

# PIISA

Piloting Innovative Insurance  
Solutions for Adaptation

## Project Newsletter 05

May 2026



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## Editorial

The PIISA Final Seminar gathered over 100 participants to discuss how climate resilience, anticipatory governance and climate risk intelligence can be strengthened in a rapidly changing world. A key message was that climate adaptation is not only an environmental or well-being issue, but also a matter of security, economic stability, infrastructure resilience, insurability and even planetary boundaries. The seminar highlighted the need to move from fragmented, project-based efforts toward sustained, long-term cooperation between science, authorities, businesses and communities, and to translate scientific knowledge and forecasts into proactive and ambitious decision-making tools.

The PIISA project developed a suite of innovative climate-risk indicators and tools that help insurers, public authorities and farmers better anticipate and manage emerging hazards. These include indices for drought, heat, hail, thunderstorms, windstorms and wildfire, as well as tools supporting the co-design of parametric agricultural insurance and the use of seasonal forecasts. Together, they strengthen adaptation planning and enable more transparent and climate-smart insurance solutions.

Five thematic pilots further demonstrated how climate risks are evolving. Drought emerged as a growing cross-sectoral challenge, and seasonal forecasting proved essential for managing wildfire and agricultural yield risks. The pilots also showed the potential of parametric and hybrid insurance solutions—for example in addressing windstorm and bark-beetle risks—and highlighted how nature-based solutions can enhance well-being, improve infrastructure resilience and even increase the insurability of climate-related hazards such as flooding.

PIISA also produced a set of scalable tools, including an online tool for homeowners exposed to clay shrink–swell (CSS) damage, an awareness tool for insurers on extreme rainfall and nature-based solutions, and practical tools for designing parametric agricultural insurance. The project co-created the Risk Alert Briefing concept after identifying that CSS-related property damage—and the associated protection gap—is increasing across Europe. Preliminary investigations in Finland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and Spain confirm that this risk is widespread yet typically excluded from standard insurance and largely absent from national adaptation plans. These findings underline the need to replicate and scale PIISA’s approaches to strengthen climate resilience.

The PIISA Policy Brief and White Paper targeted decision-makers, public authorities, the insurance sector and climate-service developers. The Policy Brief calls for stronger risk awareness and wider uptake of climate-risk insurance, recommending dedicated public disaster funds, better access to standardised damage and vulnerability data, and targeted subsidies to make climate insurance more affordable. The White Paper urges a shift toward climate-smart insurance, emphasising forward-looking underwriting, innovative product design and the strategic role of linking insurance conditions to adaptation measures such as nature-based solutions.

## What is the legacy of PIISA?

The project ends, but its materials remain openly available. Closing the protection gap will require sustained collaboration, clearer regulation and stronger data frameworks. PIISA’s legacy is the resilient community and expert network built throughout the project—providing a foundation for replicating and scaling solutions that help Europe adapt to accelerating climate risks.



**Hilppa Gregow**

**PIISA Project Coordinator**

*Finnish Meteorological Institute*

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## Over 100 participants gathered in PIISA final seminar to discuss innovative insurance solutions

# SAVE THE DATE !

 04 MAR 2026

## Final Seminar

Strengthening future **resilience** through  
**innovative insurance solutions**

[www.piisa-project.eu](http://www.piisa-project.eu)



The PIISA project final seminar, “Strengthening future resilience through innovative insurance solutions”, was held on the 4th of March 2026 both onsite at De Lichtfabriek in Haarlem, the Netherlands and online. It drew together 102 experts and stakeholders from academia, public institutions and the private sector.

The seminar offered a look at possible innovations for the insurance sector. The results from the five PIISA pilots were also presented. The latter part of the day focused on policy recommendations and recommendations for the insurance industry. The research results and the industry insights sparked lively conversations, and the participants had many opportunities for networking. Throughout the day it was clear that the project has succeeded in finding new and innovative insurance solutions that can play a crucial role in adaptation to climate change, but that more work is needed. The importance of the PIISA project was stressed in many commentaries. Prompt action is needed, as climate risks are increasing at a rapid pace.

