



IMAGINE *adaptation*

Call for IMAGINE adaptation case studies



Is your city interested in learning more about and developing your approach to monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning of urban adaptation? If so, apply to collaborate with us and become an IMAGINE Adaptation Case Study!

About IMAGINE Adaptation

IMAGINE Adaptation is a project funded by the European Research Council (ERC) that runs from 2023 to 2027. IMAGINE Adaptation addresses the urgent need to evaluate climate change adaptation in urban areas and understand progress across governance levels. It argues that the current focus on policy progress can be a useful first step, but it is not indicative of effective adaptation. The project aims to revisit the concept of adaptation success and go beyond technical framings to consider equity, justice, and maladaptive issues. In doing so, the project will pioneer new ways to evaluate adaptation and contribute to discussions on how local progress can inform global goals.

The findings will be used in 12 urban case studies worldwide where local actors and the IMAGINE Adaptation team will engage in the processes of evaluation and learning for ongoing adaptation initiatives.

12 cities will be selected through an application process to participate in the IMAGINE Adaptation project to develop their capacities in the monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting (MERL) of urban adaptation.

Selected IMAGINE Adaptation cities will have direct access to:

- the latest knowledge on monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning processes for adaptation;
- contact with other cities and local partners with the same interests and concerns;

- guidance on how to create monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning processes over three years;
- access to an inter-city social learning system between the 12 IMAGINE adaptation cities based on the principles of Communities of Practice (CoP);
- a total of six months of work hours over three years dedicated to the case study by the IMAGINE adaptation team.

Benefits of joining the project

- **DESIGN** You will be able to develop socially and politically valuable and technically feasible adaptation objectives.
- **DEVELOP** You will be able to develop clearer metrics and indicators to measure adaptation progress.
- **LEARN** You will be able to learn from other MERL initiatives in other cities participating in the project, as well as from your own experiences.
- **SHINE** Your city will be in the spotlight as an international reference for MERL processes in urban adaptation and will be featured in scientific articles, policy papers and other dissemination materials including blogs, public presentations or videos.

The project partners will commit to:

1. Set up a **local group of stakeholders** interested or involved in the evaluation of urban adaptation and assign a contact person.
2. Pick one **adaptation intervention** (or a group of interconnected adaptation measures) that is being implemented in the city to be the subject of MERL.
3. Co-create with the IMAGINE Adaptation team a **work plan** with a duration of 3 years according to the needs and interests jointly identified.

4. Implement the work plan and actively **participate for three years** or as agreed in the work plan.
5. Formalise an **agreement**, which will include the work plan as well as the ethical considerations and participation commitments of each of the partners.
6. **Support data collection and other activities** involving local actors or the participation of the general public as agreed in the work plan.
7. Participate in the **Communities of Practice** (CoP) established by IMAGINE Adaptation to exchange knowledge with other cities participating in the project.

Scope of our work

IMAGINE adaptation does not aim to collect MERL data unless that is agreed in the work plan.

- We will assist you in setting up (or improving) meaningful metrics and indicators according to your needs and resources.
- We will use the data provided by your city to guide workshops, focus groups, trainings, field observations, and interviews to better understand and track adaptation progress.
- The above methods and approaches will be decided in agreement with your city.

IMAGINE Adaptation does not aim to compare adaptation progress between cities.

- We will compare and learn from processes of evaluation across cities.
- We are interested in what can be learned from processes and ways of evaluating rather than actual outputs.

IMAGINE Adaptation does not aim to design the MERL process for cities.

- We will facilitate the process and help you develop it.

- We also want to make sure you are able to continue the process after the end of the project (3 years), so we will work on reproducible, durable strategies.

Who are we looking for?

The call is open to local actors working on urban adaptation anywhere in the world. Ideal applicants are local municipalities, public authorities, local practitioners, research, or non-government organisations that have demonstrated commitment to urban adaptation, and have an interest in improving their approach to monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning. However, we are not restrictive and can consider applications from a range of different actors so long as you have expertise on urban adaptation in a specific city, we encourage you to apply.

The applications will be evaluated according to a range of criteria including:

- **Contact** with local research partners,
- **Experience** working on urban adaptation initiatives,
- **Motivation** to develop monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning processes for urban adaptation at the local level,
- **Practical considerations**, such as language and geographical location.

Call for IMAGINE Adaptation Case Studies Timeline

- **18 March 2024:** Call opens
- **30 April 2024:** Information webinar
- **31 May 2024:** Application deadline
- **June–December 2024:** IMAGINE Adaptation city selection and formalisation of work plan

What languages can the IMAGINE Adaptation team work in?

IMAGINE Adaptation can work in English, Spanish, Basque, Catalan, French, Portuguese, German, and Italian. We are happy to work with

cities in any of these languages, however, we ask that at least one member of the team has a working knowledge of English. This will help ensure that all cities can participate in the Communities of Practice and networking opportunities.

Is there financial remuneration for being an IMAGINE Adaptation case study?

IMAGINE Adaptation is fully funded by the European Union and can dedicate up to six months of work hours over three years to supporting and improving monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning in each of the selected cities. The specific activities will be decided together during the co-creation process. However, IMAGINE Adaptation is not able to transfer funds, subcontract, or pay partner organisations in any way.

Expression of Interest

To apply, please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/rEwrwtZL9MnbR9jK6>

Applications are accepted until **31 May 2024 23:59 CET**.

For questions regarding the IMAGINE Adaptation project or application process, please contact the team (imagineadapt@bc3research.org) or attend our [information webinar](#) on 30 April 2024.

More information about the project: <https://imagineadapt.bc3research.org>

Contact the team: imagineadapt@bc3research.org

Funded by the European Union (ERC, IMAGINE adaptation, 101039429). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Council.

