Interreg for a Greener Europe Webinar Series Climate change adaptation – disaster risk management

IS EUROPE RESILIENT? The importance of multi-level governance to promote resilience across borders

Prof. Dr. Nicola Tollin, Chairholder and Coordinator, UNESCO Chair on Urban Resilience at the University of Southern Denmark 28th March 2025





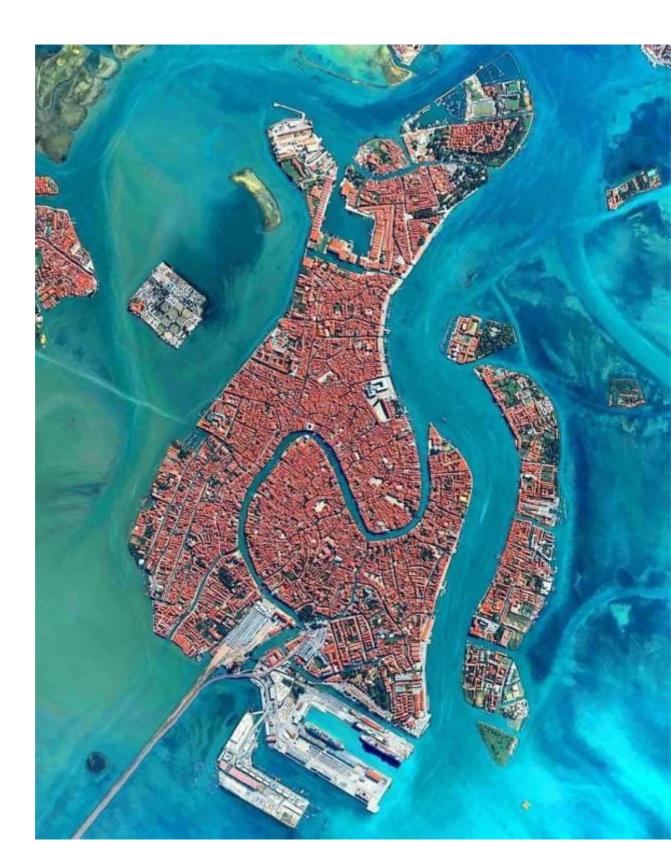
Resilience

1. Urban Resilience DefinitionUrban Resilience as Climate Adaptation?Urban Resilience as Disaster Risk Reduction?Urban Resilience as Sustainable Development?

2. Global Agenda Integration

Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework) Climate Change (Paris Agreement) Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030)

New Urban Agenda Convention on Biological Diversity Addis-Ababa Action Agenda



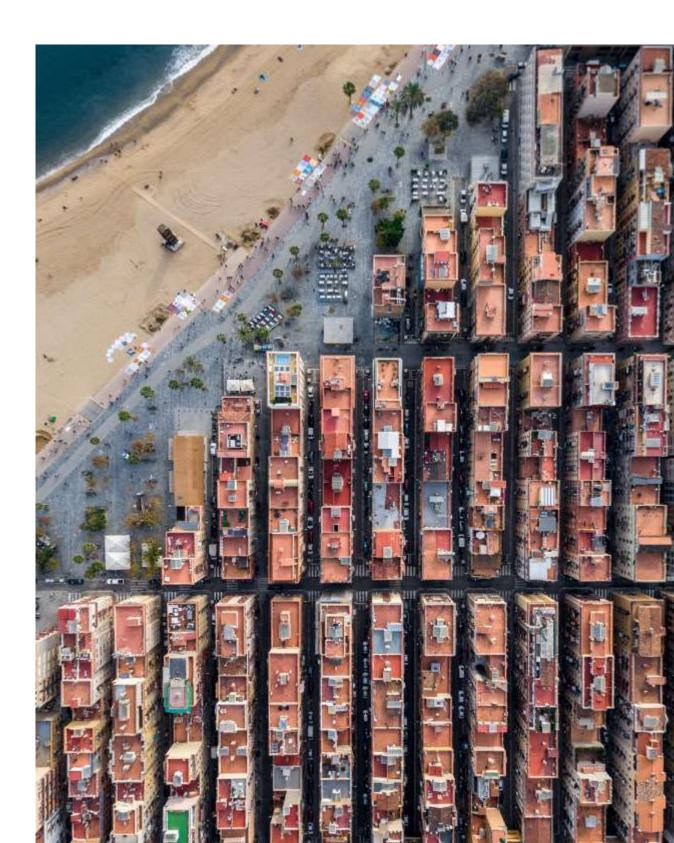
Disaster risk

3. Loss and damages
People and livelihoods
Structures/infrastructures (services)
Ecosystems (services)

4. Human vs Natural Hazards

Industrial, Terrorism, Nuclear, Infrastructural, Oil Spills, War

Earthquakes, Volcanic Eruptions, Floods, Hurricanes, Wildfires, Droughts, Vector-born diseases (pandemics?), Heatwaves, Temperature Rise.



