

Climate adaptation and citizen participation - What do citizens think of the measures to adapt to climate change?



The ISaR core group on adaptation to the consequences of climate change

Report on the participation of the ISaR core group in the "Climate adaptation and health" summit on 30 September 2025

We would like to thank the Department for Generations, Demography, Inclusion and Social Planning and the "Pro Seniorinnen und Senioren im Kreis Düren" coordination centre, in particular Ms Carolin Küpper, Ms Gina Pelzer and Ms Monika Sandjon, for their support of the project. We would also like to thank Ms Franziska Holzkamp-Plum, Ms Julia Richter and Mr Manfred Tümler for the organisation and implementation of the ISaR core group meeting (30.9.2024, Room 130, Düren District Administration), during which the exchange on climate adaptation measures took place.

Dear participants of the ISaR (Interessengemeinschaft Seniorenarbeit im Raum

Düren/Jülich) **core group**,

Thank you for your participation in the exchange on adaptation measures to the consequences of climate change. The same applies to your contribution on how to deal with the changing climate situation.

We have summarised your opinions and experiences on the subject under "Results".

Who conducted the summit?

The Public Health Department Düren is participating in a cross-border project (euPrevent Active Citizenship Participation, ACP) in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine (EMR), which includes your place of residence. The project aims to promote citizen participation in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. We would like to know what citizens think about various measures to adapt to climate change in their home town and what protective measures they would like to see for the entire Euregio. This survey will be conducted around Aachen in the 3 border regions of Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

The questionnaire originates from the German survey instrument "StadtRaumMonitor", and was supplemented by a few questions, e.g. the questions on the Euregio.

The project is called EuPrevent ACP, more information can be found on the [homepage](https://euprevent.eu/de/projekt-euprevent-acp/):
<https://euprevent.eu/de/projekt-euprevent-acp/>

What happens to your data?

We treat your data completely anonymously. The results are handled in accordance with the European General Data Protection Regulation ([GDPR](#)).

At the end of the project in September 2025, your results - in combination with those of all participants - will be published on the project website. We will also present the opinions and wishes of the citizens of the Euregio Meuse Rhine to politicians and administrations.

Thank you for your support!



Gefinancierd in het kader van Common Ground, een project van Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH
Gefördert im Rahmen von Common Ground, einem Projekt der Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH
Soutenu dans le cadre de Common Ground, un projet de la Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH



Results

The most important results at a glance

11 people actively participated in the meeting of the ISaR core group on 30 September 2024. All participants live in the district of Düren. Nine of them come from the city of Düren and one each from the municipalities of Nörvenich and Vettweiß.

All participants travel to neighbouring countries at least once a year; the clear majority even travel several times a year.

The information provided by the participants can be summarised as follows:

1. There is not only a need for more freely accessible drinking water fountains, but above all for more information on their locations as well as on other available climate adaptation aids. In concrete terms, this means there is a need for directories and maps showing where drinking water fountains, cooled rooms, shaded areas or emergency aids such as AEDs, shelters or rescue points can be found. The suggestion was to publish information on support structures on city maps, listings in local authority newsletters and on information signs.
2. All of the climate adaptation measures presented were considered relevant. Most frequently, greenery and the use of warning and emergency apps were considered important.
3. There is strong support for a euregional approach to the design of warning and information systems. Most participants frequently spend time in the Netherlands and Belgium, making cross-border environmental and emergency information a logical necessity.

On the results of the individual questions:

(As this is a small group of 11 participants, we present the results in absolute figures)

