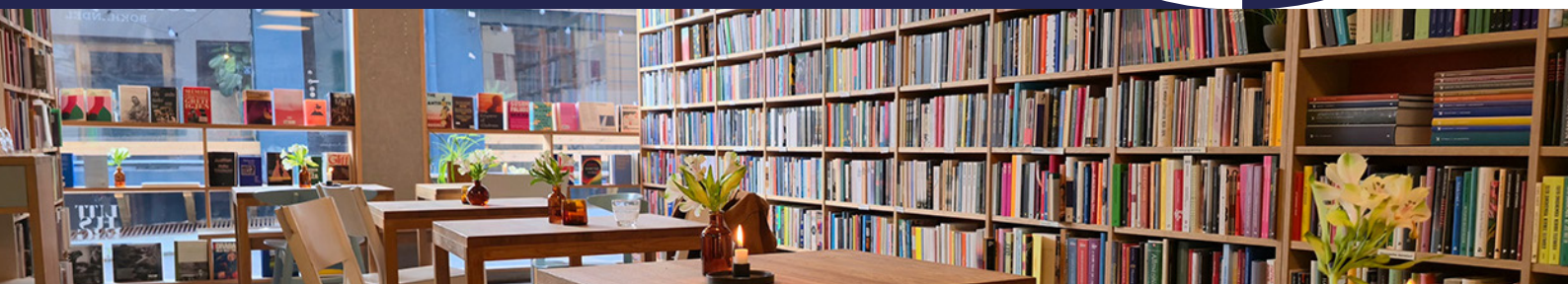


The Impetus4Change Adaptalab 2026



Key takeaways from the project's final climate adaptation hackathon

The Impetus4Change (I4C) project completed **Adaptalab 3 in Bergen** (Norway) in June 2026. Rounding out a tercet of **hackathon-style workshops**, this year's edition highlighted the strong collaborations that have developed during the project and showed that the project has built solid foundations with the hope of creating lasting change.



The path to **Adaptalab 3**

Back in 2023, we gathered the project researchers and collaborators in **Paris** (France) to get to know one another and start hatching ideas for the climate services the project could develop. Building on the initial collaboration of **Adaptalab 1**, in 2025, **Adaptalab 2 in Barcelona** (Spain) invited participants used their experiences from I4C to further develop these ideas into actual toolkits and project concepts. Another year of collaboration and development has now passed, and it is time to think about the legacy of I4C.

Adaptalab 3 took this idea of 'legacy' and focused on how the project could influence policy and decision-making. The collaborative work at the event focused on the idea that each working group would identify lessons from the project and use these to present evidence, formulate recommendations, and suggest options for policy makers. In other words—we developed policy briefs! In this way, we hope that the experiences from I4C can more easily influence climate adaptation policy and practice beyond the end of the project.

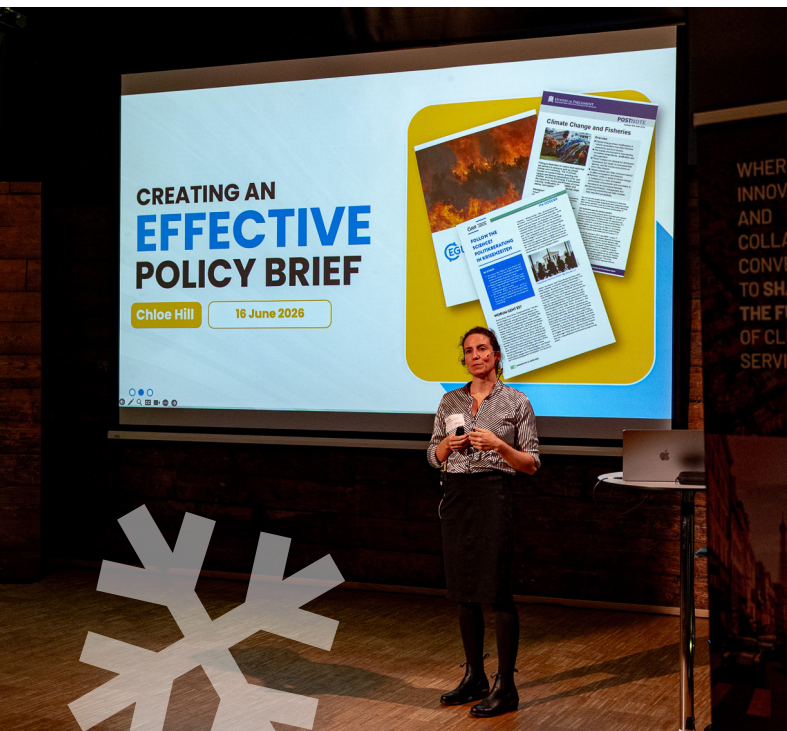
Held at Litteraturhuset in Bergen from 16–18 June 2026, the event brought together researchers, city representatives, practitioners and stakeholders from across the I4C consortium. Participants worked in small interdisciplinary groups using the collaborative Adaptalab methodology that has become a hallmark of the project.

