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# *Challenges in planning and designing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in urban areas of Romania*

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# Introduction

- ▶ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - SDG13 - Climate Action (2015)
- ▶ Paris Agreement (2016)
- ▶ European Green Deal (European Climate Pact; 2030 Climate Targets Plan; New European Union Climate Change Adaptation Strategy; European Climate Law) (2019)
- ▶ National Strategy on Climate Change (2014)
- ▶ The National Integrated Plan in the field of Energy and Climate Change (2020)
- ▶ Local Environmental Action Plan
- ▶ Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (PAEDC) and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plans

## The EU will:



Become  
climate-neutral  
by 2050



Protect human life,  
animals and plants,  
by cutting pollution



Help companies  
become world leaders  
in clean products and  
technologies

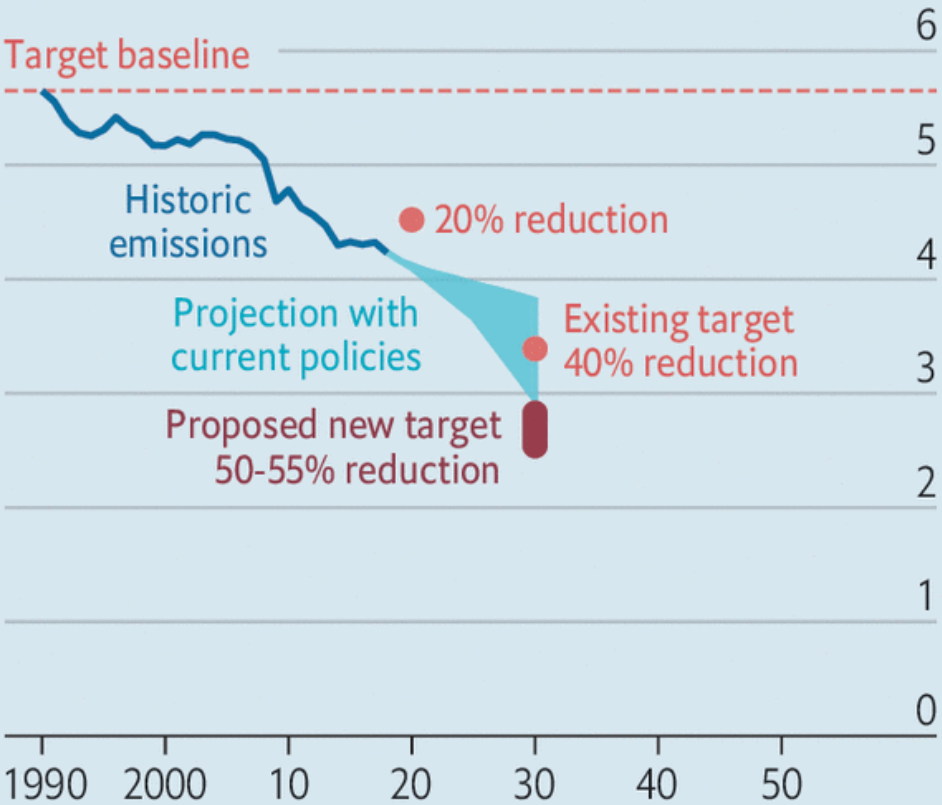


Help ensure a  
just and inclusive  
transition

# Global targets...local actions

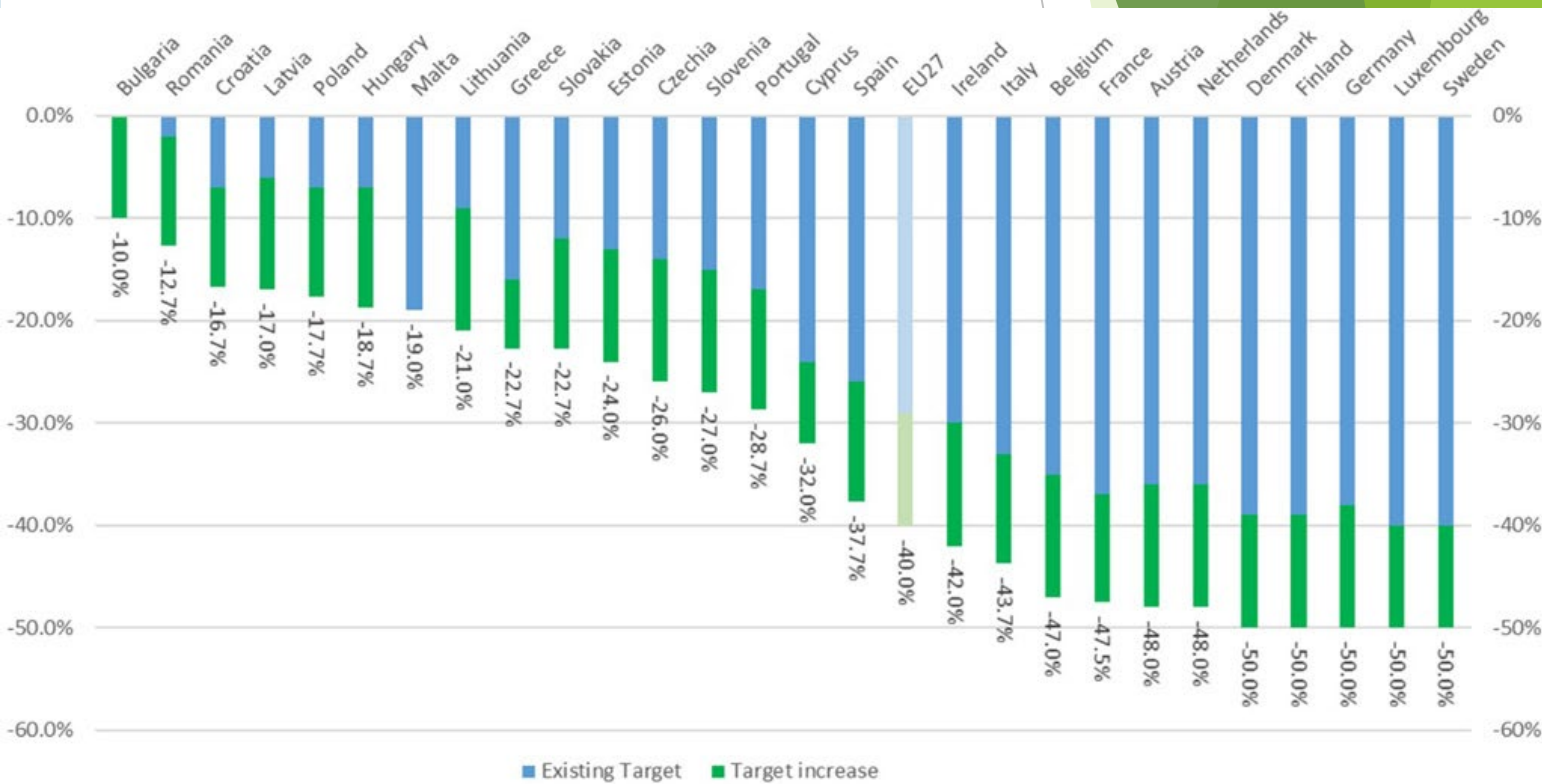
## Cooling it

EU, progress on greenhouse gas targets  
Emissions, gigatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year\*



Source: Climate Action Tracker \*Excluding land use and forestry

► Romania: -12.7% decrease in equivalent CO<sub>2</sub> emissions until 2030, respectively -25665 kt



