

2nd Forum for the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change



Publications Office
of the European Union

2nd Forum for the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change – proceeding report

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Manuscript completed in September 2023

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Project Number: 2023.5091				
Title: 2nd Forum for the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change – proceeding report				
Linguistic version	Media/Volume	Catalogue number	ISBN	DOI
EN PDF	PDF/Volume_01	ML-02-23-129-EN-N	978-92-68-08417-5	10.2834/42144

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2023

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Proceeding Report

2nd Forum for the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change

Tuesday 13th June 2023

1. Introduction

This report provides a summary of the 2nd Forum for the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, which took place on 13th June 2023 at Ronneby in Region Blekinge, Sweden. Blekinge was selected as it was amongst the first regions to sign the Mission Charter. The event built upon the successful groundwork laid during the inaugural Forum held in June 2022.

308 regions and local authorities have signed the Charter of the Mission. Among these, 291 hail from 25 EU Member States, and 17 from countries associated with Horizon Europe. Furthermore, the Charter has been endorsed by an additional 63 private entities, research networks, and local action groups, branded as 'Friends of the Mission'.

This significant level of grassroots engagement has surpassed our original goal, which was to assist a minimum of 150 regions and communities across Europe in achieving climate resilience by 2030. Given the high expectations, the Mission is actively coordinating a Community of Practice focused on climate change adaptation, and providing technical support through the MIP4Adapt platform, launched in April 2023. Additionally, we're offering direct support and funding under the Horizon Europe work programme, with an allocation of EUR 350 million spanning the period 2021-2023.

The annual Forum is a major governance element and pivotal juncture in the Mission's calendar, addressing how the European, national and regional levels interact so that adaptation measures can be implemented in the most efficient and effective ways. It brings together national, regional and local authorities, Friends of the Mission, European institutions, and research organisations to promote an exchange of views on the direction of the Mission, identify issues, and define the path ahead. Furthermore, it is an opportunity to showcase regional initiatives on adaptation.

The event aimed to:

- Take stock and assess the progress of the Mission over the last year and identify prevailing challenges.
- Convene representatives from all levels of governance – European, national, regional and local – to support collaboration, and address how knowledge can help the scaling up of adaptation solutions.
- Promote the exchange of views on the future direction of the Mission to influence the setting of priorities and focuses, steering the future implementation of the Mission.
- Provide an arena to display regional initiatives dedicated to climate change adaptation.

The full agenda can be found in the Annex.