"Natural" Disasters and Climate Induced Disaster

5. Risk RISK = (Hazard * Exposure * Vulnerability) / actions for DRM

6. THERE ARE NOT "NATURAL" DISASTERS

7. CLIMATE CHANGE is increasing frequency and magnitude of several hazards Affecting the very nature of the hazards that are becoming systemic threats



Is Europe Resilient to Disasters? *

7. Disasters Floods (Valencia) Wildefires (Spain) Heatwaves (Paris) Temperature rise (Greece)

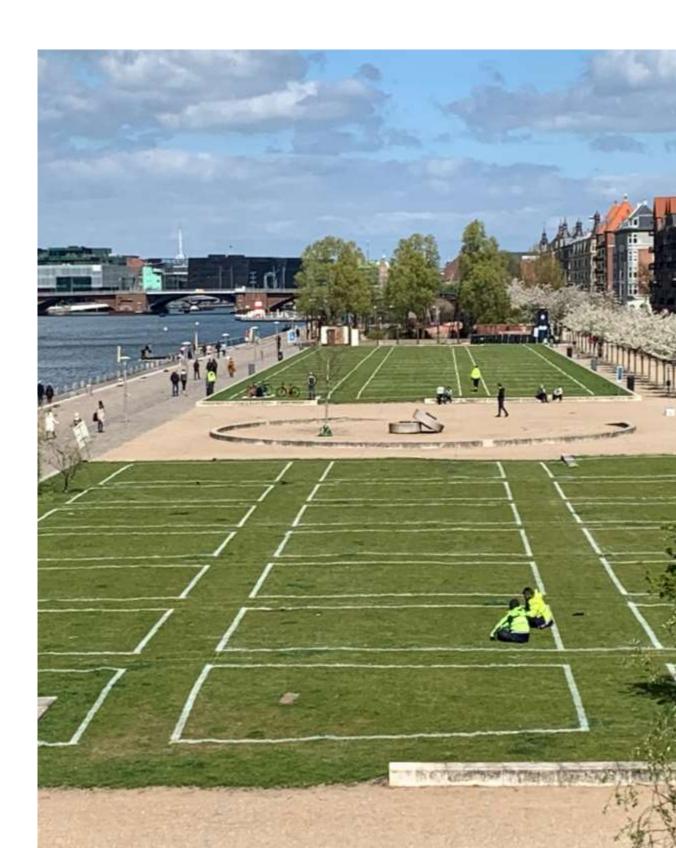
8 Disaster ManagementParis heat waves planCopenhagen cloud burst planDenmark local climate action plans

* Spolier Allert (NO! Europe is not Resilient)



Disasters have no boundaries

- **9. Best practices are limited**
- **10. Single risk vs compounded risks approach**
- **11. Disasters have no boundaries**