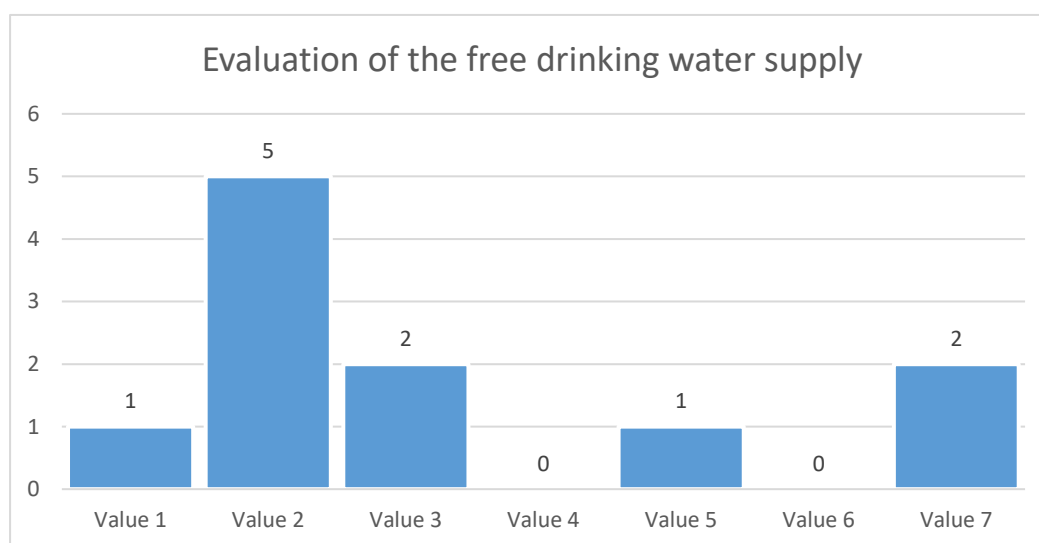


Drinking Water

Due to climate change, it is often more hot and dry. Especially during the summer, it is important for your health to drink plenty of water - also when you're away from home. In the Euregio Meuse-Rhine, tap water is of very good quality. Free, easily accessible and appealing drinking water supplies, such as public fountains, can therefore be very helpful.

How do I rate the availability of free drinking water in my surroundings?

The participants rated this question from **1 = very bad** to **7 = very good**.



Average: 3.27

Participants rate the availability of free drinking water in their area as rather poor.

Feedback

The availability and locations of free drinking water are often unknown. Suggested solutions include informational materials such as location directories (e.g., in local newsletters), city maps with marked spots, and clear signage.

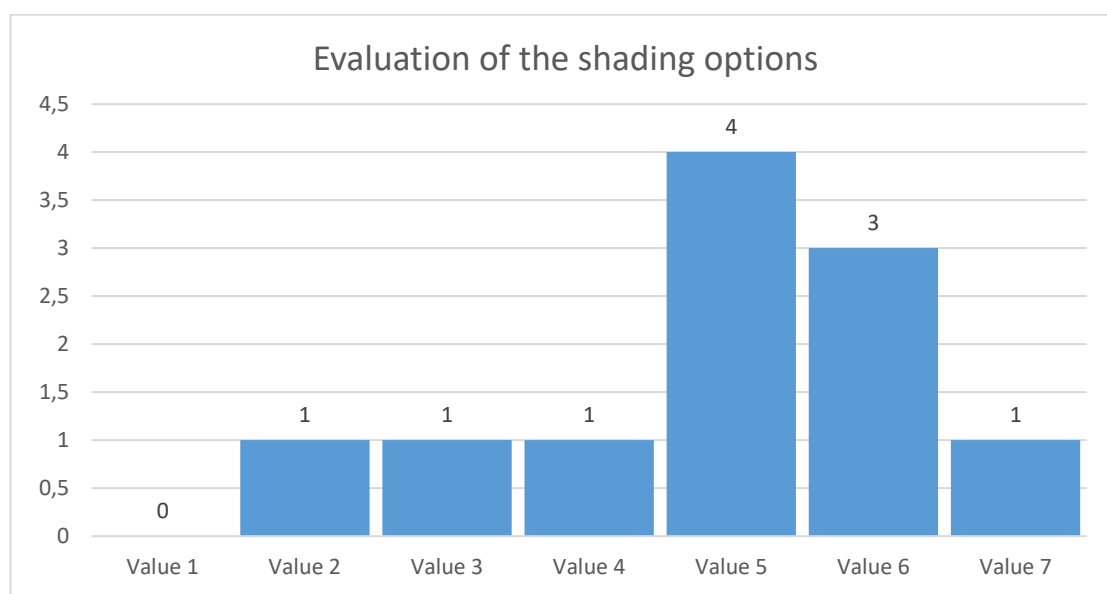


Cooling outside

Our cities and communities are becoming warmer due to climate change - especially where buildings are close together. Green spaces and water features as well as sunshades and the like help to cool the environment.