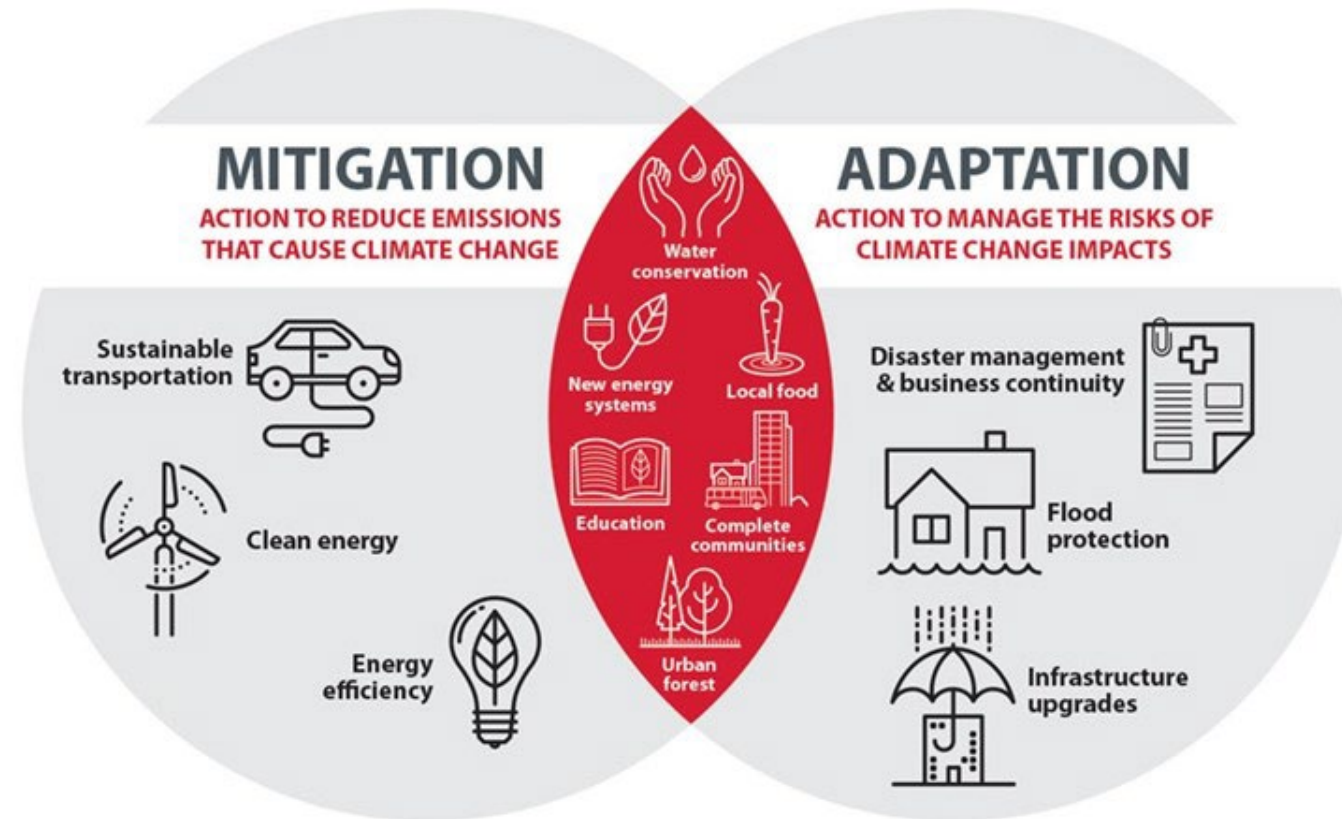
Milioane tone CO<sub>2</sub>

	1990	2005	2019	2019 / 1990	2019 / 2005
Romania	249	152	113	-55%	-26%

# Climate change mitigation and adaptation plans

► The fulfillment of medium and long-term climate mitigation and adaptation measures, with the integration of adaptation to climate change in local policies and programs, thereby increasing the degree of awareness and information for citizens regarding the negative effects of climate change.

► The Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan represents the commitment of public authorities and the local community in the effort to ensure climate neutrality and adapt to climate change to ensure better living conditions for current and future generations.



# Why a climate change mitigation and adaptation plan?

- ▶ The need to put issues associated with climate change on the public agenda at the local level in order to increase the city's adaptive capacity.
- ▶ Conscious and planned action to mitigate and adapt to climate change to increase resilience
- ▶ Limiting the negative impact of climate change by implementing concrete and effective actions.
- ▶ Awareness of developments registered at the international level in the approach to climate change, which is often reflected in financing mechanisms.
- ▶ Awareness of existing/potential vulnerabilities, priority intervention areas and appropriate types of interventions.
- ▶ The need to maintain a positive image of the city.
- ▶ Increasing the capacity to access national and international financing.