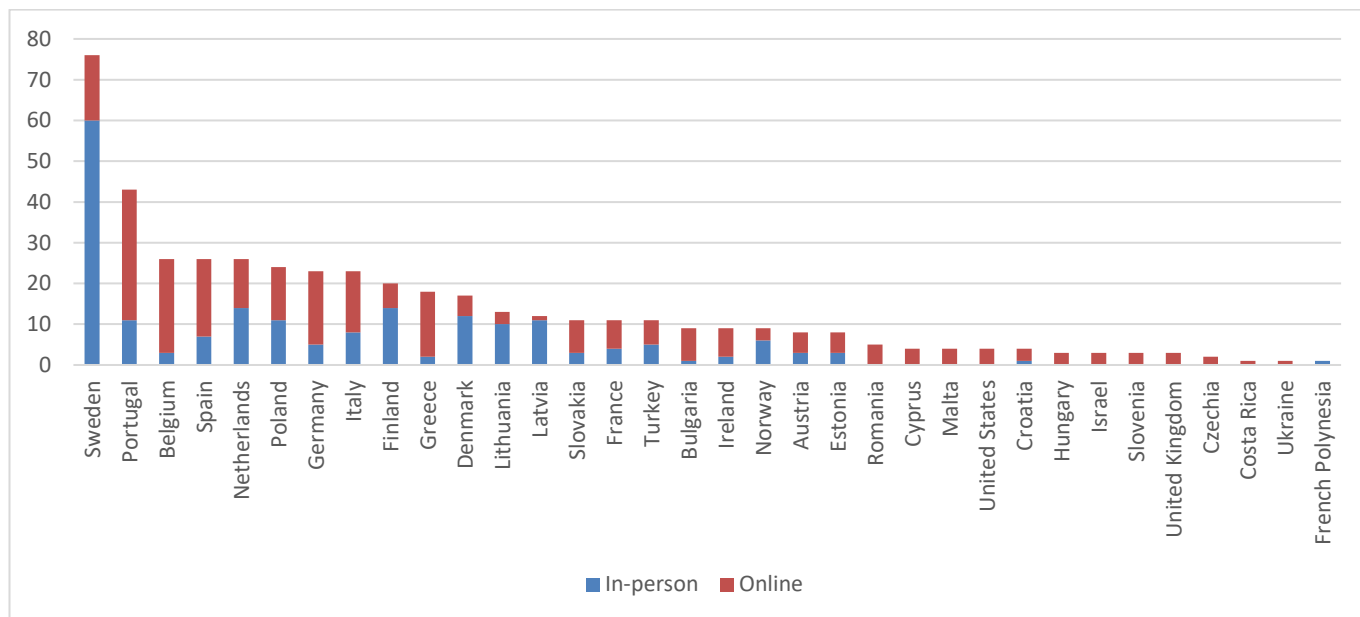
Attendance

The meeting was hybrid, welcoming participants online and offline. It brought together a total of 461 participants. Of these, 197 attended in-person and 264 attended online. In addition, there were 21 speakers and panellists and 20 representatives from the delivery team.

Participants were mainly from the EU 27 countries. There were also attendees from non-EU-27 countries (Turkey, Ukraine and Norway). Sweden had the highest proportion of respondents (almost 16.5 %), followed by Portugal (9.3%) and Belgium, Netherlands, and Spain (5.6 %). The share of in-person and online attendees varies from

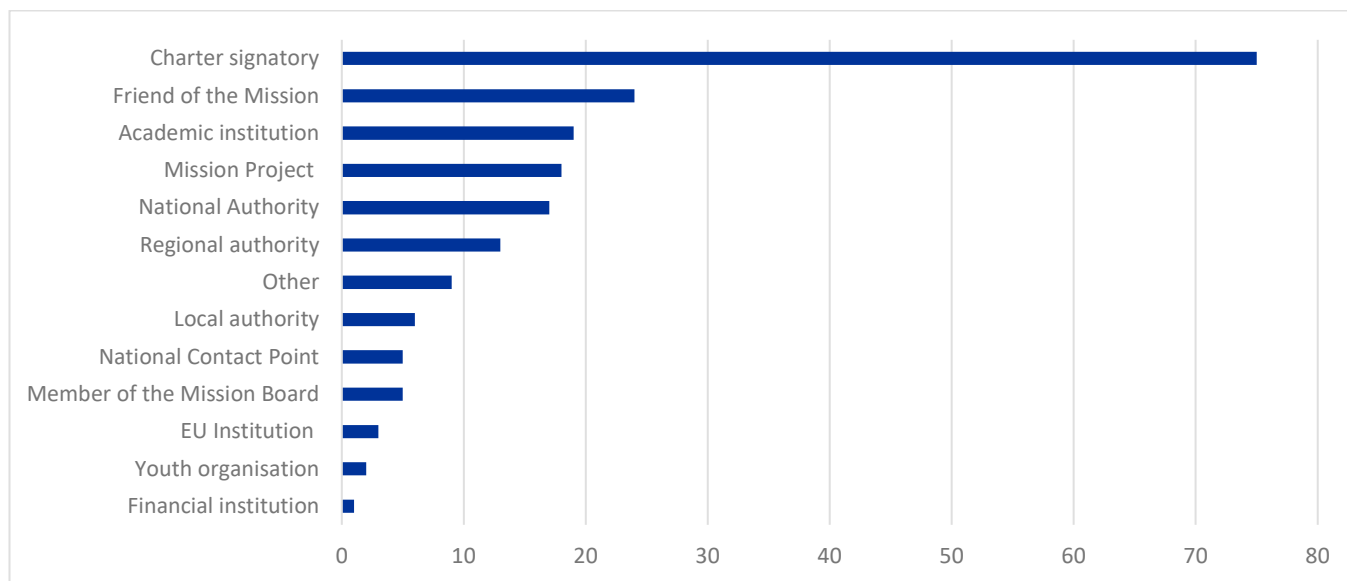
country to country. Most of the Swedish attendees were at the Forum in-person, whereas most Portuguese attended online. In some countries all respondents attended online (e.g. Romania, Malta, Cyprus, Slovenia, and Hungary). The attendees located furthest from the Forum venue were from United States (4 online), Costa Rica (1 online), and French Polynesia (1 in-person).

Figure 1: Forum attendees by country and form of attendance (in-person or online)



Of the in-person attendees, 38% were Charter Signatories and 12% Friends of the Mission.

Figure 2: In-person Forum attendees by type.



2. Opening

Master of Ceremonies, Claire Doole, opened the Forum with a Poll asking the in-person and online attendees where they were from.

Figure 3: Results to Poll 1 - From which country are you joining us today?



