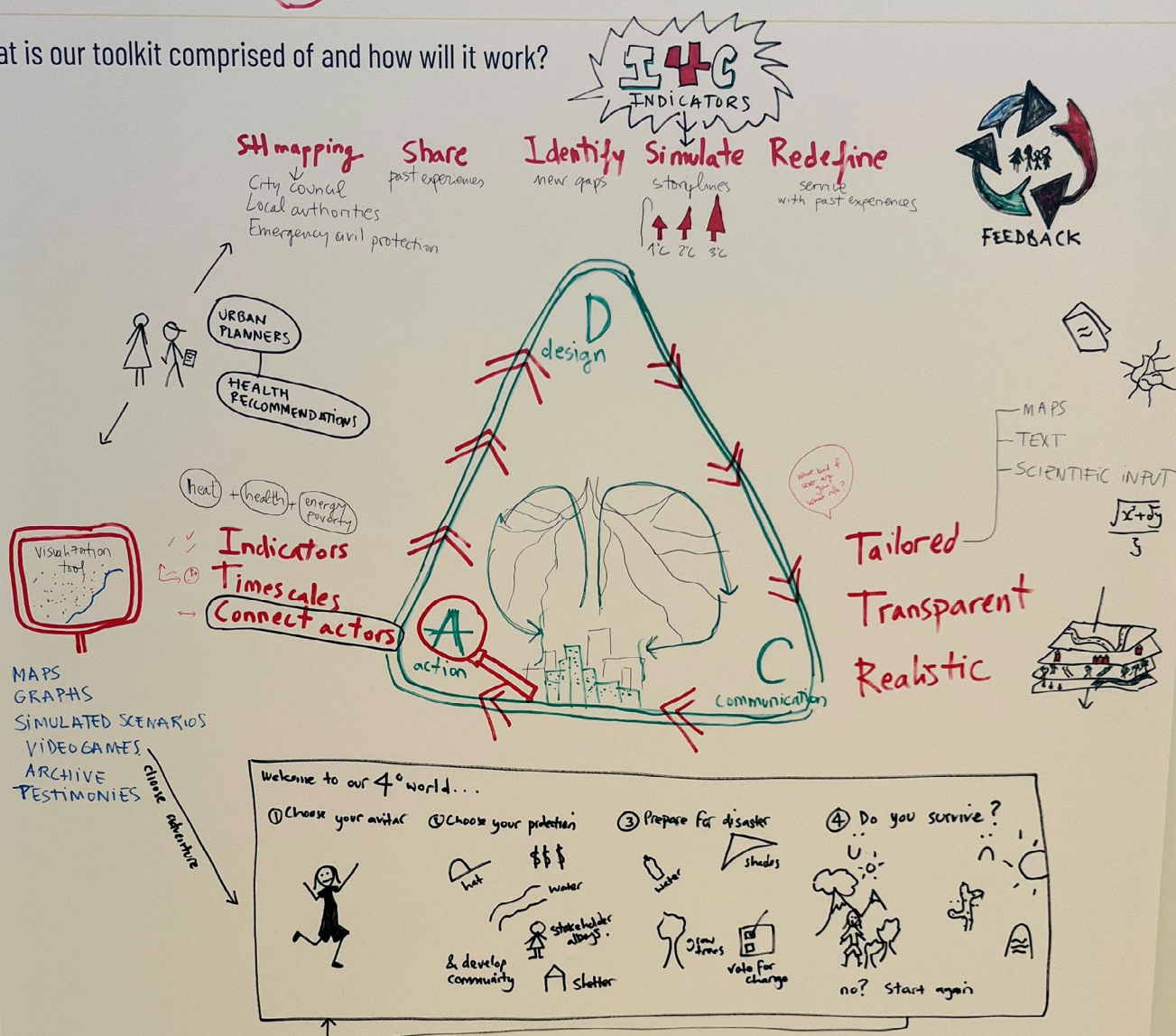
# TREMELY PREPARED

our heatwave disaster preparedness tool-kit will....

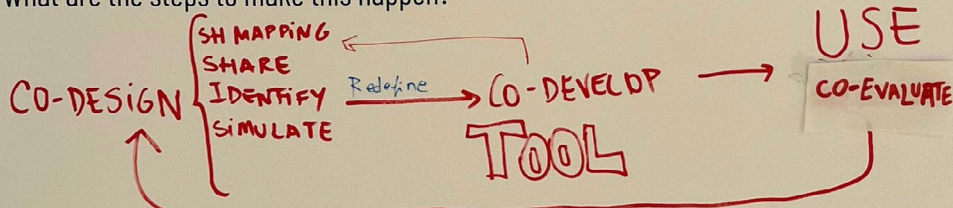
support the alignment of emergency response systems to

**HEATWAVES**

What is our toolkit comprised of and how will it work?