How do I rate the shading and cooling options in my neighbourhood?

The participants rated this question from **1 = very bad** to **7 = very good**.



Average: 4.91

Participants mostly rate the availability of shaded and cooling areas outside buildings as moderate to positive.

Feedback:

Participants mostly rate the availability of shaded and cooling areas outside buildings as moderate to positive. However, there is a strong desire for increased greenery. While the situation varies by location, more vegetation and shading are particularly requested in functional areas such as sidewalks, bike paths, playgrounds, sports fields, schoolyards, meeting points, and public transport stops.

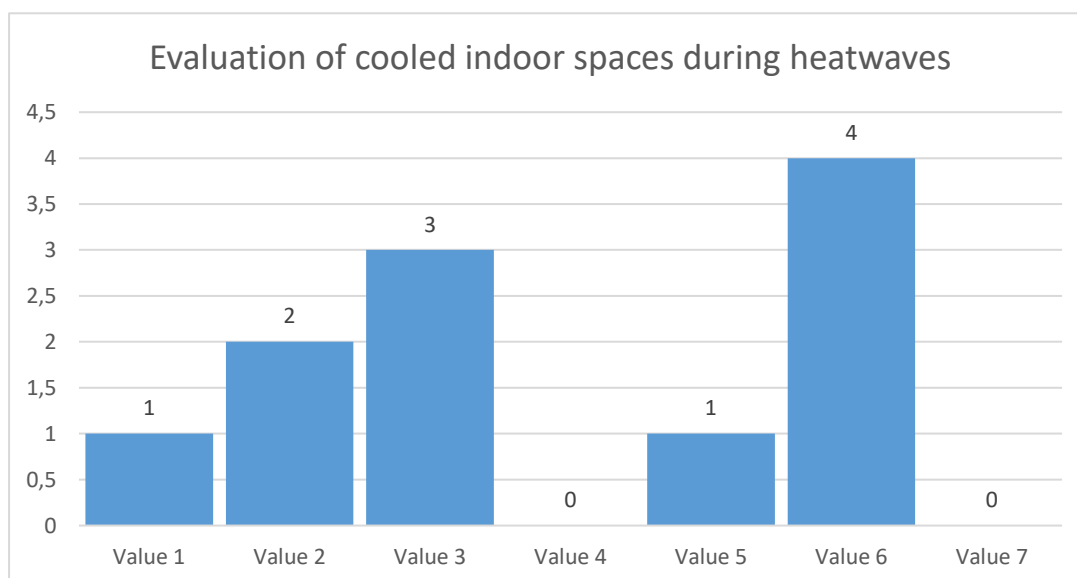


Cooling inside

When it gets hot, cool public indoor spaces can also help in the short term when you are away from home. However, cool public spaces should be available, open and freely accessible during the day.

How do I assess the availability of cool indoor spaces in my neighbourhood?

The participants rated this question from **1 = very bad** to **7 = very good**.



Average: 3.91

For this question, the ratings are spread across almost the entire spectrum. A clear assessment is not possible.

Feedback

The participants use retail shops as places to cool down. Air conditioning systems in schools are suggested.

