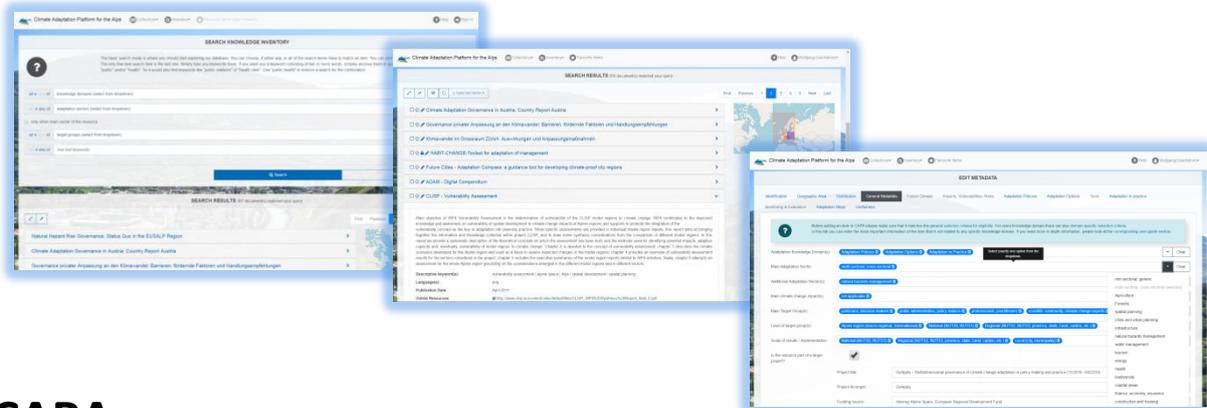
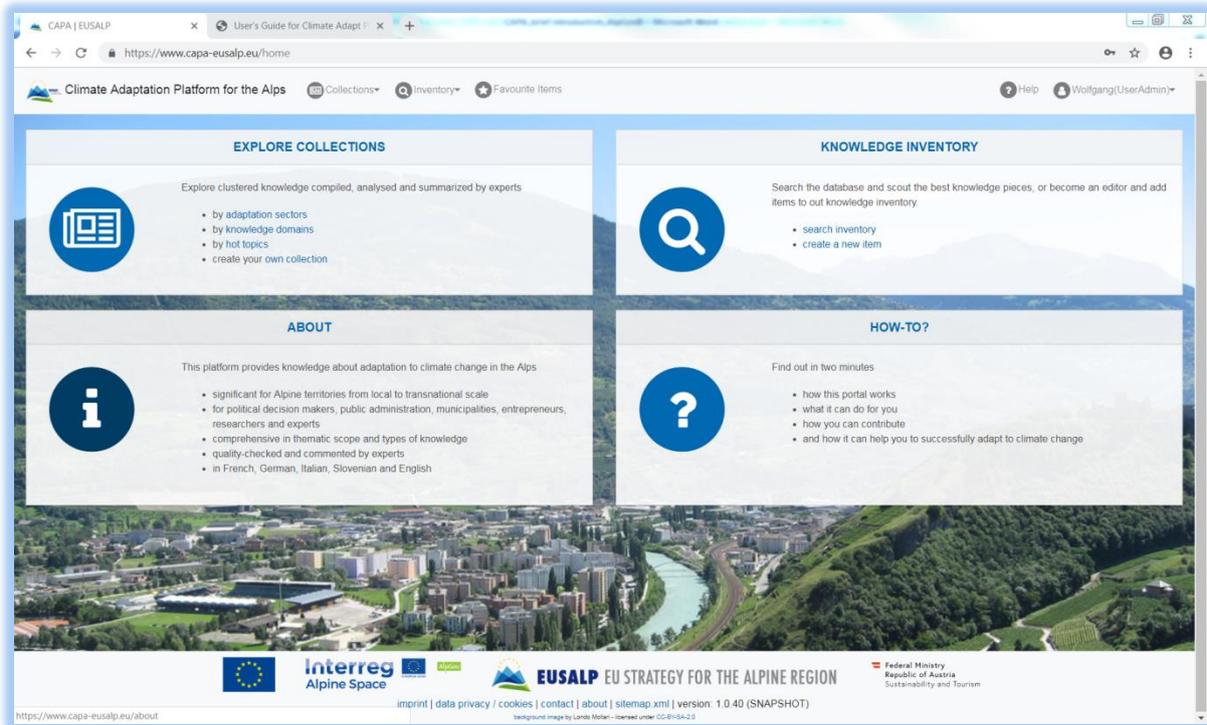




Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Sustainability and Tourism



# CAPA - The Climate Adaptation Platform for the Alps

[www.capa-eusalp.eu](http://www.capa-eusalp.eu)

Brief introduction and proposal for a strategic cross-sectoral implementation initiative

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## CAPA in a nutshell – *For the hurried reader*

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The “**Climate Adaptation Platform for the Alps (CAPA)**” ([www.capa-eusalp.eu](http://www.capa-eusalp.eu)) was initially developed by the C3-Alps project and has been re-launched, advanced, further populated with contents and fully deployed in the EUSALP AG8 process in the frame of the AlpGov I project. In the last year, crucial steps have been taken to establish CAPA as the central web-based gateway for climate adaptation information and services in the Alpine countries. It is the only climate adaptation knowledge portal to cover the entire Alpine macro-region and focuses on the specific knowledge needs of Alpine territories from transnational to local scale. CAPA is both the central transnational online directory of resources about climate change adaptation in the Alps and a complete knowledge management infrastructure that intends to bridge the gap between the generation and the actual use of adaptation knowledge. Selection, processing, and organization of contents, platform functionalities and design of the user interface have been tailored to the needs of key target groups of adaptation knowledge: public administration on all levels, municipality actors, and the expert and consultancy community. All knowledge resources (studies, reports, tools, interactive resources etc.) have been selected, edited and quality-checked by experts based on traceable relevance and usefulness criteria. Contents are comprehensive in thematic scope, clearly organized, and easily retrievable. The items in the database cover all sectors relevant to adaptation, all climate change impacts, adaptation measures of various types (green, grey, soft, hybrid), the main target groups, and all fields of knowledge (from climate scenarios to adaptation policies and adaptation in practice) needed in the various process stages of the adaptation policy cycle. A particular focus is put on cross-cutting and cross-sectoral adaptation aspects. All knowledge items are intensively tagged with metadata to allow categorization and pinpoint search. The inventory stores and gives immediate access to currently almost 400 original items in English and all national Alpine languages (GE, FR, IT, SI). Search results can be viewed, downloaded and printed in varying and progressing detail, ranging from simple record lists to full multi-page metadata records. An accessory map view shows the geographical area covered by the items found by a search. The platform provides two main entry paths offering per-item and dossier-based access:

- i) The **inventory search** gives pinpoint access to an expert-edited directory on a per-item basis, based on form-based search, classified search criteria and supporting customized searches.
- ii) Pre-compiled **collections** of knowledge items with accessory expert commentaries give dossier-based access by adaptation themes (sectors, fields of adaptation knowledge, “hot topics” responding to specific cross-cutting adaptation challenges).

Maintenance of the portal builds on **user-driven content enhancement**. An online metadata editor allows registered users to enter their own resource into the database and share them with the Alpine community. Registered users can also save and manage their favorite search runs and results sets, compile, edit and (in the future) share their own customized thematic collections. The platform is flexible, extendable and further customizable. Full compliance with the DATAP regime as well as OGC, ISO and INSPIRE standards warrants interoperability with other web portals.

CAPA is managed by the Environment Agency Austria (platform management, contents and quality assurance) and Spatial Services GmbH (hosting, server-side and technical maintenance).

**Proposal for strategic cross-sectoral implementation initiative of EUSALP:** Climate adaptation is a pre-eminently cross-cutting policy field that requires coordinated and integrated action across sectors, levels, and countries. Integrating specific adaptation knowledge related to sectors of EUSALP AGs into the CAPA portal, optimizing its brokerage to sectoral user groups and strengthening the cross-cutting dimensions of the knowledge base fosters implementation and governance capacities, supports mainstreaming of adaptation into sector policies, and can thus significantly leverage coherent and effective adaptation action.

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## What? – Platform contents

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Types of knowledge items: The items in the CAPA database cover various types of knowledge products, ranging from reports, studies, manuals and guidelines over policy documents, cartographic resources and practice examples to internet-based resources. A set of clearly defined selection criteria, with relevance, quality and usability/usefulness being overarching principles, steers what items are eligible to the database.

Relevance to adaptation: Most important, items need to have a strong, **clear and explicit focus on adaptation to climate change in the Alpine macro-region**, which includes items **about all sectors in a climate change and adaptation context**.