 [Find out more about this Event](#)

 [Morning Session Recording](#)

 [Afternoon Session Recording](#)

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## PIISA's latest workshops and webinars



## Workshop: From Pilots to Practice: Replicating Climate Adaptation Solutions for Insurance Markets

The 'From Pilots to Practice: Replicating Climate Adaptation Solutions for Insurance Markets' workshop was hosted by the PIISA project on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2026. The workshop commenced with a keynote from Leigh Wolfram, PIISA Executive Advisory Board Member and Policy Analyst at the OECD Directorate for Finance and Enterprise Affairs, who provided an overview on the importance of innovative insurance solutions and adaptation in the context of increasing climate risks in Europe. An overview of the 5 PIISA pilots was then provided by the pilot leads, highlighting the project's work on green roof insurance, insurance for soil stability risks, food and agriculture, and windthrow and wildfire risks for forests. A deep-dive was then presented into the Pilot replicability strategy developed, which highlights a cross-pilot strategic framework on the key actions and next steps needed to replicate the pilots in the short and long-term in other regions in Europe. This was followed by an interactive Q&A discussion with speakers responding to audience questions, and the workshop concluded with a short overview on where to find PIISA tools and resources on the [website](#).

 Find out more about this Event

 Workshop Recording

## Webinar: Market Feasibility of Index-Based Climate Insurance for Mediterranean Agriculture: Results from the PIISA Food & Agriculture Pilot

The workshop presented key findings from the co-development of an index-based insurance concept for olive farmers in Andalucía, combining farmer engagement, data analysis and verification, and co-design methods, along with the complementary climate services operationalised in the pilot. A dedicated discussion with insurance stakeholders was held


during the webinar using a Mentimeter round to explore feasibility and potential implementation pathways. There were 26 registrations, with participants from the insurance sector, as well as universities and organisations such as the OECD.

 [Find out more about this Event](#)

 [Webinar Recording](#)

## Webinar: Clay shrink–swell property damage and the emerging insurance protection gap in Europe

The final webinar for the clay shrink swell pilot took place on 24 April 2026. Saara Korjonen and Heikki Tuomenvirta (Finnish Meteorological Institute) together with David Cooke (Sustainable Finance Observatory) discussed how clay shrink–swell (CSS) processes pose an under-recognised but increasing risk to buildings because climate change is projected to increase the frequency and severity of deep-soil drought across large parts of Europe. The webinar highlighted evidence from France and five EU countries - Finland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and Spain - showing a consistent pattern of increasing CSS risk combined with inadequate insurance coverage for homeowners. The purpose of the webinar was to draw attention to this emerging risk and protection gap to support informed discussion on the implications of climate-driven CSS property damage for housing resilience, insurance markets and climate adaptation.

 [Find out more about this Event](#)

 [Webinar Recording](#)

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## PIISA White Paper calls for Climate-Smart Insurance for a Resilient Europe



The PIISA White Paper addresses the strategic necessity for the European insurance industry to evolve alongside accelerating climate risks to maintain insurance viability.

A shift toward forward-looking underwriting and innovative product design to handle non-linear loss patterns is essential. Practical evidence from project pilots shows that integrating physical hazard modeling and climate services can improve risk differentiation and support more resilient portfolios.

Furthermore, the paper suggests that linking insurance conditions to adaptation measures, such as nature-based solutions, serves as a strategic tool for managing volatility and protecting solvency.

Success in closing the existing protection gap requires sustained cross-sector collaboration, regulatory clarity, and improved data frameworks to align risk transfer with adaptation incentives.

 [Read White Paper](#)

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# PIISA Policy Brief: Risk Awareness and Innovative Insurance Solutions are key to improving Climate Resilience



Climate change intensifies extreme weather risks across Europe, but the share of climate-related losses covered by insurance is low. To address this gap, actions are needed to increase the penetration rate of climate insurances.