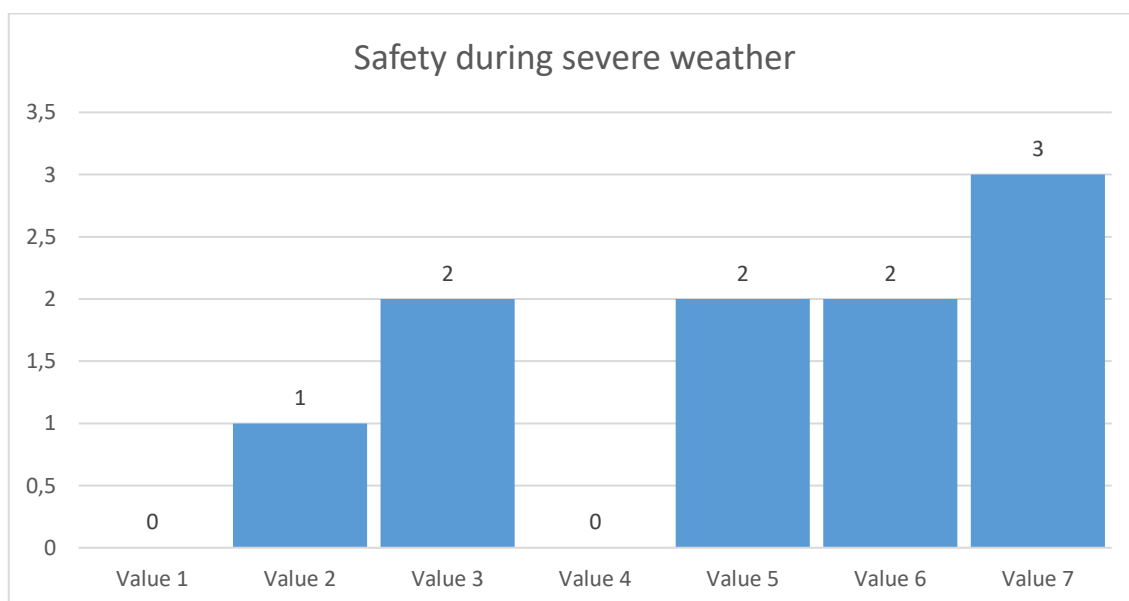


Extreme weather protection

In addition to heat, climate change often leads to other extreme natural events such as storms, heavy rain or flooding. We cannot completely prevent these. And they often happen quite suddenly. However, good preparation can reduce the risks and minimise the damage.

How do I assess the safety of my surroundings in the event of heavy rain, flooding and storms?

The participants rated this question **1 = very bad** to **7 = very good**.



Average value: 5.1

The safety situation in the event of extreme weather events is assessed rather positive.

Feedback

Missing information is also pointed out in this area.

Now think back to your visits to neighbouring countries!

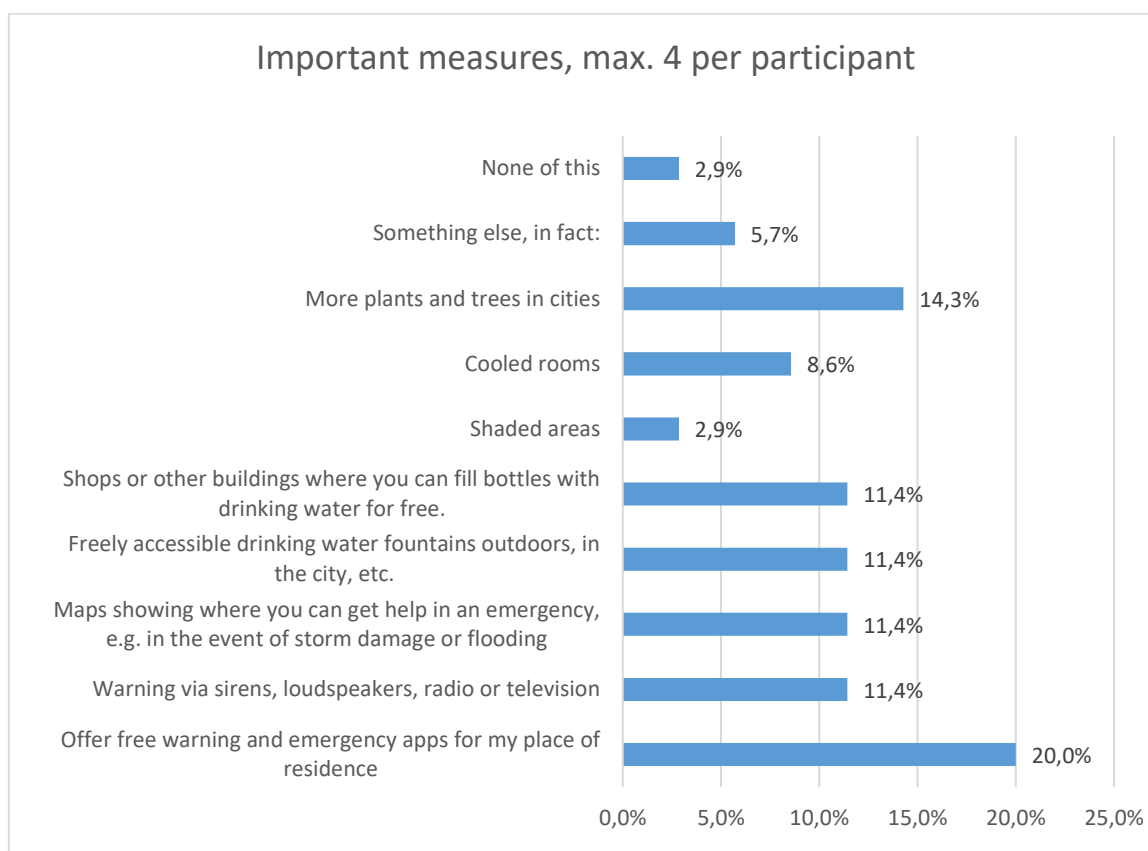
What did you like about one or more of these issues there: **drinking water, cooling outside & inside, and extreme weather protection?**

