

Climate Change and Extreme Natural Events: Their Effects on Sustainability Transition Pathways

Prof. Phoebe Koundouri

**Professor and Director ReSEES Research Laboratory, School of Economics
ATHENS UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS**

President, European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists

Director, EIT Climate KIC Hub – Greece, ATHENA RC

Co-Chair, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) - Greece



THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Urgency of limiting global warming to +1.5C, beyond which the risk of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people, will significantly increase.

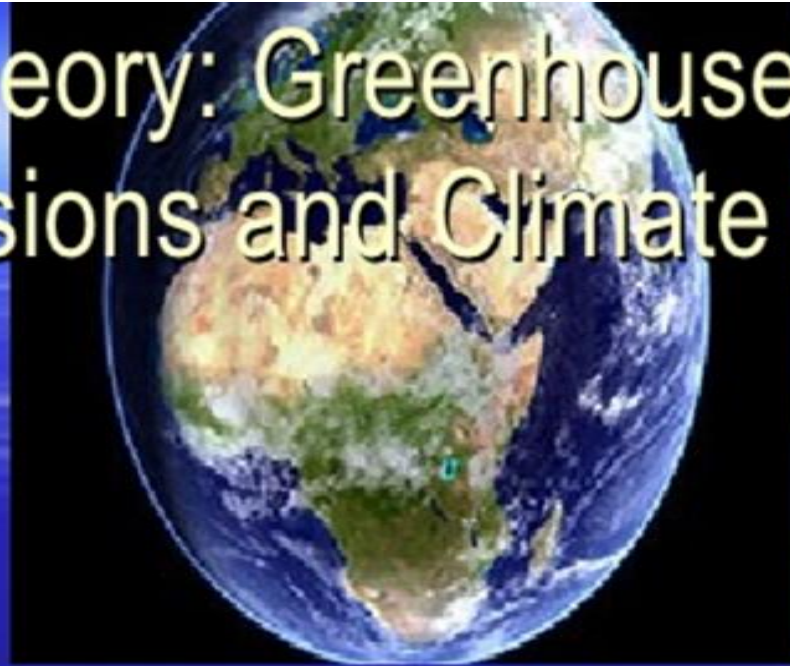
What are Natural Disasters?



NOAA 2007.

Earthquakes	Volcanoes	Tornadoes
Hurricanes	Floods	Droughts
Winter Storms	Wild Fires	Thunderstorms

Theory: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change



Alter the intensity and frequency of natural disasters that are regulated by atmospheric and oceanic conditions

Yes: hurricanes and cyclones, droughts, floods, thunderstorms, wild fires, winter storms

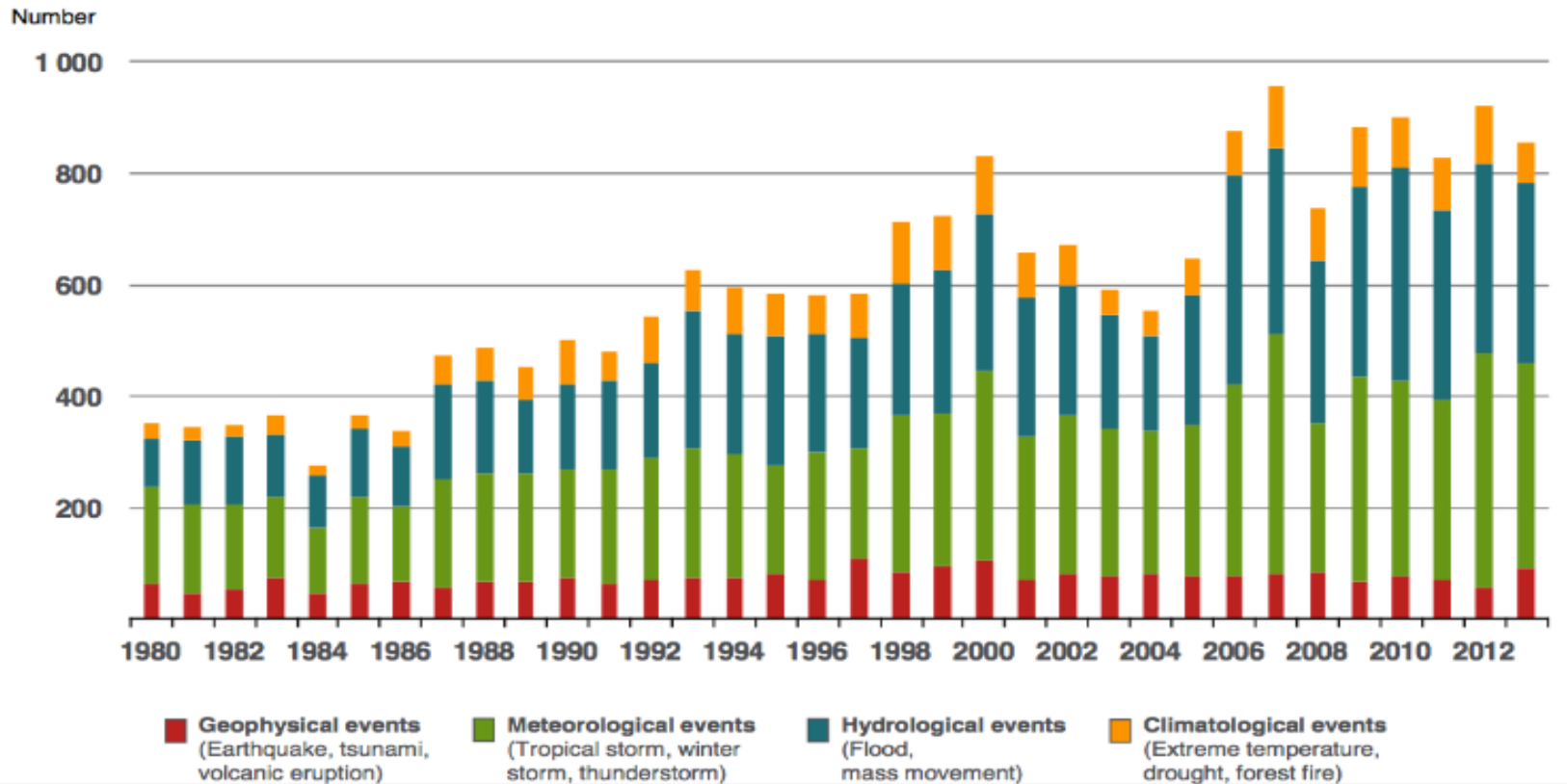
No: volcanoes, earthquakes

Maybe: tornadoes (no decisive verdict yet)

Natural Loss Events Worldwide 2015 – Geographical Overview



Damage costs from weather related disasters have been rising over the past 40 years and will likely continue to grow as climate change increases the intensity of storms, droughts, and floods.