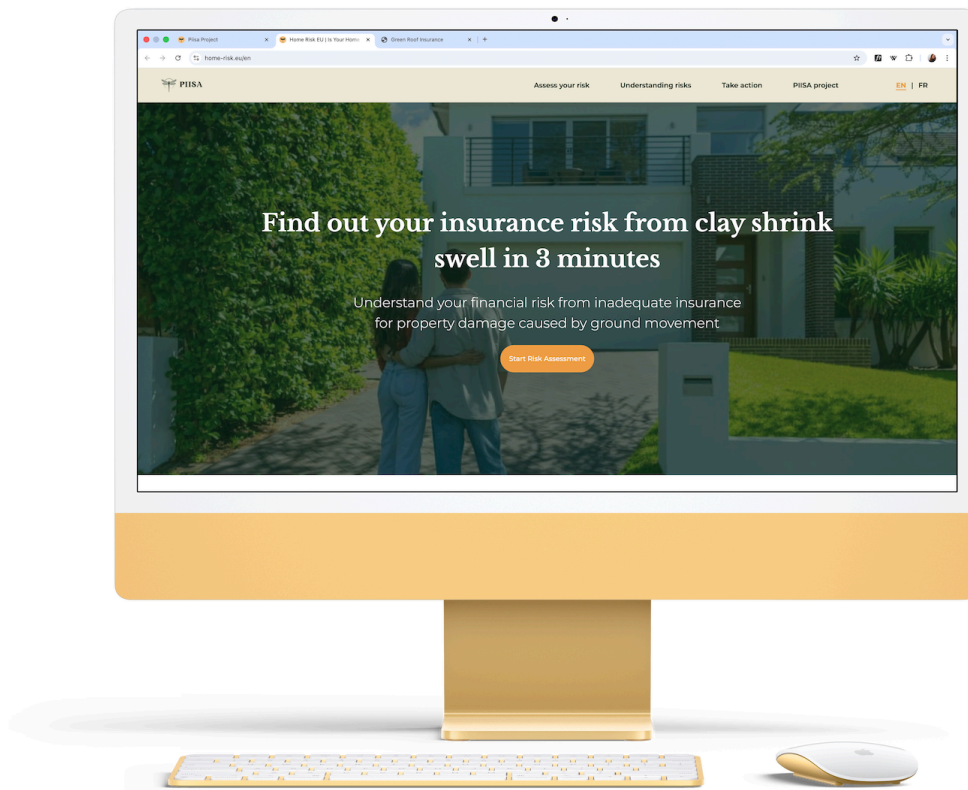
For example, insurance companies need a regulatory environment that allows new kinds of insurance products, and better access to damage and vulnerability data. Also, the way disaster relief is organised influences the penetration rates: disaster relief through ad hoc measures with no budget limit disincentivises insurance. Improving the penetration rate requires also awareness raising of the economic risks created by natural hazards.

What should national governments do to increase the penetration rate of climate risk insurances? PIISA project recommends, for example, that national governments:

- Provide disaster relief through dedicated public funds and not ad hoc interventions.
- Launch projects to collect damage and vulnerability data in a standardized format and make it publicly available.
- Make climate risk insurance more affordable by a subsidy targeted to low-income households and other groups vulnerable to climate risks.

[Read Policy Brief](#)

# Discover the PIISA Tools: Turning Climate Data into Action



As climate risks intensify across Europe, the PIISA project has developed a suite of practical, open-access tools designed to help homeowners, farmers, insurers, and policymakers make better-informed decisions. Are you a French homeowner wondering whether your property is at risk from soil subsidence? The [Home Risk Assessment tool](#) maps your exposure to clay shrink-swell events, a phenomenon threatening over 10 million homes in France.

Interested in how green infrastructure can reduce urban flood damage? The [Green Roof Insurance awareness tool](#) shows insurers and city-dwellers alike how nature-based solutions can lower risk and reshape insurance offerings.

For the agricultural sector, [CoDepi and the Seasonal Forecast app](#) put cutting-edge, co-designed parametric insurance and climate forecasting directly in the hands of farmers and insurers. At a broader scale, [10 open-source Risk Indices](#), covering drought, hail, windstorm and wildfire, have been integrated into the European Commission's Risk Data Hub, freely available for risk modelling and underwriting. And to make sense of it all, the [Impact Data Catalogue](#) compiles the best publicly accessible datasets on climate-related losses, from flooding to wildfires, structured through a clear seven-level impact framework.

These tools are live, free to use, and built for real-world application.

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# Latest Project Deliverables

The PIISA Project has published new deliverables this year. You may find and download all our public deliverables directly on the PIISA website.

- [Catalogues of collected empirical and generated original data on climate related risks, damage, and losses](#)
- [Climate services on insurance options and adaptation alternatives for citizens](#)
- [Pilots for Cities and well-being](#)
- [Pilots for Agriculture](#)
- [Pilots for Forests](#)
- [Replicability Roadmap](#)

More Deliverables

# Latest Publications

The PIISA Project has published new publications this year. You may find and download them directly on the PIISA website.

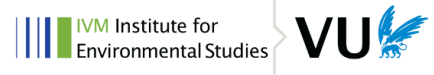
- [Expanding CMCC seasonal prediction system v3.5 applications to the local scale through statistical downscaling techniques](#)
- [Risk Alert Briefing: Clay shrink–swell property damage and the increasing protection gap in Europe](#)
- [Barriers and Enablers for Nature-based Solutions: Insights from European insurers](#)

More Publications



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# Project Partners



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