Urban Content of NDCs



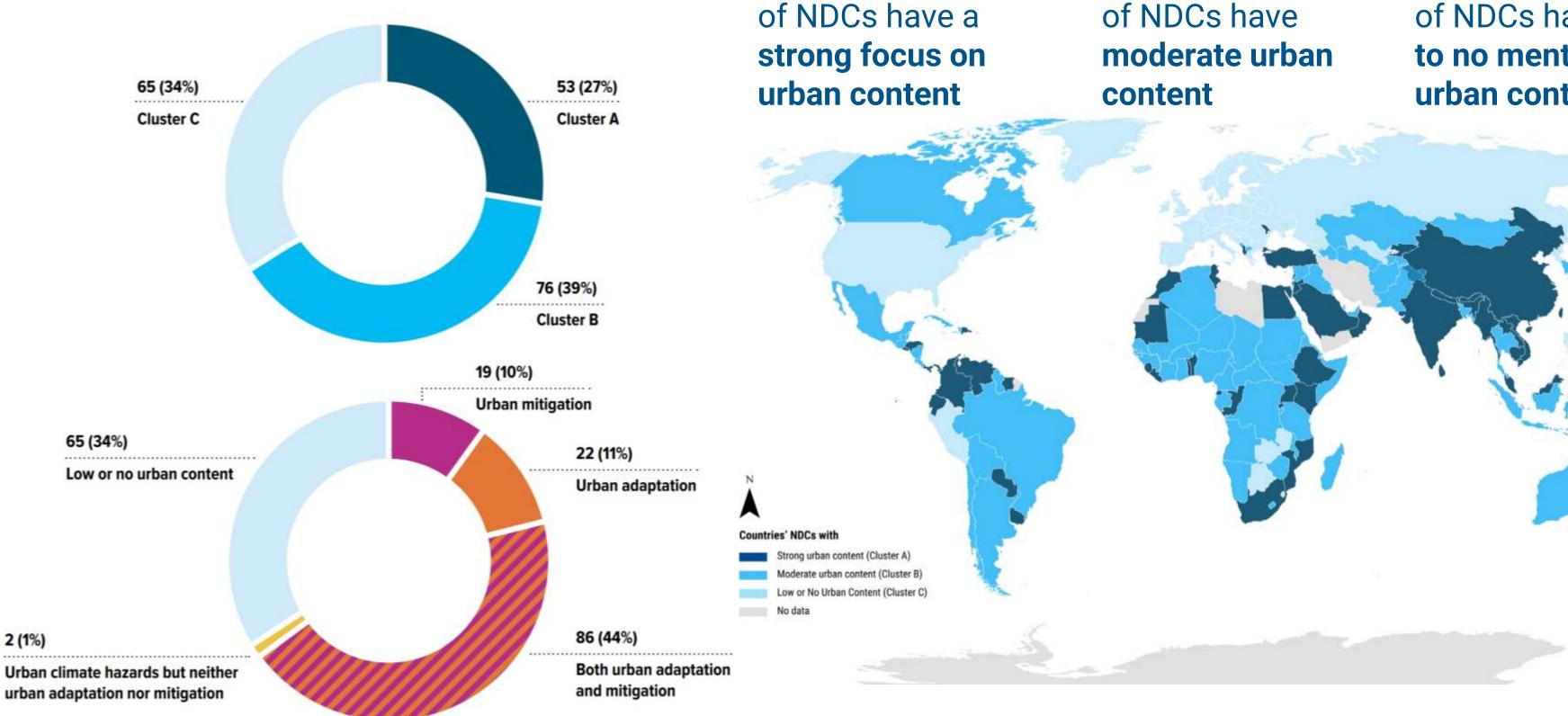
NDCs.

Urban content Strong urban content (Cluster A) NDCs with specific urban sections and/or NDCs in which urban areas are identified as priority sectors, excluding NDCs that are not backing the prioritization with a clear identification of specific urban challenges and/or responses. Moderate urban content (Cluster B) NDCs with urban mentions within the body of text. Low or no urban content (Cluster C) NDCs with low or no explicit urban mention within the text.

Alignments and misalignments Mitigation challenges/responses Adaptation challenges/responses National/urban content