Empirical Evidence on Damage
Costs from Weather Related
Disasters

Changing weather could put insurance firms out of business

Climate issue: The cost of comprehensive cover could become exorbitant, even as it is needed more than ever



Satoshi Kambayashi

The SDR 2019 proposes **SIX MAJOR TRANSFORMATIONS**

Leave No One Behind

	<p>1. Education, Gender, and Inequality</p> <p>SDGs 1-5, 7-10, 12-15, 17</p>		<p>2 Health, Wellbeing, and Demography</p> <p>SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10</p>
	<p>3. Energy Decarbonization and Sustainable Industry</p> <p>SDGs 1-16</p>		<p>4. Sustainable Food, Land, Water, and Oceans</p> <p>SDGs 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10-15</p>
	<p>5. Sustainable Cities and Communities</p> <p>SDGs 1-16</p>		<p>6. Digital Revolution for Sustainable Development</p> <p>SDGs 1.4, 7-13, 17</p>

Circularity and Decoupling

Are We on Track ?

Globally,
Sustainability
Transition has
started!
BUT...



Right on track:
Minority

Sustainable Development Report Dashboards 2019

Transformations to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals



BertelsmannStiftung



Making Progress but not Fast Enough
2013-2018 collectively, the warmest years in modern record

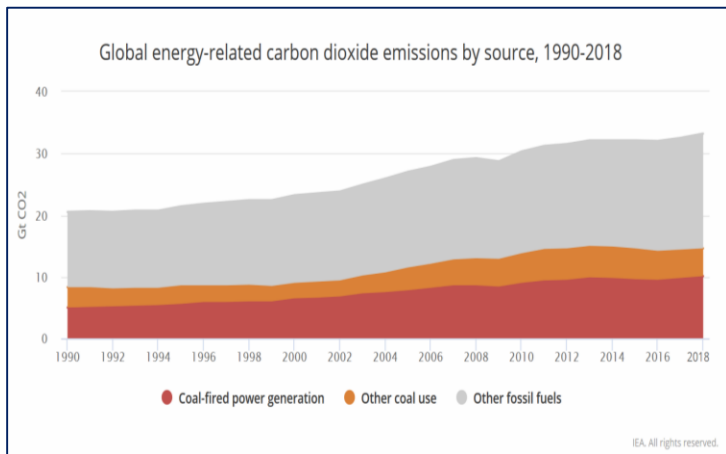
Europe Leading the way to climate-neutrality by 2050

European Commission president promised to commit to carbon neutrality by 2050 as part of a “green deal” for Europe.



- 2020: The EU is to submit its long-term strategy to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- European countries can lead by example and show how tackling climate change can be a condition for Europe’s prosperity and stability.

Aggressive de-carbonization will be needed beyond 2030 to keep temperature increases below 1.5 C



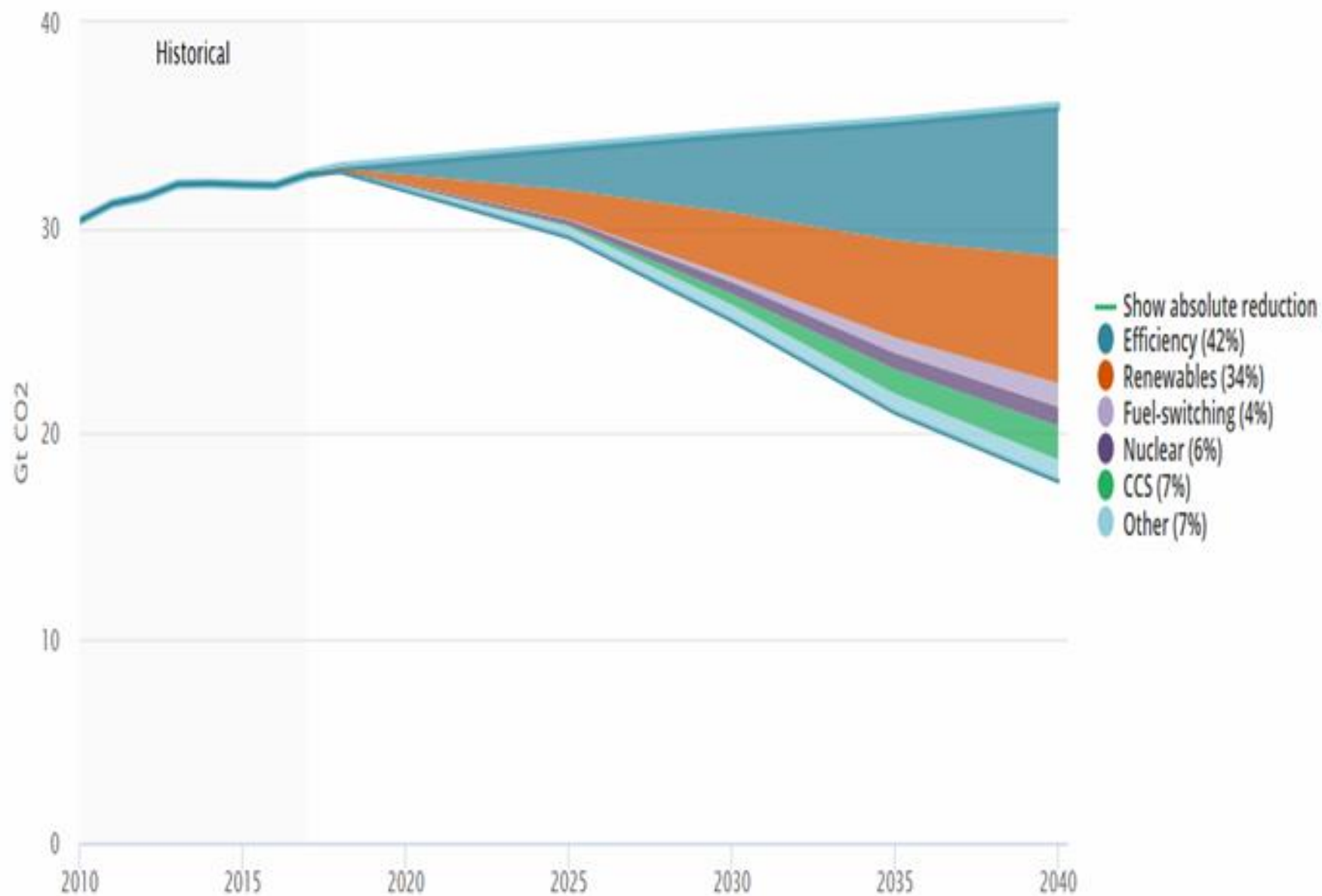
Now-2050: Global power demand will grow by 62%, equating to 1.5-2% per year.

