

On March 7th 2018, FMI, CNR-IRSA and ENOLL organized an inspiring and interactive Stakeholders Workshop (figure 1) aiming to co-design a prototype for a collaborative planning process for climate change adaptation. The Stakeholder Workshop was organized in Helsinki, in the Finnish Meteorological Institute. It was conducted within the H2020 project EU-MACS, European Market for Climate Services (G.A. 730500).

The main scope of the workshop was to test and evaluate the suitability of a collaborative planning process, involving the different institutional actors, and based on the use and sharing of climate-related information. Given a specific urban policy issue, the process allows decision-makers to identify other actors that need to be involved to develop a consensual and affective solution to the problem at stage. The process will be referred for developing a collaborative planning platform for supporting decisions related to urban planning for climate adaptation, enabling collaboration among stakeholders.



Figure 1 - Stakeholders Workshop in Helsinki

After the presentation of the Helsinki risk report, stakeholders were involved in a group exercise aiming at developing a consensual solution to the following problem: how to design the most climate smart urban district in Helsinki? How to integrate the new urban area in the existing city structure? (Haaga, Pitäjänmäki). The “Vihdintien bulevardikaupunginosa” (Boulevard district of Vihdintie street) was introduced as a case study.

In order to facilitate the discussion, participants were provided with a box contained several initial information on the problem at stage. This box was named “initial knowledge-base”, and it represented the initial set of available concepts on the issues to be addressed during the decision-making process. Participants were also provided with a folder containing all the basic information concerning their role in the decision process, i.e. main objectives, tasks to be performed, information owned and used. The results of the previous interviews were used to this aim. The workshop was structured in “time-boxed” interactions. Participants had a limited time slot for contributing to specific topics of the discussion. In order to simulate a real collective decision-making process, the following phases were identified:

- i) Initial and collective problem formulation: The opening team introduces the initial problem formulation, based on the case study area, and the specific objectives to be achieved (e.g. reducing flood risk, increasing the urban areas, reducing the energy consumption, etc.). The other participants are required to add new specific objectives and/or challenge the ones cited by the opening team.
- ii) Task list co-development: At this stage, the participants are required to define the list of tasks that, according to their own experiences, need to be carried in order to achieve the objectives defined in the previous step. The opening team submits in the platform the initial list of tasks (e.g. climate scenario modelling, risk analysis, transportation planning, public space design, etc.). The other participants could add and or challenge the initial list of tasks. The list is defined when a consensus is achieved.
- iii) Information to be used in the process: Participants are required to specify the information needed in order to achieve the specific objectives and related tasks. To this aim, the platform provides two information panels/boards: the first contains information available in the interaction network (i.e. owned by the other actors), the second contains the supplementary information that can be gathered using available climate services. Participants are required to add information to the central panel, either using the owned information or referring to the two supplementary boxes.

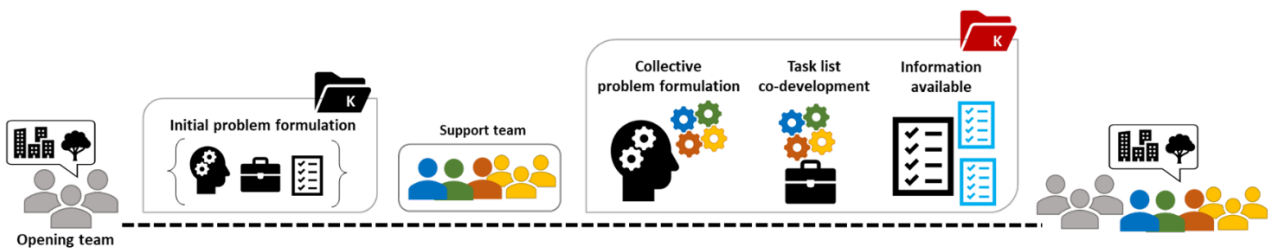


Figure 2 – Implementable prototype for a collaborative planning process for climate change adaptation tested during the workshop

The whole process was positively evaluated by the participants, and considered as a valuable and innovative support for eliciting and integrating different perspectives in the urban planning process, for fostering the active involvement of different institutional actors and for combining different skills and knowledge. Nevertheless, several improvements need to be introduced in order to make it actually implementable.

- i) In order to facilitate the active involvement of different actors, the problem to be solved cooperatively need to be very specific. Generic issues could lead the participants toward endless discussion without the capability of achieving a solution.
- ii) The structure of initial problem formulation, provided by the opening team to the supporting team, need to be improved, facilitating the information retrieval by the other participants. The information

to be provided in the problem formulation needs to be clustered in easily identifiable and understandable classes of information.

- iii) The development of the initial knowledge-base requires several improvements. Firstly, it should contain exclusively information and data that need to be used to solve the specific problem at stage. Generic information could be misleading. Participants should have access to this knowledge-base well in advance, in order to get familiar with the information contained and, thus, actively participate in the discussion. Finally, the way data and information are structured in the knowledge-base has to be clear and easily understandable for the participants.
- iv) In order to facilitate the interaction among different actors, the profiles of the participants need to be well structured and shared. That is, every participant needs to know who is participating in the discussion, what are the roles, the tasks and the objectives around the table. The availability of this information could positively affect the creation of the “supporting team”.
- v) The task list expansion phase has to be structured accounting for the different phases of the urban planning decision process, ranging from the strategy definition, to the actual action selection and implementation. The actors need to be involved in the phases of the process according to their role and responsibility. This will enhance the task list expansion.
- vi) The availability of an information dashboard, where all the participants can find out who-is-owning-what information is of utmost importance. This dashboard will allow participants to gather all the information needed for performing their tasks.