**MAIA Knowledge Tools Launch Event Report**

📅 Date: April 23, 2025
🕐 Time: 15:00–16:00 CET
📍 Location: Online
👥 Attendees: 58

## Overview

The MAIA EU Project hosted a successful **Knowledge Tools Launch Event** aimed at presenting a suite of innovative knowledge tools developed to enhance climate knowledge brokering and support informed decision-making in climate and resilience planning. The session drew 58 participants, including researchers, practitioners, and members of innovation ecosystems across Europe.

## Objectives

The event introduced key tools designed to tackle the challenge of fragmented and inaccessible climate information. These tools are built to connect dispersed knowledge, increase its usability and interoperability, and ultimately support more impactful climate action across multiple sectors.

## Tools Presented

1. **MAIA Climate Connectivity Hub**
   Presented by Sukaina Bharwani (Stockholm Environment Institute), the hub is a prototype digital discovery tool that connects climate-related knowledge across multiple platforms using AI. The Hub's objectives are:
   - Connecting projects, organisations, and key climate terms across platforms to enhance collaboration and learning and highlight knowledge gaps.
   - Mapping organisations by topic to reveal collaboration patterns, highlight knowledge gaps, and promote cross-disciplinary connections.
   - Surfacing emerging shared vocabularies from project outcomes to improve understanding and alignment across research, policy, and practice.

   These goals are achieved through a robust, dynamic approach that enhances information interoperability, using a standardised, evolving taxonomy rooted in IPCC and UNDRR glossaries.

   **Platforms included on the Hub**

     - CORDIS, the EU Research and Development project database (currently, a limited dataset is online for testing and feedback purposes)

- ○ PreventionWeb, the knowledge-sharing program of the United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNDRR)
- ○ weADAPT, the global climate adaptation platform and network of the Stockholm Environment Institute
- ○ The Resilience Platform, an online space to capture, access, co-create and advance the latest resilience knowledge developed by GRP
- ○ Climate-ADAPT, the European Climate Adaptation Platform (coming soon!)

If you would like to connect your platform's content to the landscape of projects in the Connectivity Hub, please get in touch.

Do also share any feedback to improve the tool and enhance its usability.

2. **SummarAIse**

   Introduced by Denis Havlik (Austrian Institute of Technology), the SummarAIse tool extracts appointed information from multiple sources according to user queries. Designed for experts, it enables:

   - ○ Batch processing of documents using customizable prompts and open-source models.

   - ○ Automatic summarisation, tagging, and question-answering from trusted document sources.

   - ○ Enhanced traceability and transparency with linked source references and exportable results.

3. **MAIA Discovery Services**

Presented by Andrea Geyer (Smart Cities Consulting), these services offer a matchmaking platform connecting local governments and businesses with climate solutions and knowledge. Key features include:

- Contextualised searches adapted to regional legal and development environments, helping users find the most relevant solutions for their local challenges.

- Support for regional economic resilience through access to innovative climate-smart practices and knowledge, enabling informed decision-making and long-term planning.

- Seamless integration with websites and local networks to increase adoption and trust, allowing municipalities and organisations to embed the tools into their existing digital environments.

- Customizable solution pathways that guide users from problem identification to implementation, based on scientific insights and real-world use cases.

- Collaboration features that facilitate connections between similar regions or sectors facing comparable climate adaptation needs, fostering peer learning and co-development opportunities.

These services aim to empower local actors with actionable, evidence-based solutions while promoting cross-regional knowledge exchange and capacity building.
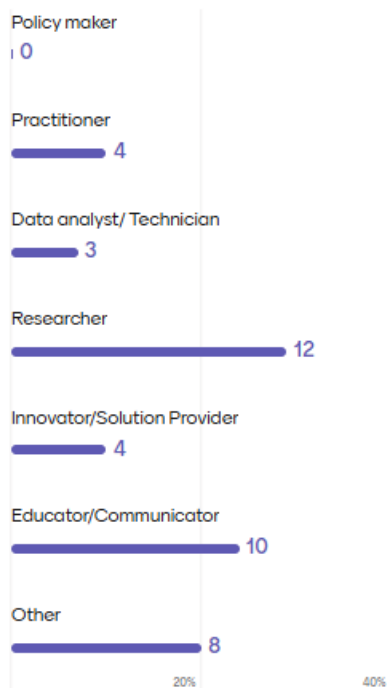
## Engagement & Feedback

