

# EU-Level Technical Guidance on adapting buildings to Climate Change

Stakeholder Meeting

29<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**RAMBOLL**

Bright ideas.  
Sustainable change.



# Agenda

**01** [11.00 – 11.05] Welcome

**02** [11.05 – 11.20] Introduction by the European Commission

**03** [11.20 – 11.25] What is the purpose and structure of the project?

**04** [11.25 – 11.30] Ice-breaker – Who are you and why are you here?

**05** [11.30 – 12.05] How does the draft Technical Guidance look like?

**06** [12.05 – 12.15] Q&A

**07** [12.15 – 12.25] How can you contribute?

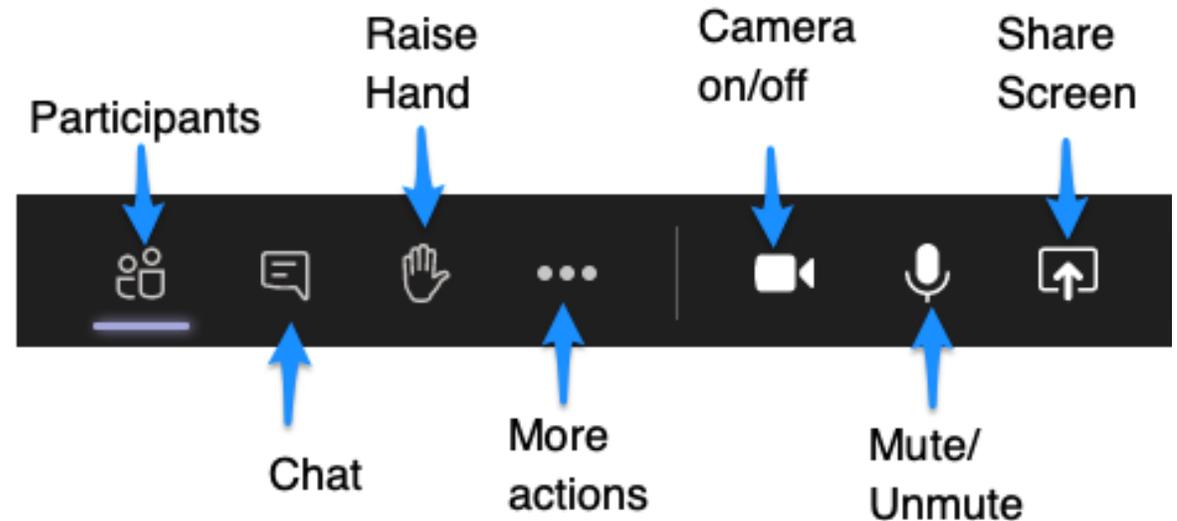
**08** [12.25 – 12.30] Concluding remarks

# Welcome

The aim of **this Stakeholder Meeting** is to present the **first draft of the EU-Level Technical Guidance on adapting buildings to climate change**, and to inform you on **how you can contribute** to improving it.

# Online etiquette

1. Please **mute** your microphone when joining the call.
2. For feedback, please use the **chat** during presentations.
3. The **feedback sessions** are the main discussion opportunities.
4. You can **raise your hand** if you wish to speak. Once the facilitator invites you to take the floor, you can **unmute** yourself.



Reminder: The meeting will be **recorded**.  
Let us know in case you do not wish to appear in the record.

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# Introduction

## by the European Commission



# Buildings in the EU's climate adaptation policy framework –

*Andras Toth*

*Adaptation Unit  
Directorate General for Climate Action*

**EU-Level Technical Guidance on adapting buildings to Climate Change**

**Stakeholder Meeting , 29 June 2022**

# EU policy on climate resilience of buildings

- **Overarching policy documents (part of the European Green Deal):**
  - Commission Communications :
    - Renovation Wave, October 2020
    - EU Climate Adaptation Strategy, February 2021
  - EU Climate Law, July 2021
- **Specific initiatives in the past two years:**
  - Level(s) Framework
  - Sustainable Finance Taxonomy
  - New European Bauhaus
  - Proposals for the revision of Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the Construction Products Regulation
  - Digital Building Logbook
  - Green Public Procurement criteria for public buildings
  - European Standardisation Organisations (mandated by Commission) revised building standards to take into account future climate