To provide structure while still allowing flexibility, participants selected one of four overarching themes:

- **Governance for Effective Adaptation**
- **Co-production & Inclusive Climate Communication**
- **Removing Barriers to Urban Climate Service Innovation**
- **Climate Data in Urban Planning**

Each theme reflected lessons that had emerged across the cities and work packages involved in the project. The themes also represented important policy areas for climate adaptation in urban environments.

Hacking into policy briefs: From **conceptualisation** to **drafting**



Since the working groups at Adaptalab were developing their own policy briefs, we wanted to ensure that everyone started with a shared understanding. **Chloe Hill, Science Policy Manager at the European Geosciences Union (EGU)**, introduced participants to the purpose of policy briefs, how they relate to ongoing policy processes, what they typically contain, and how to identify and communicate with relevant policy audiences.

Throughout the event, Chloe also moved between the groups, helping them find direction and refine their ideas.

We sincerely thank Chloe for sharing her expertise and contributing so generously throughout the event.

As with previous Adaptalabs, the working groups followed a **flexible, open form work process** that was designed to help them find direction and develop their ideas. The process differed from previous events because we focused on policy briefs rather than problem-solving and climate service development.

The work process was built around several of the key elements of a policy brief, including:

- Defining a **policy context** and **target audience**
- Selecting the **most important evidence** (or lessons learned) from I4C
- Formulating **clear policy options/ recommendations**
- Communicating these ideas visually **through a poster**

The process deliberately combined structure with flexibility. Groups were encouraged to challenge assumptions, debate priorities, and draw upon experiences from multiple cities and disciplines. As in previous Adaptalabs, the emphasis was not on producing a finished document during the event, but on developing robust ideas through dialogue and collaboration.





Midway through the event, there were **cross-group exchanges**. The exchange of ideas also took shape through an **outdoor 'networking' exercise**. This allowed them to give feedback on clarity while also harvesting new ideas and perspectives.

As with all Adaptalabs, we rounded off the event with a **lively poster exhibition**. Each group presented the emerging structure of its policy brief and received feedback from the wider Adaptalab community. The poster session allowed participants to be inspired by one another's ideas while also starting conversations with people they had not previously had the opportunity to work with, helping to further expand their networks.



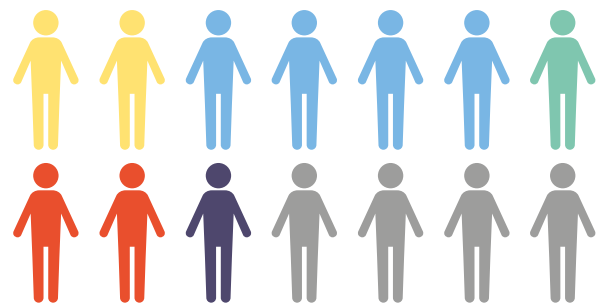
Who was at Adaptalab 3?

Most of the participants had attended previous Adaptalabs, although a few newcomers also joined and provided valuable input to the development of the policy briefs. As in the previous Adaptalabs, participants represented a similar mix of **project partners** and **stakeholders** from **city municipalities** and other **local-level organisations**.

