



Final policy briefs / colour summary brochure

Deliverable D6B.5

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IMPRESSIONS – Impacts and Risks from High-End Scenarios:
Strategies for Innovative Solutions (www.impressions-project.eu)



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Preface

The IMPRESSIONS final policy brief collection (available [here](#)) was planned and created as a comprehensive compilation of the project's scientific results, guidance and methods, designed and translated to answer the needs of policy- and decision-makers.

Deliverable D6B.5 explains the rationale behind choosing to create a collection of short and focused outputs, rather than a single output in the form of a final project booklet. This report also gives an overview of the audience targeted, the approach chosen, as well as the design, creation and distribution of the IMPRESSIONS policy brief collection.

Summary

The IMPRESSIONS final policy brief collection was a consortium-wide effort pulling together the expertise of researchers, communication experts and coordinators, to create a final product synthesising IMPRESSIONS science into 13 concise outputs suitable for a wide range of stakeholders, including policy- and decision-makers.

The collection meets the needs of practitioners and policy-makers aiming to gain quick and focused insights on how to choose and manage innovative solutions to deal with potential risks of high-end climate and/or socio-economic scenarios. The policy briefs collection presents separate concise outputs organised by themes, sectors and scales to allow users to quickly find the topics that are of interest to them. The collection is presented with a folder where users can create their own collection in accordance with their particular interest. All policy briefs are also available as electronic copies and stored on the IMPRESSIONS website.

This deliverable presents the whole process of developing the policy brief collection, describing the decisions taken, together with the final design and content.

1. Strategy behind the final policy brief collection

Being a five-year, cross-disciplinary project, IMPRESSIONS has created a wide range of outcomes not only with relevance to climate change, but also to broader sustainability. Described in various scientific outputs and a special project issue, there was also a need for these results to be redesigned and presented for the use of practitioners and decision-makers to ensure real world impact and exploitation of IMPRESSIONS results by the project's potential end-users.

To achieve this, the project steering committee decided to create a collection of policy briefs presenting various project results, separated by scale, theme and sector, in a concise and easy to read and re-use form. The policy briefs were designed to highlight key findings and results, to allow readers to understand the purpose of each output and judge its relevance to their specific case by just reading the first page. While science, methods and findings are presented in a concise way within each policy brief, links to additional resources and reading are presented at the end to ensure interested people will be able to delve deeper into the topic and utilise IMPRESSIONS science.

2. Creation and decision-making process

The decision for a policy brief collection, rather than a single output, was taken during the final project General Assembly in Naples (January 2018), where it was agreed that due to the diversity of results and scales at which IMPRESSIONS is operating a collection of focused outputs would be beneficial to the end-user. Initially a decision was taken to produce five policy briefs presenting results from the five IMPRESSIONS case studies.

During the Project Steering Committee Meeting in Crete in June 2018, an additional eight policy briefs were planned to be added to the collection, focusing on specific sectors and broader themes.

3. Design and content of the policy briefs collection

In order to engage practitioners, policy- and decision-makers who operate and search for solutions in areas related to adaption to, and mitigation of, high-end climate change, all policy briefs were created with a concise and attractive design.

3.1. Case study policy briefs

After a short introduction to the particular local context and challenges, the eight-page case study policy briefs follow an established structure designed to allow stakeholders to quickly find the information that is of interest to them.

A Key Messages section sets the scene and summarises the main outcomes and conclusions of IMPRESSIONS research. This section is followed by a more detailed description of solutions organised by five key questions:

- What could a future above 2°C look like?
- What are the impacts and risks in a future above 2°C?
- What do we want our future to look like?
- How can a sustainable future be achieved?
- What are the transformative solutions?

Each policy brief ends with a section of clear-cut policy recommendations, contact details and additional reading.

All case study policy briefs were also created in a concise 2-page version.