# Advantages of public participation

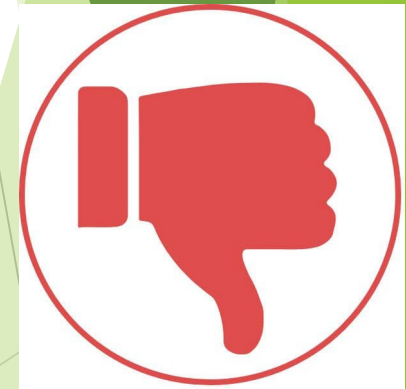
1. Strengthening the **democratic fabric of society**, and increasing the chance of taking the best decision.
2. **Enhance transparency, accountability, trust, and legitimacy in decision-making processes**
3. **Improving communication** between society, stakeholders, and local authorities, giving the chance to discuss and understand different points of view and real constraints, leading to informed decision-making
4. **Broadening the range of information, ideas, perspectives, and solutions** (sources of creativity and innovation, which are not in the mind of the decision makers).
5. **Avoiding costly litigation**
6. Online meetings can facilitate the **engagement of citizens, which have difficulties** participating in physical meetings and hearings due to physical disabilities, risk of social exclusion, or working schedule
7. Can lead **to increased public awareness, understanding, and stewardship of urban nature resources** (public responsibility)
8. It allows for **decentralization** the decision-making and includes the citizens in the different projects
9. **Build stronger communities and foster a sense of ownership and pride in the local environment.**



# Disadvantages of public participation



1. Risk to have a **limited involvement** of relevant (e.g. scientists, locals) or specific (e.g. marginalized people) groups.
2. **Resources-consuming (e.g. time, money, other resources)**, leading to delays or no execution of projects.
3. **Challenging to reach a consensus** due to differences in perceptions, interests, and backgrounds (including culture).
4. Individuals may **fight for specific interests**, leading to the sabotage of discussion spaces and/or the execution of proposed projects.
5. It may involve citizens who may **not have the expertise or in-depth knowledge**, and it may result in **less informed decision-making or reliance on emotional or subjective opinions**.
6. Citizens can be easily influenced by some parties in taking a specific decision (**manipulation risk**).
7. A negative experience of the process may lead participants to have **negative perceptions of the outcome**, and they may be **less likely to participate in future processes**.
8. High probability of **conflict and disagreements between different involved parties**.
9. **Difficulties in synthesizing the different perspectives of the participants**.