# Thank you



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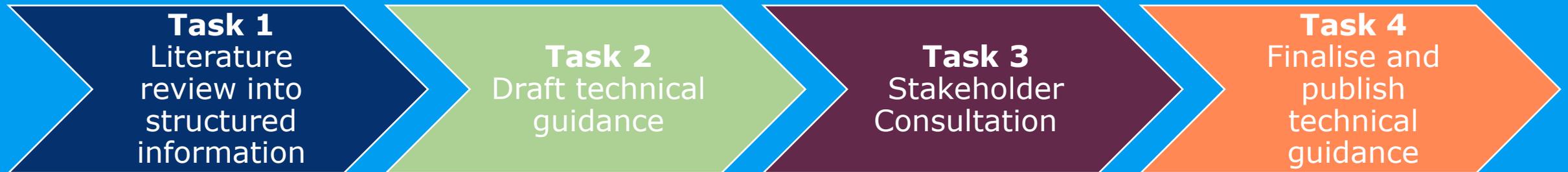
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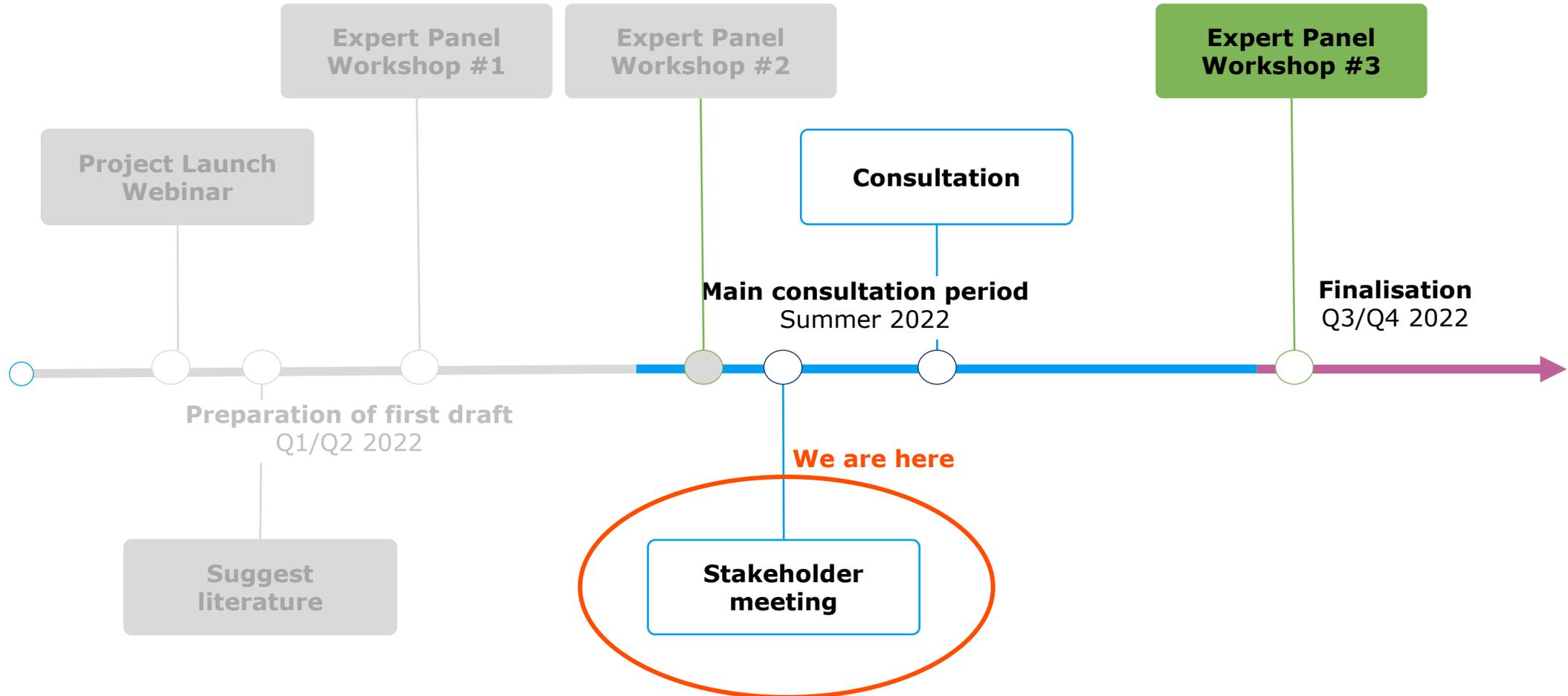
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The focus of the project is to:

“to collect and synthesise existing methods, specifications, best practice and guidance for climate resilient buildings into a report that can provide practical advice.”