IMPRESSIONS

POLICY BRIEF EUROPEAN CASE STUDY

INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS HIGH LEVELS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Region: Europe Scale: Continent Sectors: Agriculture, Forestry, Water, Health, Biodiversity, Urbanisation

Europe is a highly diverse continent. It ranges from the sub-arctic climate of northern Scandinavia to the Mediterranean climate of southern Europe, and from wide lowland plains to high mountains, with a mix of land-uses including expanding urban areas, intensive arable and horticulture, extensive upland grazing and forestry. Climate and socio-economic change are therefore likely to have different impacts across Europe on social and economic sectors, human health, ecosystems and the goods and services they provide. Policy responses will need to address these regional differences and disparities.

The EU Adaptation Strategy, adopted in 2013, aims to 'climate-proof' Europe through encouraging all Member States to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies. The IMPRESSIONS European case study has explored the inter-dependent risks and opportunities posed by high levels of climate change (more than 2°C above global mean pre-industrial temperatures) and socio-economic change for people, land-use, water and biodiversity across Europe. It aims to support national and European stakeholders and decision-makers in incorporating these high climate change scenarios into their risk management and climate adaptation strategies.

URBAN
WATER
BIODIVERSITY

AGRICULTURE
FORESTS
COASTS

Impacts
Socio-economic change
Climate change

The consequences of climate change for Europe will depend on complex interactions between climate change, socio-economic change, land-use sectors and natural resources, as well as society's responses from local to international scales

Figure 1: Introductory page of the European case study policy brief (8-page version).

3.2. Sectoral and thematic policy briefs

A more concise four page structure was chosen for the sectoral and thematic policy briefs, again starting with Key Messages and finishing with Policy Recommendations but with the central sections based on thematic questions tailored to each sector / theme.

