



# COMMEMORATING **VICTIMS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE**

***15 JULY 2025***

In 2023, the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission signed a Joint Declaration to establish an **annual EU Day for the Victims of the Global Climate Crisis** and to observe this day on 15 July.



**Why 15 July?** The date of 15 July was one of the worst days of the deadly floods in Belgium and Germany in 2021.





Volunteers and residents start the clean up process at their shops and restaurants following severe flash flooding on 18 July 2021 in Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, Germany



Each year, 15 July will be an occasion to:



**remember victims** in  
Europe and worldwide



**raise awareness** of action  
people can take at their level to  
reduce the risk of climate impacts  
and be better prepared for and  
respond to climate disasters.



**Commemorate**





Observe a **moment of silence** in your workplace or community



Organise a **small ceremony** at a significant place locally

## How ?



Organise an activity that uses **nature** or **arts** to connect people for a moment of reflection and inspires collective hope  
(e.g. nature walk, artistic performance, community gathering)



Connect the commemoration with an **event** to raise awareness and foster dialogue on climate issues  
(e.g. documentary screening, panel discussion)



**Raise awareness**



# How ?

Use tools like the European Climate Pact's quick-start tools for citizen engagement to **organise a group activity** – a climate walk, photo story workshop, 'peer parliament' group discussion, or a local climate action group.





Team up with other organisations and networks to amplify the importance of the day through **joint campaigns and shared resources**



Get in touch with the [European Climate Pact's Country Coordinator](#) or [Climate Pact Ambassadors](#) in your country to connect and work together



Engage with your local and regional authorities in your area through the [Covenant of Mayors](#), [Mission Adaptation to Climate Change](#) and [Mission Climate Neutral and Smart Cities](#)



You would like to **join forces** and help us  
**find synergies** to make it an impactful day

**Get in touch**

[clima-events@ec.europa.eu](mailto:clima-events@ec.europa.eu)



# Background



# Key messages

1

The annual EU Day for the Victims of the Global Climate Crisis, 15 July, established in 2023, serves to **commemorate victims** in Europe as well as worldwide and to **raise awareness** of concrete steps that people can take at their level to help **prevent and respond** to climate disasters.

2

The day is a call to all of us to act now to minimise the impact of climate change and to prepare for the risks it brings, to help **protect what's most precious to us** – our lives and our health.

3

The science is clear: extreme weather events and disasters are becoming **more frequent and more intense** as a direct consequence of climate change. Average temperatures are rising globally and weather patterns are becoming increasingly unpredictable.

4

As the climate heats up, it will bring with it **all kinds of risks**. From more frequent extreme weather events like heatwaves, droughts or floods, to coastal erosion from rising sea levels, the impacts will affect everyone.

5

Around the world, **millions of people** have already lost their homes, livelihoods or lives as a consequence of climate impacts. Climate-driven food and water insecurity is on the increase. When the risks combine with other adverse events, they become even more difficult to manage.

6

Climate risks pose a **threat to people and prosperity** also in Europe. Across the European Union, climate-related extreme weather already takes lives and inflicts economic damage. Even when the consequences aren't deadly, they leave a lasting impact on the local economy and communities.

7

To prevent the worst impacts of climate change, we must **continue to cut our greenhouse gas emissions** and **encourage global action to fight climate change**, in order to tackle the root cause of global warming.

8

We must also **better prepare for** and **manage climate-related risks** that are already here – and will continue to grow. This requires investments, but the costs pale in comparison to the cost of doing nothing. Preparing our homes, infrastructure, economy and health systems for climate change will help us save lives in the future.