- Renewables Consistently Cheaper than Fossil Fuels by 2020
- Energy storage installations increasing exponentially
- Strong energy efficiency improvements
- Large-scale carbon capture
- Transition to Circular Economy
- By 2030 Coal is set to collapse everywhere in the world, **except Asia**
- By 2040, renewables make up 90% of the electricity mix in **Europe**
- ...

DEMAND

SUPPLY

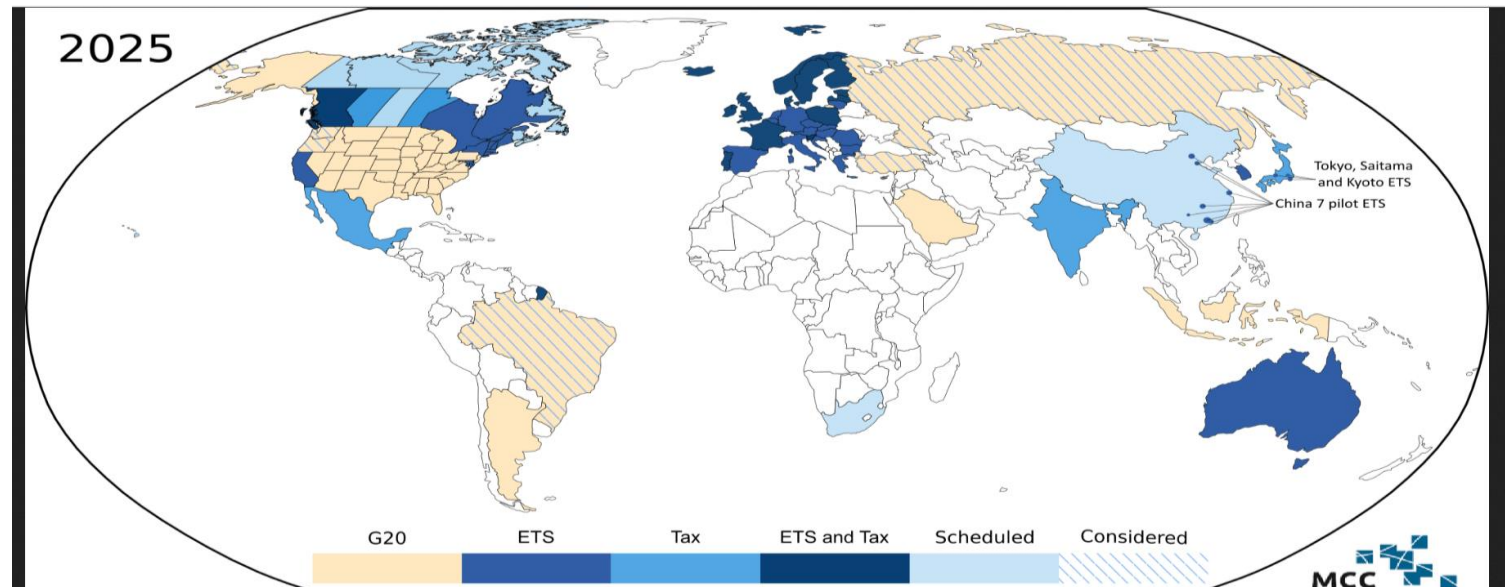
Additional CO2 emissions reductions in the SDS vs. NPS



Demand Management

Information-Awareness-Education

Economic Instruments: CO2 taxes, ETS, REDD, Insurance, etc.