And what did you find less good?

Feedback

The experiences of ISaR core group survey participants abroad do not present a clear or uniform picture of best practices that should be adopted in Germany. However, positive examples mentioned include better access to drinking water and more effective flood protection in the Netherlands compared to Germany. At the same time, there is also room for improvement in neighboring countries. Specifically, ISaR participants highlighted the need for better information on available support during climate events.

Evaluation of various measures that can be used to respond to the consequences of climate change where you live.



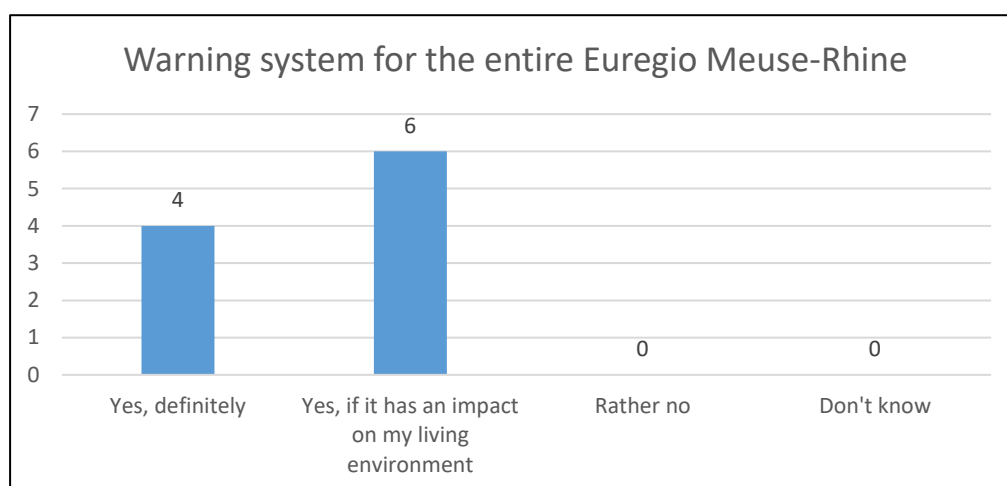
Feedback

All proposed measures received some level of support. The most favored were greening initiatives and the provision of warning and emergency apps to ensure timely alerts and assistance in critical situations. Additionally, two alternative suggestions were made, both advocating for more public restrooms.

If events related to climate change take place in a neighbouring country, this can also have an impact on you and your living environment.

What would be important for you personally in such a case?