# Where are we in the project?



# Overview of the Technical Guidance

## PROJECT WORKSTREAMS

### POLICY & STANDARDS REVIEW

#### European Policy & Standardization Environment Adaptation Review

TOR 3.2.2

Review of EU and member state national policies and regulations relevant to the adaptation of buildings for climate change.



#### Climate Resilience in Structural Design Review

TOR 3.2.3

Review of the structural design of buildings to the Eurocodes and national regulations relevant to designing for climate resilience in buildings.



### RISK ASSESSMENT & RATING REVIEW

#### Climate Vulnerability & Risk Assessment Methodology

TOR 3.2.1

Review of Climate Vulnerability & Risk Assessment methodology for buildings and blocks of buildings from existing methodologies.



#### Climate Resilience Rating Approach

TOR 3.2.5

Review of rating approaches for climate resilience for buildings, exploring the criteria, approach type, and link to CVRA methodology.



### BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE

#### Best Practice for enhancing Climate Resilience

TOR 3.2.4 + 3.2.6

Assembly of best practice climate resilience guidance for buildings and as integrated into the local environment. Best practice case studies will be categorised by climatic hazards with supporting guidance given in reference to the different processes or priorities by climatic zone, project stage and building sector actor.



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# Who are you and why are you here?

We would like to get to know you and your interests with regards to the Technical Guidance better:

- Go on [menti.com](https://www.menti.com)
- Type in the code: **6816 9661**

Or scan the QR code:



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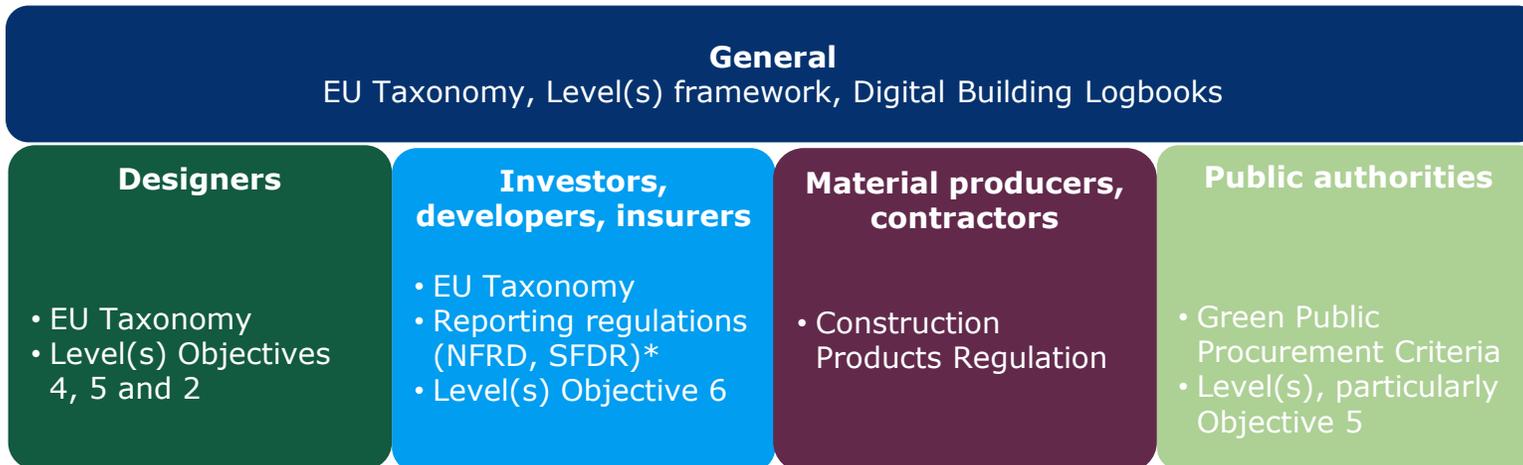
# European Policy & Standardization Environment Adaptation Review



Review of EU and member state national policies and regulations relevant to the adaptation of buildings for climate change.