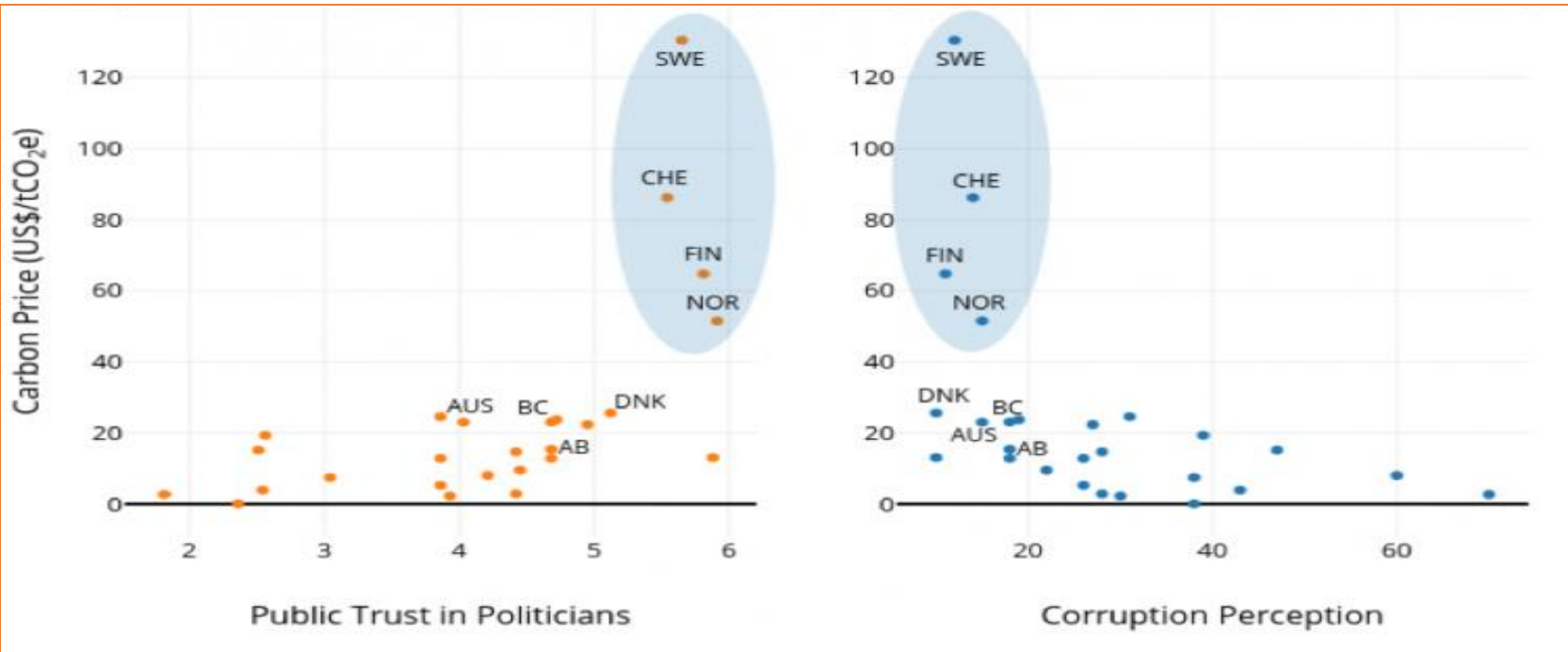
Over the last decade:

51 carbon pricing schemes have been implemented or are scheduled for implementation

25 of the 51 are in the form of ETS, predominantly introduced at the subnational level

26 of the 51 in the form of carbon taxes, mostly implemented at the national level.

Among the countries that have already submitted their Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement, 88 countries have stated their intent to implement carbon pricing as part of their national climate policies



- High-Level Commission on Carbon Prices (2017) - achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement requires a carbon price of: $\$40\text{-}\$80/\text{tCO}_2$ by 2020
 $\$50\text{-}\$100/\text{tCO}_2$ by 2030
- Currently, less than 20% of current global greenhouse gas emissions are covered by a carbon price and most prices are below the $\$40\text{-}80/\text{tCO}_2$ range.
- Ambitious carbon pricing often correlated with **high political trust** and **low corruption levels**. Finland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, are currently the only countries that have carbon prices above $40\$/\text{tCO}_2$.
- If trust is low, revenue should be recycled using a transparent, trust-boosting strategy to enhance its acceptability.

- Designing revenue recycling mechanisms with an eye on **behavioral insights** and in accordance with **political context**.
- Carbon pricing necessary for decarbonization, not sufficient.
- Spill-over effects in R&D need to be addressed with targeted instruments.
- Public interventions necessary to transform existing infrastructure, for example electricity and transport sectors.



**ALL EYES ON CHINA AS NATIONAL
CARBON MARKET PLAN EMERGES
FROM THE HAZE**

Sustainable Finance

Socially Responsible Investing

Social Impact Investment

- Financial services integrating environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria into the business or investment decisions for the lasting benefit of both clients and society at large.
- Contributes to sustainable development and value creation in economic, environmental and social terms.



3 main objectives

- reorient capital flows towards sustainable investment
- manage financial risks stemming from climate change, environmental degradation and social issues
- foster transparency and long-termism in financial and economic activity

Examples

Retail Finance	Corporate Finance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green Mortgage ▪ Green Home Equity Loan ▪ Green Commercial Building Loan ▪ Green Car Loan ▪ Green Credit Card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green Project Finance ▪ Green Securitization ▪ Green Venture Capital & Private Equity ▪ Green Technology Leasing ▪ Carbon Finance
Asset Management	Insurance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fiscal Fund (Treasury Fund) ▪ Eco Fund ▪ Carbon Fund ▪ Natural Disaster Bond ▪ Green Bond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Auto Insurance ▪ Carbon Insurance ▪ Catastrophe Insurance ▪ Green Insurance ▪ Strengthening Environmental Risk Assessment in Financing (Avoiding Default, Maintaining Collateral Value, Maintaining Good Reputation, Complying with Legal Issues on Environment, Creating Value, ...)

Launches ambitious new climate strategy and Energy Lending Policy



- The EIB will end financing for fossil fuel energy projects from the end of 2021
- Future financing will accelerate clean energy innovation, energy efficiency and renewables
- EIB Group financing will unlock EUR 1 trillion of climate action and environmentally sustainable investment in the decade to 2030
- EIB Group will align all financing activities with the goals of the Paris Agreement from the end of 2020.

17 October 2019: IMF Event on CC

BUSINESS

Can central banks fight climate change?

In a discussion at the IMF's annual meeting the fund's new managing director and other experts discussed what central banks and other large-scale investors can do to tackle global warming — and where the limitations lie.

Disaster-risk management, climate change and sustainable development targets will need to be aligned.

- There should be a coordinated assessment of the state of knowledge in disaster risk and its utility for supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- In order to stem the increased potential for losses, build-in resilience, and promote economic growth, companies and investors, will need to proactively address climate risks, create new tools to mitigate damages from climate change, and find ways to adapt to a warmer world.
- A green bond for building climate-resilience. They are increasing in popularity with investors at an exponential rate. Green bond issuance in 2017 was \$155 billion. One year later, that number is expected to clear over \$250 billion.
- Public Private Partnerships for Regional catastrophe risk–financing.

Cluster of Institutions



Climate-KIC is supported by the
EIT, a body of the European Union



Mobilizing Sustainability Transition, the Greek Chapter

UN SDSN - ETI Climate KIC – ReSEES@AUEB

UN SDSN Greece projects



Systems innovation approach!

Climate change is wickedly complicated.

It is interconnected with other massive global problems such as food security, water scarcity, biodiversity depletion and environmental degradation.

This means that it is impossible to solve climate change with traditional approaches to innovation which tend to focus on a single, or just a few aspects of the problem.