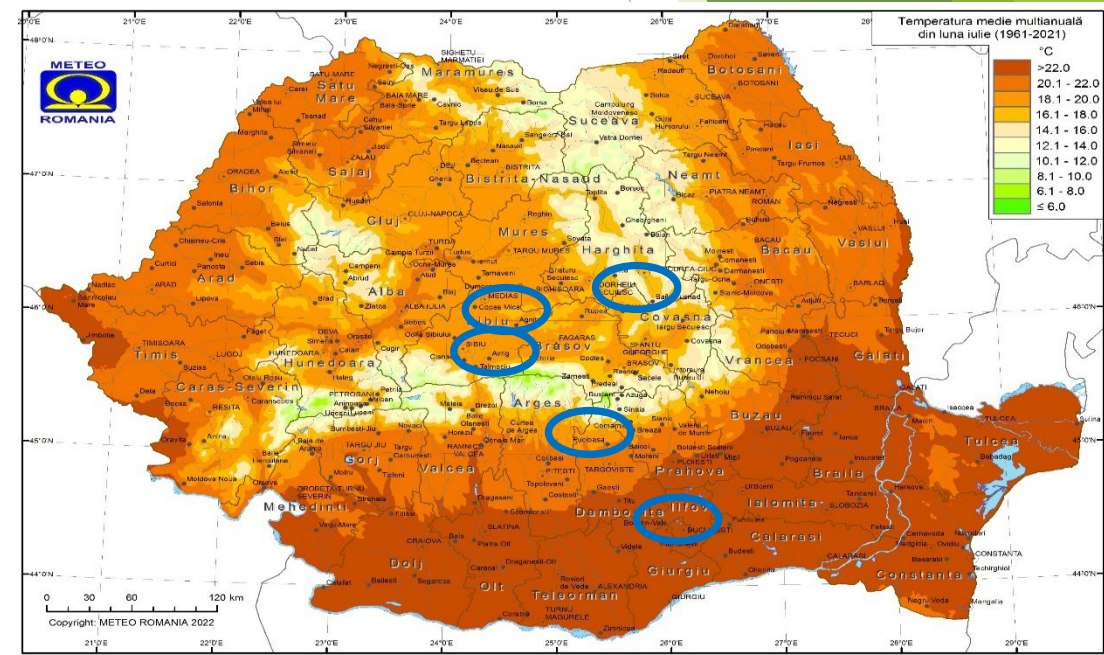
# Types of participatory approaches

- ▶ **Social surveys** to assess the level of public information and awareness of the issue of climate change -> the general public;
- ▶ **Workshops** in the process of developing mitigation and adaptation plans to climate change -> public and private institutions in the working groups;
- ▶ **Social surveys** to assess the experience of public and private institutions in their capacity as members of the working groups -> public and private institutions in the working groups;
- ▶ **Public debate** within the SEA procedure and approval of the Local Council Decision.