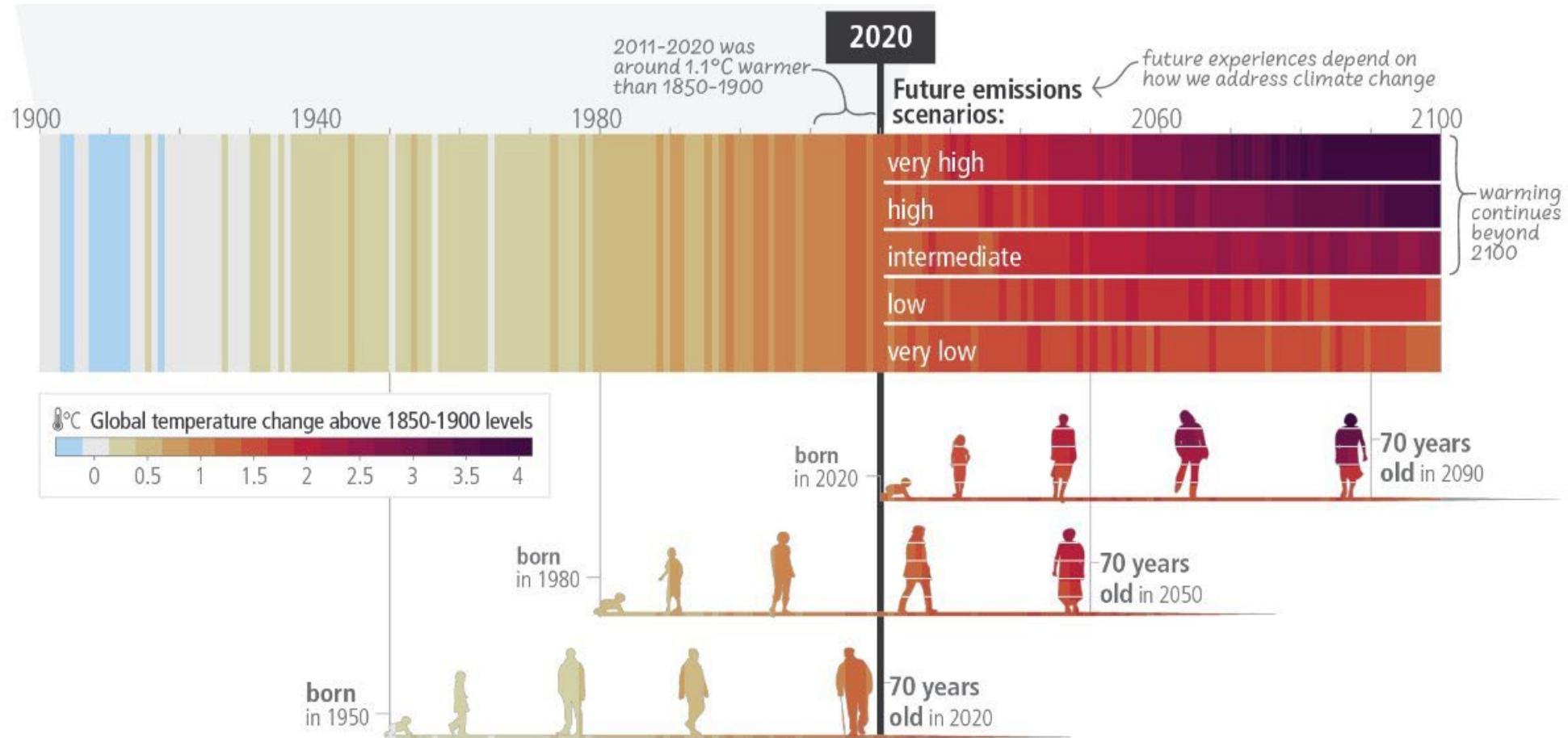
9

**The European Union is taking action.** It is putting in place policies and measures to become climate-neutral by 2050 – an economy with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions – and to prepare for the unavoidable impacts of climate change, making our societies more resilient and protecting people and prosperity in Europe and globally.