# Overview

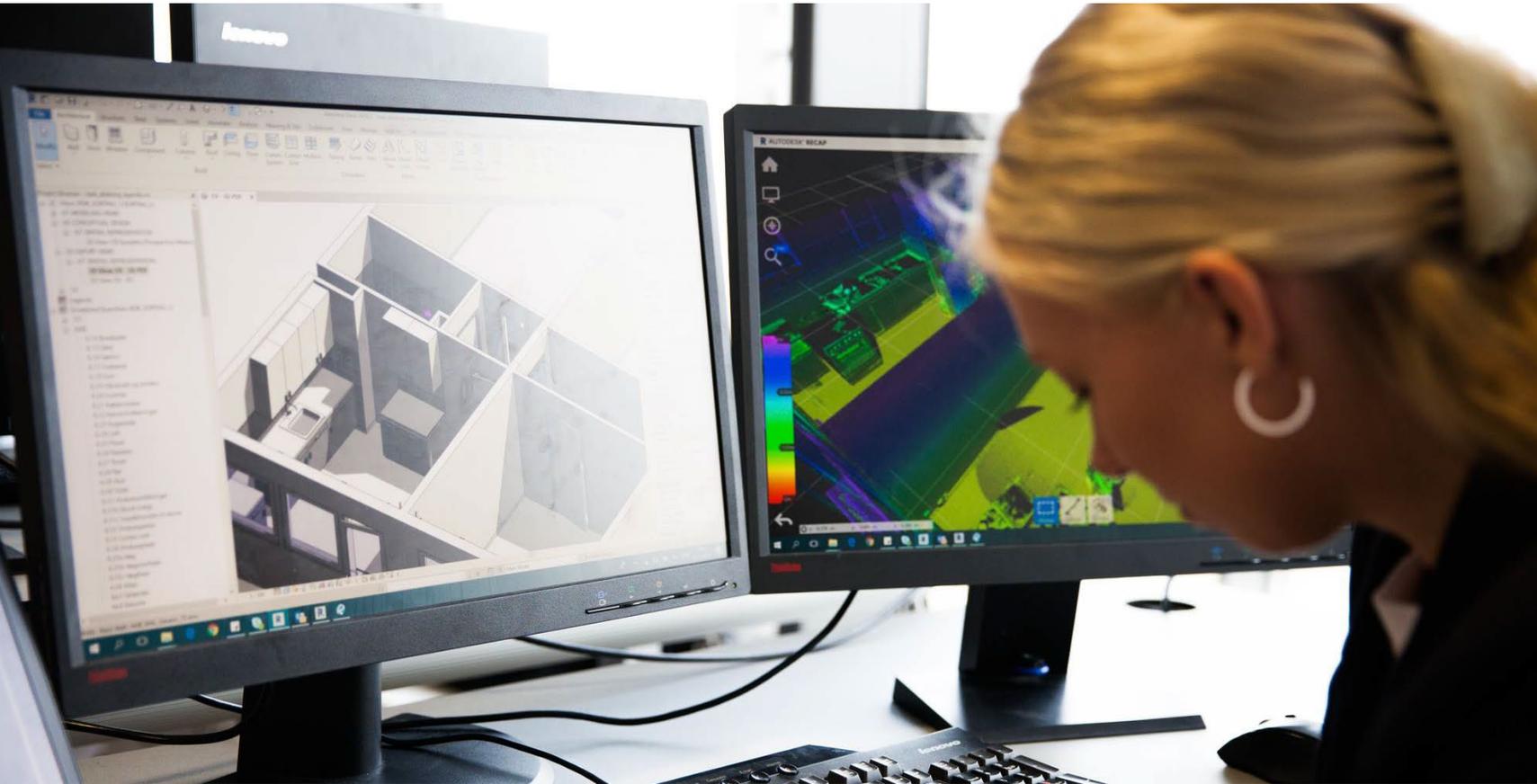
- Key contents:
  - **EU strategies** for climate adaptation and their relation to buildings
  - Identification of instruments in **national policies**
  - Overview of **EU regulatory instruments** and standards
  - Summary of **impacts, synergies and trade-offs** with other EU policy objectives



\* NFRD: Non-Financial Reporting Directive; SFDR: Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation

## European Policy & Standardization Environment Adaptation Review

# Climate Resilience in Structural Design Review



Review of the structural design of buildings to the Eurocodes and national regulations relevant to designing for climate resilience in buildings.