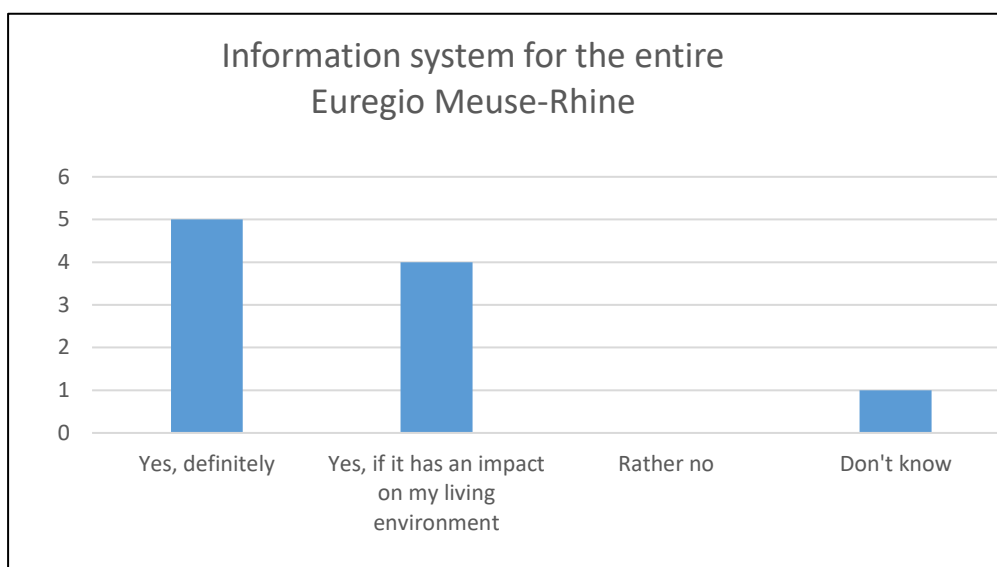
Would you like a warning system (e.g. an app) that warns the entire Euregio Meuse-Rhine when acute climate events are imminent? (e.g. heat, storms, floods)



Feedback

The participants clearly spoke out in favour of a climate warning system that also takes neighbouring countries into account.

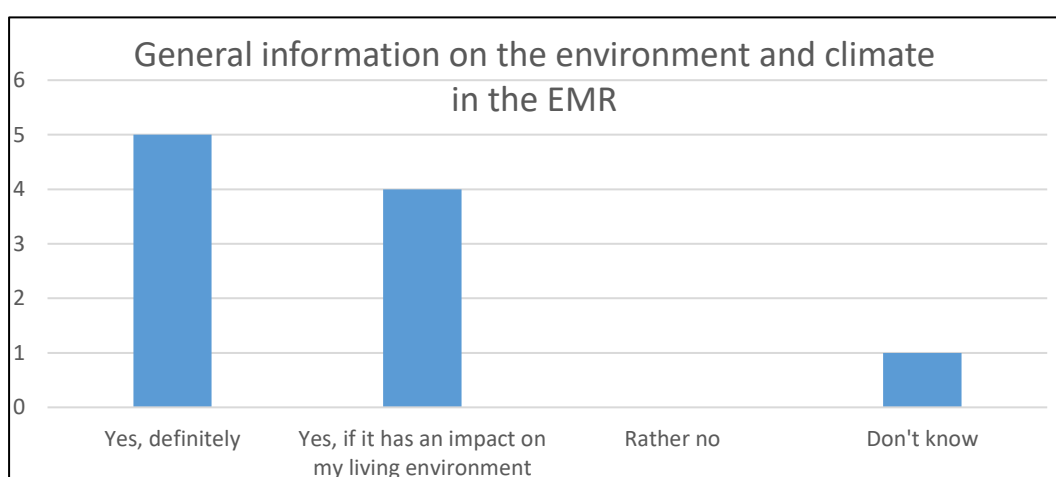
Would you like an information system (e.g. an app) that informs people throughout the Euregio Meuse-Rhine about where they can get support services or help in emergencies when such extreme weather events occur?



Feedback:

An information system for emergency assistance should cover the entire Euregio Meuse-Rhine.

Would you like to receive general information about current environmental or climate issues in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine?



Feedback

The vast majority of respondents in the ISaR core group would also like to be informed about current environmental and climate developments in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine