

Social science tools for climate scientists:

Exploring, developing, and evaluating novel, co-produced climate services in Barcelona

*Human geographies of climate change adaptation
University of Bergen, May 2024*

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Barcelona Supercomputing Center



**Barcelona
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BSC

**Earth
Systems**

Services

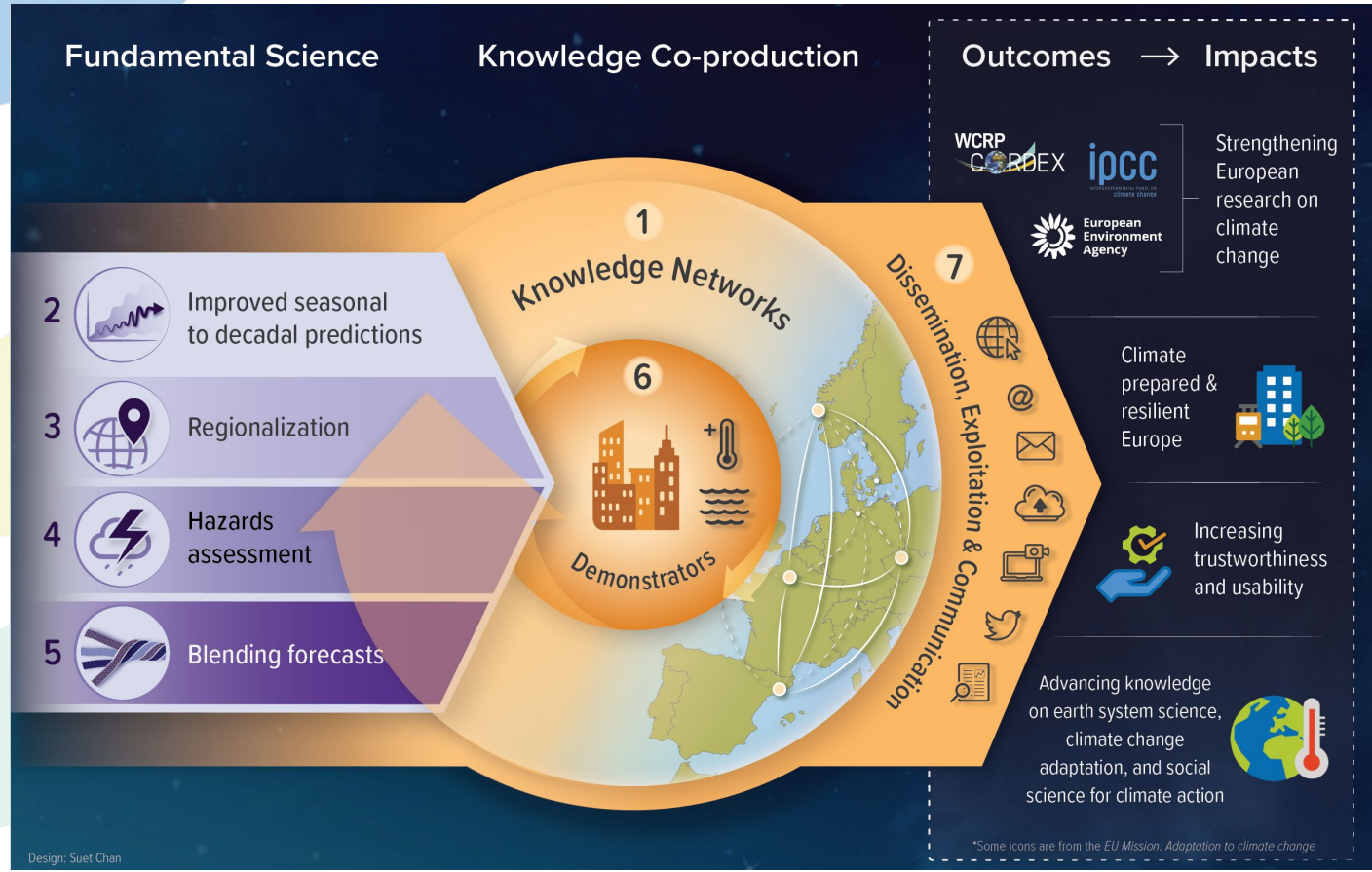
Knowledge Integration Team (KIT)

What do we do?

We co-design climate, air quality and health resilience services, while facilitating knowledge exchange and technology transfer of state-of-the-art research at local, national, and international levels.