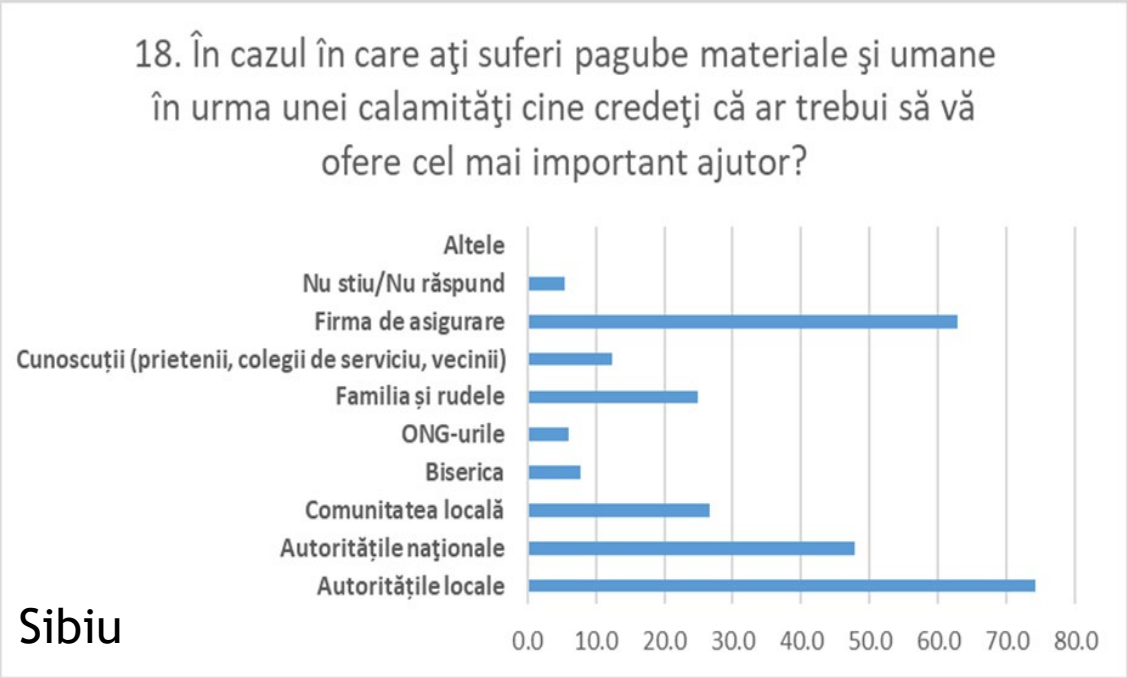
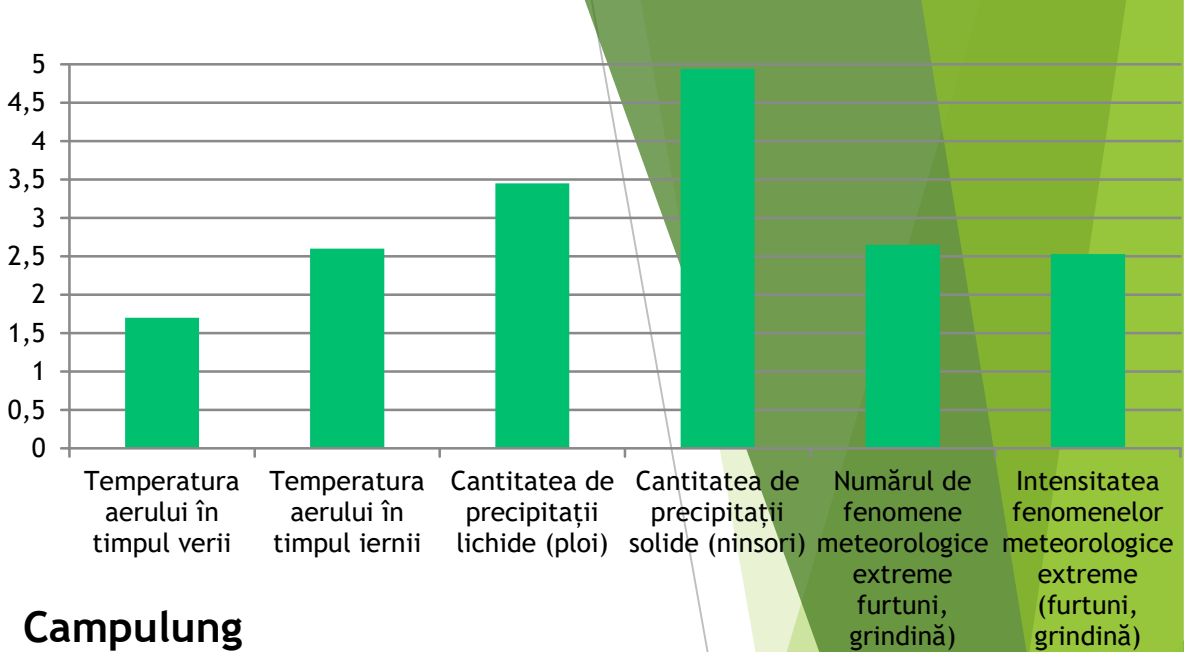
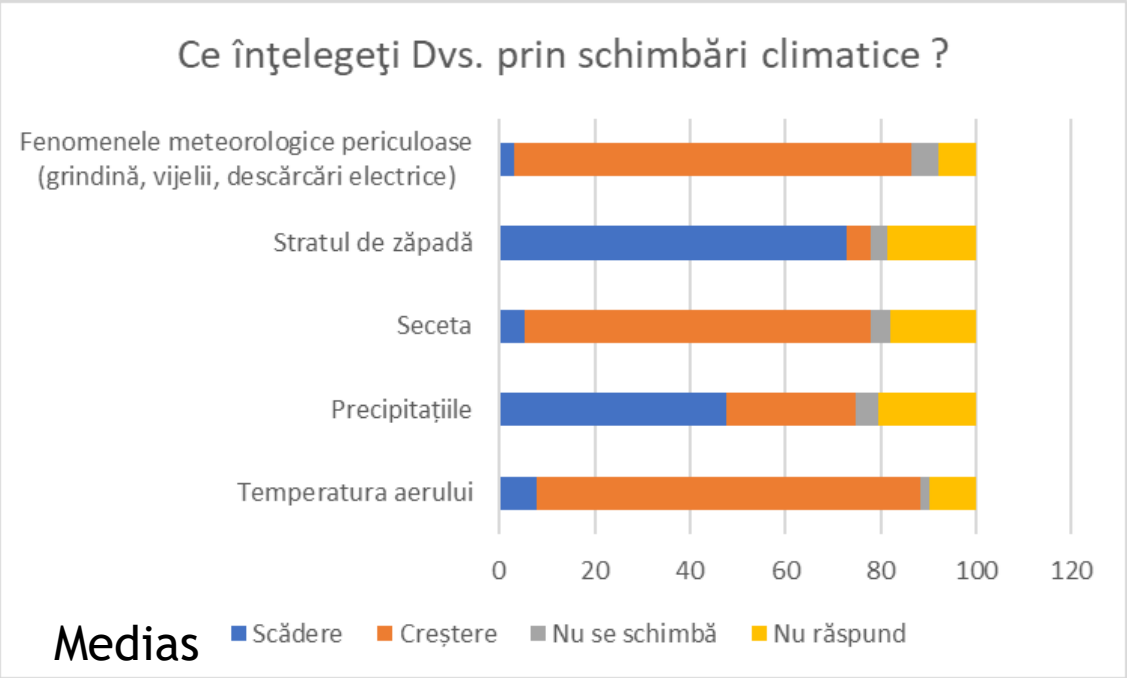
# Case studies