Broad scope across sectors: The portal gives access to knowledge products for, and about, a **broad spectrum of administrative and socio-economic sectors** (agriculture, biodiversity and ecosystem services, water management, spatial planning, energy, health, soil, etc.) and puts strong emphasis on **cross-sectoral linkages** as well as **synergies with climate change mitigation**.

Complete coverage of adaptation knowledge domains: Within all sectors, the thematic scope covers all **knowledge domains** needed to support a complete adaptation process: i) future climate (scenarios, projections); ii) climate change impacts, vulnerabilities and risks; iii) adaptation policies (national and regional adaptation strategies, sectorial adaptation policy documents, meta-analytical studies, policy reviews); iv) adaptation options (portfolios of measures, recommendations for action); v) tools (manuals, guidelines, decision support, work aids, methods for adaptation planning, governance, stakeholder involvement, etc.); vi) adaptation in practice (practice examples of implemented adaptation measures, case studies); vii) monitoring & evaluation (of adaptation policies).

Multi-linguality, language awareness: The inventory stores and gives direct access to original resources in national Alpine languages (German, French, Italian, Slovenian) and English. Language awareness is considered a clear added value compared to EU-wide portals (Climate-Adapt - English only) and national platforms (national languages only).

Coverage of scales: The items in CAPA are significant to Alpine territories from transnational scale down to the municipality level. The inventory puts particular emphasis on spatially explicit knowledge about Alpine regions and municipalities, including practice and case study examples, but it also hosts items produced within international or EU-wide contexts, if they are relevant and applicable to Alpine territories. Scale-wise and as regards resolution depth of contents, CAPA thus fills a hitherto vacant niche between adaptation platforms on EU and national levels.

Comprehensiveness of sources and contexts: The inventory comprises relevant items from a variety of sources, including knowledge generation contexts that are often neglected by other platforms, such as ETC/Interreg programmes, other EU funding schemes, national research funding and pilot programmes, (sub-)national contract research.

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## For whom? – Core target groups + external editors

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Platform users: Usability and usefulness of knowledge items for target groups is an overriding selection criterion. The contents as well as the user interface and its functionalities have been designed to meet the demands of the following core target groups:

- political decision makers
- public administration on national and regional levels (e.g., adaptation coordinators, sectoral decision-makers)
- municipalities (mayors, members of municipal councils, staff of municipal administration)
- research community, experts, consultants, advisors.

All items are tagged and searchable according to main target groups, including additional audiences (e.g. civil society/NGOs and the private sector).

External editors: By registering on CAPA, each platform user can become an external editor and share his/her own resources with the Alpine adaptation community. An easy-to-use online metadata editor, supported by step-by-step guidance for editors, allows registered users to insert new items into the database and submit them for publication. For institutional EUSALP members as well as for the research and expert community, this offers the great opportunity to keep alive, disseminate, and transfer resources produced within their own sphere of influence to target groups in other regions and countries, thus pushing visibility of products, multiplying the impact of the information produced, and benefitting themselves from transnational knowledge-sharing.

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### **How? – Key functionalities for regular users**

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Inventory search with per-item access: The inventory search gives pinpoint access to an expert-edited directory per item, based on classified search criteria (such as adaptation sectors, knowledge domains, target groups) and facilitating customized searches. The user interface and search functionalities support individual search behaviour, depending on cognitive patterns and preferences of users. In the basic search mode, an easy-to-use search mask allows users to pick pre-defined search terms from drop-down lists. For a focused search, several search terms can be combined in a flexible way by choosing the most suitable operator, i.e. whether any or all of the terms have to match an item. In addition, there is the option to screen the inventory for keywords.

Thematic collections: Pre-compiled collections with synthesis notes give dossier-based access by theme. Collections are thematic bundles of knowledge items (e.g., studies, reports, tools, guidelines, information portals). They address specific adaptation topics and respond to particular knowledge needs. All collections have been compiled and further hand-picked by experts. The portal currently offers collections for specific adaptation sectors, knowledge domains, and cross-cutting “hot topics”. This entry path to the portal offers excellent opportunities to highlight adaptation topics related to specific sectors, such as those addressed by EUSALP Action Groups.