Engagement & knowledge co-production
Dissemination
Operationalisation
Science communication & outreach
Policy engagement
Services evaluation
User experience & product design

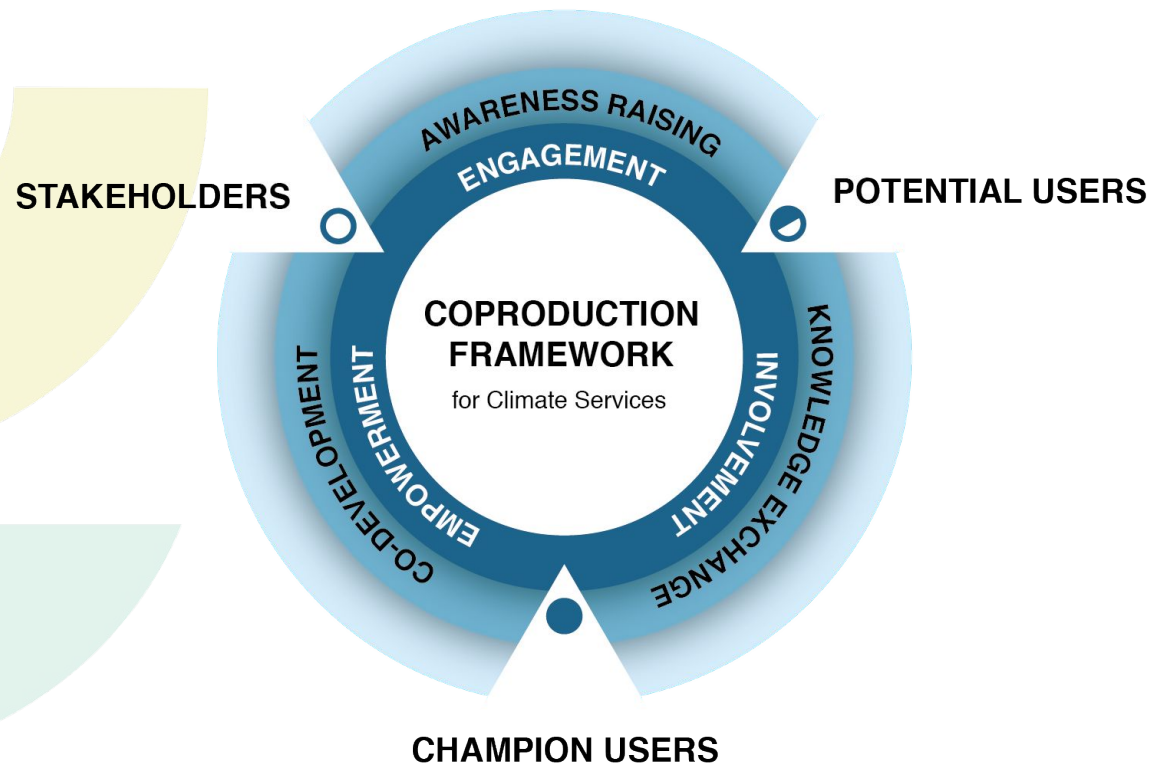
The Impetus4Change Project



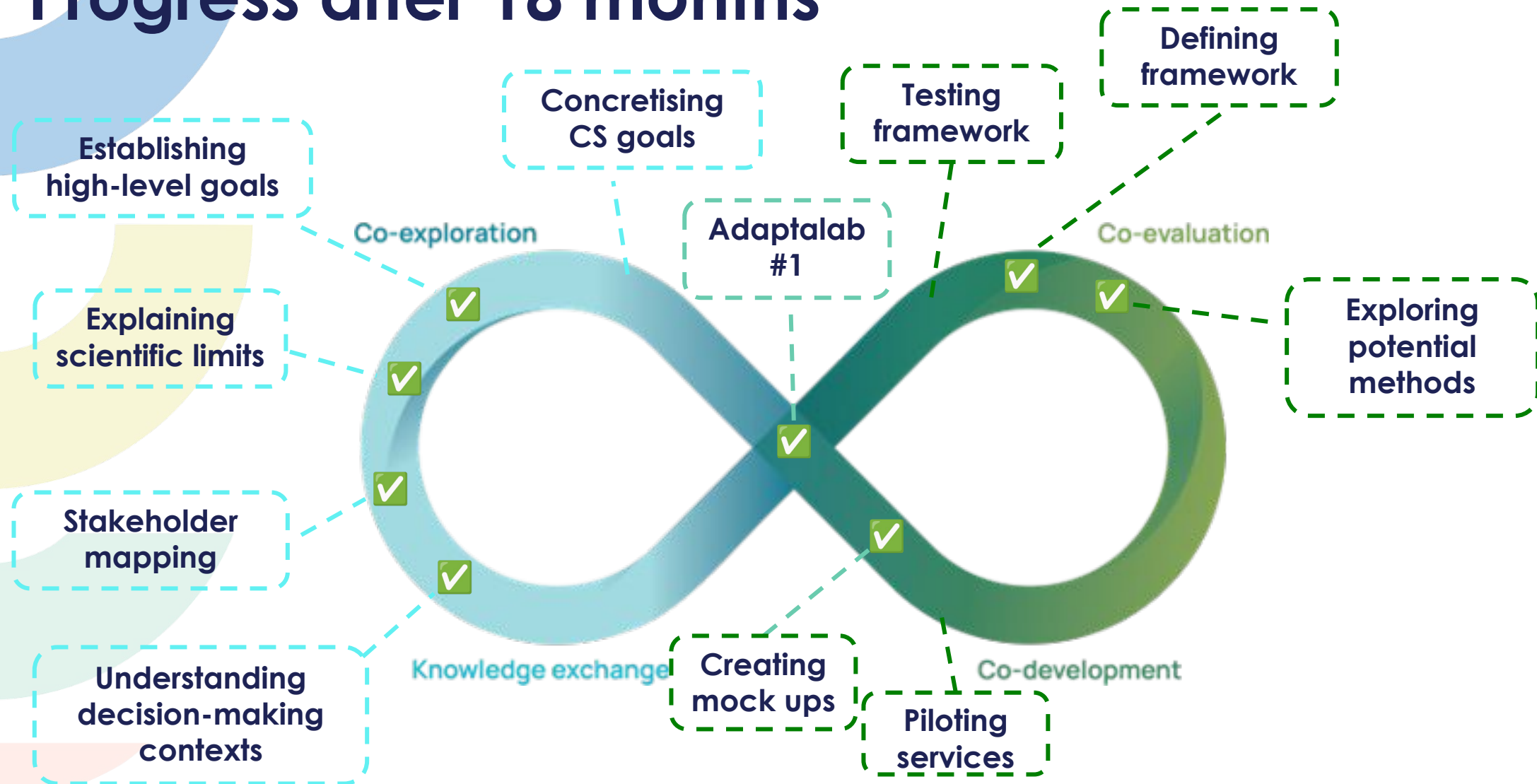
The overall objective of I4C is to improve the *quality, accessibility and usability* of short-term climate information and *climate services at local and regional scales*, where the impacts are most intensely felt, to strengthen and support final users in adaptation planning and action.



