

# eMag on Adaptation in Europe

#3 Social Justice in Adaptation  
Policies

Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 2024



In partnership with

**CONSTRUCTION21**  
INTERNATIONAL

# The Observatory's Lens: Social Justice and Gender in Adaptation

**Tania Martha Thomas, Climate Chance  
& Pauline Beyler and Flavie Seigneurin, Gender in  
Geopolitics Institute**



Tania Martha Thomas, Research Officer at Climate Chance, Pauline Beyler and Flavie Seigneurin, Climate Officers at the Gender in Geopolitics Institute present the Global Observatory of Climate Action's new analysis note "[Just Resilience: Integrating social justice and gender into climate change adaptation in Europe](#)".

## What are climate risks?

For any society or system, they are a combination of hazards (natural climatic factors), exposure (presence of people and resources in areas that could be adversely affected) and vulnerability (possibility of being adversely affected).

The **EUCRA** has identified 4 types of social vulnerability, which are they?

<b>Group-based vulnerabilities</b>	<b>Gender-based vulnerabilities</b>
<b>Socio-economic and occupation based vulnerabilities</b>	<b>Age- and health-based vulnerabilities</b>



**Adaptation policies**

**In the context of the unequal climate vulnerabilities of different population groups, the idea of social justice can include several dimensions. The EUCRA focuses on three such interconnected dimensions:**

- 1** Distributive justice: allocation of resources, benefits and burdens linked to adaptive actions.  
Eg. Policies in the building sector
- 2** Procedural justice: fairness, legitimacy and inclusivity of the decision-making process.  
Eg. Awareness, citizen participation
- 3** Recognition justice: respect and fair consideration for different values or world views, cultures and needs.

## Gender inequalities and climate change:

Women represent:

- 80% of displaced people because of climate change
- 800 000 deaths each year from lack of drinking water



Read the analysis note: "[Just Resilience: Integrating social justice and gender into climate change adaptation in Europe](#)".



In partnership with



# Press Review

## Amandine Martinet, Construction21



Amandine Martinet is a journalist at Construction21 and gives us an overview of the news regarding how social justice is integrated in adaptation policies in Europe.

### Net Zero Landtake, a lever in the fight against poor housing?

I am sure you're all familiar with the concept of Net Zero Landtake. But did you know that in March 2024, the Fondation pour la Nature et l'Homme and the Fondation Abbé Pierre launched this new regulation as a lever in the fight against poor housing in France? This is the idea behind a joint report which sets out a number of ways of reclaiming built land so that it can be "redistributed" more fairly, particularly to those most in need. These include making better use of empty, second and under-occupied homes, and experimenting with social and solidarity-based approaches such as shared and participatory housing.

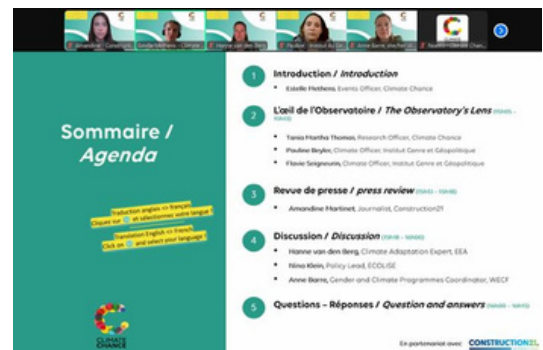
### In Rennes, urban renewal aims to be socially virtuous

Another interesting initiative in the field of access to housing. Our second article looks at Bail Réel Solidaire, a scheme that significantly reduces the price of certain properties on the market, making them more accessible to low-income households. We take a look at a project currently underway in a historic working-class district of Rennes.

Outside France, Stéphanie Merger, currently deputy director of the Specialised Masters® in Sustainable Real Estate and Building, Carbon and Digital Transitions at École des Ponts ParisTech, told a conference at BIM World that this concept of separating the building from the land is widely used in a country like Singapore.

### Adapting to climate change: the CSTB organises a special day on 30 May

Putting people back at the centre of climate change adaptation concerns is the focus of an event taking place today, organised by the CSTB. Construction21 had the opportunity to interview Alexandra Lebert, Director of the Strategic Research Action Area at the CSTB, about the event. She talks to us about - and I quote - "the question of how to design, renovate and live together 'well'? How do we make the link between real life, individual behaviour and culture, and the world of engineering and research? Proof, if proof were needed, that in France as elsewhere, climate concerns are inextricably linked to human concerns.



