Climate adaptation gains in importance, and the Paris Agreement 2015 calls on Parties to strengthen cooperation on enhancing action on adaptation. This, along with recognition that policymakers require high-quality and relevant information to support decision-making, has led many countries to establish web-based climate adaptation platforms. These platforms provide access to information, evidence and guidance intended to inform the development of adaptation strategies and plans at the local, national, and transnational scales. However, they are all at different stages of development and capabilities, and all face challenges that, potentially, limit their effectiveness in supporting the required climate action.

The KE4CAP project provides a forum for platform developers and operators to come together to compare and learn from their individual approaches, to share knowledge and best practices, and to work together to address common and emerging challenges. The overall aims are to stimulate knowledge exchange to advance cooperation and learning, and to inspire the evolution of national and regional adaptation platforms in terms of scope, governance, content coverage, functionality and management.

Benefits are anticipated in the following areas:

- Developing content as adaptation policies and actions evolve, including how platforms retain their policy relevance.
- Linking climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;
- Linking climate change adaptation with the sustainable development goals;
- Embedding technological innovations to increase functionality and user-friendliness;
- Providing examples of good practices related to supporting evolving users’ requirements;
- Supporting a wide range of users with different capacities and decision-making cultures;
- Evaluation, quality assurance and quality control to support the updating of platforms;
- Demonstrating the value of web-based adaptation platforms, including in terms of contributing to monitoring, evaluation and reporting on adaptation at national and international levels;
- Enhancing collaboration and harmonisation of platforms to promote quality and utility from the perspective of users.

Funded by the European Commission through the SPIPA¹ programme, KE4CAP will focus on promoting cooperation between EU countries and non-European major economies; challenge-focussed bi-laterals will be held between the EU and Canada, Japan and Australia, and global reach will be extended further through targeted collaborations with Mexico, South Africa, Argentina and India. European experts will be involved at all stages, and the challenges and lessons learnt will be documented and shared widely to help engage across SPIPA-targeted countries and Europe.

Project consortium:

Roger Street, University of Oxford, UK, roger.street@ouce.ox.ac.uk (lead)
Julia Barrott, Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden, julia.barrott@sei.org
Jeremy Gault, University College Cork, Ireland, J.Gault@ucc.ie
Barry O’Dwyer, University College Cork, Ireland, b.odwyer@ucc.ie
Kim van Nieuwaal, Climate Adaptation Services, Netherlands, kim@climateadaptationservices.com
Vicky Hayman, University of Oxford, UK, vicky.hayman@ouce.ox.ac.uk (project coordinator)

¹ This work is being funded by the European Commission as part of the Strategic Partnerships for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA). It builds on and complements existing European climate policy dialogues and cooperation with Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Mexico, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, and the USA.