# Overview

## Structural design review

- Report summarises the current state of structural design building standards at a European and national level.
- The primary structure is considered in relation to the priority hazards identified within the EU Taxonomy classification.
- The approach of Eurocodes both present and future are discussed.
  - Future Eurocodes look to address climate resilience through scaling factors.
- Findings for national regulations are presented and includes Europe and other countries worldwide.
- Best practice guidance is provided, linked to the EU Taxonomy classification
- Typically current guidance is based on historic data sets instead of predictive data and no countries have fully implemented future climate risks.
- There is an important balance between providing resilience without over-specifying a structure and the associated increase in carbon emissions that this incurs.

## Climate Resilience in Structural Design Review

# Climate Vulnerability & Risk Assessment Methodology



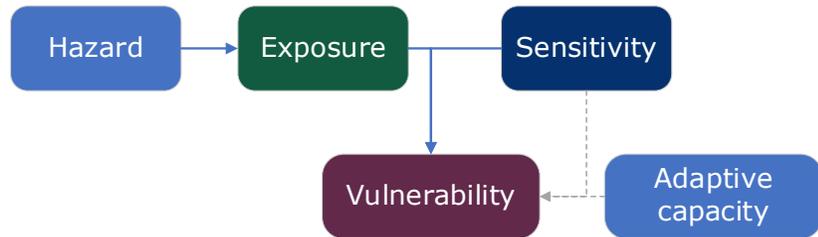
Review of recent publications which provide information on robust approaches to climate vulnerability and risk assessment (CVRA) with a focus on those which are most applicable to the building sector.

# Overview

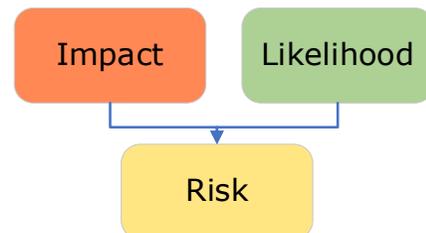
## CVRA Review & Recommendations

- Report summarises existing approaches to CVRA that are potentially relevant to buildings.
- Identified core elements required and modifications needed to complete a CVRA for a building
- Suggest a practical, phased approach as outlined below.

Phase 1:



Phase 2:



## Climate Vulnerability & Risk Assessment Methodology

# Climate Resilience Rating Approach



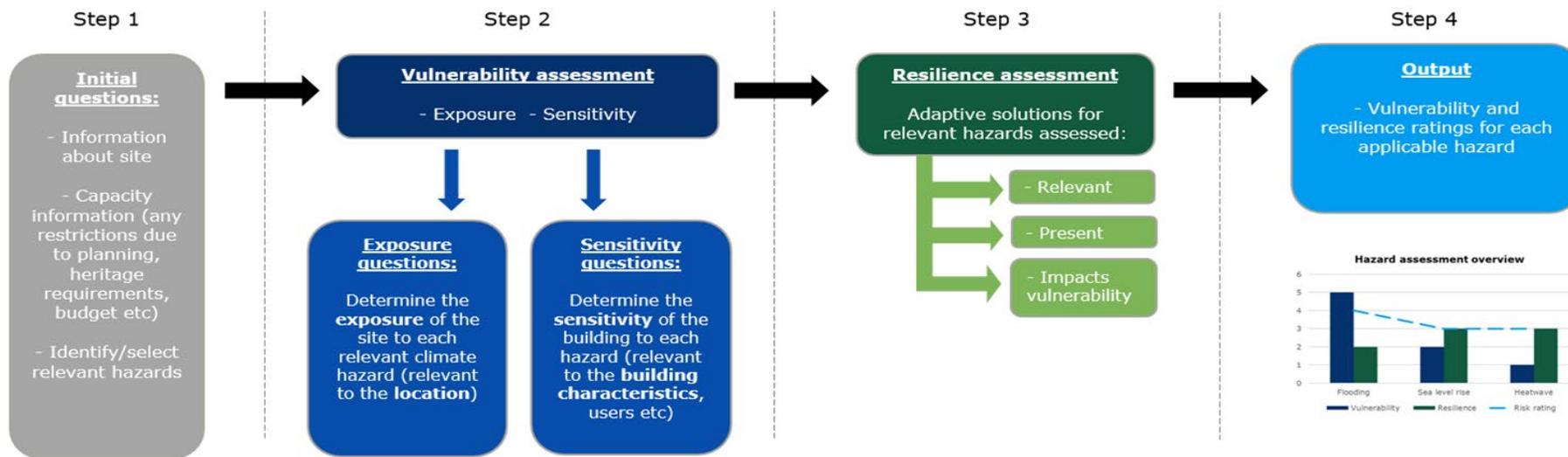
Review of rating approaches for climate resilience for buildings, exploring the criteria, approach type, and link to CVRA methodology.