200+ indicators – external data and data within

Urban Content



27%

73% of NDCs could have more urban content



of NDCs have



of NDCs have low to no mention of urban content

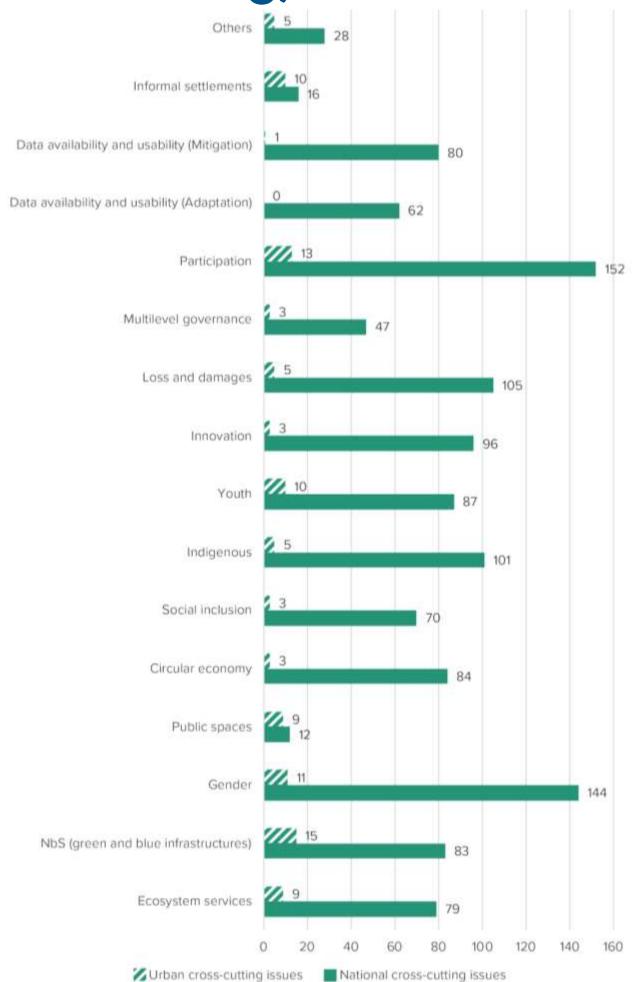
Urban Content: Mitigation

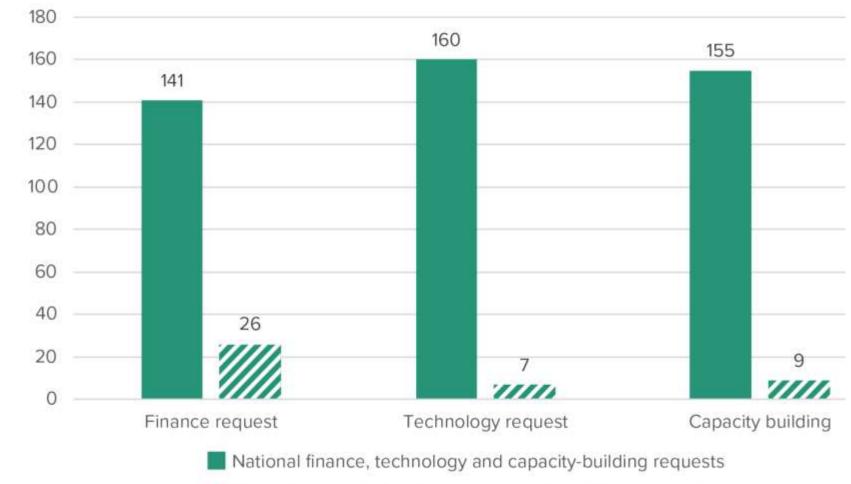


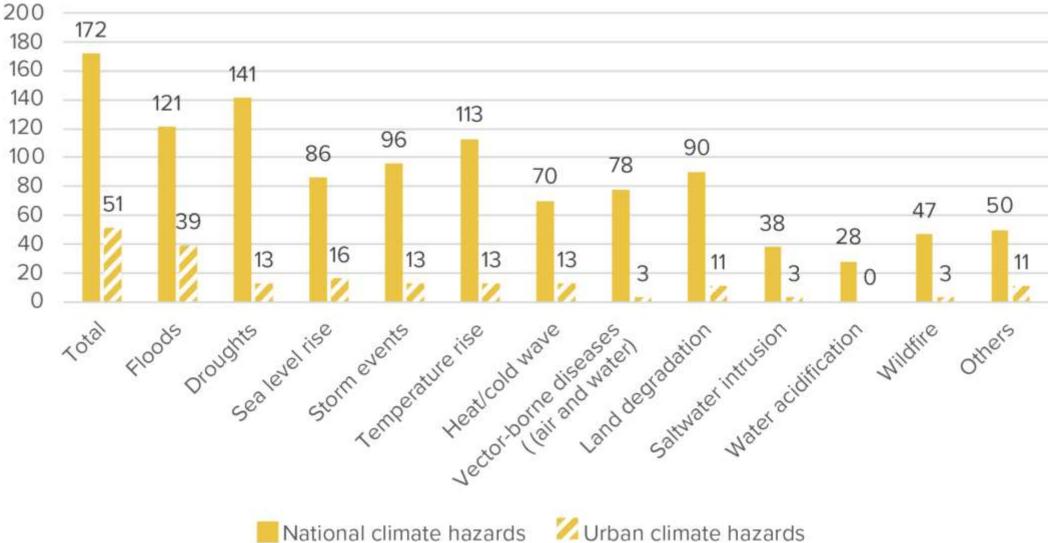
Urban Content: Adaptation

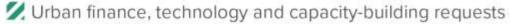


Cross-cutting, Mol and Hazards









Issues

Lack of data and uncertainty (e.g. floods dtata but not drought nor coast)

Lack of finance (e.g. no investment-loss damanges)

Foresights pre vs post disaster (e.g. prevention / mitigation)

Lack of capacities (e.g. small municipalities)

Scale of solutions and integration (e.g. NBS)

Lack of physical solutions (e.g. planning/engineering LULUC)

Policy vs action divide (e.g. EU NDCs)

Norms, regulation and legislation (e.g. Regions in DK)

Public participation (e.g. individual vs community interests)



Solutions

Capacity Building

Territorial Resilience

Multi-level governance (Vertical and Horizontal)

INTERREG role for a Resilient Europe





Nicola Tollin nto@iti.sdu.dk