### For a 'just transition' at European level

Finally, let's look directly at Europe, through a recent ADEME note dedicated to the concept of 'just transition', which is gaining ground, particularly through recent and future European policies. ADEME invites you to find out more in its publication, and I invite you to stay with us to continue discussing the fascinating topic of social justice in adaptation policies in Europe.



In partnership with **CONSTRUCTION21** INTERNATIONAL

# Social Justice in Adaptation Policies at the EU level

Hanne van den Berg, European Environment Agency



Hanne van den Berg is an expert on climate adaptation and just resilience at the European Environment Agency. She presents the measures taken by EU Member States to integrate social justice into adaptation policies, as well as national and local examples.

## What is happening at the EU level regarding social justice in adaptation policies?

- EU Adaptation Strategy (2021)
- EU Climate Law (2021)
- EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change



### Call for projects:

Demonstration of approaches by regions and local authorities focused on increasing climate resilience of the most vulnerable social groups (closing date September 18, 2024)

## What is happening at the local level?

The majority (68%) of local adaptation plans identifies specific population groups as particularly impacted by climate change, such as: the elderly, kids, the poor, migrants, ethnic communities, women, etc.

### An example:

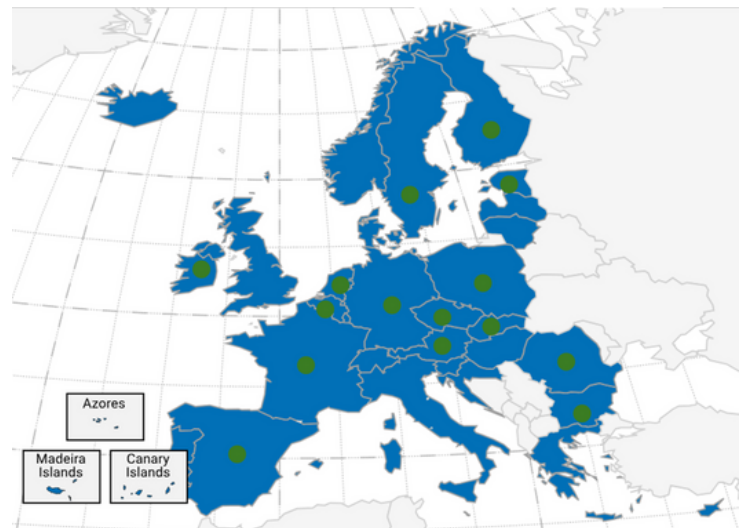


To address heatwave vulnerabilities, the city of Paris initiated the "OASIS" program, transforming schoolyards into green spaces accessible to vulnerable groups.

## What is happening at the Member States level?

Over 50% of countries mention justice aspects in two-yearly adaptation report (2023).

=> 15 out of 29 countries (EU 27 + Switzerland and Iceland) mention justice-related keywords in 2023 such as: Justice, fairness, equality, equity



National reporting on adaptation planning and strategies under the Governance Regulation of the Energy Union and Climate Action (Article 19) – 2023 (EEA, unpublished)

### An example:

"...measures must not lead to an unfair distribution of costs and benefits between social groups, or disproportionately burden vulnerable groups or disadvantaged regions." (Austria)



In partnership with

**CONSTRUCTION21**  
INTERNATIONAL

# "Bottom-up" Approach: Community-led Initiatives for Adaptation

Nina Klein, ECOLISE



Nina Klein, Policy Lead at ECOLISE, explains the concept of community-led initiatives in the ecological transition and adaptation to climate change, and she introduces the 'Time for Collective Action' manifesto which aims to act as a tool to bring together top-down and bottom-up governance.

## Who is ECOLISE ?

ECOLISE, the European Network for Community-led Initiatives on Climate Change and Sustainability, is comprised of 50 members in 24 European countries. The members of ECOLISE practice bottom-up, community-led initiatives based on self-organisation towards a defined set of environmental and/or social goals. They are diverse, but are united in sustainability action and put community building at the heart of their projects. Examples of community-led initiatives include transition movements, permaculture projects, ecovillages, local sharing, and much more.

## What is community-based adaptation?

More recently, community-based adaptation has gained more attention as a way to build resilience in the face of climate change. Community-based adaptation is a community-led process, based on the communities' priorities, needs, knowledge and capacities, which should empower people to plan for and cope with the impacts of climate change. Evidence has shown that regional and local communities are best placed to drive adaptation in Europe.