Instead, analysis of challenges and creation of solutions need to address the entire systems!



Aim: Max Social Welfare by allocation of scarce resources across people, over time & space,

while EnvS, EconS, Social Equity achieved.

Integrated and Interdisciplinary Methodology

EMPIRICAL APPLICATION of MODELS

Estimation of Economic Value

OPTIMAL ALLOCATION based on Value

MODELS ON INTERACTION

Dynamic, Spatial, Uncertainty

- Nature
- Society
- Economy

FRAMEWORK CHARACTERIZATION

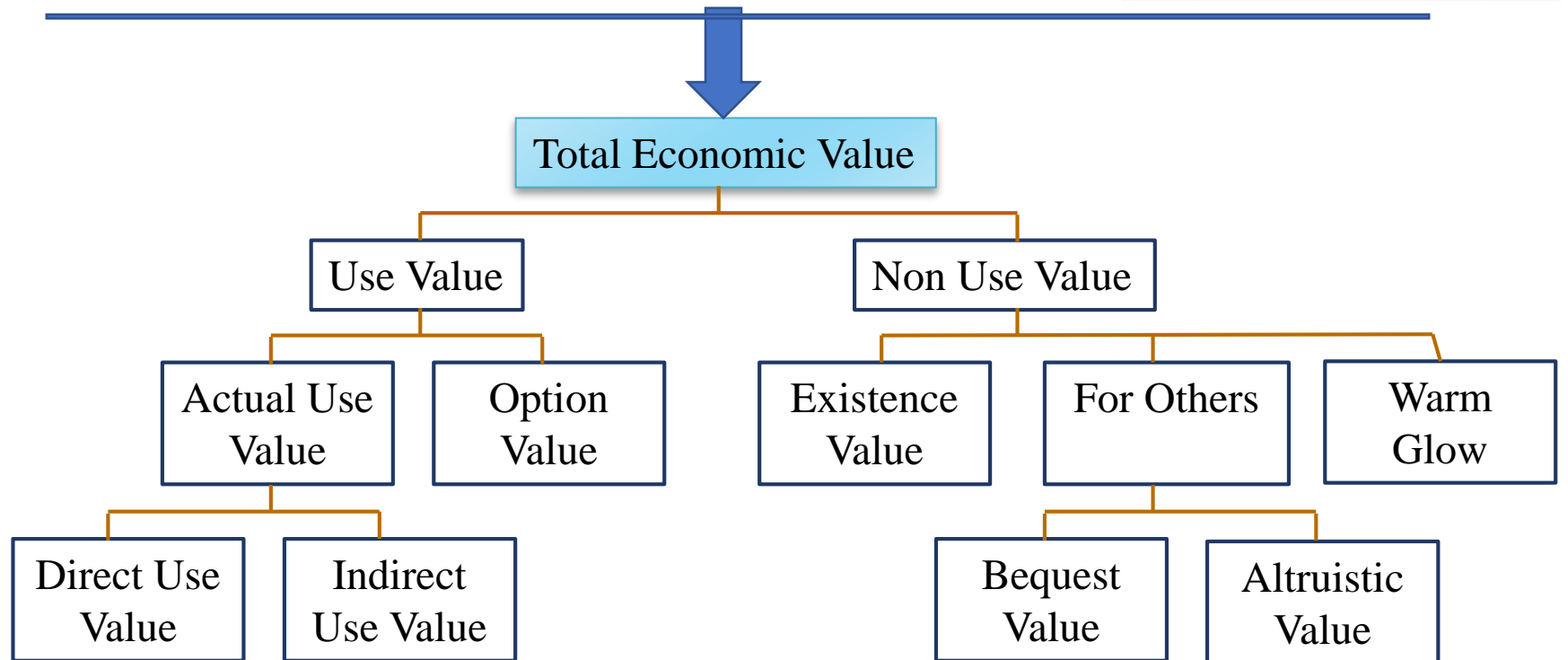
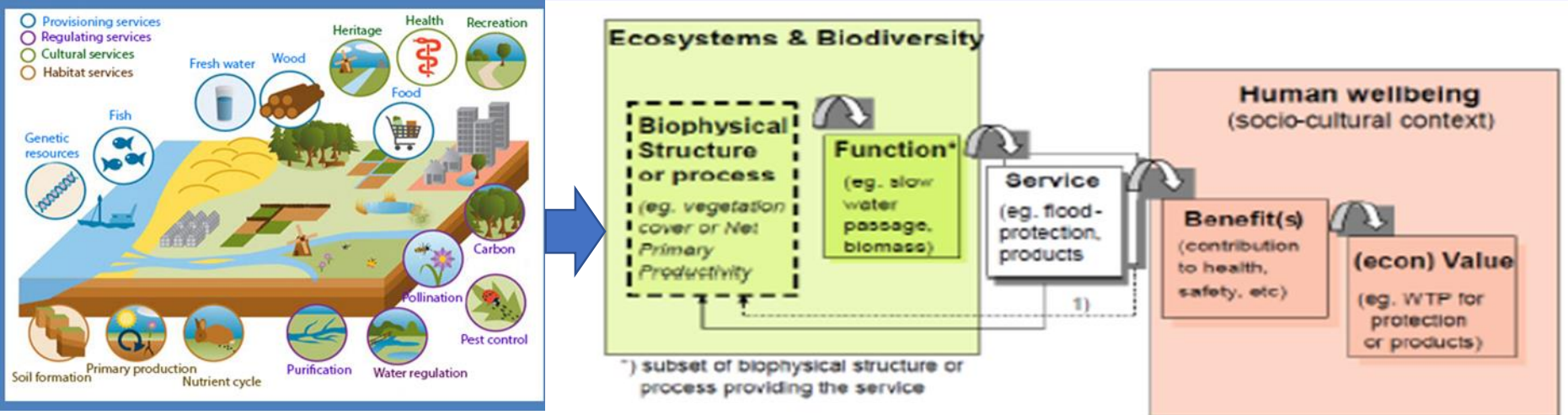
- Natural Resources,
- Socio-Economic-Institutional
- All relevant Stakeholders

How?

