

Smart Control of the Climate Resilience in  
European Coastal Cities



## **Decision-Support Tools and Living Lab Sustainability to Inform Climate Policy-making**

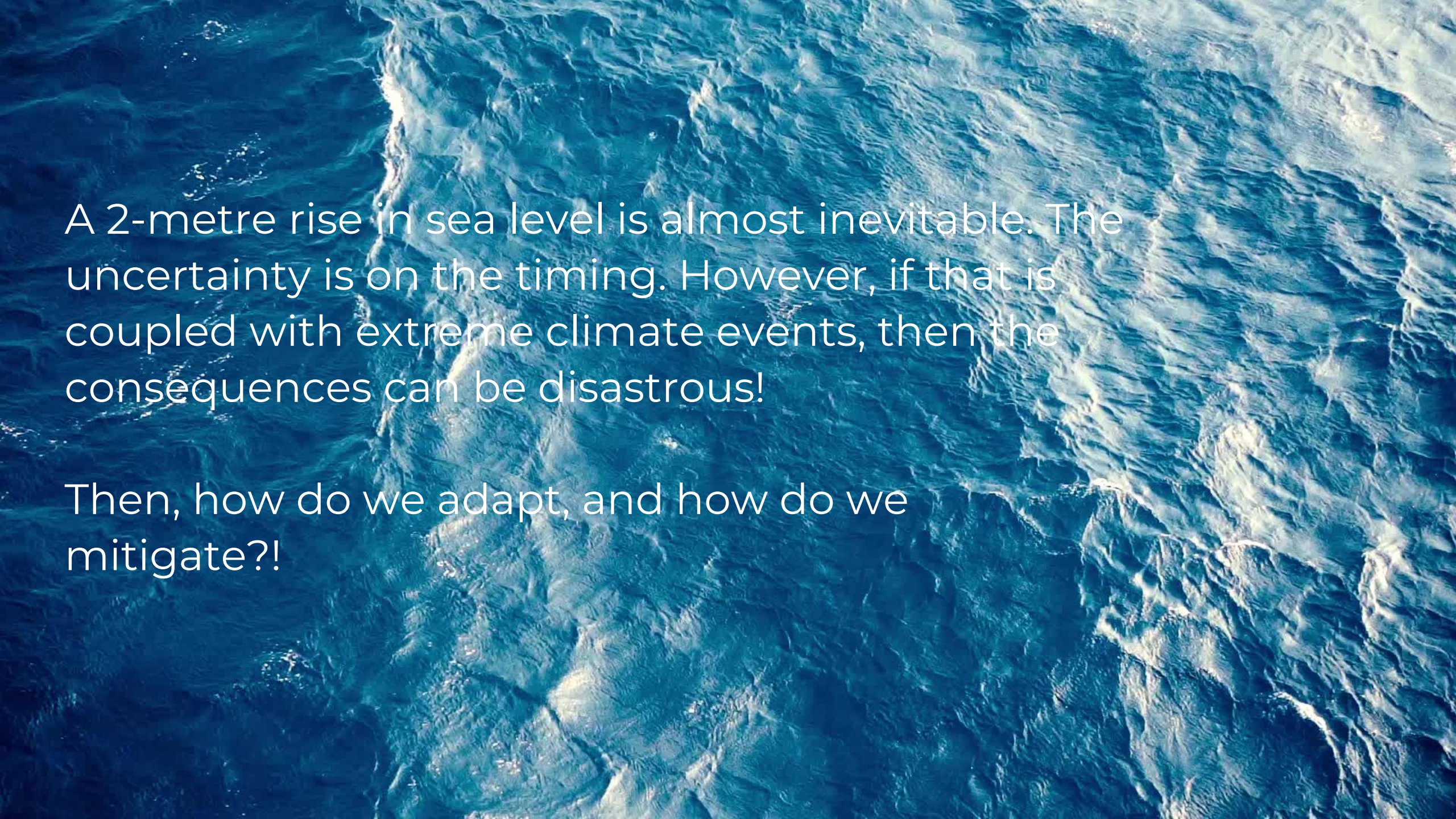
11<sup>th</sup> February 2025

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101007142

An aerial photograph of a large body of water, likely the ocean, showing a prominent white wake or channel cutting through the deep blue surface. The water is textured with small waves and ripples. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

A 2-metre rise in sea level is almost inevitable. The uncertainty is on the timing. However, if that is coupled with extreme climate events, then the consequences can be disastrous!

Then, how do we adapt, and how do we mitigate?!



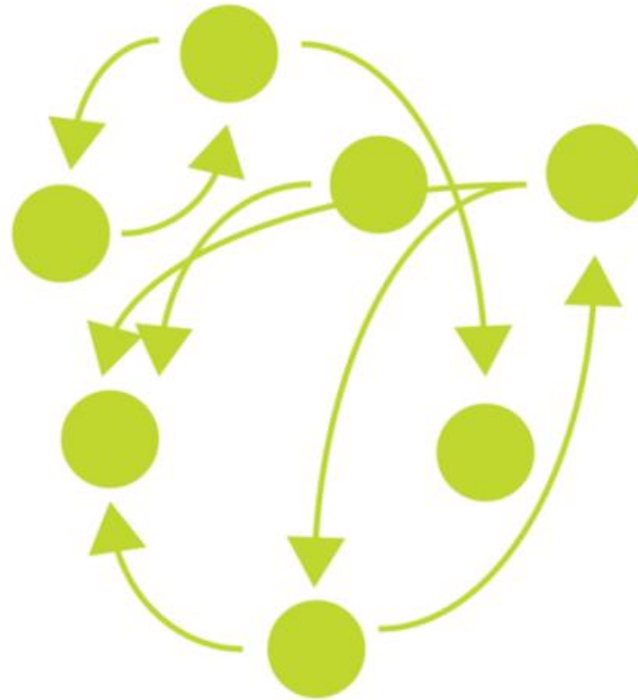
Developing regional **systematic**  
**transformative** solutions on climate resilience,  
mainstreaming **nature-based solutions**,  
**living labs**, and **smart technologies**

EU Mission: Adaptation to Climate Change

## Traditional thinking



## Systems thinking



**Why systematic transformation?!**

## Smart Control Of the climate Resilience in European coastal cities

### 10 COASTAL CITY LIVING LABS

#### INCREASED RESILIENCE AGAINST SEA LEVEL RISE AND EXTREME EVENTS

##### INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

Smart sensing technologies  
Ecosystem-Based Approaches  
Smart coastal city policies

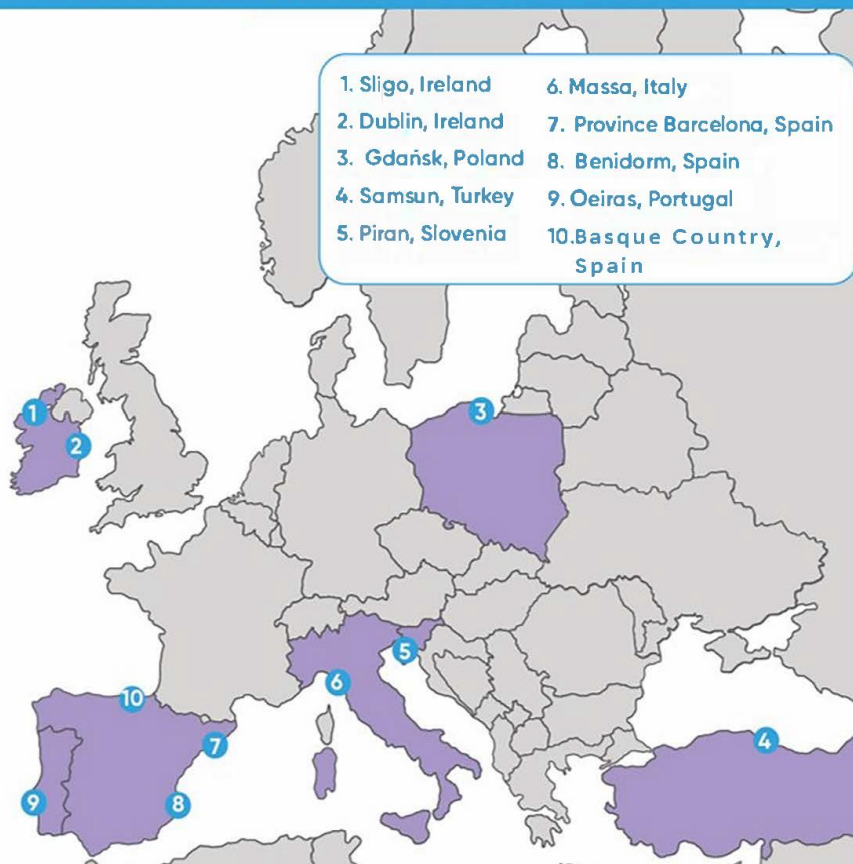
##### HYBRID NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

##### EXTREME EVENTS EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Internet of Things optimised satellite terminals  
Spatial digital twin solution prototypes

##### WORKPLAN

1. Foundation Actions (WP1-2)
2. Evidence Building (WP3-5)
3. Consolidation (WP6-8)
4. Synergic and Exploitation Actions (WP9-10)



## Integrated approached to increase resilience

The overall aim SCORE is to design, develop, monitor and **validate robust adaptation measures** in coastal and low-lying areas to protect them from increasing climate and sea level risks, including coastal flooding and erosion, to **enhance their overall long-term resilience.**

One of the key activities under SCORE is to **design, implement, and evaluate a novel framework of Coastal City Living Labs (CCLL)** that will enable citizens and stakeholders to co-create and co-design the solutions with scientists, researchers and engineers to make sure these are sustainable and acceptable by the society.

# CCLL Visualisation

Find more about our CCLL challenges and risks on: [score-eu-project.eu/coastal-city-living-labs/sligo/](https://score-eu-project.eu/coastal-city-living-labs/sligo/)

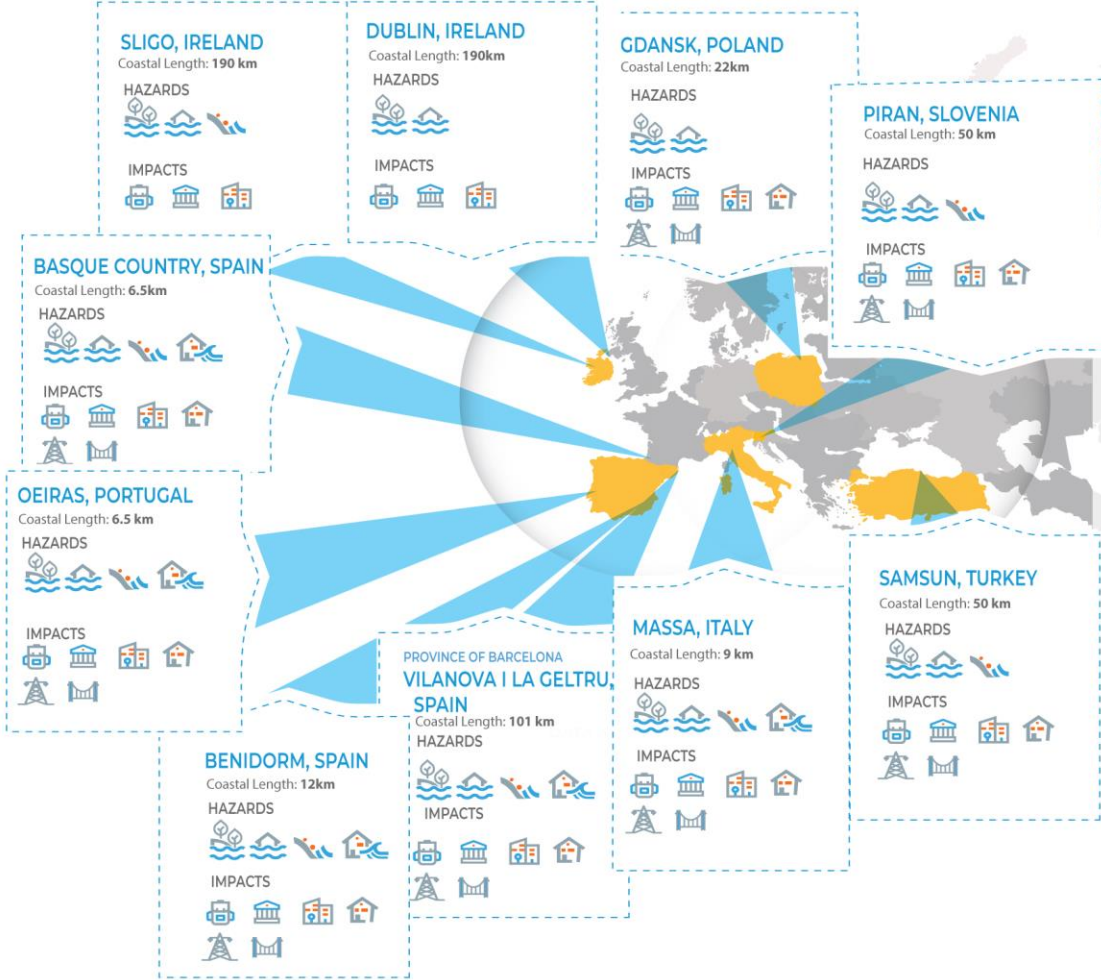


### Challenges and risks

- ➔ Potential storm surge
- ➔ Coastal flooding and erosion
- ➔ Dune erosion
- ➔ Sligo coastal archaeological sites are vulnerable to coastal erosion
- ➔ Heritage venues were closed due to flooding and archaeological sites were washed away entirely and lost forever
- ➔ Risks to tourism and beaches