In his welcome message, Frans Timmermans (European Commission's Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal and Commissioner for Climate Action Policy) highlighted the progress made in the past two-year's work on the Mission and its positive impact on communities. He acknowledged the escalating climate crisis and proposed commemorating the victims of climate change annually on July 15th. Timmermans emphasized the role of nature conservation in mitigating the negative effects of climate change, including the implementation of a Nature Restoration Law and adequate financing for adaptation measures. He mentioned the growing number of signatories to the Charter, representing over 40% of the EU population, and the launch of the MIP4Adapt platform, offering tailored technical assistance and knowledge on adaptation. Timmermans stressed the importance of collaboration at the Forum to transform knowledge into practical solutions and scale up successful approaches.



Elina Bardram (Mission Manager and Director of DG CLIMA, European Commission), highlighted the impressive growth of charter signatories and reiterated the Commission's dedication to concrete actions. She mentioned the allocation of substantial funding through the Horizon Europe work program. Bardram reminded the audience about the availability of Technical Assistance, inviting charter signatories to seek expert guidance on adaptation solutions. She emphasized the multidimensional nature of the fight against climate change, spanning ecosystems, economies, food systems, and society as a whole. She expressed optimism for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and progress, while underscoring the importance of engaging youth and employing tailored approaches. She concluded by highlighting the significance of unity in addressing the formidable challenge of climate change.



Lars Friberg (Climate strategist at Vinnova) acknowledged Johannes Clumpers, the former chair of the Mission Secretariat at the Commission, for his foresight in hosting the event outside of Brussels. He highlighted the importance of engaging with unfamiliar people and shared personal conversations about climate-related challenges, such as drought and the need for cooling in Nordic countries. He also emphasized the significance of European solidarity, recounting a story of Polish firefighters who aided in controlling a forest fire in Sweden. Friberg stressed the need for equality in addressing climate change, urging attendees to collaborate and stay connected to tackle this global challenge together.



Vasco Alves Cordeiro (President of the European Committee of the Regions), commended the Mission's direct support to cities and regions in implementing the EU's adaptation strategy. He emphasised the urgent need for feasible and effective adaptation options, highlighted by the recent assessment report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change. Cordeiro acknowledged the growing Mission community and its tangible results on the ground, particularly among the Committee of the Regions' members. He emphasized the importance of collaboration at all governance levels and the need for resources to boost resilience at the local and regional level. Cordeiro praised the Mission Portal and the expressed readiness for continued cooperation with the European Commission, Charter Signatories, Friends of the Mission, and National authorities to accelerate the implementation of effective adaptation measures.



3. Morning sessions

The morning sessions focused on collaboration and cooperation and the scene was set with a Lightning Talk.

Lightening Talk

Edoardo Croci (Professor of Practice and Director of the Sustainable Urban Regeneration Lab at Bocconi University) discussed the risks and opportunities associated with climate change adaptation. He highlighted the importance of addressing both mitigation and natural disasters, emphasizing the need for feasible and effective adaptation options. Croci emphasized the relevance of cities and their vulnerabilities, including impacts on infrastructure, services, health, and well-being. He stressed the interconnectedness between urban and rural areas and the social and economic impacts of climate change. Croci acknowledged the growing efforts in European cities to implement adaptation projects, focusing on issues such as heatwaves, droughts, floods, and water scarcity. He discussed the role of insurance in reducing economic damages and the need for an integrated approach to urban adaptation targeting multiple goals. Croci emphasized the importance of multi-level governance, policy coherence, urban-rural interactions, and finance in achieving effective adaptation measures.



Panel 1 - How to increase collaboration between national authorities, regions and other Mission actors to deliver on adaptation?

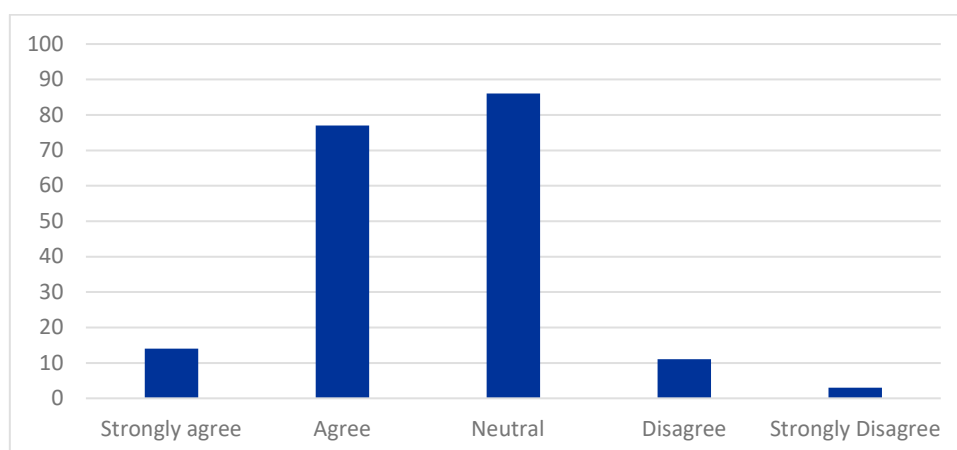
The first panel discussion addressed the topic of how to increase collaboration between national authorities, regions and other Mission actors to deliver on adaptation. It was moderated by Philippe Tulkens (Deputy Mission Manager and Head of Unit DG for Research & Innovation, European Commission). The panellists included Klara Ellström (Committee of the Regions Young Elected Politician and local elected politician for Uppsala kommun, Sweden), Miriam Haritz (President of International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine), Vladimir Svet