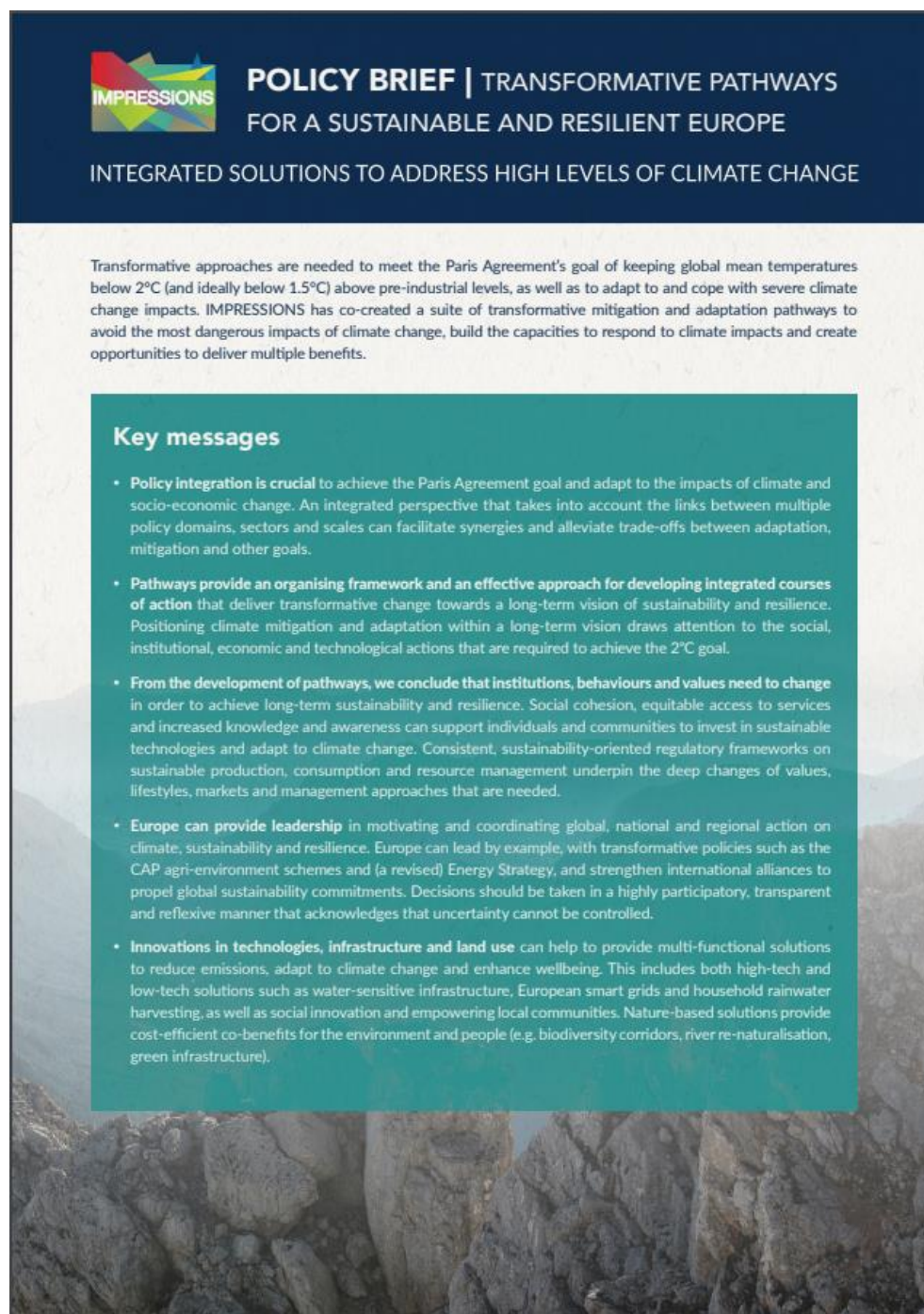


Figure 2: Introductory page of the transformative pathways thematic policy brief.

3.3. Full collection

A full list of all the policy briefs available in the IMPRESSIONS collection is given in Table 1.

Table 1: List of all policy briefs in the IMPRESSIONS collection.

| |
|---|
| <p>By Case Study: Central Asia Case Study European Case Study Hungarian Case Study Iberian Case Study Scottish Case Study</p> |
| <p>By Sector: Agriculture Biodiversity Forestry Water Supply and Flood Risk Urban Development and Human Health</p> |
| <p>By Theme: Combining Climate and Socio-economic Scenarios for Europe Economic and Financial Implications of Climate Change in Europe Transformative Pathways for a Sustainable and Resilient Europe</p> |

All policy briefs are available to download at: <http://impressions-project.eu/media/center/14594>.

4. Presentation at events

The IMPRESSIONS policy briefs have already been presented at a number of events where they were greeted with great interest by stakeholders. The five eight-page case study policy briefs were presented to stakeholders at the IMPRESSIONS final cross-scale stakeholder workshop held in Hungary in April 2018. They were also featured on the IMPRESSIONS stand at the Adaptation Futures 2018 Conference in Cape Town in May 2018, at the IMPRESSIONS Summer School in Bulgaria in May 2018, and at the 11th Meeting Community of Users on Secure, Safe and Resilient Societies in June 2018. The full collection of policy briefs was also featured on the IMPRESSIONS stand at the European Ecosystem Services Conference in San Sebastian, Spain in October 2018, and at the IMPRESSIONS Final Policy event, which took place on 22 October 2018 in Brussels, Belgium.

A final print run was made before the end of the project and sent to the coordinator, to be used for outreach purposes after the end of the project. A newsletter promoting the electronic versions of the policy briefs was also circulated at the end of the project.

5. Conclusions and outlook

As a result of the five-year collaboration and joint efforts from all work packages involved, the IMPRESSIONS policy brief collection presents a comprehensive resource for practitioners, policy- and decision-makers seeking practical insights on how to implement innovative solutions to deal with potential risks of high-end climate and/or socio-economic change.

The full policy brief collection will be available to download at least 5-years after the project end on the IMPRESSIONS website.