NAIAD

NAture Insurance value
Assessment and Demonstration

The project will explore the potential to capitalize on the services provided by fully functioning ecosystems as a "natural" assurance system from "green infrastructure". The ecosystems are understood as dynamic systems, affected by different impacts (climatic and anthropic) in an increasing environment of uncertainty and instability. The project NAIAD will explore the potential to use water related ecosystems characteristics to provide a protection –or contribute to improve resilience- of human society functioning and well-being to perturbations such as extreme events.

The NAIAD project postulates that the requirements for efficient operationalization of this insurance value rely on the successful combination of science-based demonstration, adequacy to local need, suitable institutional and legal framework as well as affordability and financing opportunities.
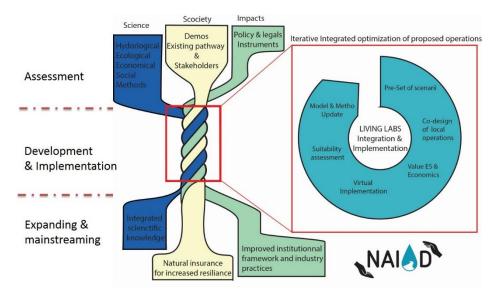

Figure 1: NAIAD Conceptual framework

The proposal addresses these issues in an action research perspective by evaluating, designing and implementing demos on 7 distinct European so-called natural assurance schemes. Those demos are at the heart of the NAIAD proposal where risk assessment and risk awareness, ecosystem services mapping and their valuation, are confronted on the ground to economic instruments and business set-ups designed to best fit a range of risk reduction strategies in an adaptive pathways framework. This aims to ensure that tools developed within NAIAD both answer local need and expectation, while identifying geographical, physical and cultural variability. The end goal is therefore to use this holistic approach to extract the sufficient and necessary scientific knowledge to allow the replication of those natural insurance scheme by local practioners. A similar step by step process will be applied in every of the 7 Demos, to harness comparable evidence of performance and replicability:

1. Study of local need for insurance
2. Ecosystems description
3. Scenarii development based on historical data
4. Identification of decision-making context
5. Application of common methodologies and prototypes to pre-selected scenarii

In order to achieve those goals, NAIAD regrouped partners from across the full spectrum of society actors to ensure the project is run in a true and comprehensive co-construction process. The consortium is led by a public implementation agency, supported by a network of top research institutions, and lifted by private companies and cities taking their full role as agent of change.