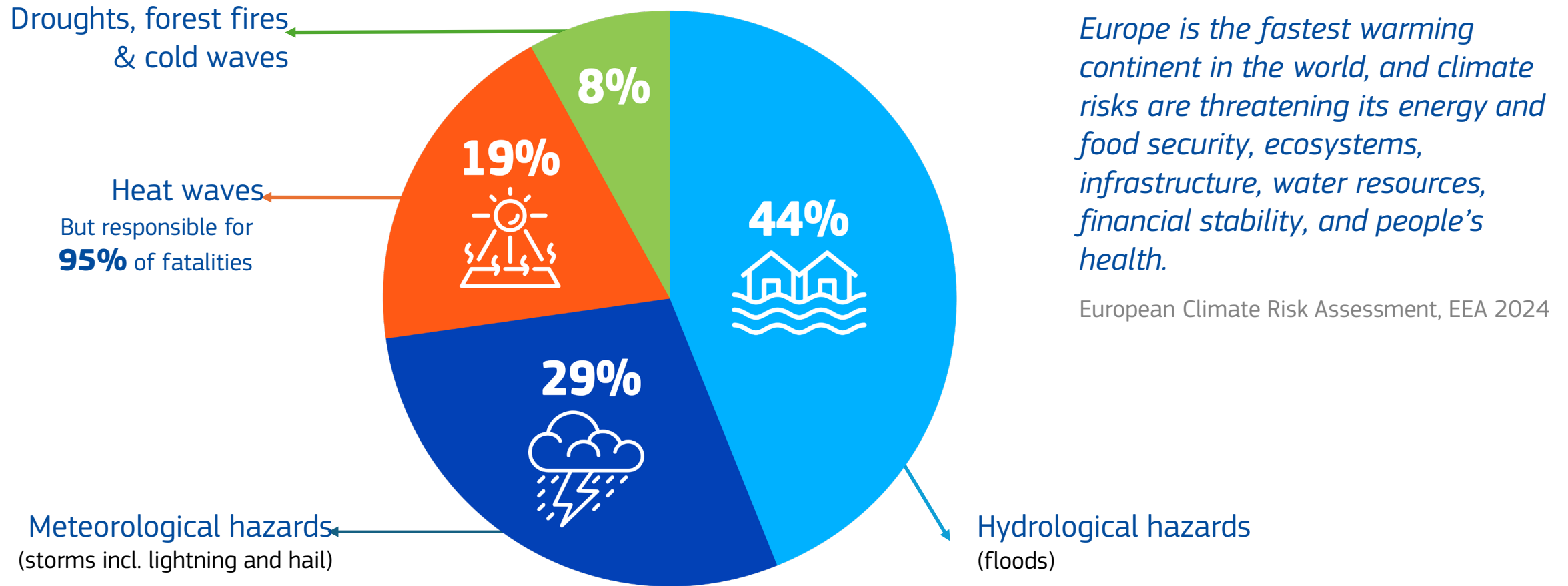
# Our climate is changing

As global temperature continues to rise, extreme weather events and long-term effects of climate change are claiming lives worldwide, leaving a trail of destruction and devastation in their wake.



# Climate hazards in the EU

between 1980-2023



Source: [European Environment Agency](#), 2024

# Protecting lives

People worldwide are increasingly at risk from life-threatening extreme weather events. The most-reported causes of disasters were floods and storms, while extreme temperatures led to the highest proportion of disaster-related deaths.

Around the world, more than 2 billion people were affected by **floods** since 1998, and an estimated 1.81 billion people, or 23% of the world population facing significant flood risk.

Source: [WHO](#); [World Economic Forum 2024](#)

Climate-intensified **natural disasters** may lead to \$12.5 trillion in economic losses and over two billion healthy life years lost by 2050.

Source: [World Economic Forum, 2024](#)



A torrent of water flows along the river Bela during heavy rain on 14 September 2024 in Mikulovice, Czech Republic



# Protecting lives

In 2024, in Europe, at least 413 000 people were affected by **storms** and flooding, with at least 335 lives lost due these disasters.

Source: [Copernicus, 2024](#)

**Heatwaves** alone have caused tens of thousands of premature deaths in Europe since 2000.

Source: [EEA, 2024](#)



Medics help a woman who has passed out from the heat during a heat wave on 20 July 2023 in Athens, Greece.



A thermometer with a temperature of 41°C during the fourth heat wave of the summer, on 23 August 2023 in Bilbao, Spain



November 2024  
in Paiporta municipality,  
in Valencia, Spain

# 770

The number of times the EU Civil Protection Mechanism has been activated to respond to emergencies since its creation in 2001 (including **59** times in 2024)

Source: [EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#), 2025



## What is the Civil Protection Mechanism?

The Civil Protection Mechanism offers on-the-ground logistical and operational support to improve prevention, preparedness, and response to disasters.



**EUR 1.5 billion** – Amount by which the maximum **annual budget** for the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve will be increased.

This increase aims to enhance the EU's capacity to address crises and emergency situations.

Source: European Parliament, 2025



EU ECHO - EU civil protection exercise in Bulgaria

## What is the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve?

Provides rapid financial response to all kinds of emergencies like natural disasters or humanitarian crises in EU countries or their neighbours.

**EUR 738 billion** economic losses of assets from  
weather- and climate-related events in the European Union between 1980 and 2023  
of which **EUR 162 billion** (22%) between 2021 and 2023

Source: European Environment Agency, 2024



### Wildfires In Northern Greece

Fire-fighters effort to extinguish wildfire near village of Dikella on 23 August 2023 in Alexandroupoli, Greece.