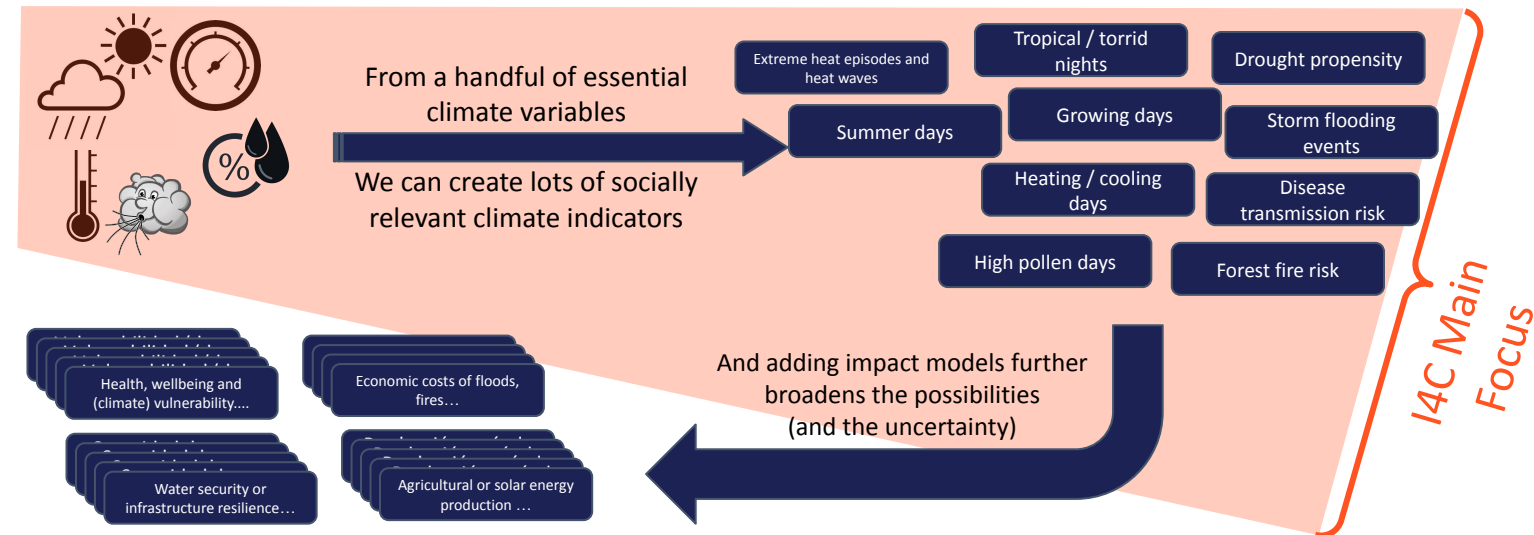
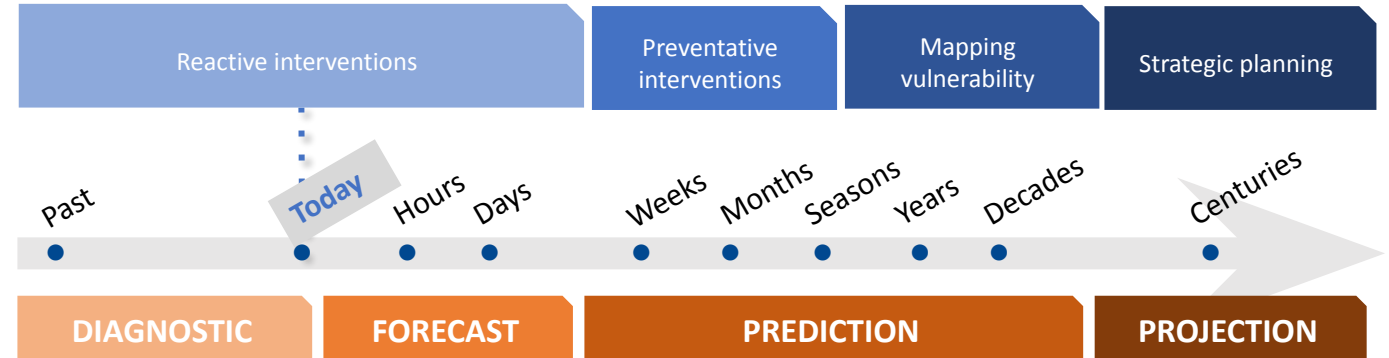
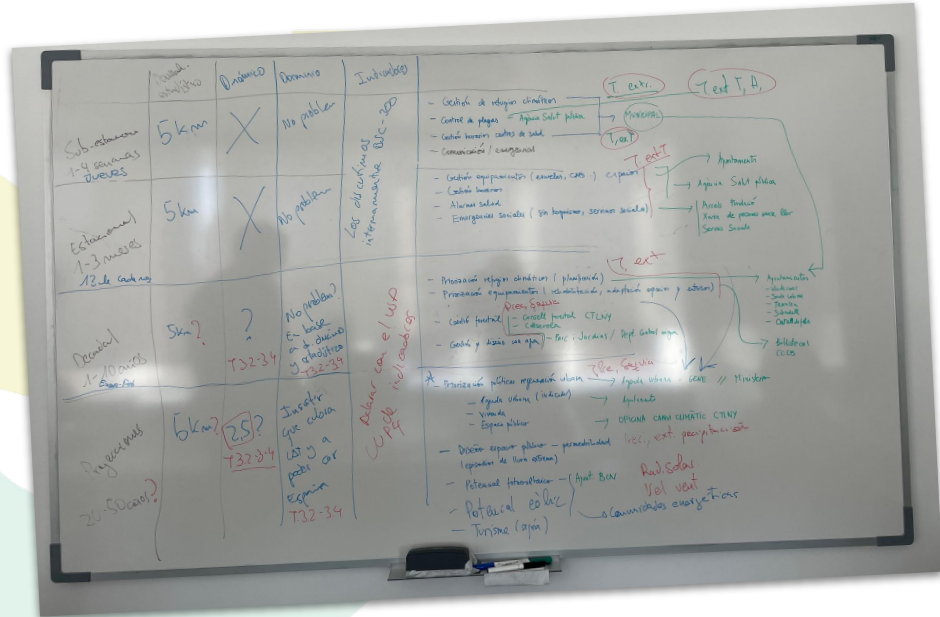
Co-production in four demonstrator cities