- Sustainable Finance: Taxes, ETS, Green Bonds, Insurance
- Legal Instruments
- Technological Innovations
- Social and Institutional Innovations
- Nature Based Solutions
- Infrastructural Solutions

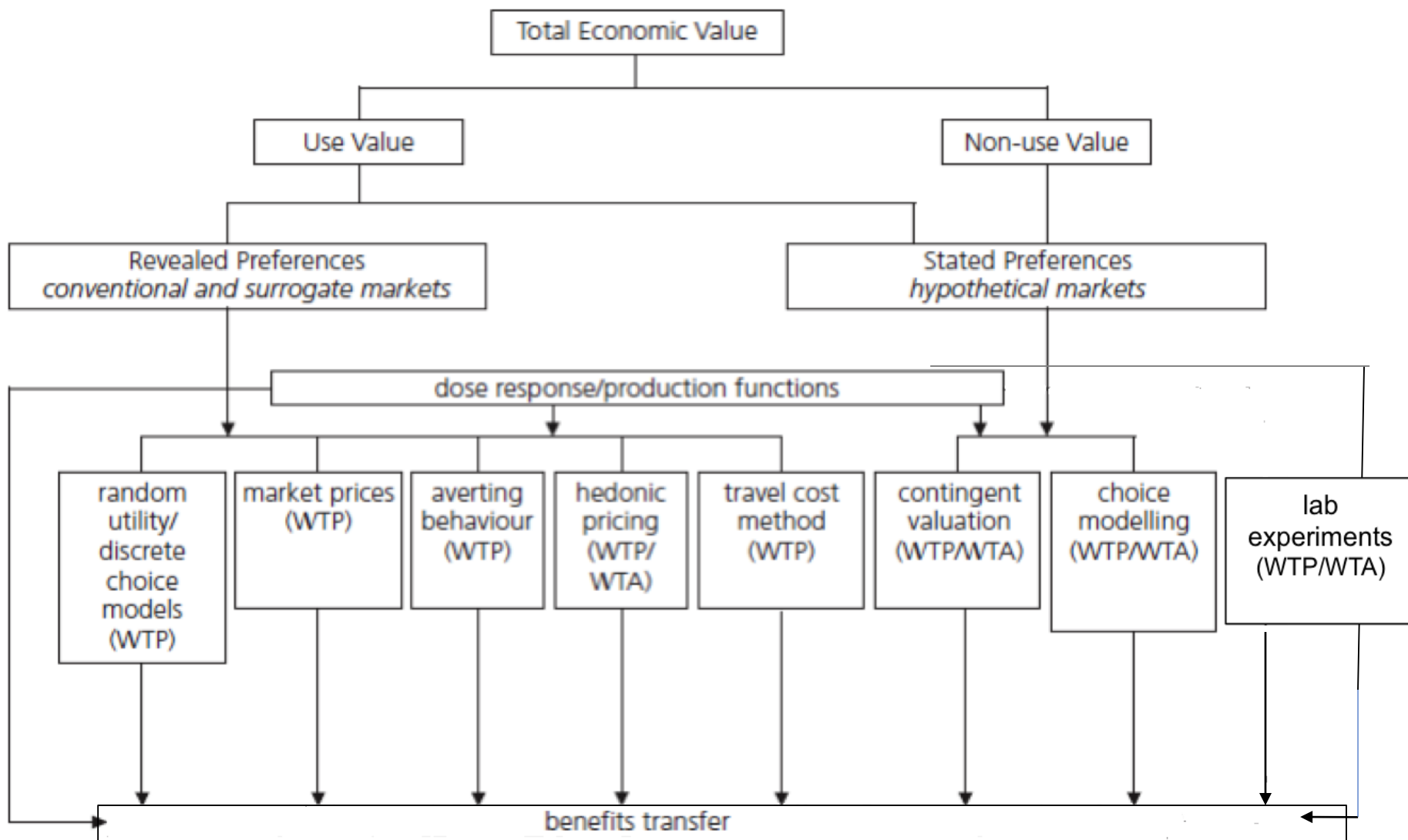
STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLANS & POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Stakeholders engaged & convinced throughout the process



The global economic benefit of a low-carbon future is estimated at US\$26 trillion by 2030 compared with staying on the current high-carbon pathway.

<https://exponentialroadmap.org/>



- TEV: systematic tool for considering full range of impacts on human welfare.
- TEV: reflects the preferences of individuals, which can be statistically estimated
- TEV: essential for resource allocation and policy making.

Uncertainty affects Decisions from which we infer Total Economic Value

- Global climate change illustrates particularly well the importance of considering uncertainty when making a decision.
- Do we face RISK?
- Do we face DEEP UNCERTAINTY?
- Decision making under uncertainty?

- IPCC (2007) wrote:

*“In most instances, **objective probabilities are difficult to estimate**. Furthermore, a number of climate change impacts involve health, biodiversity, and future generations, and the **value of changes in these assets is difficult to capture fully** in estimates of economic costs and benefits..... The literature on how to account for **ambiguity in the total economic value** is growing, even if there is no agreed standard.”*

The Value of Distant Benefits & Uncertainty and its Importance in Cost Benefit Analysis [series of papers Koundouri et al.]

In an Uncertain Environment:

- Persistent shocks on the growth rate of consumption
- Persistent shocks on short-term interest rates
- Persistent shocks on growth expectations, translate into persistent shocks on interest rates



Determine the shape of the term structure of the socially efficient discount rate & imply DDR.

Estimate Theory Consistent DDR trajectory

- *Using Historical Data*
- *Without a Structural Model*
- *Using univariate time series regime switching models:*
 - *describe stochastic dynamics of the real IR*
 - *future properties of the IR are determined by its own past behaviour*

Information accumulation may transmit patterns of preferences towards risk & influence time preferences & attitudes towards science-based policy. As science becomes more important and current generations care more about the future: DDR for PV of LR effects!