People registered for the event



Stakeholders

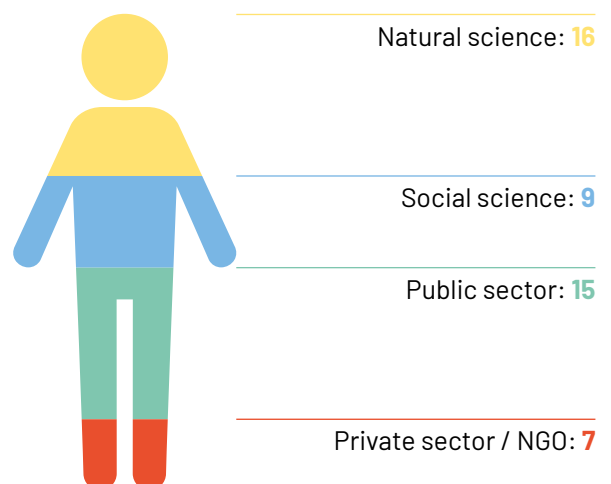


● Barcelona ● Bergen ● Hamburg
● Newcastel ● Paris ● Prague

I4C Work Packages

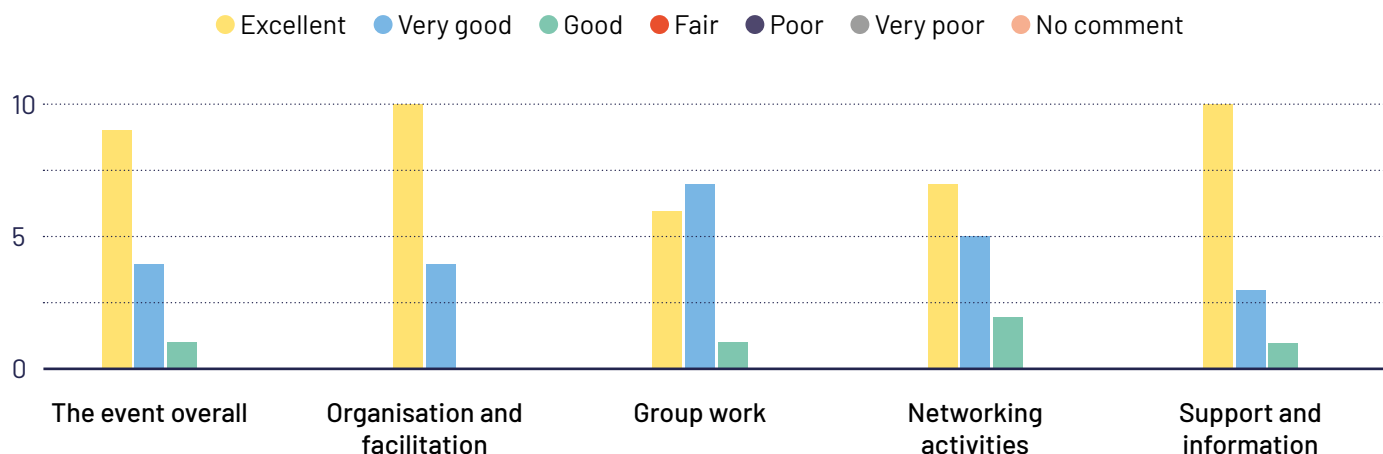


Disciplinary backgrounds



What did participants get out of it?

Fourteen participants completed the post-event evaluation, equivalent to roughly a 30% response rate.



The feedback was **overwhelmingly positive**. The event overall, its organisation, support and facilitation all received consistently high ratings, with the vast majority of respondents selecting either Excellent or Very good.

Participants particularly valued:

- the **interdisciplinary collaboration** and exchange of perspectives;
- the opportunity to work with **researchers and stakeholders from different backgrounds**;
- the **practical focus** on developing policy briefs;
- the strong sense of **motivation and community** that has developed throughout the Adaptalab series.

Several respondents also highlighted that narrowing the focus on **policy communication** gave the final Adaptalab a clear purpose and demonstrated how research projects can begin translating scientific knowledge into actionable policy recommendations.

Creativity was an important part of Adaptalab 3. We invited **Håvard Legreid, a Bergen-based visual facilitator** to capture this creative journey. Håvard observed the group work, joined some of the discussions, and created a series of illustrations inspired by what he experienced. The illustrations tell the story of the event, highlighting key ideas and moments, while conveying the atmosphere and collaborative spirit in a way that photographs alone cannot.



The way forward

If Adaptalab 1 was about building relationships, and Adaptalab 2 was about building ideas, then Adaptalab 3 was about ensuring those ideas have a lasting influence on climate adaptation policy.

The policy brief posters developed during Adaptalab mark the beginning of a process that will culminate in **a series of co-produced policy briefs** capturing the key lessons from I4C.

Over the coming months, **the project team will analyse the poster content**, identify common messages, and develop draft policy briefs that the Adaptalab participants will be invited to review and expand. Participants will have the opportunity to strengthen the evidence base, add relevant publications from I4C, and refine or challenge the assumptions and recommendations presented in the drafts.

Some of the ideas developed by different groups may be combined into a single policy brief where they complement one another. This will allow us to develop a smaller number of **stronger, more comprehensive policy** briefs that bring together different perspectives and evidence from across the project.

The completed policy briefs will be published as part of the project's legacy and distributed to relevant policy audiences. We also hope they will help inform ongoing policy discussions both at the European level—including the I4C policy activities in Brussels—and within regional and local decision-making processes.

Ultimately, Adaptalab 3 aimed to continue co-developing **the I4C story** even beyond the lifetime of the project. We hope the event demonstrated that policy briefs are powerful tools for extending the reach of research, and that they are strongest when developed collaboratively by people with different expertise, experiences and perspectives. Perhaps even more importantly, we hope the event helped strengthen the relationships built throughout I4C, increasing the chances that the spirit of co-production will continue long after the research project itself has come to an end.



This report was written by **Mathew Stiller-Reeve**, Village Green, I4C Climate Adaptalab coordinator, and **Alexandra Singer**, Arctik, Imeptus4Change WP7 Lead - Communication, Dissemination, Exploitation

The work now begins to ensure that this happens!

Stay tuned for updates on the I4C project:

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