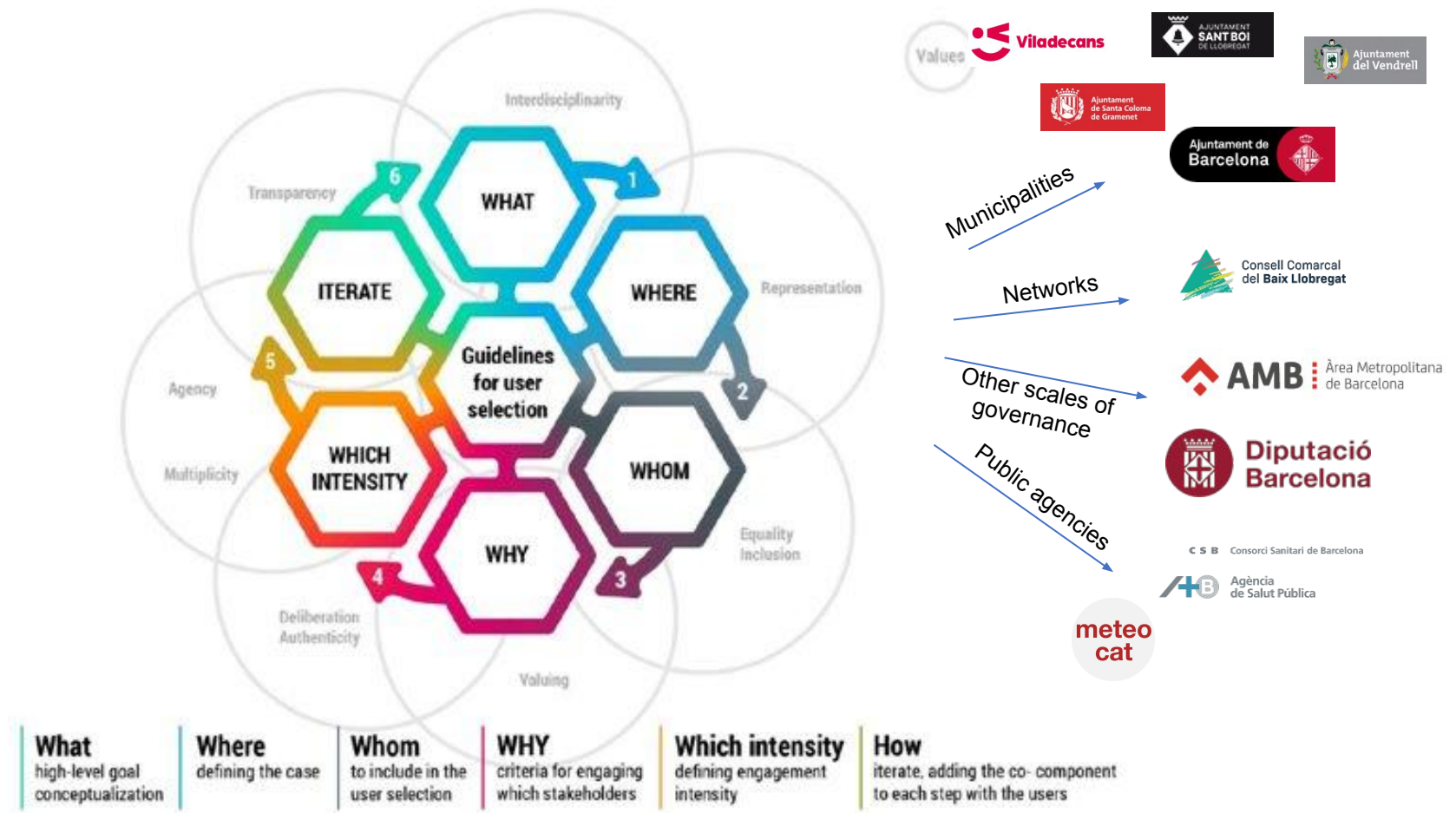
Progress after 18 months



Matching needs, scales, data...