Mobilizing Sustainability Transition in Greece and Europe: Our Projects

Research



Deep Demonstration

Climate KIC
Programmes

Climate KIC
Projects

Education

Sustainability Education ages 4-17, **GNHM**

Sustainability Education, **Greek Universities**

MSc Energy Law and Economics, **AUEB**

Summer School on Aristotelian Values in SDGs – **Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation**

Training Courses for entrepreneurs, innovators and policy makers

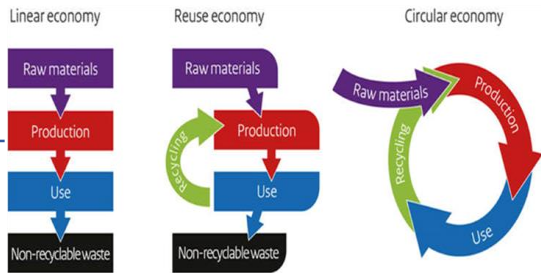
EIT Climate – KIC Hub Greece

Deep Demonstration Projects

**Transformation Pathways to
zero-net CO₂ emissions via
Systems Innovation and Circular Economy**

Europe's Main Climate Innovation Initiative

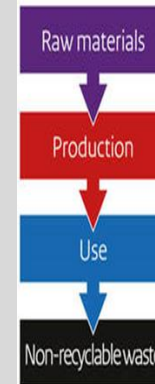
C-KIC – DEEP DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS



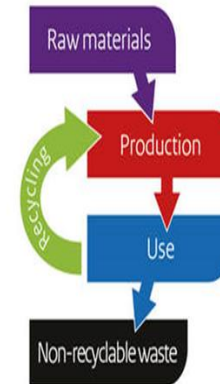
Circular Economy Transition in Smart Specialization Strategy

- Contribute to the Europe 2020 objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
- Pilot the adoption of CE in respective S3s, with the responsible authorities.
- Stimulate the timely and systemic adoption of the CE in S3s for the 2020-2027 programming period, for all EU Member States.

Linear economy



Reuse economy



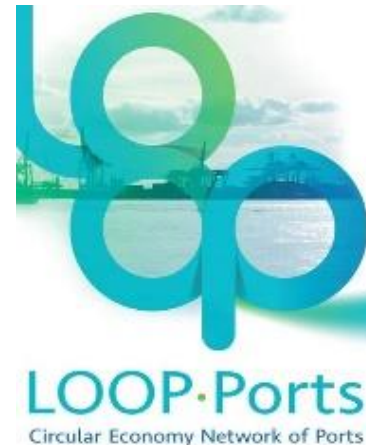
Circular economy



Climate-KIC

Resilient Maritime Hubs

- Catalyzing Systemic Change in Maritime Sector across Europe by:
 - Decarbonization Shipping Industry
 - Ports Sustainable Transition Roadmap
 - Fostering Sustainable Tourism
 - Strengthening Fragile Ecosystems & Communities
- 13 European Ports including the Port of Piraeus.



Climate Innovation in Southern European Waters

BL.EU CLIMATE

- Roadmap for plastic free southern European seas for the next 10 years
- Building capacity for innovation alongside the local challenge owners
- Address the issue at the beginning of its life cycle, on the prevention side



Climate-KIC

Circular Learning Hub (CL-hub)

A learning hub for the engagement and ecosystem transition towards circular thinking

- Multi-sensor and multi-virtual experiment designed to overcome short-run bias wrt climate change
- For Investors and Entrepreneurs




Climate-KIC

Europe's Main Climate Innovation Initiative





C-KIC - PROGRAMMES

Accelerator




EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator is the only EU acceleration programme focused on climate impact by cleantech commercialization

Transforming ideas into climate-positive businesses

 €550m+ capital raised in external investment by our start-ups	 1000+ climate-positive companies incubated	 2500+ jobs created through our start-up community	 33 partners supporting the accelerator programme
--	---	--	---

Pioneers Into Practice



Pioneers

"A fabulous opportunity to connect to a wonderful community of like-minded people and work in another country on something you care about. Worthwhile at whatever stage of your career you're at."

placement (all expenses covered).
Participation in an educational program (two workshops and online training).
Training based on innovative methodologies developed within the EIT Climate KIC.

- Mentorship for improving innovative ideas and skills.
- Participation in solving challenges in the real environment.
- Participate in international workshops.
- Develop international professional network.

Climathon



Climathon Cities 2018

 113 Cities	 46 Countries	 6 Continents	 +5000 Participants
---	---	---	---

Climathon: Cities. Hacking. Solutions.
Global Climathon Day - 25 October 2019

[CHECK THE INTRODUCTIONS VIDEO](#) [JOINING CLIMATHON IN YOUR CITY](#)

Accelerator



Climate-KIC

EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator is the only EU acceleration programme focused on climate impact by cleantech commercialization

Transforming ideas into climate-positive businesses



€550m+

capital raised in external investment by our start-ups



1000+

climate-positive companies incubated



2500+

jobs created through our start-up community



33

partners supporting the accelerator programme

- **Cyrus:** A Demokritos spin-off working on **hydrogen technologies** and designing non-mechanical high-pressure H₂ compressors using metal hydrides
- **Citipost:** Innovative waste and data management platform focusing on **smart cities** and sustainability through **recycling**
- **Cargoshare:** An automated **freight brokerage services platform** which results in a more transparent market, leading to less communication friction, while resulting to reduced emissions by freight ships traveling empty
- **Parity:** A two-sided Financing Platform, that makes **Greentech investing** accessible to retail investors and small funds
- **Trustporter: System for shipping & transportation needs** - designed to match requests to transfer goods or transport people, with other people that happen to travel along the requested routes anyway
- **Enaleia:** Educate, motivate, organize and track the fishermen, so as to be able to **collect plastic from the sea through their bi-catch**.
- **Shallows: Zero-footprint architecture** based on natural raw materials, using biological mechanisms

