



Tackling local needs: the development of an adaptation strategy using a citizen survey

Kispest - Budapest District XIX, Hungary

IN A NUTSHELL

The Hungarian district of Kispest engaged citizens to collaborate in the development of their Sustainable Energy and Climate Adaptation Plan (SECAP) using a citizen survey.

Why a citizen survey for your SECAP?

In 2015, the district of Kispest decided to start developing a local climate adaptation plan. This intention drove Kispest to become a Covenant of Mayors signatory and commit to the development of a SECAP to reduce their CO₂ emissions by at least 40% by 2030. As part of the development of district's SECAP, Kispest decided to conduct a citizen survey to successfully plan their adaptation strategy in accordance with citizens' needs.

Citizen engagement and collaboration is becoming increasingly crucial to successfully face future climate hazards, especially to understand the main impacts of climate change on the population beyond climate data. Kispest used a citizen survey to complement their existent quantitative data, which relied heavily on national level data and lacked the necessary detailed information at district level. The Hungarian district launched a survey to serve both objectives of engaging local citizens in the process of climate adaptation and obtaining the necessary information to identify priority fields of action for their SECAP. As a result, Kispest included citizens' feedback and actions that were highlighted as most important in its adaptation plan.

Designing the citizen survey

High quality feedback provided by citizens depends on the correct survey design, including its accessibility and the type of questions asked. For this, Kispest conducted the survey through an online tool. The survey was built around a series of open-ended and structured



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KISPEST



Population:

60,731

Area

9.38 km²

Signatory to the Covenant of Mayors since:

2015

CO₂ emission reduction target:

-40% by 2030

questions, a useful practice in qualitative research to gain a comprehensive overview of local needs.

The citizens were asked whether they perceive climate change impacts in their everyday lives and were also asked to rate, from 1 to 5, which climate hazards they had experienced the most in their daily lives in the city in the last 10 years. These climate hazards included storms, extreme weather events, flooding, heatwaves and drought, among others. In addition, citizens were asked about the impacts associated with climate hazards and which ones caused the most serious problems in the city in the last 10 years, such as road deterioration due to floods, or health problems as a result of increased UV radiation. Finally, the citizens were asked to indicate which areas of the city required the most urgent action and if they would be willing to be actively engaged in resilience-building activities.

The survey was disseminated mainly by city officials, in cooperation with local NGOs.

Survey results

The results of the survey showed that more than 86% of respondents perceive climate change impacts in their everyday lives. More specifically, the climate hazards most experienced by citizens were storms, extreme weather events, flash flooding and heatwaves. When citizens were asked their preferred response action, 82% highlighted the creation of green areas and planting of trees.

Following the survey results, Kispest integrated citizens' views and suggestions in the SECAP. Some actions were planned specifically to reply to the results of the citizen survey, such as thermal insulation of buildings, in order to improve thermal comfort, and protect citizens from heatwaves and associated health problems. Since response to heatwaves was highlighted as a key priority for citizens replying to the survey, the municipality continued their work on installing water fountains in public areas. In addition, the creation of green spaces has a dedicated plan in Kispest's SECAP, with a strategy to develop and maintain more green areas in the district. Finally, these results have helped inform local leaders of the challenges and needs of the Hungarian district.

Another example of action that came from the engagement process was the establishment of a sustainable local food supply. Citizens stressed the need to strengthen the local food supply, with as little transport as possible, through supporting local food markets and community gardens. Among the main efforts put forward by Kispest include: The revitalisation of a garden culture through the free distribution and exchange of seeds, the planting of fruit trees and currant bushes in public buildings, a marketing campaign aimed at the differentiation of local/nearby producers, and the development of local catering based on local products which also creates job opportunities in the area.



KEY FIGURES

202 survey responses

86% of respondents perceive climate change impacts in their everyday lives

93% of respondents would be actively involved in a local programme aimed at building climate resilience in Kispest



FINANCING THE PROJECT

- + **Financing source(s):**
District's own budget
- + **Total amount:**
€3,700 invested for the development of the adaptation plan

USEFUL LINKS

- ▶ SECAP is available at: <https://uj.kispest.hu/onkormanyzat/koncepciok--strategiak/7969-fenntrathato-energia-es-klima-akciotervek-seap-secap>
- ▶ Link to the green office of Kispest: https://uj.kispest.hu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=285:zoldprogram-iroda&catid=93:irodak&Itemid=150



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