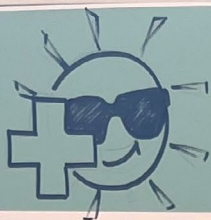
What are the steps to make this happen?



Group members: HELENA, JAKOB, ELODIE, PALOMA, AMY, JULIEN, DRAGANA



Project title

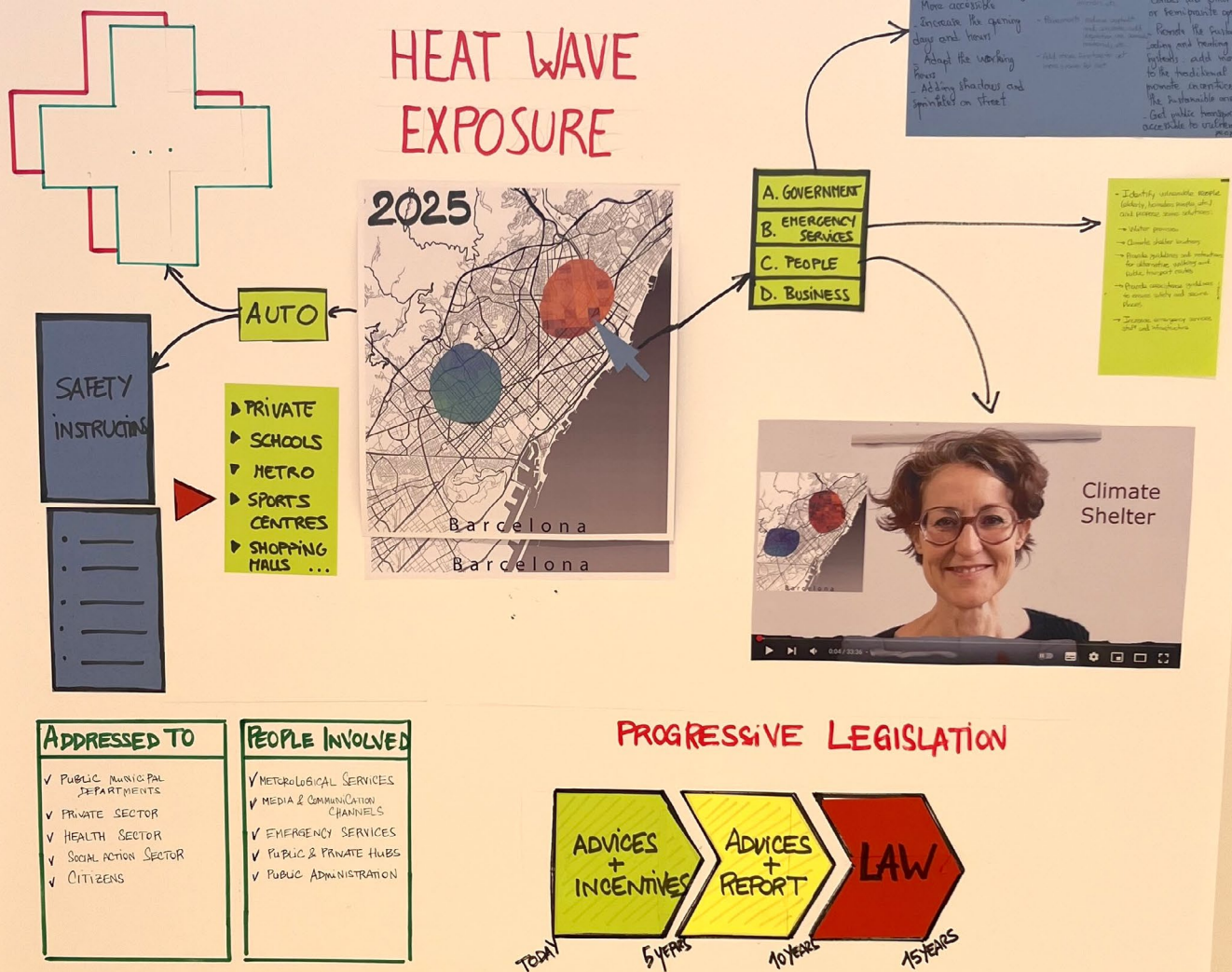


# HEAT SHIELD

**I4C** Climate  
Adaptalab

Our **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & EMERGENCY RESPONSE** tool-kit will... Focus on MANAGING HEATWAVES THROUGH CONSCIOUS **EDUCATION**, WIDESPREAD **COMMUNICATION**, AND PROGRESSIVE **LEGISLATION**.  
BASED ON DATA AND WITH A MULTI-LEVEL APPROACH, THE TOOL-KIT WILL FIT INTO THE DAILY LIFE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

What is our toolkit comprised of and how will it work?