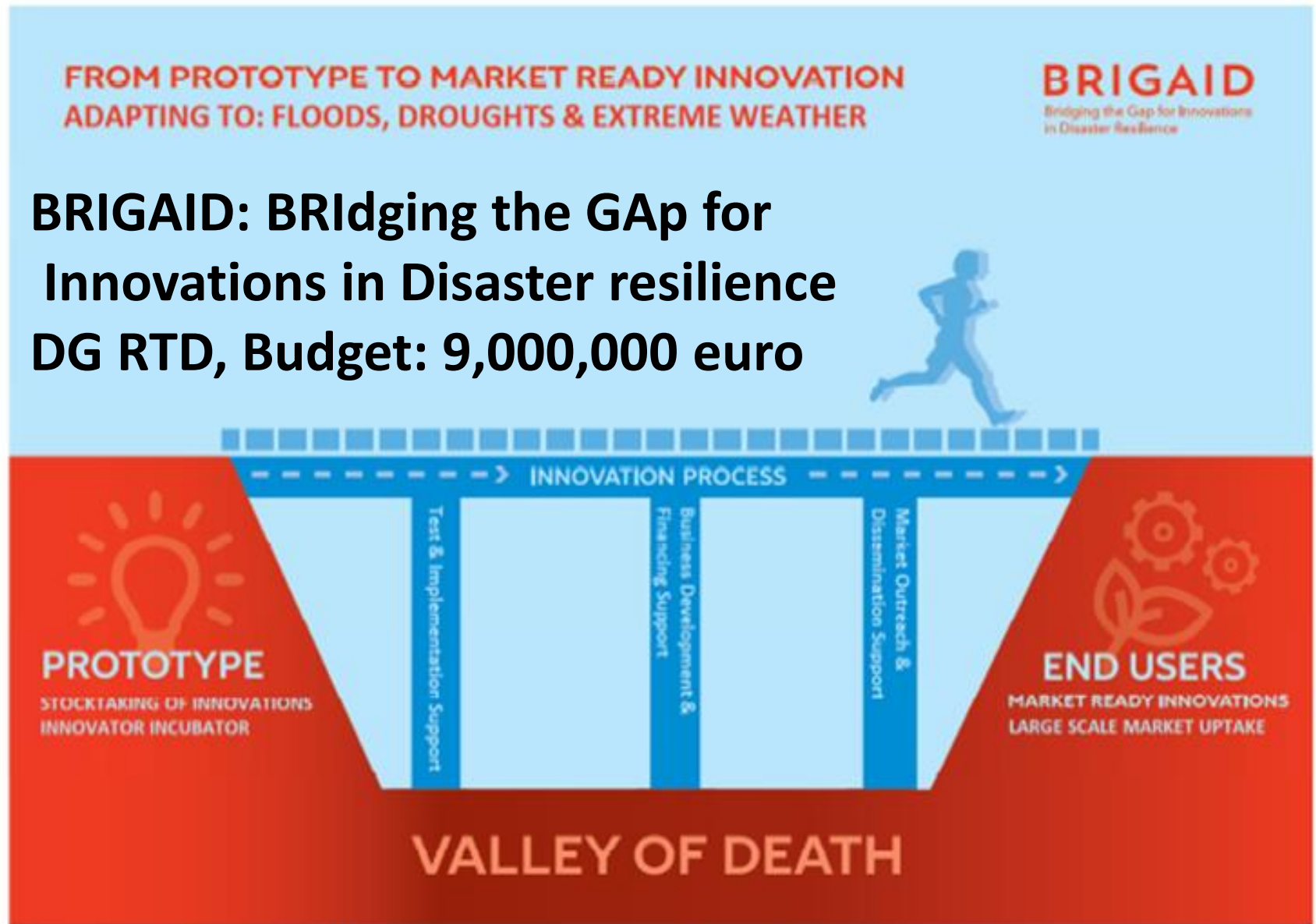


Figure 1.1: BRIGAID's conceptual approach with three types support for innovations

INNOVATIONS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Share your innovation

TRL 5

<http://www.theseusproject.eu/>

**2019 Prize Winner as the
European Commission Project
with Greatest Impact**



**Innovative technologies for safer
European coasts in a changing climate**

European Commission

FP7, THEME 6 - Environment, including climate

Budget: (6,530,000 €)

Pioneers Into Practice



Climate-KIC



- Professional Mobility via Placement
- Participation in an educational programme.
- Training based on innovative methodologies developed within the Climate KIC.
- Develop international professional network.

- Mentorship for improving innovative ideas and skills.
- Participation in solving challenges in the real environment.
- Participate in international workshops.

Climathon



Climate-KIC

Climathon Cities 2018



113

Cities



46

Countries



6

Continents



+5000

Participants

Climathon



YOUNG CLIMATHON

NEW

CLIMATHON STORIES

CONTACT US



About ▾ Cities ▾ Challenges ▾ Solutions ▾ Global Awards

Climathon: *Cities. Hacking. Solutions.*

Global Climathon Day - 25 October 2019

CHECK THE INTRODUCTION VIDEO

BRING CLIMATHON TO YOUR CITY



New UN SDSN Global Initiatives

in association to UN getting to Zero Coalition

Global Roundtable for Sustainable Shipping



IPCC warned of unprecedented changes if we exceed 1.5 degrees of warming. Maritime transport emits around 940 million tonnes of CO₂ annually and is responsible for about 2.5% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (3rd IMO GHG study). These emissions are projected to increase significantly if mitigation mea-

sures are not put in place swiftly. According to the 3rd IMO GHG study, shipping emissions could under a business-as-usual scenario increase between 50% and 250% by 2050, undermining the objectives of the Paris Agreement. The **Global Roundtable for Sustainable Shipping** aims at bringing together shipowners, shipbuilders, technology developers and researchers, ports and policy makers, on innovation related to zero emissions shipping, from across the globe, to target net-zero emissions by 2050. It will be launched at a specific session on the zero-carbon ocean shipping at the two-day **COP 25 in Santiago, Chile** hosted by SDSN on December 9th & 10th 2019.

The UN SDSN 4-Seas Initiative



The UN SDSN 4-Seas is a Euro-Asian Initiative that aims to mobilizing science driven sustainable blue growth in the **Mediterranean Sea**, the **Black Sea**, the **Caspian Sea** and the **Aral Sea**, in order to protect the future state of global seas and oceans by providing a Blue Sustainability Transition Plan “from rivers to the oceans”.

The initiative is led by **SDSN Greece** and **SDSN Black Sea**, established leaders on research for the implementation of SDGs in rivers and wetlands, coastal zones, seas and oceans, shipping, marine transport, offshore energy production, fishing, aquaculture, marine litter, and relevant education and training.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON CULTURAL HERITAGE: FACING THE CHALLENGE



Climate Action Summit
September 21-23, 2019
United Nations , New York

