

F:ACTS!

Forms for: Adapting to Climate Change through Territorial Strategies!

PROJECT DETAILS

Priority: Environment and risk prevention

Theme: Natural and technological risks (including climate change)

TYPE OF INTERVENTION

Type of intervention: Regional Initiative Project

Duration: 01/01/2010 - 31/03/2013

Website: www.factsproject.eu

BUDGET

Total budget: €2 286 000

ERDF contribution: €1 797 890



PARTNERSHIP



Lead partner:

Government Service for Land and Water Management (DLG)
 P.O. Box 19275
 2500 CG DEN HAAG
 NETHERLANDS

	Country	Institution, Town
1	Netherlands	Government Service for Land and Water Management (DLG), the Hague
2	Netherlands	Van Hall Larenstein, University of professional Education, part of WUR, Velp
3	Belgium	Flemish Land Agency (FLA), Brussels
4	Spain	Regional Ministry of Rural Affairs. Government of Galicia, Santiago de Compostela (A Coruña)
5	Spain	University of Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela (A Coruña)
6	Portugal	General Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development, Lisbon
7	Lithuania	National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture, Vilnius-25
8	Lithuania	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, Vilnius
9	Portugal	General Directorate for Spatial Planning and Urban Development, Lisbon
10	Belgium	Province of Limburg, Hasselt
11	Netherlands	Almere Municipality, Almere Stad
12	Bulgaria	Municipality of Varna, Varna
13	Italy	National Union of Mountain Municipalities, Communities and Authorities, Rome
14	Greece	Development Enterprise of Achaia Prefecture (NEA), Patras



Project objectives

The **F:ACTS!** project aimed to find suitable approaches for adapting land use to climate change in order to reduce hazards and other negative effects on the environment. To achieve this objective, the project dealt with flood and fire-prone areas and natural areas particularly vulnerable to disturbance. Exchanges of knowledge occurred in workshops during partner meetings and coaching visits between partners.

Main outputs

- The F:ACTS! Handbook on climate adaptation presents knowledge gathered and explains how to set up integrated territorial strategies to implement territorial adaptation and mitigation actions. Eleven guidelines are formulated for developing climate-proof areas grouped around three pillars of integrated territory strategy: 1) understanding and using the potential of the area; 2) mobilising cooperation, and 3) governance for integrated territory strategy. Five pilot studies carried out by the project provided a ground for applying these guidelines in areas facing droughts, floods or forest fires.

Five pilot projects were implemented. These pilots targeted areas facing droughts, floods or forest fires. Partners looked for solutions to these specific problems, which are intended to serve as examples for areas in Europe facing similar issues.

- The project also produced a number of recommendations and policy-issues papers.

Examples of good practices

The project identified 29 good practices that focus on: techniques and methods for stakeholder involvement, communication campaigns and creation of new networks, integrating climate change adaptation issues into spatial and territorial planning, biodiversity conservation as part of the measures for flood protection and sustainable land use, and use of indicators for monitoring performance of adaptation efforts.

The project introduced a **governance model for adapting the Douro wine region in Portugal to climate change**. A local association of 180 wine producers, ADVID, was created with the aim of contributing to the modernisation of viticulture in vine yield of the Demarcated Douro Region, as well as improving the quality of its wines. ADVID carried out technical activities, nowadays specially focused on climate change effects (especially temperature and water availability to the soil) and its variance over the years. A climate information network is currently being refurbished with stations equipped for radio transmission in six locations in the region, in addition to the collection and processing of climate data. This facilitates data analysis and the preparation of follow-up reports on climate, plant and phyto-sanitary aspects. The results of this research are actively promoted via publications and seminars. Another objective was to discuss adaptation strategies with farmers and to assist them in implementing a territorial adaptation strategy.

Another practice focused on **integrating flood-risk mitigation with habitat conservation and recreation in Italy's Secchia River basin**. This practice explored multi-functional use of the river basin's capacity for water retention and flood control, natural habitat conservation and recreation. Five municipalities established a consortium with the aim of creating and managing the Secchia River Park. The park is managed in an integrated way via upgrading the initial function of water retention for flood-risk mitigation, but with two other main purposes: natural habitat preservation and recreation. The park has developed a good project design for land management, focusing on maintenance, protection and supervision of its territory and infrastructure.

Establishing Forest Intervention Zones (Portugal) is an approach intending to connect owners and introduce a common model for using their land by enlarging the scale of intervention in the forestry sector and, at the same time, through multifunctional land use and by providing natural defences (green infrastructure) to give territories a necessary resilience.

The **coupling of industrial development with the development of green buffers around villages** was shown in a concrete project, ECO2, in Ghent (Flanders, Belgium). Measures for landscape development were taken that are financed by public and private actors. The most important feature of this good practice is to identify private interest in investing in climate change adaptation measures.

Examples of transferred good practices

The **creation of a sense of urgency to undertake climate change actions** was achieved through communication and marketing activities. The Geofort, an old fortress linked to the Nieuwe Hollandse Waterlinie is used as 'climate info point' for visitors, combining different interactive materials for presenting diverse topics related to climate in an understandable way. With that, stakeholders are made aware of the urgency to deal with climate change. This practice has been followed in the implementation of Strofylia's pilot project.

The project involved the **use of a rich toolbox of methods for stakeholder involvement** at the planning phase of integrated territorial strategies. Several methods, such as mind mapping, stakeholder analysis, facilitation, etc., are



used by VLM and DLG (Flanders and the Netherlands). These public participation methods were used in O Carrio (Galicia, Spain) and Baixo Vouga (Portugal), where participatory workshops were held for the first time in planning phases for integrated territorial strategies at local level. This led to improved communication processes among different departments of public bodies responsible for rural space, with clear benefits for territorial activities.

The **land bank concept for reduction of land abandonment** is used by the Ministry of Rural Affairs of Galicia (Spain). Within this concept, a public entity acts as an intermediate management body for stimulating, via renting, the transfer of land from absentee owners to active farmers. This can be an engine for territorial strategies dealing with adaptation to climate change. The NLS partner from Lithuania took steps to reorganise the structure and activities of the Lithuanian Land Bank, and good practice is transferred on a pilot-programme basis. This has led to steering private land management practices towards the maintenance of good agro-environmental conditions.

One of the methodologies used in the **structured staff training programme on public participation strategies and methods** (DLG, Netherlands), the Sketch Match method, was transferred to the Municipality of Varna (Bulgaria), which in turn introduced the method into spatial planning processes at local level. Defining the main aspects of spatial planning objectives in an explicit and visual way is one of this method's important elements. It also facilitates communication to local stakeholders regarding potential climate-related hazards.

Public and private-level governance at the territorial level, where the main promoter and structural provider is a public company (Primiero Valley, Italy) has helped to promote the sustainable development of the communities involved and is at the core of all public and private-sector activities. The two most remarkable projects are the Oil Free Zone project (which seeks oil independence for the area), and My Valley (an innovative project aiming to promote the adaptation of ICT services to needs of local communities). This inspired the Flemish Land Agency to adopt the 'energy landscapes' concept, which is about analysing energy flows and land use from a landscape perspective.

Innovative public campaigns for awareness raising with multiple aspects (Limburg/Flanders) challenged municipality inhabitants to save energy by changing habits of energy consumption. The involvement of several administrative and organisational personnel yielded interesting aspects of governance. Limburg's approach and concrete examples seen are being used now in Baixo Vouga.