### Planned Ecosystem Based Approaches (EBAs)

- ➔ Establishment of vegetated buffer areas in dune systems as hybrid NBS
- ➔ Testing buffer zones with several vegetated areas
- ➔ Testing several coastal protection bioengineering solutions



HAZARDS	
Flooding (coastal)	
Flooding (land)	
Coastal erosion	
Coastal storm surge	
SECTORAL IMPACTS	
Risk to Tourism	
Loss of Cultural Heritage	
Damage to Commercial Buildings	
Damage to Residential Buildings	
Energy Networks	
Agriculture Stress	
Loss of wetlands	
Loss of animal habitat	
Damage to civil infrastructure	
Risk to local economy	

## How can Living Labs Support Climate Policymaking?

- Living Labs (or LLs) **can address various barriers** to related to climate adaptation (e.g., lack of dialogue, limited knowledge, low uptake in policy, etc).
- LLs are based on the concept of **collaborative governance and co-production of knowledge**, which are critical for effective climate adaptation.
- LLs have aided **decision-making in the face of climate uncertainty**, as they bring together diverse stakeholders and interdisciplinary techniques.
- LLs have served as standards for **scaling-up NBS for dealing with climate risks** because they promote a user-centric approach in which information and skills can be efficiently shared.
- LLs encourage citizens to be proactively involved in designing and implementing **innovative schemes**, and can play a role in supporting **co-creative climate strategies**.



## Types of Participatory Decision Support Tools to inform Climate Policymaking in Living Labs

- **Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis** (Ranking Different Climate Strategies based on Stakeholder Perceptions)
- **Cost-Benefit Analysis** (Comparing Costs and Benefits of a Climate Strategy, using Stakeholder Insights)
- **Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping** (Mental Mapping of Stakeholder Perceptions to Inform Decision-Making)
- **Participatory Scenario Planning** (Engage Stakeholders in Developing Future Climate Scenarios and Policies)
- **Serious Games** (Allow Stakeholders to Test Different Climate Strategies in a Simulated Environment)
- **Citizen Science** (Collect Data from Citizens to Inform Climate Policy)
- **Participatory Budget and Citizen Assemblies** (Involve Citizens in Climate Policy and Funding Decisions)
- And more!





## How can Living Lab Sustainability Ensure Maximum Policy Impact?

- Using **pre-existing LL networks**, partnerships and collaborations to ensure continued policy impact
- Creating **long-term processes** and frameworks for embedding LL outputs in policy
- **Long-term LL funding** can ensure greater resources for policy changes
- Increased **stakeholder ownership and community stewardship** can ensure better decision-making processes and co-creation of solutions
- Building **data sharing policies, toolkits, open knowledge platforms**, and knowledge sharing networks.
- Setting up processes for **monitoring and evaluation of long-term impacts**, and informing dynamic policymaking.
- Greater opportunities for **scaling and institutionalization of solutions**, since they are already tested in pilot LLs, and other LLs could be more willing to try them.



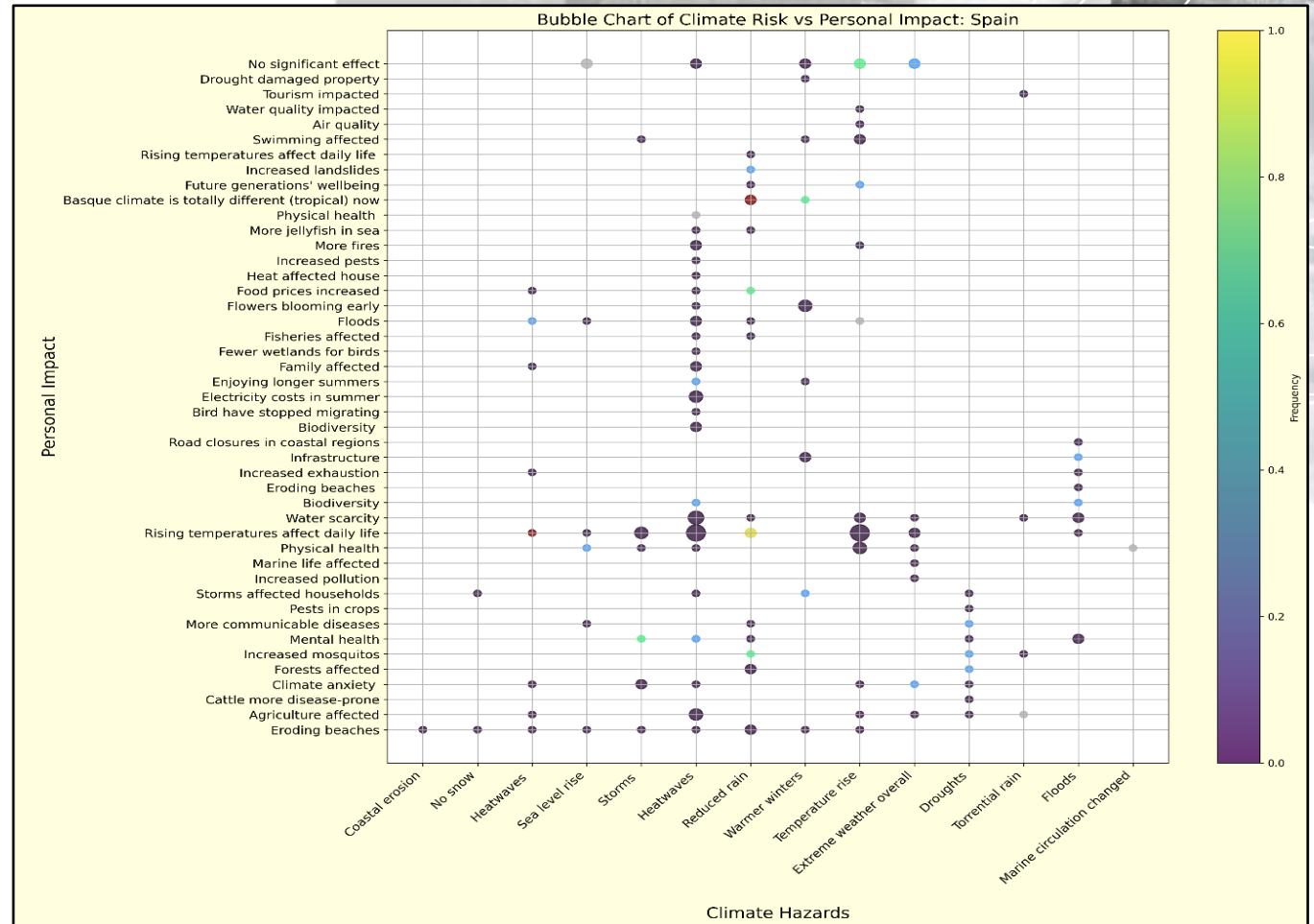
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## Public Perceptions of Climate Risks, Vulnerability, and Adaptation Strategies



**170 participants surveyed across Sligo County (Ireland) and Basque Country (Spain) to map most common climate hazards and personal impacts.**

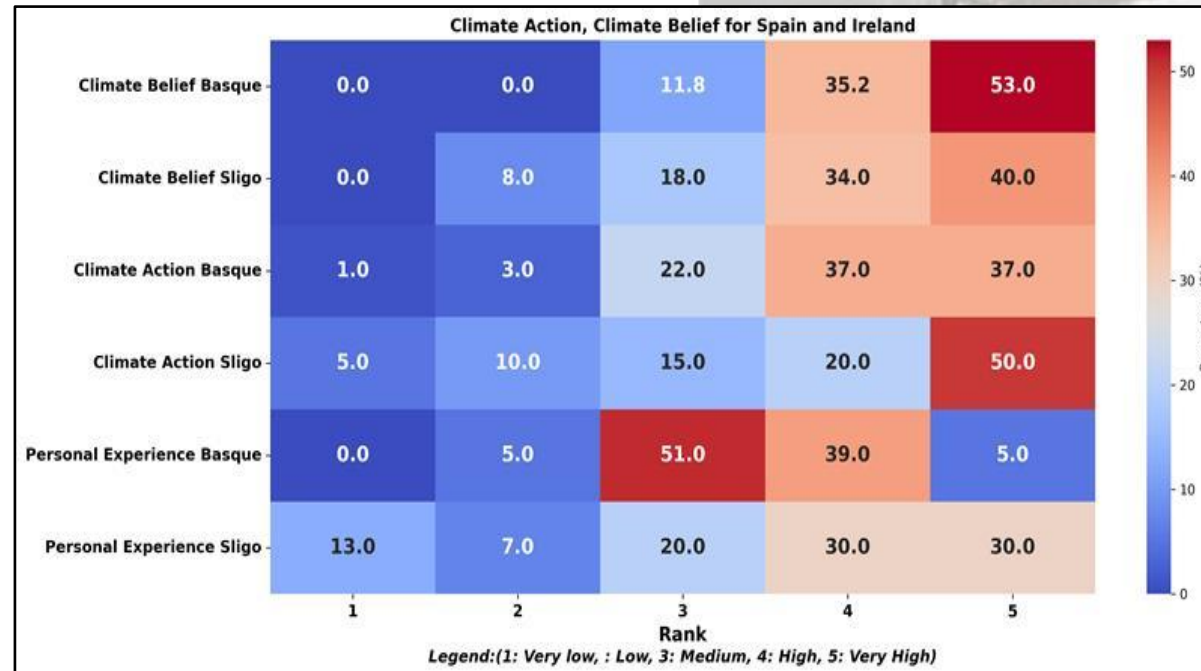


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**Increasing evidence of belief in climate change and personal experience of climate hazards, fuelling willingness to engage in climate action, which is hindered by lack of effective citizen engagement policies.**

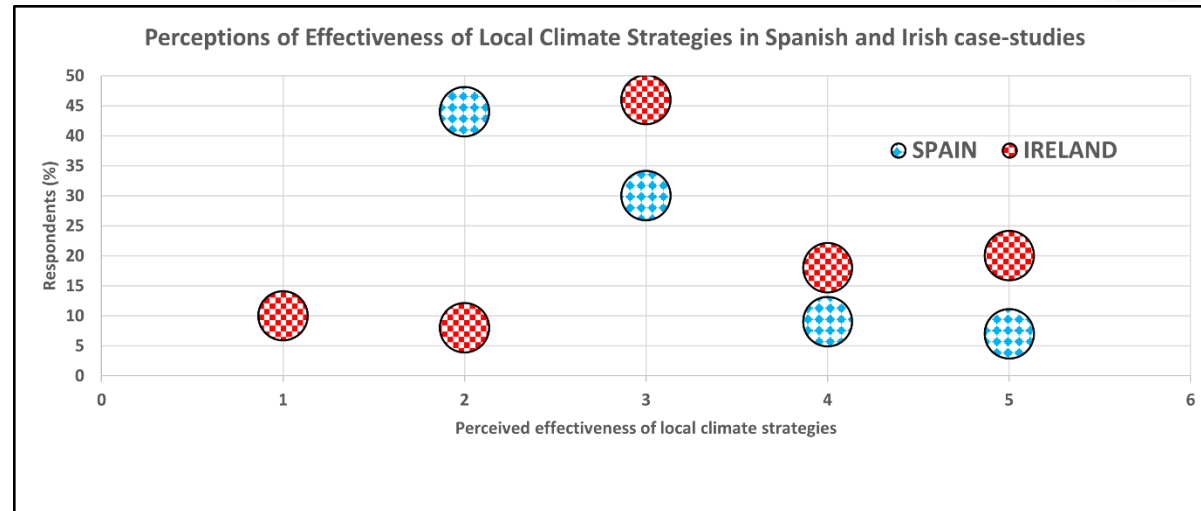
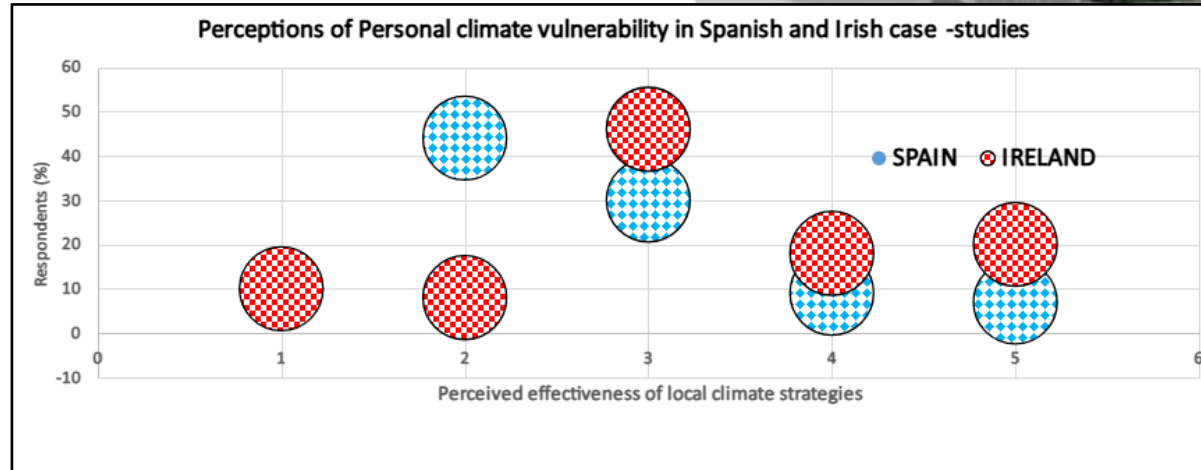


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**80% population believes local climate strategies are not effective, and 40% population feels climate vulnerable.**

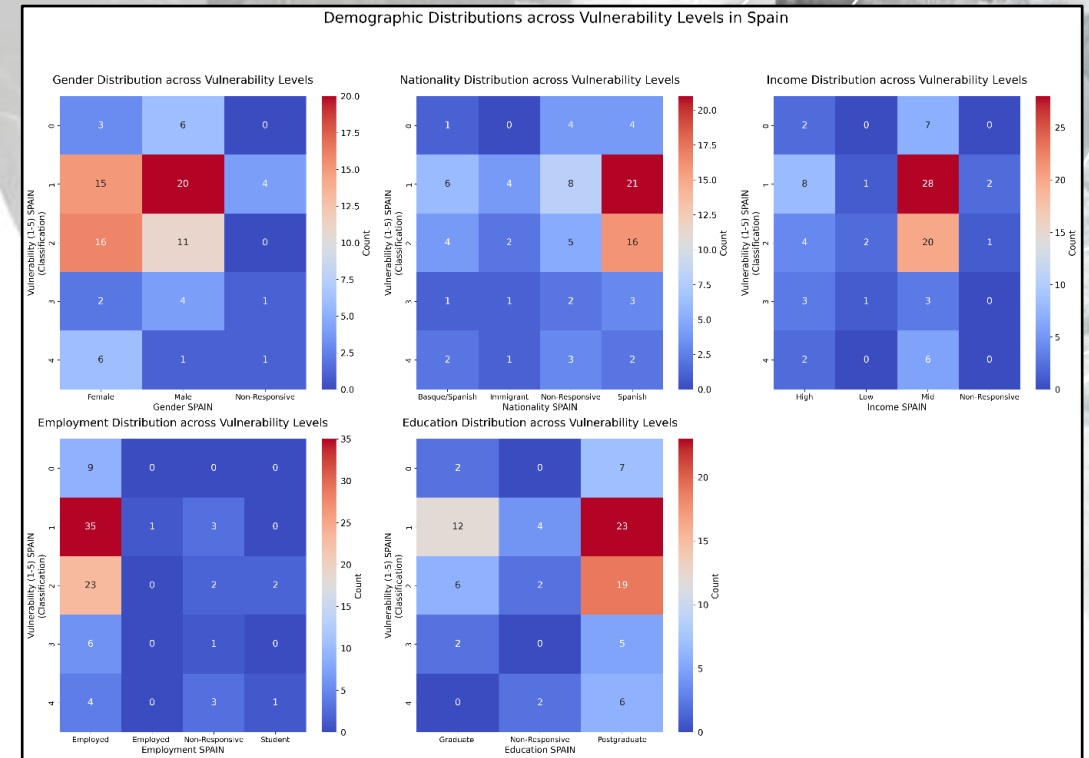
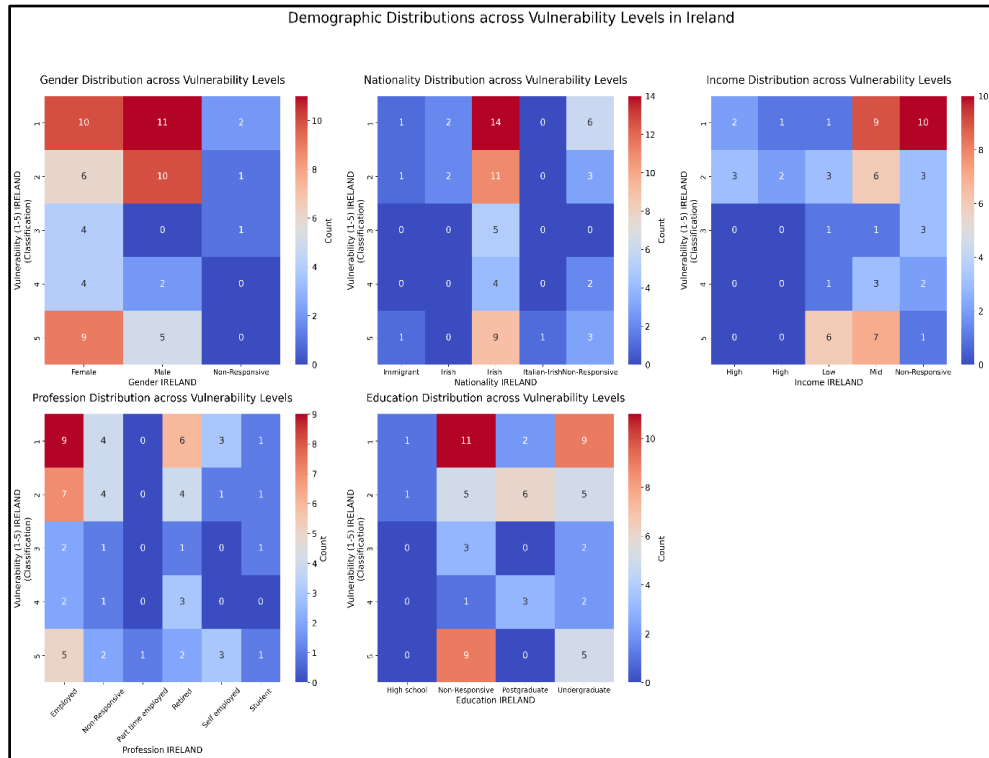


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**Surveys indicated that low-income groups, women, senior citizens, immigrants, and less educated individuals feel more climate vulnerable; indicating the need for targeted interventions.**

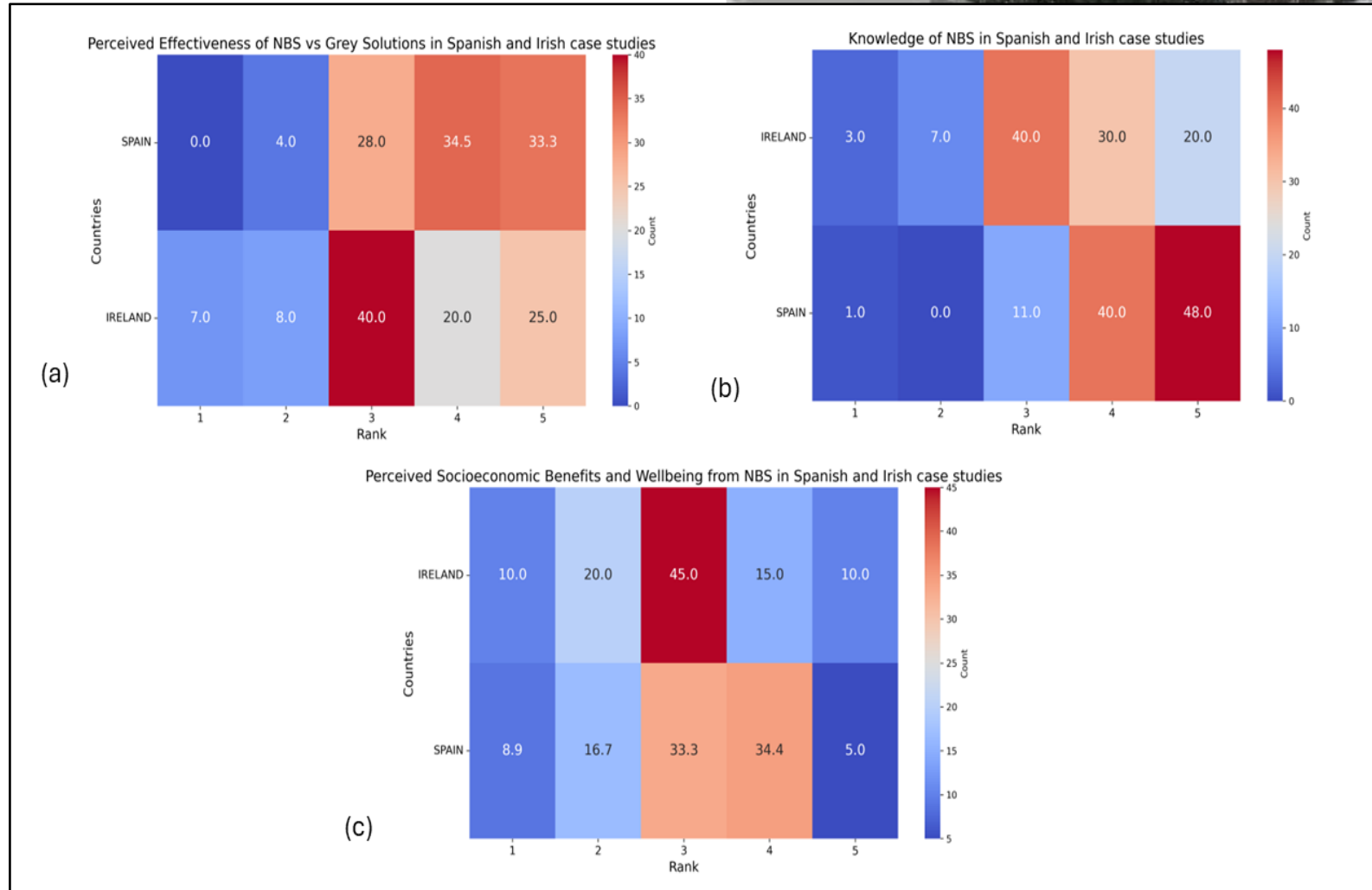


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**Perceived Effectiveness of NBS compared to grey solutions was very high; socioeconomic benefits of NBS were considered high, as well as NBS' ability to improve community wellbeing.**



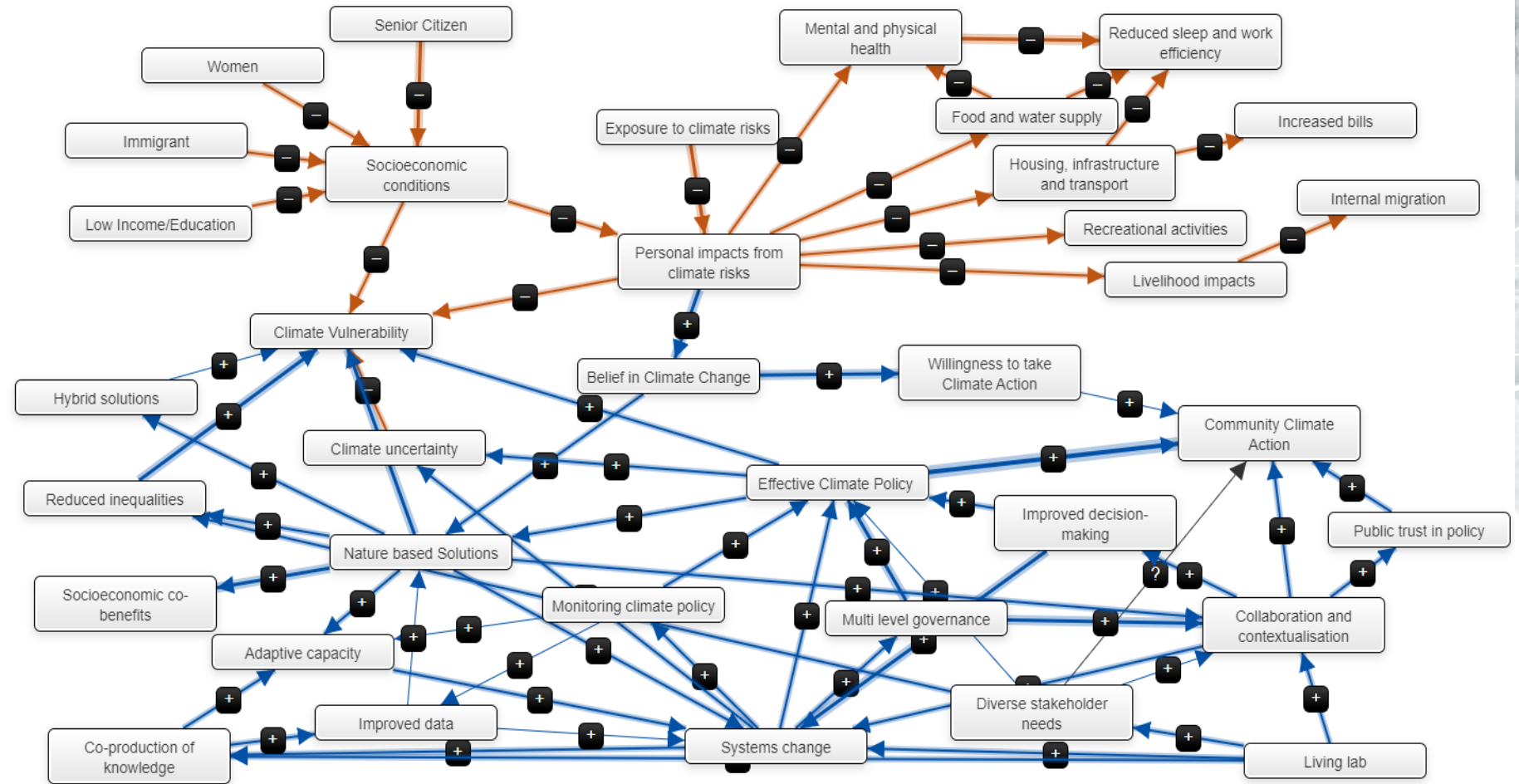
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**Fuzzy Cognitive Maps: Four Key Types of Variables Identified for Systems Changes and Decision Support including Socioeconomic Variables, Governance Variables, Behavioural Variables and Research Variables.**

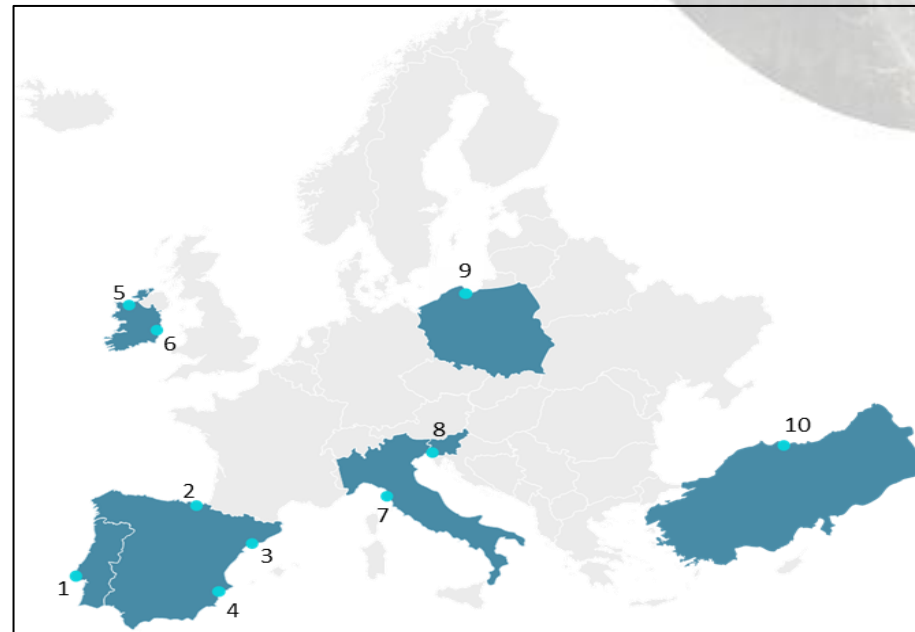
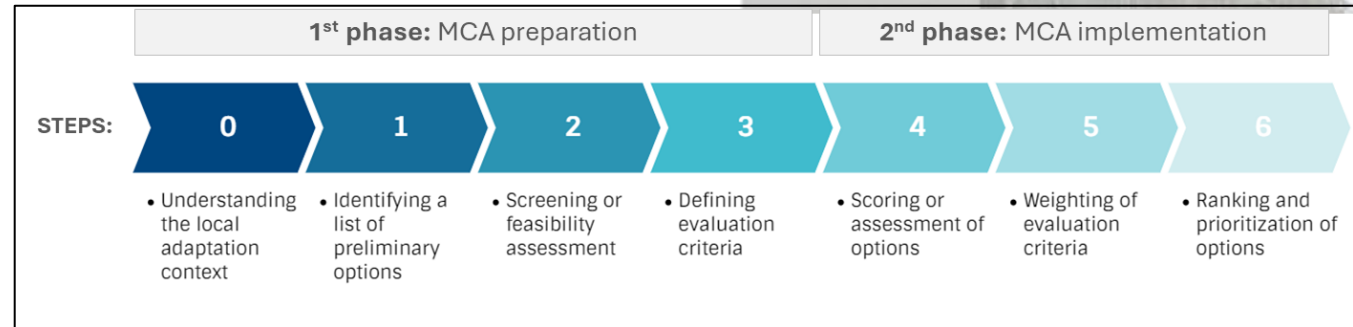


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## Multi-Criteria Analysis of EBA strategies for coastal hazard risk reduction: Methodology & Study Areas



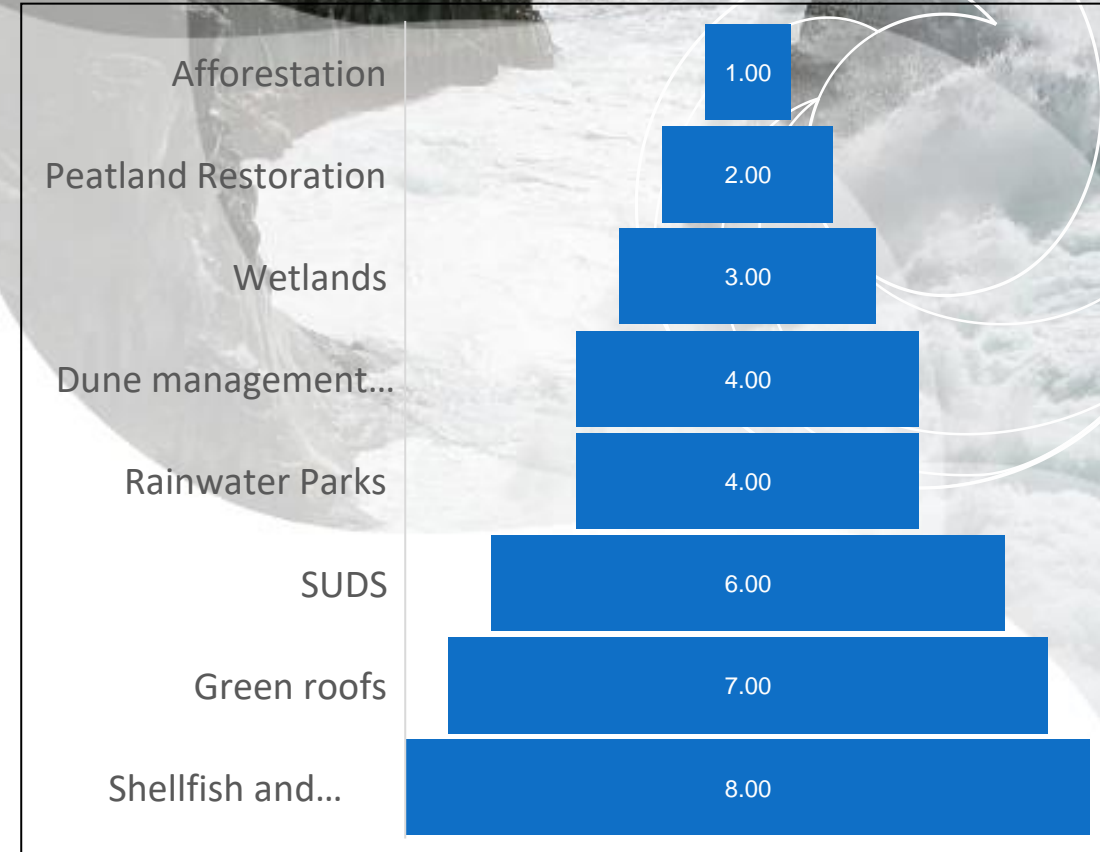
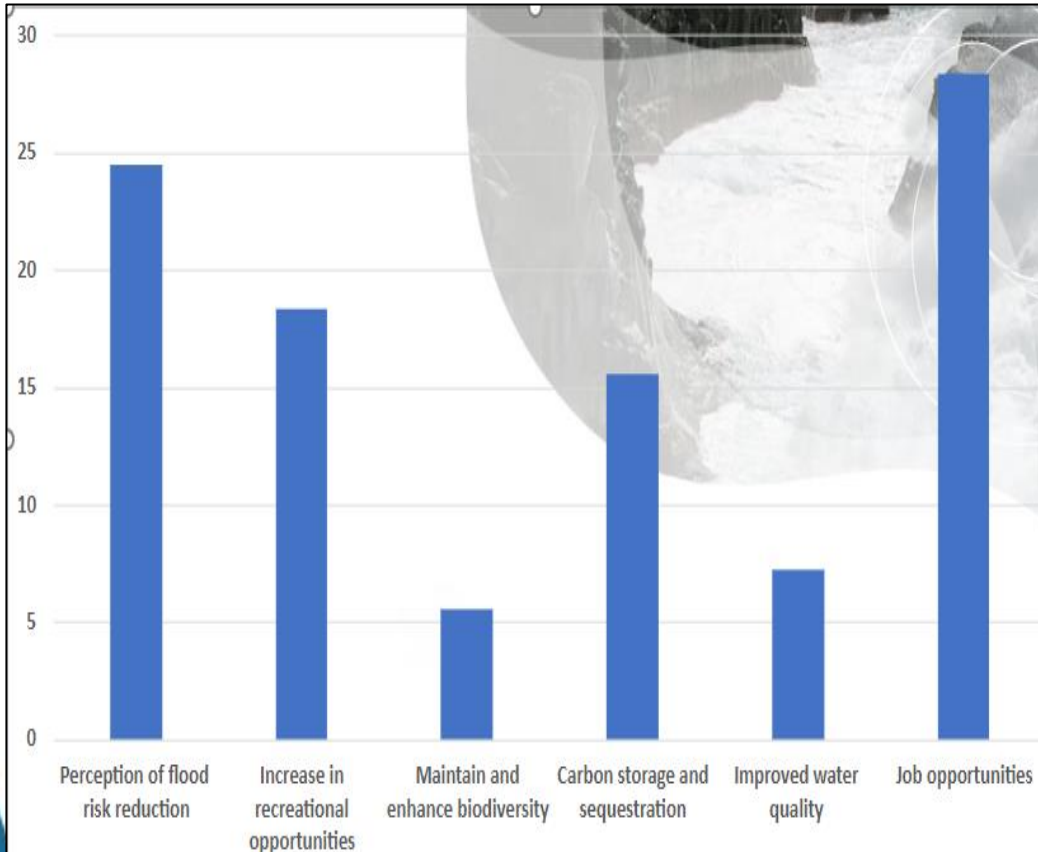
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**Results for Sligo County: 8 EBAs ranked based on Feasibility Criteria and CO-BENEFITS**



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## Results from across Europe: **DECISION SUPPORT FRAMEWORK FOR EBA SELECTION**

CCLL	Study area	Hazard(s)	Top-3 prioritised EBAs
<b>Oarsoaldea (Spain)</b>	Specific location (floodplains of the Oiartzun river basin; Pasaia bay/port and its surrounding urban areas; old centres of the four municipalities)	Inland flooding, coastal flooding, landslide, heatwaves	1 <sup>st</sup> Green spaces 2 <sup>nd</sup> Planting of trees 3 <sup>rd</sup> Riparian reforestation
<b>Piran (Slovenia)</b>	Specific location (historic town of Piran at top of the peninsula)	Coastal flooding, droughts, heatwaves	1 <sup>st</sup> Historic wells and water reservoirs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sustainable permeable pavements 3 <sup>rd</sup> Green spaces
<b>Vilanova i la Geltrú (Spain)</b>	Specific location (Intermittent river "Torrent de la Piera")	Inland flooding	1 <sup>st</sup> Combination of measures (renaturalisation, restitution of the original riverbed depth, increase in riverbank height) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Renaturalisation and stabilisation of riverbed and slopes 3 <sup>rd</sup> Restitution of the original riverbed depth
<b>Massa (Italy)</b>	Specific location ("Marina di Massa")	Coastal flooding, storm surge, coastal erosion	1 <sup>st</sup> Floodplain enlargement 2 <sup>nd</sup> Riparian reforestation 3 <sup>rd</sup> High water channel
<b>Dublin (Ireland)</b>	Specific location (Dun Laoghaire decarbonization zone)	Coastal flooding, storm surge, coastal erosion	1 <sup>st</sup> Floodable Park 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saltmarsh restoration 3 <sup>rd</sup> Green infrastructure
<b>Oeiras (Portugal)</b>	Specific location ("Eixo Verde Azul" – The Green and Blue Axis, in the Jamor River)	Inland flooding	1 <sup>st</sup> Planting indigenous vegetation 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floodplain enlargement 3 <sup>rd</sup> Maintenance of the river network
<b>Gdansk (Poland)</b>	Specific location (Wrzeszcz District; old historic central area; Orunia district)	Inland flooding, storm surge	1 <sup>st</sup> Water parks and retention ponds 2 <sup>nd</sup> Green spaces 3 <sup>rd</sup> Planting of trees
<b>Samsun (Turkey)</b>	Specific location (Kizilirmak Delta in the Black Sea coast)	Coastal flooding and coastal erosion	1 <sup>st</sup> Floodplain enlargement 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bank restoration/naturalisation 3 <sup>rd</sup> Seagrass meadow introduction/restoration
<b>Benidorm (Spain)</b>	Various sites in the municipality near intermittent rivers, beaches, and urbanizations	Coastal flooding, inland flooding, coastal erosion	1 <sup>st</sup> Floodable Park 2 <sup>nd</sup> Riparian reforestation 3 <sup>rd</sup> Planting of trees



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## Cost-Benefit Analysis of Sand Dune Management to Prevent Coastal Erosion in Sligo County

- **STEP I:** Determined area gain/loss and future projections of shoreline erosion on three beaches.
- **STEP II:** Built ecological maps of three beach-sites through fieldwork and local reports.
- **STEP III:** Gathered data on costs of dune management and monetary benefits from dune management (i.e. coastal protection, carbon capture, recreational value of beach and dune systems).

**Analysed the cost-benefit ratio, and found the benefits from management to be nearly 7 TIMES HIGHER than the costs.**

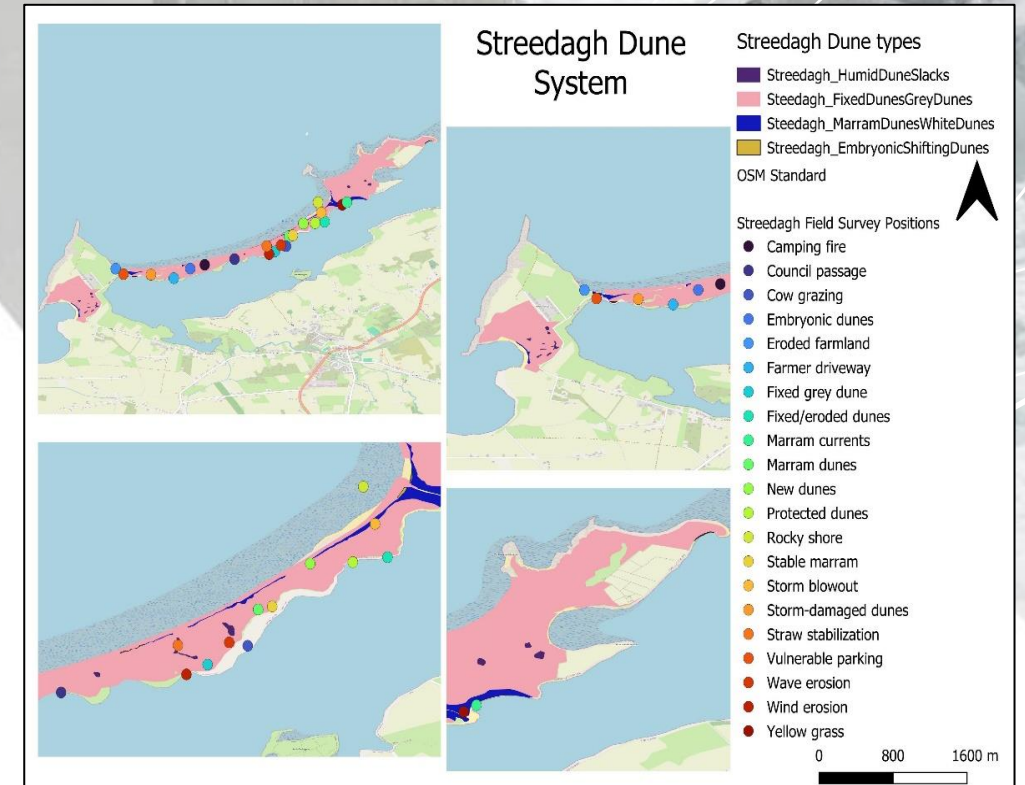
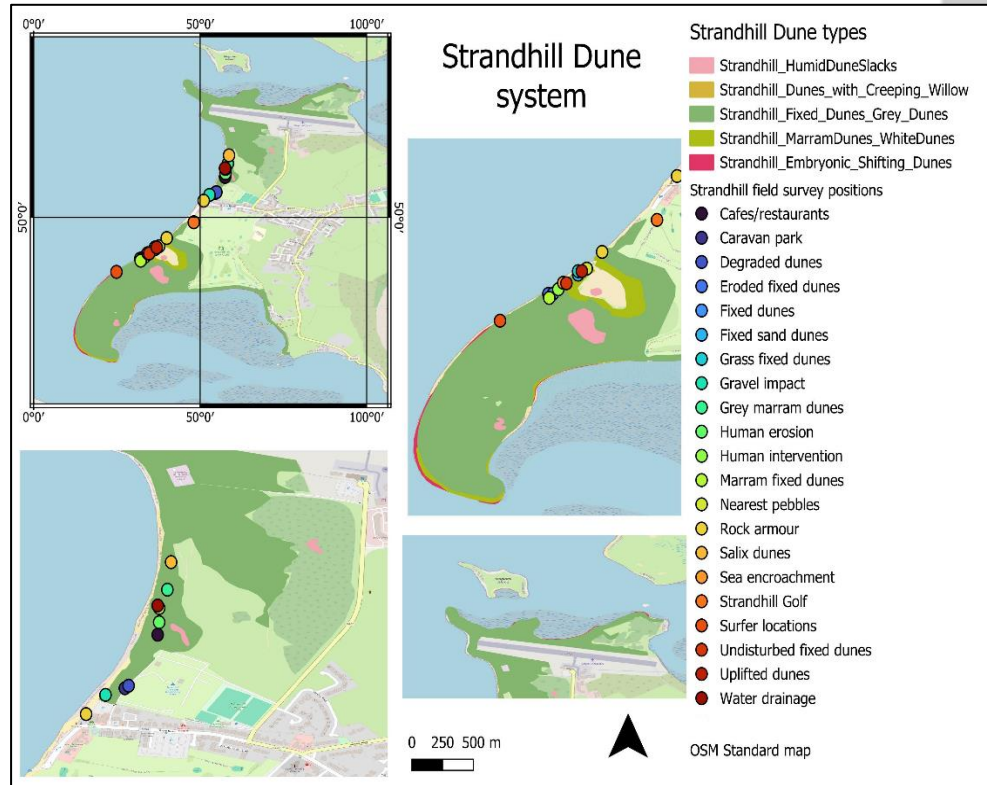
Ecosystem Services	Value per ES (euros/ m <sup>2</sup> )	Cost of dune management (euros/m <sup>2</sup> )	Comparing Benefits vs Costs (ratio)
Coastal Protection	9.76	1.80	5.42
Carbon Capture	0.011		0.006
Recreation	2.13		1.2



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## Ecological Mapping of Beach Sites



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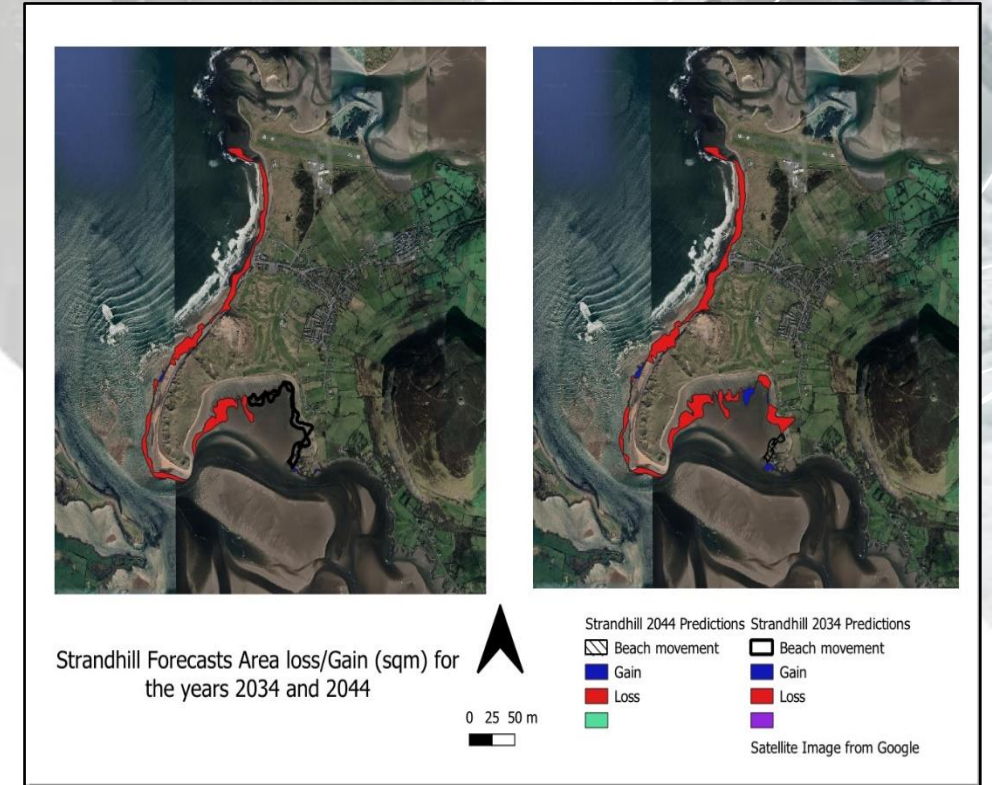
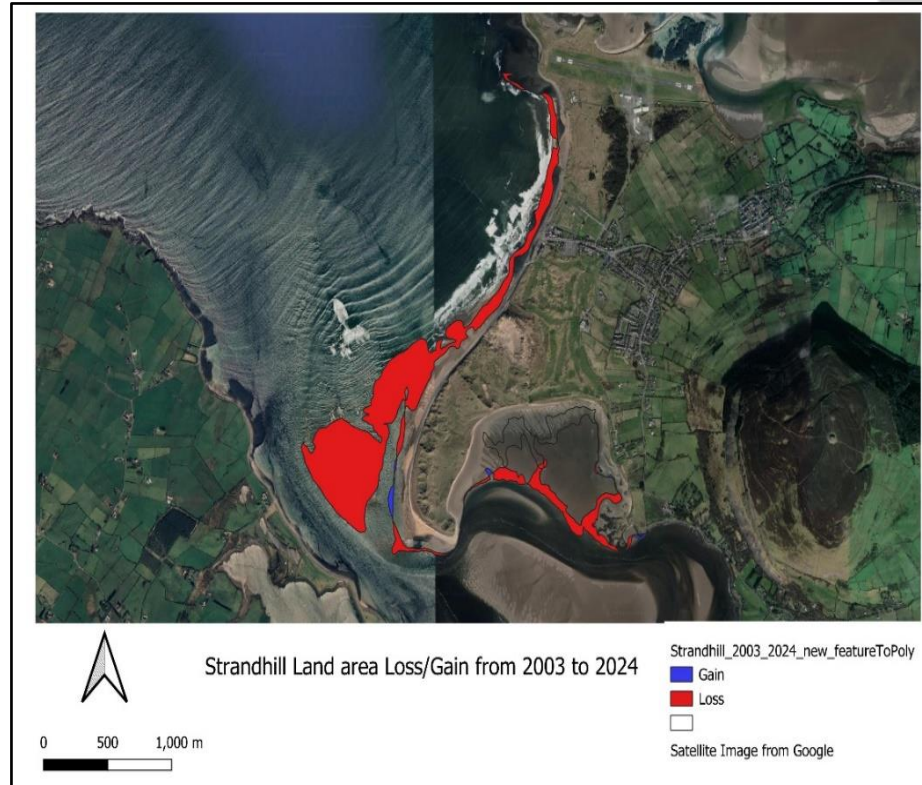
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## Strandhill Beach Area Loss Mapping: Current & Future Scenario

2003-2024: -691,957m<sup>2</sup>;  
2024-2044: -547,412m<sup>2</sup>

*Results indicate that Strandhill could lose most of its beach area by 2044, without any interventions, and is the most eroded beach in our case study.*



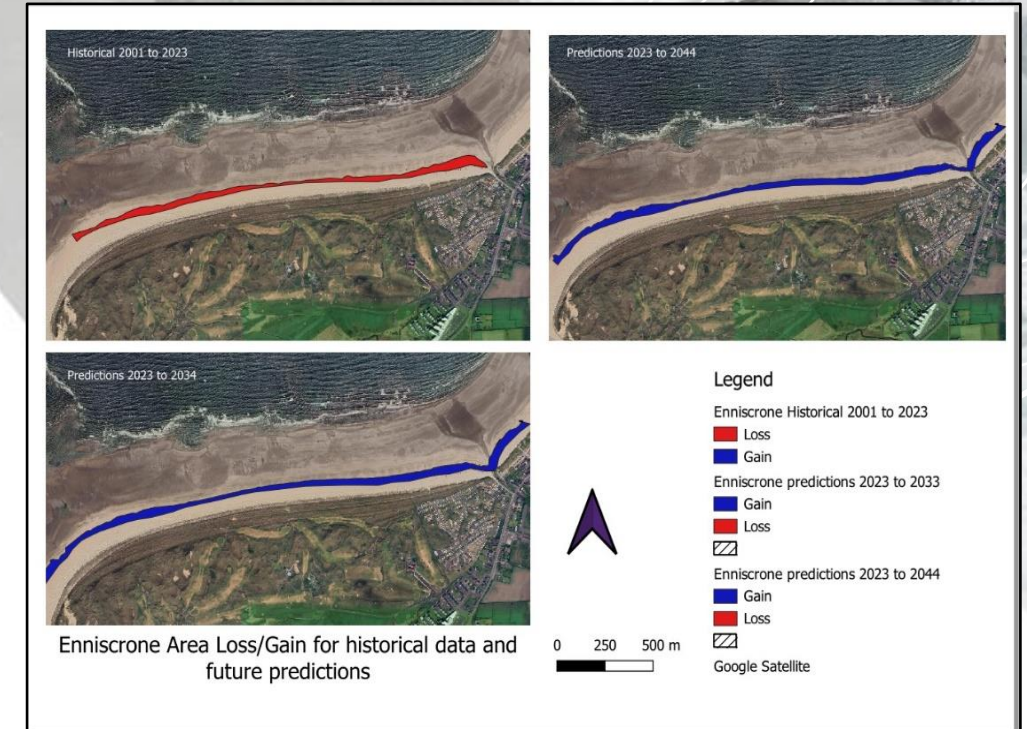
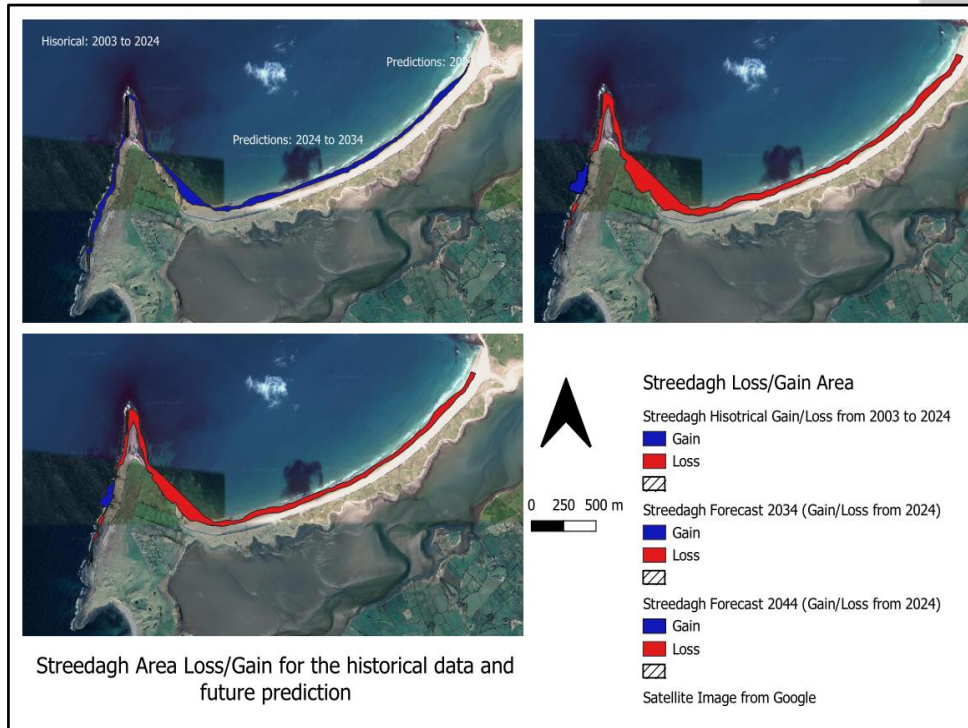
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## Streedagh and Enniscrone Beaches Area Change Map: Current & Future Scenario

*Results indicate that while Enniscrone would have accretion, as a result of a healthy dune system, Streedagh beach could experience significant erosion.*



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# Smart Control of the Climate Resilience in European Coastal Cities



## Monetary Values of Key Ecosystem Services from Sand Dune Management

### Coastal Protection

Beach site	Historical area change (m <sup>2</sup> ; 2003-2024)	Future area change (m <sup>2</sup> ; 2024-2024)	Value change (euros; 2003-2024)	Value change (euros; 2024-2044)	Value change based on 2024 present values, using a 3% discount rate (euros; 2024-2044)
Strandhill	-691,957	-547,412	-6,753,500	-5,342,741	-2,968,189
Streedagh	+124,816	-318,566	+1,218,214	-3,109,204	-1,727,835
Enniscrone	-56,895	+173,027	-555,295	+1,688,743	+938,190

### Carbon Capture

Beach site	Dune area (2024; m <sup>2</sup> )	Value (euros; 2024)	Dune area change (m <sup>2</sup> ; 2024-2044)	Value change (euros; 2024-2044)	Value change based on 2024 present values, using a 3% discount rate (euros; 2024-2044)
Strandhill	132,000	1,465	-105,600	-1,161	-627
Streedagh	160,000	1,760	-92,800	-1,020	-563
Enniscrone	300,000	3,300	+51,000	+561	+306



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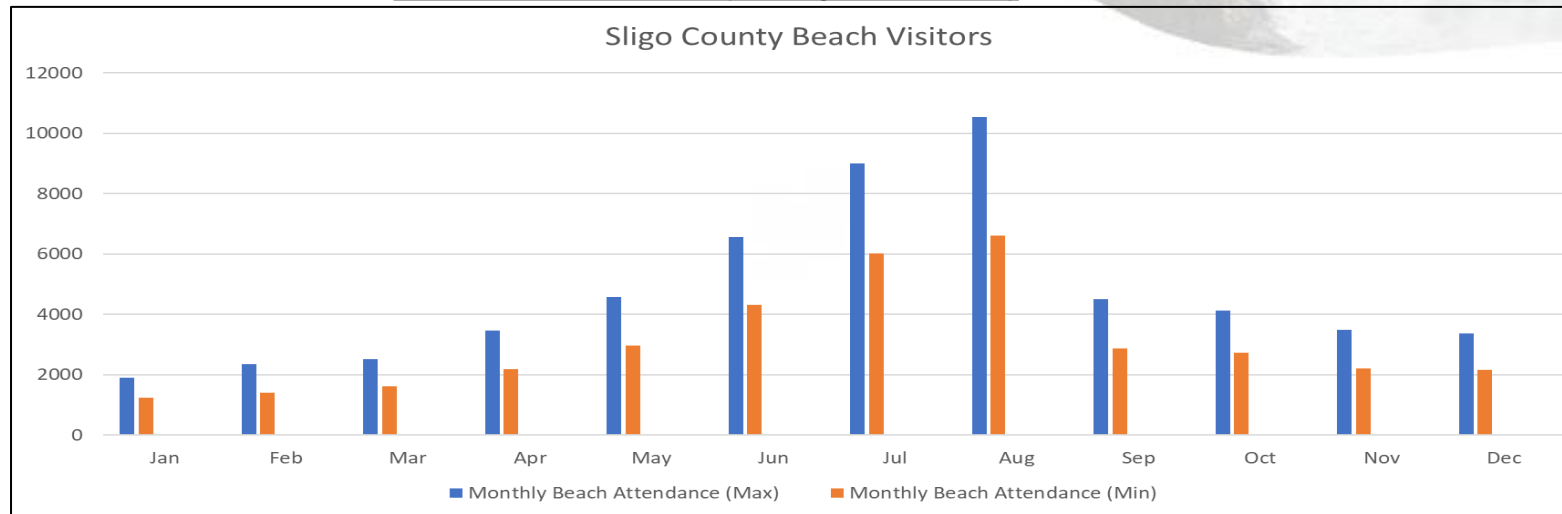


## Monetary Values of Key Ecosystem Services from Sand Dune Management

### Recreation

Beach site	Actual visitors/year	Actual value/year (euros)	Potential visitors at any given time	Potential value at any given time (euros)	Actual visitors (2024-2044)	Actual value with DR of 3% (euros; 2024-2044)	Changes in visitors/year (2024-2044)
Strandhill	72,660-112,650	1,743,840-2,703,600	62,857	1,508,568	-74,292	-960,005	NA
Streedagh	21,798-33,795	523,512-811,080	22,182	532,368	-16,146	-210,419	-4,447
Enniscrone	43,596-67,590	1,046,304-1,622,610	142,987	3,431,668	+9,465	+122,309	+975

### Beach Visitor Numbers (Average, Per Beach)



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## Examples of Policy Recommendations from Decision Support Tools in Living Labs

- Despite high belief in climate change and increasing willingness to engage in climate action, **majority of the public isn't mobilised** to engage with climate strategies, limiting their contribution.
- **Targeted interventions** aiming to improve the adaptive capacity in vulnerable groups (i.e. immigrants, women, senior citizens, children, low-income groups, low-educated groups, etc) are needed even in richer parts of Europe.
- Measures like **nature-based measures, communication campaigns, behavioural changes, early warning systems, multi-level governance, decision-support**, were most successful in improving adaptive capacity.
- Inefficient stakeholder engagement can also lead to maladaptation. **When local needs are not prioritised**, adaptation efforts can lead to gentrification, displacement of locals, support greenwashing of corporate actions, etc.
- Residents are increasingly willing to pay for protection of coastal ecosystems and improvement of ecosystem services like coastal protection, recreation, biodiversity, archaeological heritage, etc; however, landowners often may not be on board. **Better stakeholder engagement can help.**



## Examples of Policy Recommendations from Decision Support Tools in Living Labs

- **NBS implementation has been limited due to** financial constraints; lack of data on efficacy of NBS; lack of municipality willingness to try new strategies; and competition for space in dense urban areas. **Recommendations** include adapting existing infrastructure; improving understanding of local contexts; clearer guidelines on NBS implementation; improving monitoring and maintenance of NBS; improving technological capacity.
- **Improving NBS uptake in policy:** (i) incorporating NBS across policy programmes; (ii) embedding NBS in financing/regulations, (iii) generating knowledge about localised NBS, (v) supporting collaborative governance and decision-making, (vi) strengthening capacity for self-management/
- **Strategies to improve coastal management:** improving accessibility of databases on historical erosion damage and protection works; involving diverse stakeholders in decision-making; intervening with multidisciplinary solutions that provide socioeconomic co-benefits; investing in local knowledge; monitoring the effectiveness of solutions; and making evidence-based decisions.
- **Ways to ensure better stakeholder representation:** engaging a diverse range of stakeholders through targeted campaigns and facilitators; incorporation of diverse perspectives based and a mutual recognition of benefits; combining academic insights with real-world applications; building long-term relationships based in transparency and accountability, removing barriers to engagement by ensuring adequate financial support.



## Example of Living Lab Sustainability Maximising Policy Impact in Sligo, Ireland

- **Stakeholders using Results:** Cost Benefit Analysis results being used by local golf clubs, local authorities, environmental NGOs.
- **Climate Action Plan:** LL Results being included in local Sligo County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, and results submitted to SCC through policy briefs.
- **EBA/NBS implementation:** Using results of MCA/CBA exercise to implement better sand dune management in Sligo County.
- Continued **Citizen Science** activities set up through the municipality (i.e. CoastSnap, Low Cost Sensors etc).
- Continued **Stakeholder Engagement Events** and Living Lab workshops as part of other EU projects, to ensure continued co-creation of solutions.
- Widespread dissemination of open-access **Publications and Reports** to ensure continued impact of LL findings.
- **MOOCs** and online material available online for researchers, policymakers, and all.





# Sligo Policy Brief to Support Climate Action Planning



**score**

POLICY BRIEF PRESENTED TO  
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL  
JUNE 2023 - Building Climate  
Resilience in Sligo County  
through Ecosystem-based  
Adaptation, Smart  
Technologies, and Coastal  
City Living Lab

SCORE ATU Sligo Team,  
Smart EARTH Innovation HuB (EARTH-HB):  
Earth-HB@atu.ie

# When will a 2-metre rise in sea level occur, and how might we adapt?

- A 2-metre rise in sea level is almost inevitable. The uncertainty is on the timing, somewhere between one century and the next two thousand years depending on polar ice sheet melting and which socio-economic pathway we follow. Exceeding 2 meters of sea-level rise will fundamentally change European coastal zones.
- **PROTECT**, **CoCliCo** and **SCORE** have co-written a policy-brief about 2-m rise in sea level, which got presented in COP27. Find the full policy-brief: <https://cloud.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/s/J4WRBw4cbzd3biK>



## Hazard Maps

Within the SCORE project, a primary objective is to generate risk maps that are tailored specifically to each Coastal City Living Lab, considering their unique exposure and vulnerability to various risks. To build these tailored risk maps, our research teams have conducted extensive literature reviews, mapped the history of extreme local climate impacts, and identified key hazards associated with climate change and sea-level rise.

In the map on the right, you can see the key climate-related hazards in Sligo. Utilising historic data, the key hazards were identified as **storms, coastal and land flooding, and coastal erosion**. This work provides valuable insights and information essential to support Sligo County Council and other decision-making bodies to make informed decisions and establish effective risk mitigation strategies.

### Academic Corner:

For a comprehensive overview of the methodology used to develop Sligo's high-level baseline risk map and the other 9 CCLLs, take a look at SCORE's Map and report of key climate-change hazards (D1.2) here: [D1.2 Map and report of climate-change hazards](#).

Further, the literature review of the climate change-related extreme impacts on coastal cities can be found here: [D1.1 - Literature review report](#).



Find more about our CCLL GeoStory at:  
[platform.score-eu-project.eu/catalogue/#/geostory/5514](https://platform.score-eu-project.eu/catalogue/#/geostory/5514)

### Coastal erosion susceptibility indices for the road network in the Sligo CCLL.

This map highlights Sligo's road networks and their susceptibility to coastal erosion. The higher an area's susceptibility index (see key on the right), the higher the risk that coastal erosion can have on that area.

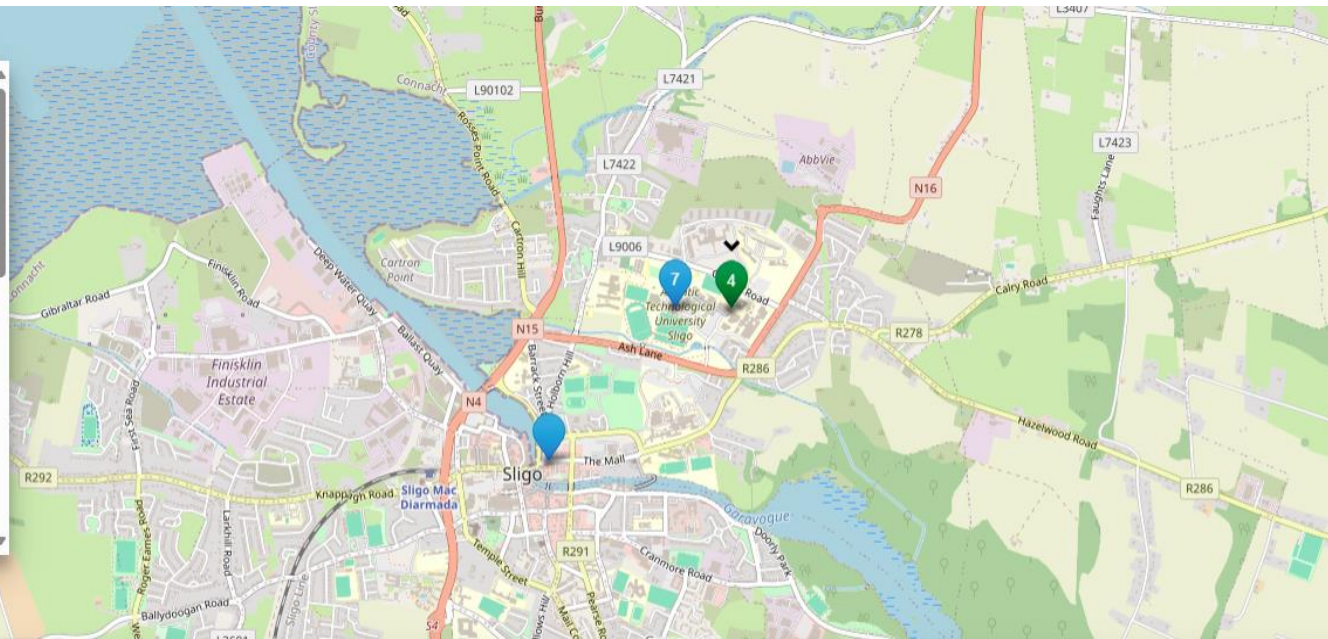


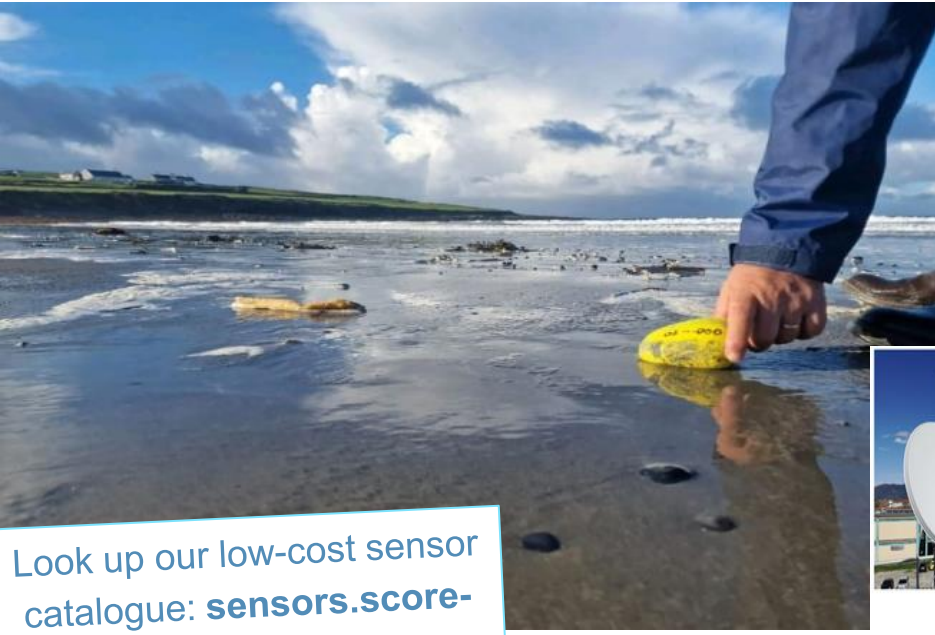


### Science and Engineering Expo

The Sligo CCLL team has participated in the Science and Engineering Expos annually at the Atlantic Technological University. The team was able to meet with Sligo community members of all ages: from university students to young children and their parents.

These expos are an opportunity to show how **fun** science can be! The Sligo CCLL team explained the different low-cost sensors and how sand dune management can be used as an ecosystem-based approach. Through hands on activities, attendees were able to learn more about the work ongoing in the Sligo CCLL.





Look up our low-cost sensor catalogue: [sensors.score-eu-project.eu](https://sensors.score-eu-project.eu)



SMARTLNB

RLS LEVEL SENSOR

FIXED CAMERA

SMART PEBBLES



### Installing Sensors: Smart Pebbles

To address climate challenges, it is important to monitor the changing environment. The Sligo CCLL team has organised an innovative approach to monitor erosion on beaches in Sligo, experimenting with smart pebbles and advanced 3D scanning technology. This technology is being used as one of the many citizen science activities to engage with school students and experts in Sligo.

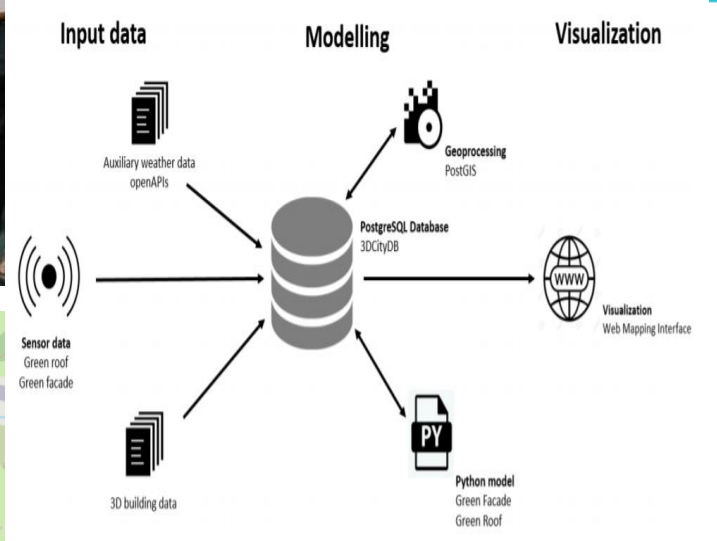
**So, what makes these pebbles "smart"?** Sensors are first inserted in the pebbles and using radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology. The pebbles are then 3D scanned to collect baseline information such as weight, volume and size. After being painted by local students, they are strategically deployed in the beach by noting down their precise GPS locations.







Check out our nature-based solutions catalogue:  
[storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6cdbb2f6ab0744b89dffda2664dd877e](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6cdbb2f6ab0744b89dffda2664dd877e)



**Cost-Benefit Analysis of Sand Dune Management**

The Sligo CCLL team is working on analysing the costs and benefits of using sand dune management as an ecosystem-based adaptation approach to address coastal erosion in the beaches of Enniscrone, Streedagh, and Strandhill.

The co-benefits being calculated also include carbon capture, recreation, coastal protection, and biodiversity. The results of this analysis will be published in the form of an academic publication and included in a SCORE deliverable. These will be made available by the end of 2024 – *stay tuned for updates!*



# Feeding Low-Cost Real-Time Shoreline Data into Digital Twin Via Remote Sensing Technique

## Remote Sensing Techniques

### LiDAR Surveys

High-cost LiDAR technology provided accurate, detailed topographic data to validate the remote sensing findings.

