



# Ideas about the policy themes for Adaptalab

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# Policy themes for the Adaptlab

**1. Governance for effective adaptation**

**2. Co-production & Inclusive Communication**

**3. Removing Barriers to Urban Climate Service Innovation**

**4. Climate Data in Urban Planning**

# 1. Governance for effective adaptation

To identify **governance mechanisms, mandates, coordination structures, and decision pathways** that help cities translate **scientific insights into concrete adaptation actions**. This theme examines the institutional side: who needs to work together, through what processes, and under which mandates for climate knowledge (including datasets) to lead to action.

A policy brief on governance conditions that enable coherent, timely, and evidence-informed adaptation implementation in cities

# 1. Governance for effective adaptation

## **City planning coordination**

A city is deciding how adaptation responsibilities should be shared across planning, infrastructure, emergency preparedness, health, and environmental departments - e.g. [Rotterdam Climate Adaptation Strategy](#)

## **Multi-level adaptation governance**

Range of actors and organisations within a region need to coordinate around shared climate risks (e.g. flooding, drought, heatwaves) and adaptation goals but operate under different mandates and planning cycles - e.g. [Climate Ready Regions in Scotland](#)

## **National adaptation governance**

A national government is revising its climate adaptation strategy and considering how responsibilities, reporting requirements, and mandates should be distributed across levels of government - e.g. [German Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change](#)

## 2. Co-production & Inclusive Communication

To synthesise I4C's experiences with **co-production, engagement, and communication into practical recommendations** for how cities, researchers, and communities can **jointly define challenges, create knowledge, and share results**. This theme covers the whole co-production pathway — from framing problems and developing insights together, to communicating new information in ways that support inclusive and locally meaningful adaptation.

A policy brief on strengthening co-production, communication, data interpretation, and equity in local adaptation processes

## 2. Co-production & Inclusive Communication

### Community engagement and equity in adaptation planning

A city is updating its adaptation strategy and must decide how residents, businesses, NGOs, and vulnerable groups can meaningfully contribute to the process. In addition, they need to ensure that underrepresented communities are included in both knowledge production and decision-making - e.g. [Bristol One City Plan](#)

### National guidance on participation

A national agency is developing recommendations for stakeholder engagement and co-production in climate adaptation initiatives. – e.g. [DIY Manual on engaging stakeholders and citizens in climate adaptation: methods, tools and good practices](#)

### EU requirements for participation

European policymakers are considering how research and innovation programmes can better support inclusive engagement and knowledge co-production - e.g. [Horizon Europe Mission for Adaptation to Climate Change](#)

### 3. Removing Barriers to Urban Climate Service Innovation

To identify **enablers and barriers in the process of climate service innovation** revealed through I4C's pilots, tools, data workflows, and collaborations. This includes drawing lessons on technical hurdles and integration challenges, but also the opportunities in developing and operationalising climate datasets.

A policy brief on innovation pathways and the removal of barriers to advancing data-enabled urban climate services

### 3. Removing Barriers to Urban Climate Service Innovation

#### **Integrating climate services into municipal planning**

Cities are exploring how climate services can be integrated with existing planning systems, IT systems, and operational practices. e.g. [REACHOUT policy brief](#)

#### **National support for climate services**

A national agency is considering how to support the long-term maintenance, scaling, and uptake of climate services innovation. e.g. – [Met Office Research Innovation Strategy](#)

#### **Innovation funding mechanisms**

National funding bodies are evaluating how research and innovation programmes can better support climate innovation. e.g. [Joint Programming Initiative Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe \(JPI Climate\)](#)

## 4. Climate Data in Urban Planning

To develop **recommendations on how cities can meaningfully integrate I4C's climate indicators, datasets, and tools** into specific planning systems and decision-making processes. Consider how important co-production was in developing new climate knowledge out of these datasets and what similar projects/initiatives can learn from this experience.

A policy brief on embedding actionable climate information into urban planning and decision-making

## 4. Climate Data in Urban Planning

### **Spatial planning processes**

A municipality is deciding how climate datasets, indicators and decision-support tools should influence urban planning and risk management – e.g. [Copenhagen Cloudburst Management Plan](#)

### **National infrastructure investment**

A national authority is prioritising infrastructure investments and need to determine how climate projections and other data should be incorporated into such plans – e.g. [Thames Estuary 2100](#)

### **EU planning and resilience frameworks**

European policymakers are exploring how climate indicators and datasets can support more consistent adaptation planning across cities and regions – e.g. [European Climate Risk Assessment](#)

**Thank you!**