- ▶ Sibiu Municipality - 165,739 inhabitants, mountain-depression contact area, temperature increases, without significant changes in precipitation in terms of quantity, but with an increase in their torrentiality;
- ▶ Mediaș Municipality - 55,181 inhabitants, hilly area, temperature increases, without significant changes in precipitation in terms of quantity, but with an increase in their torrentiality;
- ▶ Câmpulung municipality - 33,804 inhabitants, Subcarpathian depression, decrease in the amount of solid precipitation.
- ▶ Sfântu Gheorghe municipality - 56,006 inhabitants, mountain depression, increase of the winter temperature.
- ▶ Bucharest - 2 million inhabitants, plain areas, increase of temperature, especially during the summer.



# Public perception of climate change

- ▶ Adequate level of awareness of climate change;
- ▶ Perception strongly influenced by the type of extreme events to which the public is exposed;
- ▶ Low level of information and interest in promoting individual adaptation measures;
- ▶ Transfer of responsibility to public authorities



# Involvement of institutions in the plan development process

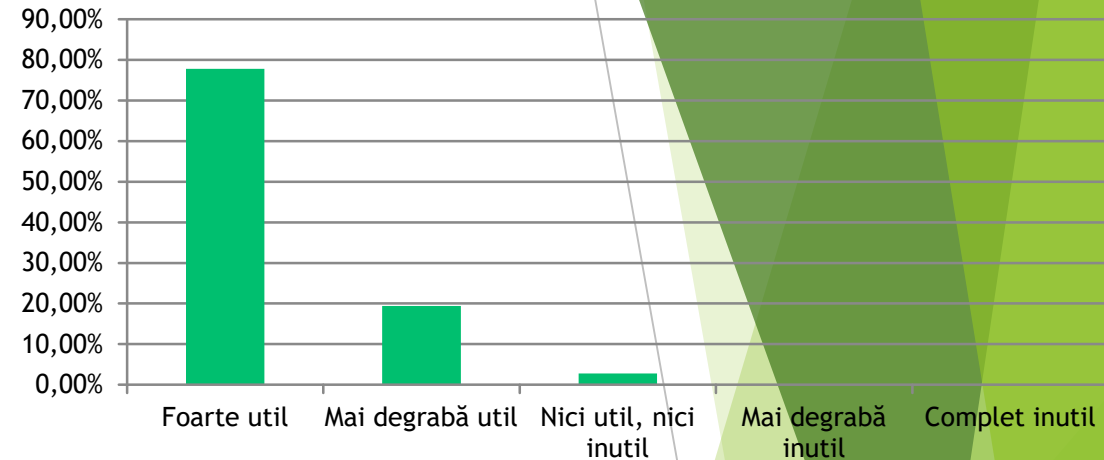
- ▶ The existence of previously realized strategies and plans influences the maturity of new approaches.
- ▶ Higher number and diversity in the participation of institutions in large cities (including with points of view).
- ▶ The interest to be part of the implementation from NGOs and professional societies is higher in big cities, being in contrast to the interest of public institutions.
- ▶ Acceptance of expert opinion defines medium and small cities.
- ▶ The participation of environmental institutions in the realization of the Plans was at most formal