On November 7th, 2024, ECOLISE launched the 'Time for Collective Action Manifesto'. It was a collective effort by 900 people from over 140 organisations over a one and a half year process. In summary, the main objective of the Manifesto is a call to translate the European Green Deal into local action. One of the key messages that Nina spoke about during her presentation was to "support the right to have a choice to live sustainably". She explained how people and communities that wish to live sustainably cannot do so because the system around them does not allow for it.

Read and sign the manifesto [here!](#)



In partnership with

**CONSTRUCTION21**  
INTERNATIONAL



# Taking Gender into Account: the Shared Green Deal and energy poverty

Anne Barre, Women Engaged for a Common Future (WECF)



Anne Barre, Coordinator of Gender and Climate Policy at WECF, an ecofeminist network supporting gender justice in the ecological transition, shares two projects that the WECF has worked on: the Shared Green Deal and gender-disaggregated data on energy poverty.

## The Shared Green Deal: growing community knowledge for energy efficient home renovations

As part of the Shared Green Deal, WECF connected households with professionals working in sustainable home renovations in Ireland, Spain, Lithuania and Hungary.

In Hungary, WECF worked in a rural village with 1000 inhabitants where a majority of homes lacked energy efficiency. Importantly, they aimed to understand renovation as a social practice that interacts with gender dimensions (unpaid care work, gender based violence), which may impact social practices and the ability to participate or benefit equally from these renovations.

In collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, WECF worked with the population on the ground to provide information on different types of home renovations and connect them with professionals and local authorities. They also provided support in accessing financial incentives.

Home renovations are just one aspect of the Shared Green Deal. WECF also tackles clean energy, the circular economy, sustainable mobility, sustainable food, and the preservation of biodiversity. In order to find out more about this project [click here!](#)

## Gender-disaggregated data on energy poverty



WECF contributed to a study led by the European Economic and Social Committee which aims to increase the understanding of the gender-energy poverty nexus by analysing existing literature, as well as EU and national policies. The key points outlined by Anne were the following:

- The intersection of age, gender and income disparity impacts your experience of living in energy poverty: the combination of a lower income, higher life expectancy, and the likelihood of living alone or leading a household makes older women more likely to live in energy poverty.
- The interplay between (un)paid care work and paid labour: women typically assume primary caregiving roles and tend to spend more time at home, facing conditions of energy deprivation
- Energy policies need to be reviewed from an intersectional perspective that take into account gender and other axes of discrimination.
- There is need to raise awareness of the gender-energy poverty nexus, which could be done through national gender training programmes.



In partnership with

**CONSTRUCTION21**  
INTERNATIONAL

# What are the biggest gaps when integrating social justice in adaptation policies?

## An open discussion with the 3 panelists



**Nina Klein**

“ Participatory processes should be encouraged from the EU level. These include meaningful participation from bottom up and grassroots initiatives, but also the role of communities in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation is the best adaptation, and we cannot adapt forever.



**Hanne van den Berg**

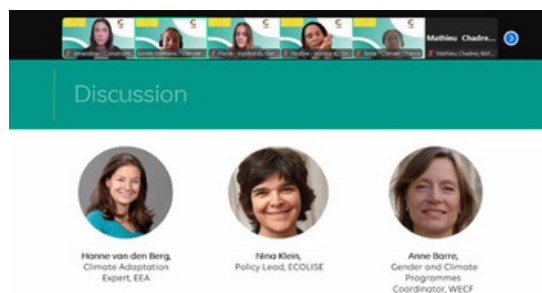
“ We need more comprehensive data to understand social vulnerabilities better. Who is vulnerable to climate change? Where are they located?



**Anne Barre**

“ We need better coherence at the EU level among different policy areas because, ultimately, everything is linked together.

Watch the replay of the eMag #3 on Social Justice in Adaptation in Europe. [Click here.](#)



CLIMATE CHANGE

eMag #3 Justice sociale dans les politiques d'adaptation en Europe / Social justice in adaptation policies in Europe



In partnership with

**CONSTRUCTION21**  
INTERNATIONAL

# Next Events

## eMag Climate Action in Africa

Join us on Thursday, June 27th, 2024 from 3PM to 4:15PM (CEST) for the [eMag on climate-biodiversity in Africa.](#)

[Register Here](#)

## eMag Adaptation in Europe

Join us on Thursday, July 11th, 2024 from 3PM to 4:15PM (CEST) for the [eMag on water resilience and climate adaptation](#) (partner event of the EU Green Week)

[Register Here](#)



In partnership with **CONSTRUCTION21**  
INTERNATIONAL

*eMag written by Estelle Methens*

association@climate-chance.org

www.climate-chance.org