# Overview

- Focussed on approaches and tools available to rate the climate resilience of a building
- Suggest that a variety of approaches are required to meet the needs of all potential users
- Outline approach designed to provide basic climate resilience rating for small-scale developers/asset managers/owners

## Climate Resilience Rating Approach

### Process overview



# Best Practice for enhancing Climate Resilience



Assembly of best practice climate resilience guidance for buildings and as integrated into the local environment.

# Overview

The document provides guidance for the development of buildings that are adapted buildings.

The document provides guidance related to:

- Climate hazards which are split into **priority hazards** and **hazards** following **EU taxonomy classification**
- The **climatic zones** of Europe
- Different **stakeholder group/building actors**
- Defined **project stages**
- Includes **case studies** of best practice for the priority hazards



Best Practice for  
enhancing  
Climate Resilience

# Sample

## PRIORITY HAZARDS

This section evaluates best practice adaptation solutions for the priority hazards, i.e., those hazards that significantly impact a building and its users. The hazards evaluated are: heatwaves, storms, heavy precipitation, flooding, subsidence, and drought these are all categorised as acute hazards by the EU Taxonomy (Figure 1).

For each priority hazard, various solutions are identified and described for each part of the building's primary and secondary structure. The overall outcome is a comprehensive set of adaptation approaches which can be applied throughout the entirety of the building from its foundations to its roof. Although, the focus of adaptation approaches presented contained within the footprint of the building consideration must be paid to its immediate surroundings which interact with the building structure; adaptation approaches that are therefore not uniquely related to the structure of the buildings but may affect it have been described under the category of space considerations. The adaptation solutions described are best implemented following the hierarchy of solutions for climate adaptation presented in the figure below.



Collaboration and participation from actors involved in building construction and renovation is key to driving the implementation of the adaptation approaches put forward in this guide. However, it is not always clear for industry actors what their scope of intervention is or how they can support adaptation efforts. To facilitate this understanding, the guidance includes a series of actions and considerations that each key industry actor (governments/regulators/local authorities, design teams, buildings' users, investors/developers/insurance) can take on board when assessing approaches to buildings' adaptation to climate change.

The adaptation approaches proposed may affect a building's adaptation beyond the hazard that they were originally assessed for. This may result in one adaptation approach having a positive impact on other hazards as well as having a negative impact. The interaction between adaptation approaches across hazards has been critically evaluated on a case-by-case basis. A summary table is provided in each section to identify the interaction of the solution over the priority hazards and the positive and negative outcomes. Whenever there is a '+', this means that the solution can also benefit other hazards. An exclamation point is mentioned whenever the solution acts negatively or should be considered with care regarding other hazards. A complete table with all the solutions and interactions identified is presents in Table 1 in Appendix A.

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DG CLIMA Technical Guidance Report

### Priority Hazards

## 1. Heat Wave

### 1.1 Description

A heatwave is a prolonged period of extremely high temperature for a particular region. As part of climate change, higher temperatures and heatwaves have affected all parts of Europe in the past years and will become more frequent and intense in the future. This is even more pronounced in cities, where large volumes of heat absorbing materials and limited green spaces create the so-called Urban Heat Island effect. This creates higher surface daytime temperature, and the saturated thermal mass radiates heat to its surroundings which slows night-time cooling. For residents and occupants of buildings in both urban and rural areas, higher indoor temperatures can impact human health, well-being and productivity.

### 1.2 Solutions

Energy use for cooling equipment can be reduced by different adaptation mechanisms. Such mechanisms rely on reducing the exposure of the building surfaces to sunlight, reflecting sunlight, insulation, effective natural ventilation and use of elements and materials that have the capacity to absorb heat (Figure 2).