# Protecting our health

**Rising temperatures are associated with increased mortality, morbidity, hospital admissions, and mental health burden for disorders such as suicide, anxiety, affective, and addictive disorders.**

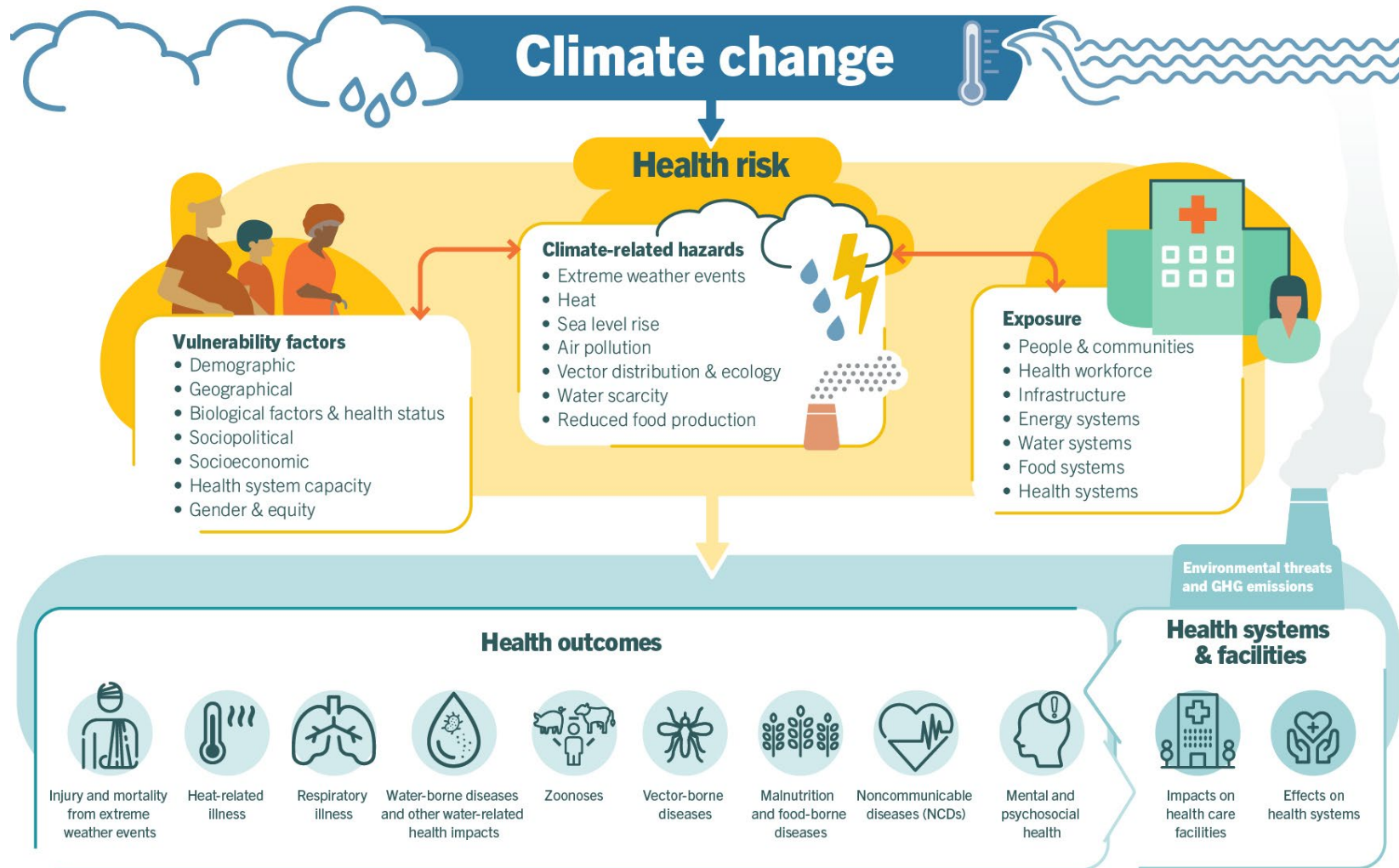
Globally, 3.6 billion people live in areas highly susceptible to climate change. Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year, from **undernutrition, malaria, diarrhea** and **heat stress** alone.

Source: [WHO](#)

Individuals directly exposed to climate disasters are at increased risk of **mental health** problems including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety.

Source: [Heinz & Brandt, 2024](#)





Source:  
WHO, 2023

*“By ramping up mental health and psychosocial support within disaster risk reduction and climate action, countries can do more to help protect those most at risk.”*

Source: WHO

# EU's adaptation strategy

Long-term vision for the EU to become a climate-resilient society, fully adapted to the unavoidable impacts of climate change by 2050

Smart

Faster

More systemic



Adaptation

Stepping up international  
action for climate change



**Climate  
ADAPT**

Sharing adaptation knowledge for a Climate-Resilient Europe