What are the steps to make this happen?

- ① Construct the prototype based on I4C indicator maps and people working in the project
- ② Develop a proposal for applying the prototype at the local level
- ③ Engagement with relevant stakeholders
- ④ Implementation of the project

LET'S GET  
SHELTERED!

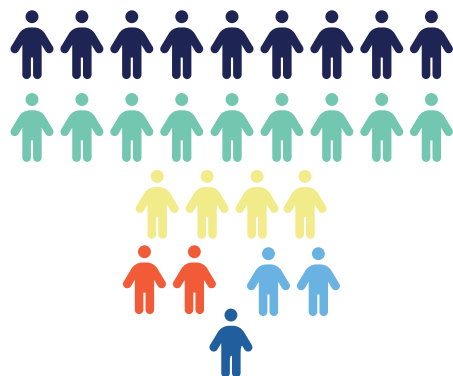
Group members: **IMANOL** - **MATEU** - **JULIA** - **ANNA** - **STEPHEN** - **ANA** - **AUDE**  
(ICLEI) (CNRM) (PEMB) (Bas Gty Council) (NERSC) (300000 K+16) (CNRM)



# Who was at the second Adaptalab?

As I4C has developed, so too have our collaborations with stakeholders in the participating cities. As a result, many more stakeholders registered for the second Adaptalab and eagerly participated in the group work. **A total of 70 people registered; a few did not attend, but the distribution looked like this:**

## Stakeholders

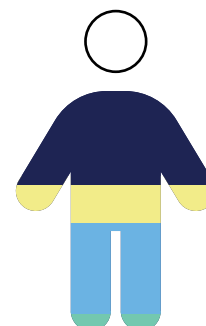


● Barcelona ● Bergen ● Prague  
● Paris ● Newcastle ● Hamburg

## Work packages



## Sectors



● Natural science (27)  
● Social science (11)  
● Public sector (24)  
● Private sector and NGO (3)

## Takeaways and the way forward

**The atmosphere of sharing and collaboration** at the second Adaptalab **was clear from the start.**

While there were challenging conversations within the groups, participants **had time to work through differences, find compromises, and develop outcomes** that felt meaningful to everyone.

**Sixteen participants completed the post-event evaluation.**

The overall event and its organisation received very positive feedback. **Ratings for the group work were slightly lower**, which is not unusual for interdisciplinary collaborations. These kinds of group processes involve real tensions, as people bring different backgrounds, expectations, and ways of working.

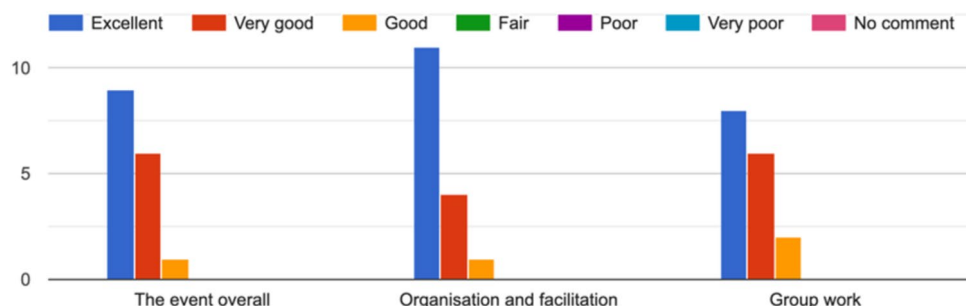
While it's possible that tighter facilitation might have boosted these scores, **the intention of the Adaptalab format is not to eliminate challenges but to reflect real-life interdisciplinary collaboration.** The process we provide is there to support the groups, but the experience of working through difficulties together is a key part of what makes the results meaningful. From that perspective, the second Adaptalab delivered what it set out to do.





Participants also offered thoughtful comments and constructive suggestions for the next Adaptalab in 2026.

What was your impression of the following elements of Adaptalab 2 in Barcelona?



**The most important piece of feedback** was the desire to keep the conversations going, especially around the toolkits and projects developed during the event. **The project leadership has taken this to heart** and is now working on ways to support continued contact and collaboration both within and across groups.

**The final Adaptalab will take place in Bergen in 2026.**

At that stage of the project, **we'll look ahead to the legacy of I4C**: what it has achieved, and what it might inspire in the future. The co-evaluation process will also be coming to a close. **This final Adaptalab will therefore blend elements of reflection and forward-looking inspiration.** We'll build on the networks and collaborations already formed, and on the new knowledge developed along the way.

**What that looks like in practice, we'll soon begin to explore.**

*Disclaimer: Mathew Stiller-Reeve wrote the report in its entirety and later used ChatGPT to help tighten the flow and eliminate redundancies.*