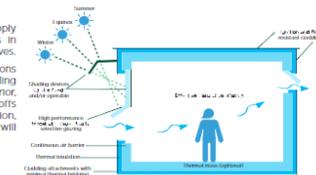
Name	Element	Impact on other hazards	Key considerations
Orientation of main facades away from direct sunlight to minimise exposure to sunlight	Building shape	N/A	Reduced energy demand and costs
Insulation	Walls, windows, roof	+ Heatwaves	+ Reduced energy demand and costs
Exterior shading for windows	Windows	! Storms	+ Reduced energy demand and costs
Green roof	Roofs, vegetation	+ Drought + Heavy Precipitation	+ Benefits for biodiversity + Higher embodied carbon because of additional load from roof structure
Light outside colours	Walls, roofs	N/A	Reduced energy demand and costs
Green façades	Vegetation, walls	+ Drought ! Storms	+ Benefits for biodiversity + Reduced energy demand and costs
Photovoltaic panels on roof	Roof	! Storms	! Reduced energy source
Exterior vegetation to provide shading to the building	Vegetation	+ Drought ! Storms	+ Benefits for biodiversity + Reduced energy demand and costs
Effective natural ventilation	Space layout	N/A	Reduced energy demand and costs
Thermal mass and phase change materials	Preferred materials	N/A	+ Reduced energy demand and costs High embodied carbon from materials with high inertia
Geocooling	Other	N/A	Renewable energy source
District cooling networks	Other	N/A	Only possible where district cooling networks exist

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Figure 2: Overview of different adaptation solutions to heatwaves.

These solutions predominantly apply to high temperature conditions in general and not only to heatwaves.

The main objective of the solutions presented here is the safeguarding of human well-being at the interior, while co-benefits and trade-offs for climate change mitigation, biodiversity and other hazards will be highlighted where relevant.



#### 1.2.1. Building shape

Sunlight transmits substantial amounts of the heat energy to the surfaces exposed to it. In particular, the light reaching the building interior (e.g. through windows, glass facades, etc.) increases indoor temperatures. Positioning a building away from direct sunlight can therefore minimise heat gain (Porritt et al., 2011).

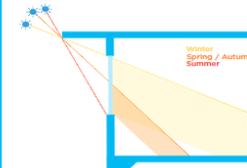
The building shape and orientation can help to reduce exposure of the building by considering the path of the sun. The direction of major facades and interior organisation of the building need to be designed in relation to this (National Building Specification NBS, 2014). Heat gains will be highest in parts of the building exposed in south-western direction. Avoiding open air flow on the inside from rooms in this direction to other parts of the buildings creates temperature zones. The result are lower temperature zones that can serve as primary work and living areas or even rescue zones during extreme heat. While such zones offer benefits for temperature regulation, considerations of indoor air quality may require specific ventilation mechanisms to ensure adequate air exchange.

The ideal orientation depends on local sun-paths and temperature profiles of other seasons. In peak summer, east and west-facing facades can heat up considerably in the morning and evening respectively. North and south-facing facades generally provide a balance of minimising heat gains in summer but allowing lighting and solar heating in winter months.

#### 1.2.2. Foundation

Technical solutions also exist to install in a building to increase its capacity to adapt to heat. Similar to geothermal heat generation, geocooling can be an option to use heat pumps for directing heat from the indoor air to the ground, as this is usually cooler than ambient air during peak temperature hours. Such as system can be designed for geothermal heating and cooling depending on the season.

#### 1.2.3. Walls and windows



Walls and windows offer several solutions to adapt a building to heatwaves. Firstly, the insulation of the building envelope is crucial in helping buildings adapt to higher temperatures. A building with more insulation will take longer to heat up during a heatwave event. Additionally, to avoid unwanted heat exchange and improve the energy performance of the building, design details should avoid thermal bridges, particularly around windows and the connections between floors and walls.

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[12.05 – 12.15] Q&A

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[12.15 – 12.25] How can you contribute?

08

[12.25 – 12.30] Concluding remarks

# Do you have any questions?

Let us know if you have questions about our study OR the draft Technical Guidance, by:

- Writing in the **chat**
- Raising your **hand** and taking the floor



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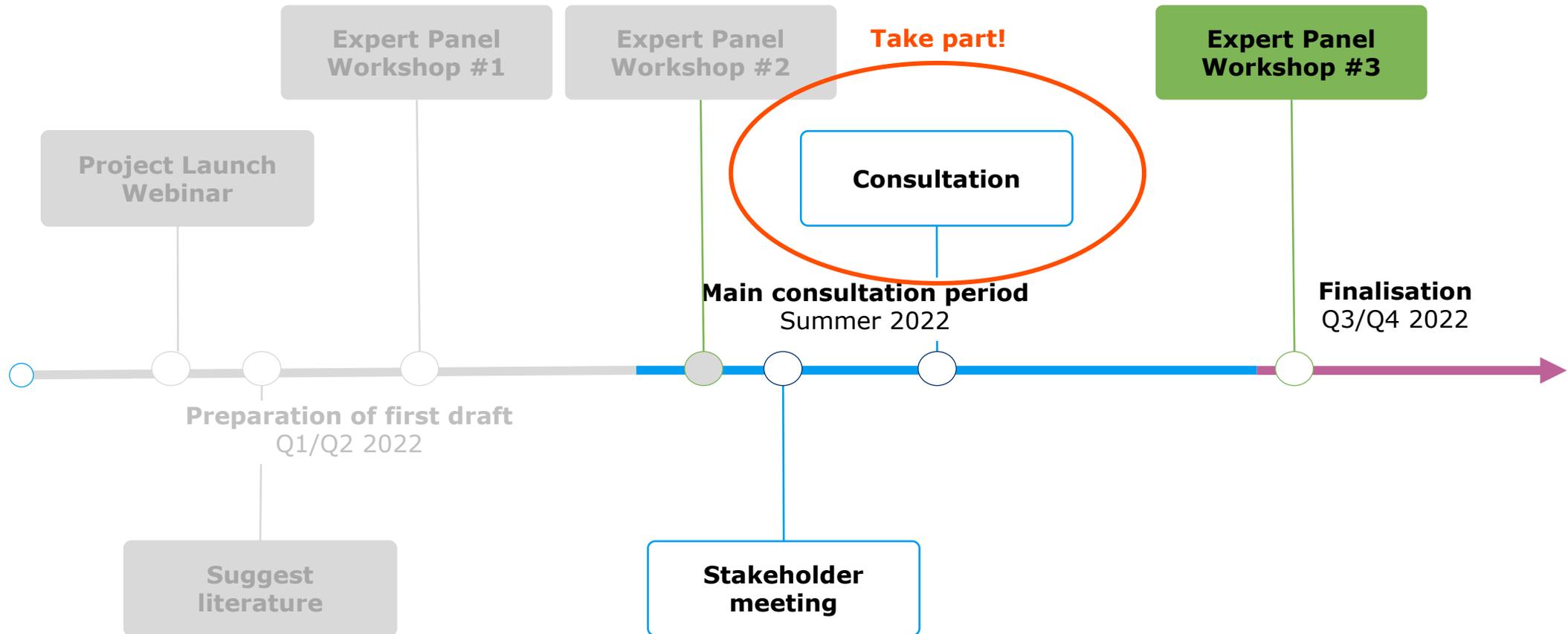
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# How can you contribute?



# How does the public consultation work?

## Why

To give (expert) stakeholders the opportunity to provide their **input to the development** of the Technical Guidance, so as to ensure that this is **useful** and **relevant** for a broad audience.

## When

The Consultation will be open from the **30<sup>th</sup> of June** to the **16<sup>th</sup> of September 2022**

## How

You will receive an **email** with link to download the **draft Technical Guidance**, as well as a **link to the survey** that constitutes the public consultation. You will be able to provide your feedback by filling in a short questionnaire.

## What will we do with the feedback?

The study team will assess the feedback and will use it to **revise and finalise** the Technical Guidance, by the end of 2022.

**RAMBOLL**

### Feedback on the first draft of the EU-Level Technical Guidance on adapting buildings to climate change

#### Why are we contacting you today?

The European Commission has initiated a **study to collect and synthesise existing methods, specifications, best practices and guidance for climate-resilient buildings into a technical guidance document that can provide practical advice** for professionals and be referenced or used in different EU policy documents. You can find more information on the study's website: <https://c.ramboll.com/adapting-buildings>

The study team has produced the **first draft of the EU-Level Technical Guidance on adapting buildings to climate change**. You can download the Guidance [HERE](#).

With this short survey, **we invite you to provide your feedback on the first draft of the Technical Guidance, and to share your insights on how this could be further improved**. This is crucial as it is of the utmost importance that this document is directly relevant and easily applicable to all relevant stakeholders within the construction industry ecosystem.

#### Who should answer?

The survey is targeted at all stakeholders that play a role within the construction industry ecosystem, from architects and designers to manufacturers of construction products, public authorities, insurance industry and building users. Feel free to share the link to this survey to any colleague from within your network that might have insights on the adaptation of buildings to climate change.

Please note that this survey is strictly confidential - Your identity will not be disclosed, and the survey will remain anonymous. The results will be reported at an aggregate level.

#### How does the survey work?

The survey is organised into 3 short sections:

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# Concluding remarks

# Thank you

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Sustainable change.

