

SD-WISHEES

Supporting and Developing Widening Strategies to tackle Hydroclimatic Extreme Events: impacts and Sustainable solutions for cultural heritage (SD-WISHEES)



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Project Aid
Sustainable Futures



Mission and vision

Vision

Enhanced collaboration and reach for research and innovation to tackle impacts of hydroclimatic extremes on cultural heritage



Mission

Developing innovative tools and strategies to enable collaboration between diverse stakeholders in Europe and beyond (Balkans and Africa) to inclusively address sustainable management of cultural heritage threatened by hydroclimatic extreme events



Set of recommendations for enhancing innovation pathways

SD-WISHEES aims to enhance the uptake of research and innovation (R&I) results by identifying effective practices and exploring innovation pathways for protecting and adapting cultural heritage from hydroclimatic extreme events with a specific focus on improving the interaction between science, policy, and society

Stakeholders were engaged in identifying, analysing, and validating innovation pathways that enhance the dissemination, exploitation, and uptake of R&I outcomes for the adaptation and preservation of cultural heritage threatened by hydroclimatic extreme events.

The analysis draws on insights from two thematic focus group workshops, targeted questionnaires, with 45 project stakeholders, including end-users and private sector actors. Stakeholders contributed experiences regarding four linked innovation pathways: education and capacity-building, tools and technologies, stakeholder engagement and co-creation, and governance, partnerships, and funding mechanisms. A total of 26 participants representing 27 projects across the EU, Balkans, and Africa provided perspectives on factors enabling or constraining uptake, while 19 end-users and private sector contacts offered additional evidence on practical and market-related barriers.

From these activities, a curated set of 25 preliminary recommendations was developed, highlighting strategies to enhance dissemination and exploitation by strengthening education and training, enhancing co-created tools and methods, fostering stakeholder engagement, and aligning governance and funding mechanisms. This analysis provides actionable insights and a draft framework for improving the adoption, replication, and long-term impact of R&I results, forming the basis for broader stakeholder consultations and refinement of recommendations.

Enhancing the uptake and long-term impact of R&I results on tangible and intangible cultural or natural heritage adaptation to hydroclimatic extremes requires coordinated attention across four innovation pathways. Stakeholders identified **specific actionable recommendations** which can be loosely grouped under the following four innovation pathway themes:

Theme 1. Education & capacity-building: link project training to professional certification and career pathways, co-develop curricula for youth, students, and professionals, embed sustainable mentoring and interregional knowledge transfer.

Theme 2. Tools & technologies: co-design outputs with end-users, ensure long-term usability, adaptability, transferability/scalability and accessibility (including low-tech options), integrate outputs into decision-making platforms, and create digital repositories for tools, methods, and training materials.

Theme 3. Stakeholder engagement & co-creation: involve communities and authorities early and continuously, establish structured local committees, use participatory and arts-based approaches to foster trust, ownership, and wider societal uptake.

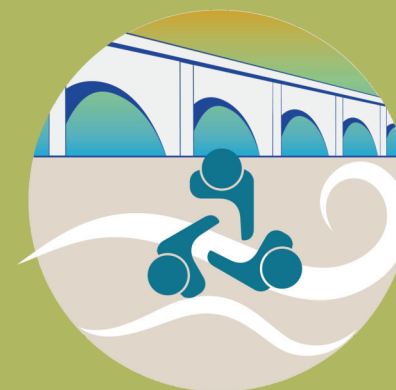
Theme 4. Governance, funding & sustainability: align projects with policy and legal frameworks, diversify funding streams, identify champion stakeholders, establish permanent support centres, and strengthen cross-sectoral and inter-ministerial partnerships.

These recommendations offer practical guidance for strengthening the societal, regulatory, and market uptake, replication, long-term sustainability and impact of R&I results.

	N.	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET RECEIVER(S)	TARGET UPTAKE
Theme 1 Education, training, building capacity and knowledge transfer to enhance uptake and exploitation	1	Link professional certification and career advancement to project education, training and capacity building programs to strengthen professional development pathways	RPOs; Gov	Regulatory
	2	Co-develop children, youth and adult education curriculum and creative learning opportunities for broader societal outreach and uptake	RPOs; Gov	Societal
	3	Ensure adequate time, project budget, level of effort and phasing for education, training and capacity-building course development	RPOs	Societal; Regulatory
	4	Design education, training and capacity-building courses and programs to be sustainable beyond project's end	RPO; RFOS	Societal; Regulatory
	5	Promote mentoring and transfer of project knowledge among project partners	RPO; RFOs	Societal
Theme 2 Developing and deploying technologies, tools, and methods for impact	1	Evaluate the existing market and its gaps, adapt ideas and engage intended users throughout tool, technology and methods co-design and co-development	RPOs; Private sector	Societal; Regulatory; Market
	2	Consider the regulatory landscape enabling or serving as barriers to tool creation, willingness/ability of target users to pay and sustainability of tools, technologies and methods	RPOs; RFOs; Gov; Private sector	Societal; Regulatory; Market
	3	Ensure tools, technology and methods are practical and context appropriate, and provide adequate training and guidance on their use	RPOs; Gov; Private sector	Societal; Regulatory; Market
	4	Use existing or develop digital platforms to collate tools/methods/technologies from multiple projects	RPOs; RFOs	Market; Regulatory

	N.	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET RECEIVER(S)	TARGET UPTAKE
Theme 3 Co-creation, stakeholder engagement, and local ownership	1	Engage stakeholders early and continuously and co-create project outputs to enhance policy, societal and market uptake	RPOs	Societal Regulatory; Market
	2	Foster structured cooperation between local groups and larger institutions	RPOs	Societal; Regulatory
	3	Co-design interventions with end-users and demonstrate tangible value	RPOs; Gov	Societal; Regulatory; Market
	4	Employ arts-based engagement for public audiences	RPOs; RFOs	Societal
	5	Strengthen translation of research, communication and dissemination to target stakeholders' capacities and non-technical language	RPOs; RFOs	Societal; Regulatory; Market

	N.	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET RECEIVER(S)	TARGET UPTAKE
Theme 4 Governance structures, partnerships, and funding mechanisms	1	Co-design with government and multi-stakeholders to better align with government and private sector cultural heritage interests	RPOs; Gov	Regulatory; Market
	2	Understand regulatory and legal landscape to enhance policy integration	RPOs; Gov	Regulatory; Market
	3	Demonstrate urgency and practical value for government authorities	RPOs; Gov; Private sector	Regulatory; Market
	4	Identify champion stakeholders and invest in these relationships	RPOs; Gov	Regulatory; Market
	5	Consider establishing national or regional climate-heritage support centres with integrated training	RPOs, RFOs; Gov	Regulatory; Market
	6	Seek diverse funding mechanisms and promote public-private partnerships	RPOs, RFOs; Gov; Private sector	Regulatory; Market
	7	Embed considerations of financial sustainability in project design	RPOs; RFOs	Regulatory; Market
	8	Plan for post-project and cross-project knowledge continuity	RPOs; RFOs	Regulatory
	9	Streamline proposal, call, and consortium design and increase evaluator capacity	RPOs; RFOs	Regulatory
	10	Support project clustering and thematic synergies	RPOs; RFOs	Regulatory
	11	Integrate societal engagement and transdisciplinary collaboration into researcher evaluation and funding criteria	RPOs; RFOs	Societal; Regulatory



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if you'd like to contribute further feedback on the recommendations and stay in touch for upcoming activities .



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