Multi-level results display: Search results can be displayed, downloaded and printed in varying and progressing levels of detail, ranging from i) simple record lists to ii) condensed in-line view of single items with abstract and key attributes up to iii) full metadata records. This allows users gaining a swift overview of the spectrum of available resources and facilitates quick identification of the most interesting items, which can then be explored more closely by examining their more comprehensive metadata information. Direct access to the original resource (either pdf-file directly stored in the CAPA database or web link to external resource) is possible from each results view.

Map-based visualisation of results: An accessory web map visualizes the geographic area covered by all result items of a search; the spatial extent of specific items selected in the result list is highlighted in the map.

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### **How? – Key functionalities for editors**

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By registering to CAPA, each user can become an editor of new items and contribute to update and extension of the knowledge base. In addition, registered users are offered a range of powerful personalised functionalities and services.

Online editor for user-driven content maintenance: In cooperation with EUSALP AG8, an online metadata editor has been developed and implemented. Users have to be registered to access the editor. User-driven content enhancement is a key strategy for maintaining and extending the portal contents in a self-sustaining way. Insertion of new items is done via a structured, easy-to-use online fill-in template, which works intuitively and is supported by mouse-over tooltips, step-by-step guidance in the background, and relevance criteria for selection of items. All new items submitted for publication undergo a quality control by the platform management, which may implement minor

revisions on its own, request more substantial revisions of records to the editors, or – if relevance criteria are not met – reject publication.

Additional personalized functionalities: In their log-in area, registered users have personal work space available where they have the opportunity to build their own customized knowledge base (available at each log-in), according to their specific needs and interests, by:

- selecting, saving, managing and working with their own **favourite items**
- creating their own **customized collections** of items; shopping cart-like functionalities allow saving and editing ones' own search queries and (dynamic) search runs as well as compiling, saving, editing and commenting one's own hand-picked (static) collections of items.

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## Why? – Added value

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### Added value of a transnational climate adaptation portal

In the existing landscape of web portals about climate adaptation, ranging from the EU adaptation platform CLIMATE-ADAPT to national adaptation platforms (in countries where such are available), CAPA offers substantial added value:

- **Scale: filling an important gap** in between the EU platform Climate-Adapt, which focuses on items of pan-European relevance, and available national platforms, which are usually restricted to items produced within a national context and in domestic language only
- **Specific geographic and territorial scope:** transnational coverage of resources significant to territories and actors in the entire Alpine macro-region
- **Mountain focus:** Particular focus on challenges and issues that are specific to mountain areas, including mountain-related bio-geophysical and socio-economic features (e.g., natural hazards, winter tourism)
- **Synergies through transnational knowledge-sharing:** Transnational information-sharing and knowledge exchange is at the very heart of a transnational cooperation region like the EUSALP macro-region. It allows decision-makers, practitioners and stakeholders in each Alpine region to benefit from the most useful information pieces produced in other countries. In turn, it allows EUSALP member institutions from each country/region to share and spread the studies and project results produced on their own behalf to the adaptation communities in all other countries. This can also help to avoid duplication of research and to identify gaps in the overall Alpine knowledge base
- **Transboundary adaptation issues** are given special attention. This is important because many impacts of climate change have border-crossing dimensions, and because many adaptation responses require cross-country coordination (e.g. border-crossing river basin management).
- CAPA items are **transferable among Alpine countries** and/or sensitive to their different environmental and political-administrative settings
- CAPA can act as a knowledge infrastructure for countries where no central national adaptation portal is available (e.g., Slovenia, Liechtenstein, ...)

### Added value and potential benefits for EUSALP Action Groups

Adaptation to climate change is a pre-eminently cross-cutting policy, action and knowledge field that affects basically all sectors of administration, economy and science. Adaptation measures have to be taken by all sectors and on all levels of governance, and implementation should be done in a coordinated, coherent and harmonized way. It follows that climate change impacts and adaptation affect most of the themes and sectors represented by the Action Groups of EUSALP, of which some have already been active in adaptation for some time and have built up their own sector-specific

knowledge base. Provision and brokerage of knowledge on climate adaptation thus qualifies as an adequate and urgent topic for a cross-sectoral strategic implementation initiative within EUSALP. Strengthening the integration of sector-related and cross-cutting knowledge into the CAPA portal supports integrated adaptation action, coordination across levels and mainstreaming of adaptation into sector policies. Giving the sectoral themes of EUSALP AGs more prominent presence on the CAPA portal (as regards both contents and visibility) can also contribute strongly to cross-cutting capacity-building, knowledge transfer and communication efforts of EUSALP.