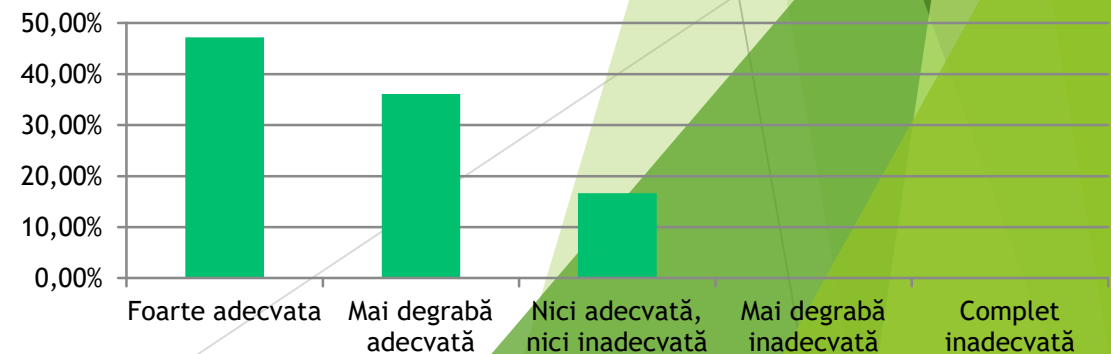
# The attitude of the institutions in relation to the plan

- ▶ Questionnaire – 36 answers (7 Campulung, 10 Sibiu, 19 Mediaș, 8 in Sfantu Gheorghe)
- ▶ Positive attitude in relation to the need to realize the Plan
- ▶ 50% of the representatives of environmental institutions consider their participation in the development of plans neither adequate/inappropriate (similar to private companies).
- ▶ NGOs generally have a different position from the majority group.
- ▶ Public institutions tend to have defensive and positive attitudes.

The municipality's climate change mitigation and adaptation plan you expect to be a document



Do you consider the co-optation of your institution among the key institutions for the development of the Municipality's Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan:

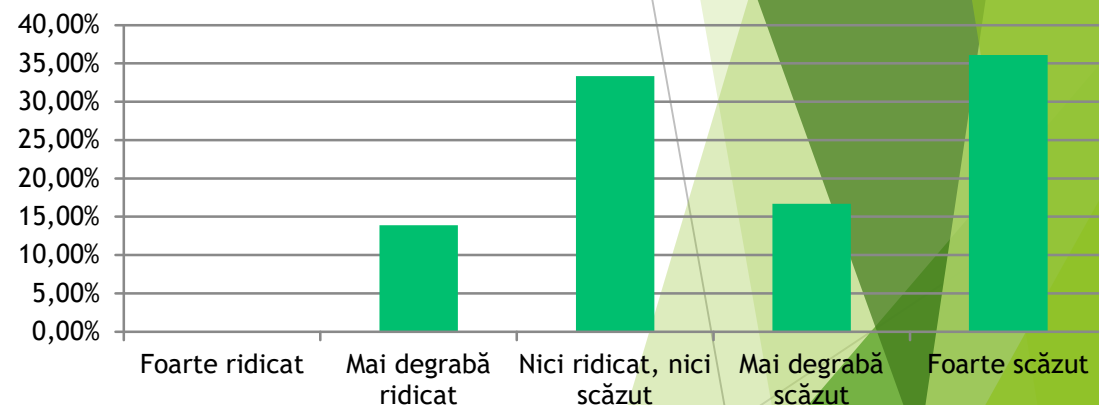




# Concluding remarks

- ▶ Public participation favors increasing the level of information and awareness in relation to climate change.
- ▶ Public participation helps increase the potential for collaboration between institutions by assuming duties that are consistent with their responsibilities.
- ▶ Experts must ensure logistical support for a constructive participatory approach.

The potential to generate conflicts and misunderstandings of the municipality's Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan in the drafting phase is





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# Thank you for you comments!