Stakeholder mapping & user selection





Adaptalab #1: Practising co-design

Developing a catalogue of potential services



SERVEI URBANISME
URBANITZACIONS AMB DÈFICIT URBANÍSTIC

Precipitació / Sequia	Dry days / Dry spells	Días en que hay menos de 1 mm de precipitación	Frecuencia (numero dias por año, duración, estacionalidad)
SPI-6	Indice de sequia		
Fire Weather Index	Para entender la potencial de incendios forestales		
8K1day	Precipitación máxima de un día (en inundaciones en verano)		
Q100 annual	descarga máxima del caso de inundación		



1 Existing services & likely users

Brainstorming with climate scientists and key user

2

Data requirements

Assessing data requirements and availability for provisional use cases

3

Key user decision contexts

Checking potential indicators / uses with SHs

4

Revised data needs & knowledge

Revisiting, condensing, clarifying limits of climate services (projects)

5

Locally adapted catalogue (v.1)

Thematic presentation of potential climate services that could be co-developed

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
		Availability in Climate Timescale												
		Example Social Contexts by Planning Timescale												
		Immediate / Short Term / Reactive (this month, this season)	Medium Term / Allocation & Protocols	Long Term / Strategy and Infrastructure	Variables / Indices	Potential links (e.g. impact models)	In universal terms	Forecast (link to existing)	Subseasonal	Seasonal	Decadal (12 - 10 years)			Projections (> 30 years)
1														
2	Phenomena													The same context
3	Forest fire risk	Forestry resour	Forestry / national park manag		FWI (Temperature, Precipitac	This Index provides an estimat	The index has	Applicable but	Applicable	Applicable	Applicable	Applicable	Applicable	Useful to com
4	Heatwaves	Emergency Public Services (telephone contac			Excess Heat Factor / Tempera	It quantifies heat wave severity	Applicable, bet	Applicable	Applicable	Applicable	Applicable	Applicable	Applicable	Useful to com
5	Temperature extremes in summer	combine with heatwaves?			Temperature		An estimate of the number of	Applicable but	Applicable	Applicable	Applicable	Applicable	Applicable	They can be pr

IMPETUS 4CHANGE

Services: Parks, gardens, trees (1 of 2)

Climate information that supports efforts to increase the coverage and resilience of urban green spaces

What could we collaborate on?

Supporting decisions at different timescales, and integrating with impact models (beyond I4C), for example:

- When to plant new trees?
- Where / when are future drought risks?
- How climate compatible are existing & planned green spaces?
- What are future irrigation requirements?
- How can green spaces contribute to urban cooling / impacted by UHI?
- How will biodiversity be impacted in the future?

Climate Info Availability & Skill	Historical - Weather	Near-future (weeks - months)	Future (months - years)	Projections (years - decades)
Temperatures (max/min/av.)	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow
Dry spells (# & duration)	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow
Precipitation	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow
Drought index	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow

See more...

"Monique Gardens, Barcelona" by OK_Apartment is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Building a co-evaluation framework

Process	Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
Engagement & Collaboration	Relevance & Usefulness	Application & Use	Economic & Financial
Inclusivity & Diversity	Accessibility	Enhanced knowledge	Benefits
Communication & Understanding	Understandability	Influence on Actions & Decisions	Social Benefits
Transparency & Reliability	Usability	User Feedback	Policy & Regulatory
Goal-setting & Relevance	Feasibility	Measurability	Benefits
Feasibility	Reliability		Positive Feedback
	Suitability & Adaptability		Measurability
	Up-to-date & Timely Scope		

		This is very important to the climate service (1 disagree – 3 neither agree nor disagree – 5 agree)	This applies to			How could you evaluate or measure this?
			The co-production process	The direct outputs	The broader effects	
1. Inclusive co-production	inclusivity	5	5	5	1	Diaries of interactions, checking the SH mapping
	collaboration	3	5	3	1	The number of meetings / points of contact
	usability	3	1	5	1	SH interviews
...
...
5. Any other dimensions?



- are inclusively co-produced by the actors they will impact
- foster open and clear communication that develops climate knowledge
- contribute to real, relevant and impactful adaptation action
- are reliable, transparent and trusted

Closing remarks

- Key terms often interpreted differently (magnified when working across institutions / languages)
- Challenges in recognising both amount and quality of work required across disciplines
- Collaboration adds iterative rounds and effort, but gains buy in & builds relationships
- Internal relationship building at least as important as external co-production with stakeholders
- Keep a diary!
- First test service now up and running
- Ongoing tests of SSH tools, then extending them to other demonstrators



Thank you!

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