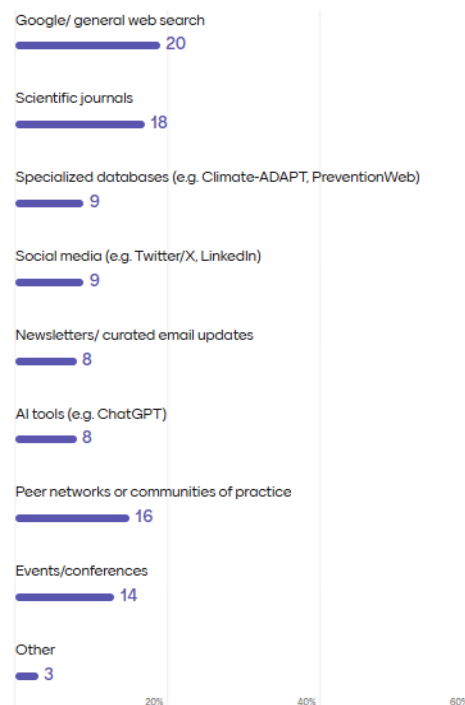A Mentimeter poll ran at the event helped to understand:

- Participant roles
- How do they usually find climate-related knowledge, data or solutions?
- What are the biggest challenges when looking at climate knowledge or solutions?
- How would they design their ideal climate knowledge platform?

Find the results below:

**What's your main role in the climate space?**

| Role | Value |
|---|---|
| Policy maker | 0 |
| Practitioner | 4 |
| Data analyst/ Technician | 3 |
| Researcher | 12 |
| Innovator/Solution Provider | 4 |
| Educator/Communicator | 10 |
| Other | 8 |

**How do you usually find climate-related knowledge, data, or solutions? ...)**

| Source | Value |
|---|---|
| Google/ general web search | 20 |
| Scientific journals | 18 |
| Specialized databases (e.g. Climate-ADAPT, PreventionWeb) | 9 |
| Social media (e.g. Twitter/X, LinkedIn) | 9 |
| Newsletters/ curated email updates | 8 |
| AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT) | 8 |
| Peer networks or communities of practice | 16 |
| Events/conferences | 14 |
| Other | 3 |

**What's your biggest challenge when searching for climate knowledge or solution?**

Most popular:

| outdated information | 2 | overload | 2 |
|---|---|---|---|

Also prominent:

- access — 1
- accessibility of results — 1
- ai tools are not reliable — 1
- assessing the data — 1
- consistent information — 1
- context — 1
- context-specificity — 1
- coverage — 1
- credibility — 1
- credible information — 1
- data interpretation — 1
- granularity — 1
- information — 1
- latest data — 1
- match with my own context — 1
- mis- and disinformation — 1
- often too abstract — 1
- overwhelming — 1
- poly crisis — 1
- quality — 1
- relevance — 1
- relevance for own policy — 1
- reliability — 1
- so many terminologies — 1
- suitability transfer — 1
- time and resources — 1
- too complex — 1
- too much information — 1
- trustworthiness — 1
- usability of results — 1
- verifying — 1
- verifying information — 1

**If you could design your ideal climate knowledge platform, what would it help you do?**

- be complete
- Identify and summarise the latest and most important news for your topic
- Local/ region specific content
- Create a narrative from past to present to future with consistency
- Convince people to willingly behave sustainable
- Tailored recommendations based on target audience
- All in one place yet easy to find
- Guide the user to make good choises for themselves
- Time saving
- Find local or region and specific content
- Save time, be trustworthy, be always up to date, be popular, used by others, give practice examples, easy to access
- Find suppliers of solutions
- Find practical materials relevant for farmers (organic)
- Contextualize my own challenge based on the experiences of other comparable regions
- Find and analyse trusted documents.
- Quickly search reliable, verified and up to date information from trusted, credible sources, saving me time and resources.
- Summaries.
- Simple summary of relevant info, with links to more details if you need them.
- discover synergies, region specific info
- region specific info
- Region specific knowledge
- translate and share updated data
- get tacit practice relevant knowledge as well as explicit codifiable knowledge
- Find relevant information in global context and institutions to contact at a regional level.
- Find the most reliable and important information in a structured way
- Give data interpretation based on the input
- Finding verified information

## What's Next

The tools are in prototype and refinement stages, with user feedback encouraged ahead of their showcase at the **European Climate Change Adaptation (ECCA) Conference** in June.

Participants were invited to:

- Explore the tools via the MAIA website upon publication.
- Particularly for the Connectivity Hub, a feedback survey will be shared after this event to gather input to improve the tool and enhance its usability.
- Join the MAIA Knowledge Group for deeper engagement, like discussing the use of AI in your application context and test-driving the MAIA AI tools.
- Propose exploitable solutions and knowledge items for the MAIA Discovery Services Marketplace.
- Stay connected via the MAIA website, newsletter and social media for updates and opportunities.