

A cup of tea for the climate: Analysing elderly's perception on climate change risks

WHAT IS OUR MAIN GOAL ?

AGORA is a HORIZON Europe initiative started in January 2023 and coordinated by the CMCC Foundation. AGORA aligns with the overall **goals of the EU Mission on Climate Change Adaptation**. The main ambition of AGORA is to **promote societal transformational processes** in different social, economic, and political frameworks through multidisciplinary tools and approaches, supporting local adaptation.

PILOT REGIONS

DIGITAL TOOLS

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGIES

HOW DO WE PLAN TO ACHIEVE IT?

- Policy analysis and evaluation of existing citizen engagement methodologies
- 4 pilot case studies as co-creation and co-design labs, located in geographically and culturally different regions across Europe
- A set of digital tools which incorporates the lesson learned in the pilots and can be used as capacity building tools, enlarging the scope of the project

EVENT DETAILS

- Date & Location: March 27, 2024, Municipality of Santa Maria Capua Vetere, Province of Caserta
- Organizers: AGORA Project in collaboration with C.I.F. (Italian Women Center)
- Replicated event: Fabara, Province of Zaragoza (Spain) Organizers: AGORA Project in collaboration with Fabaroles Women Association

INTRODUCTION

- **Objective:** Engage women aged 65 and over in discussions about climate change adaptation and foster dialogue between citizens and researchers.
- **Target Audience:** Women aged 65+, local citizens, researchers and experts.
- **Relevance:** Elderly populations are more negatively impacted by climate change. Engaging this group is essential for effective adaptation strategies.

METHODOLOGY

STUDY DESIGN

- **Data Collection:** Survey on knowledge of climate adaptation, trust in authorities, and willingness to participate
- **Scientific Information Sessions:** Covered topics: climate change impacts, the role of women, and decision-making processes.

INTERACTIVE STORYTELLING SESSION

- Participants shared personal experiences with climate change
- Discussions on traditional knowledge and local adaptation practices.

DISCUSSION ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Focused on the role of citizens in political decision-making, emphasizing the importance of voting and urban area redevelopment

This study focuses on the involvement of senior citizens in co-designing and adopting strategies to foster adaptation to climate change, emphasizing their unique vulnerabilities and potential contributions

STUDY REPLICATIONS IN SPAIN

The replication study was held in Fabara de Matarraña, Aragón, on 5th June with the support of Ibercivis and Les Dones Fabaroles association

KEY SCIENTIFIC OUTCOMES

- **Adaptive Strategies** to cope with extreme heatwaves, such as modifying activity schedules, and adjusting daily life to better manage high temperatures.
- **Changes in the Rural Environment:** Discussions focused on modernising local infrastructure to enhance resilience.
- **Importance of Citizen Participation:** Attendees highlighted the need for in-person events, accessible information, and the inclusion of rural communities in environmental debates.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

SURVEY FINDINGS:

- **Belief in Climate Change:** 65% of participants acknowledge it as a significant issue.
- **Knowledge Levels:** Moderate (50%), Low (42%)
- **Trust in Authorities:** Varied levels of trust in local authorities.
- **Perceived Risks:** Droughts (83%), Heavy Rainfall (43%)
- **Main Concerns:** Impact on agriculture (58%)
- **Willingness to Participate:** High interest in volunteering and educational programs; financial support considered viable.

WORKSHOP INSIGHTS:

- **Preferred Engagement Methods:** Interactive workshops, focus groups with local authorities.
- **Barriers to Participation:** Lack of active involvement, need for trust-building activities.

KEY FINDINGS:

- **Interest in Learning About Climate Change**
- **Role of Women:** Emphasized the vital role of women in climate change adaptation
- **Youth Engagement** via social media
- **Local Solutions** to climate issues
- **Intergenerational Dialogue** on climate-related experiences and knowledge

FEEDBACK INSIGHTS:

The storytelling session promoted a sense of community and collective wisdom, strengthening the bond between participants and the climate change topic. Conversations covered adaptation initiatives in various Italian municipalities, underscoring the importance of communication and collaboration between local, regional, and European institution.



CONCLUSIONS

Key Takeaways:

- Senior women citizens show significant willingness to engage in climate adaptation efforts.
- Effective strategies require building trust with local decision-makers and tailored engagement approaches.

Implications:

- Enhanced trust-building and targeted strategies are crucial for fostering greater public involvement in climate adaptation.

Recommendations:

- Develop educational programs specifically for senior citizens
- Facilitate co-creation workshops to integrate their insights into adaptation policies

REFERENCES

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