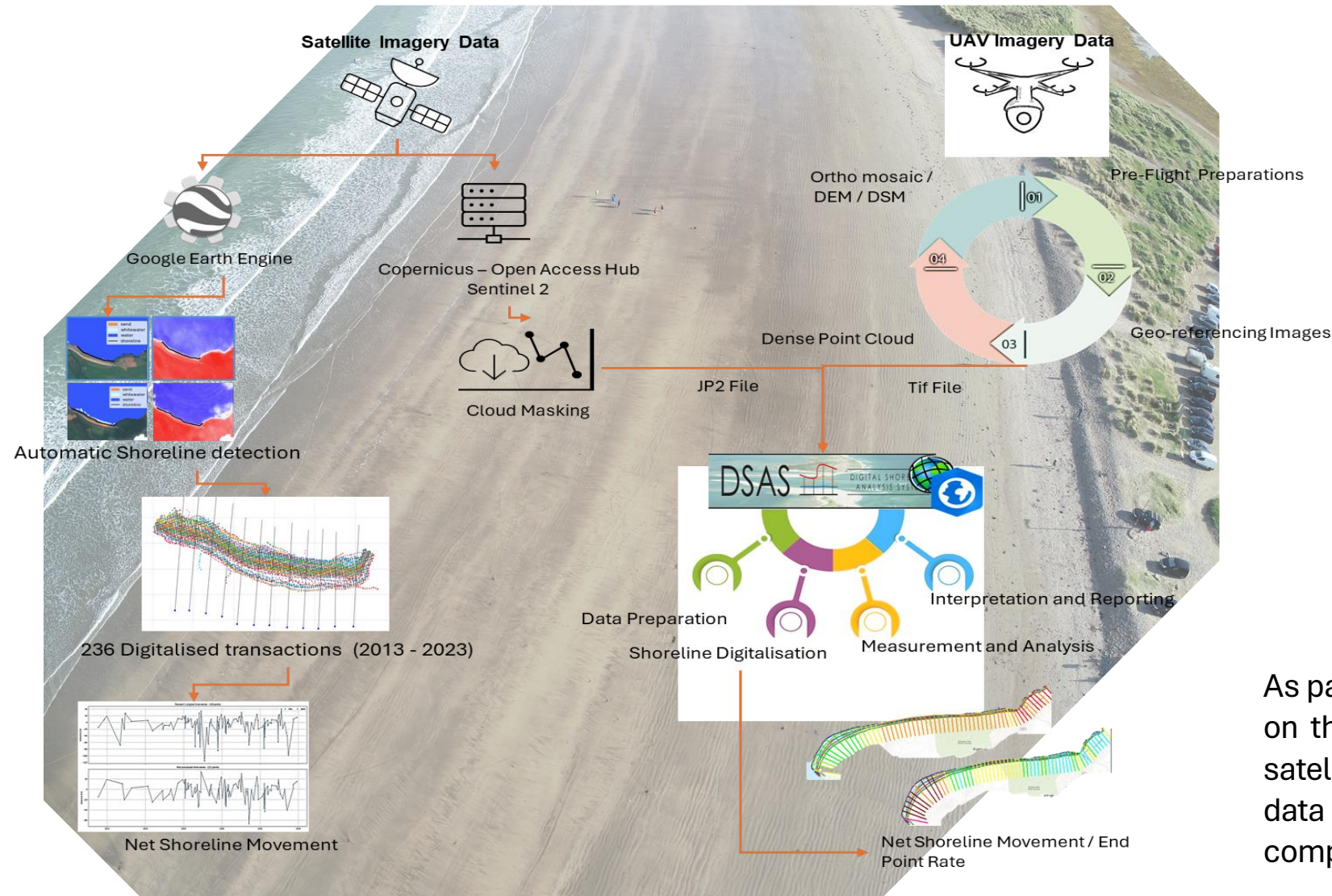
### Drone Surveys

Standard camera drones were used as a low-cost alternative to capture aerial imagery and supplement the satellite data.

### Integrative Approach

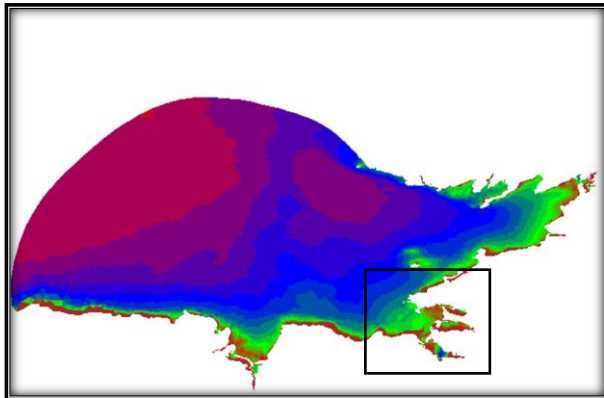
By combining multiple remote sensing techniques, the study was able to achieve a comprehensive assessment of the coastal environment.

As part of SCORE, we investigated shoreline changes on three beaches in the northwest of Ireland using satellite imagery, UAV drone data, and innovative data analysis tools. The aim is to develop a comprehensive understanding of shoreline dynamics



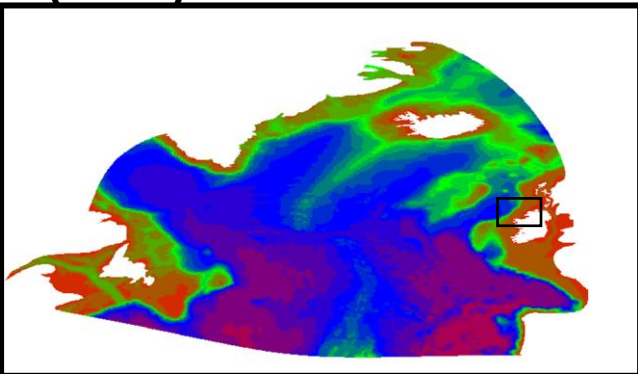
# Modelling of storm surges in the Northwest of Ireland

## Limited Area Model (LAM)



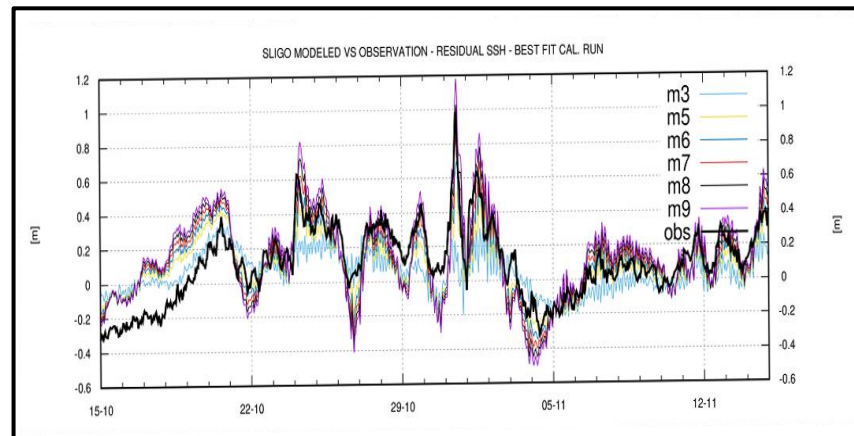
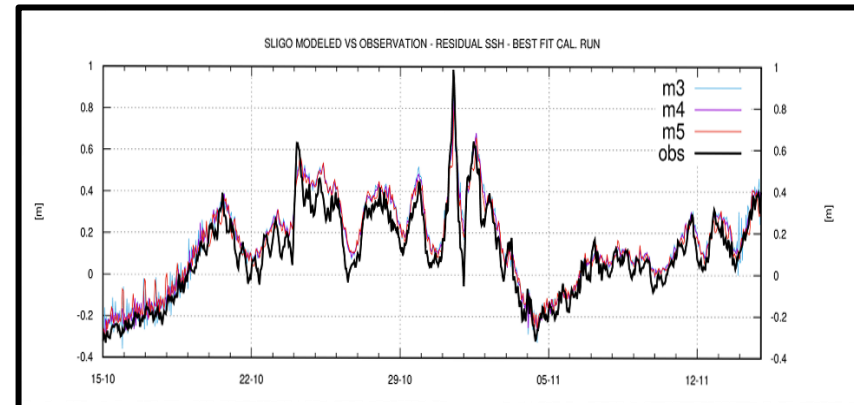
120299 triangular elements and 63016 nodes. The resolution at the coastline in the area of interest is 50 m and varies to 2 km offshore.

## Basin Scale Model (BSM)



180158 elements and 92708 nodes. The resolution varies from 100-500m in the region of interest up to 20 km off-shore.

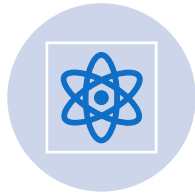
## Validation of Surge from the model with Observations



LAM will be used for storm surge forecasting and these forecasts validated with low-cost water level sensors

BSM is used for future projections of storm surges in the northwest coast, and tides, mean sea level will be added linearly for total water level projections

# Conclusions on the approach for Climate Resilience



**Systematic co-design and co-creation Living Lab (CCLL)** infrastructure involving multiple stakeholders and supported by novel digital technologies



**Accurate localised projections of climate change parameters**



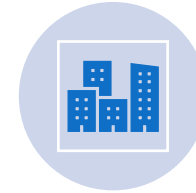
**NbS and EBAs implementation and co-design**



Monitoring coastal climate change and developing **early-warning systems at a local level via a network of low-cost smart sensors** deployed through citizen science activities with local coastal communities



Collecting and sharing evidence of EBA effectiveness through a high-quality **SCORE ICT Platform (SIP)**;



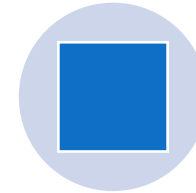
Increasing the financial resilience of coastal cities through **financial risk assessment tools**;



Supporting decision making in the governance of coastal cities through the development of **digital twin prototypes to analyse optimal corrective actions for sustainable, equitable and cost-effective climate resilience.**

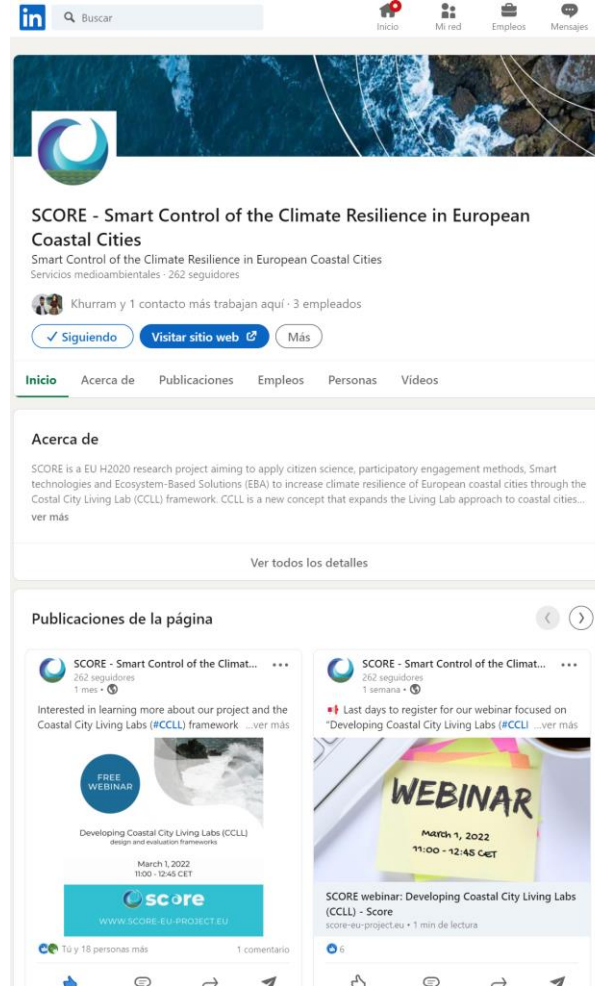
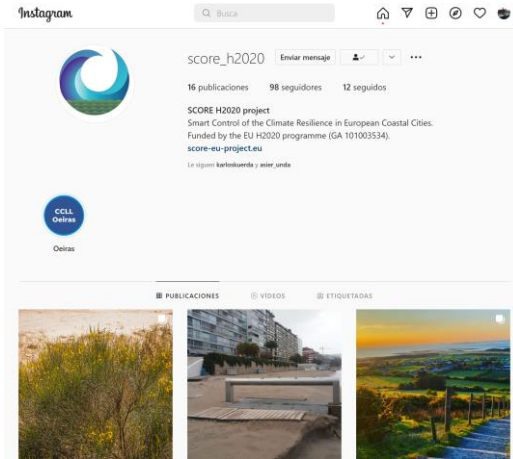


The deployment of **Systems Thinking and Social innovation** for empowering communities and co-design solutions.



**Low-cost sensors and IoT technologies implementation through citizen science**

# Do not miss a thing



# Thank you!

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