(Deputy Mayor of Tallinn), Erika Augustinsson (Innovation Strategist, Region Blekinge), Nina Alsen (Senior Policy Officer, Ministry for the Environment of Germany), and Alison Gilliland (Dublin City Councillor and member of the Committee of the Regions).



The panel began with a Poll which offered the following statement, ‘Since its launch, the Mission helped improve the collaboration between national, regional, local, and other actors on climate adaptation’. Participants were invited to select from the following responses: Strongly agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly disagree.

Figure 4: Results to Poll 2 - Since its launch, the Mission helped improve the collaboration between national, regional, local, and other actors on climate adaptation



On the poll results, Philip Tulkens remarked that this is a good start and highlighted the importance of honest answers on where the Mission stands. While it is still too early to see many tangible results, the continued progress of the Mission will be enhanced by the actions of the community itself, who must continue to ask questions, collaborate and interact.

The panel went on to address how collaboration between different governance levels of the Mission is key for its success. It reviewed the influence of bottlenecks and other difficulties towards resilience and placed the issue of funding in a broader perspective of transformative change.

Klara Ellström emphasized the importance of local knowledge and citizen participation. She recommended utilizing existing forums, such as climate protocols and pledges, and learning from best practices. Ellström highlighted the

integration of long-term policies, particularly in physical and urban planning with a focus on vegetation and stormwater management. She also stressed the need to consider vulnerable groups and encouraged collaboration and knowledge sharing among different organizations and networks.

Miriam Haritz discussed the challenges faced by the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine River. The Rhine River is under pressure due to climate change consequences and requires coordinated, participatory approaches across sectors and states. The Commission utilizes a step-by-step approach, involving experts and stakeholders, to develop a climate adaptation strategy. Collaboration, knowledge sharing, and a common basis of information are essential for effective adaptation.

Vladimir Svet remarked that, for Tallinn, being a green capital means saving time by making quick decisions. Examples include creating a digital twin for urban planning, developing a well-connected train station for a railway project, and establishing a joint venture for energy production. Challenges involve overcoming borders between municipalities, changing habits, and building trust without regulations or sufficient funding.

Erika Augustinsson brought regional examples by describing how Region Blekinge uses the Mission as a tool for innovation on adaptation. The Mission is integrated into their regional strategy so there is a mandate for the region to coordinate activities on adaptation and gather stakeholders. The EU Missions provide crucial support as the national level involvement remains limited.

Nina Alsen described how The German Constitution delegates climate change adaptation responsibility to the federal states and municipalities, with limited support from the federal government. To address this, a Center for Climate Adaptation was established to provide consistent support and information to municipalities. The Center focuses on capacity building, networking, and advising on funding. It facilitates collaboration among federal states and aims to reach vulnerable areas that have not yet engaged in adaptation efforts.

Alison Gilliland addressed how local authorities in Dublin are at the forefront of implementing climate plans, engaging with communities, and responding to extreme weather events. Collaboration among key stakeholders, including NGOs, academia, and citizens, is crucial to address challenges and share expertise. Examples of collaborative initiatives in Dublin include Smart Dublin and Operandum. Challenges exist in integrating national government and securing funding, but local politicians and communities can work together to drive climate action. Funding directly to local and regional governments is sought at the European level.

Project Showcase

Following the first panel discussion, two project showcases provided concrete examples of where successful collaboration has helped deliver important adaptation projects.

Benjamin Dewals (Professor in Hydraulic Engineering and Water Resources Management, University of Liege) addressed the audience about the devastating floods in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg in 2021, which resulted in numerous fatalities and damages. The resulting transnational Interreg EMR projects focussed on improving crisis management and water management across borders. Collaboration among authorities, organizations, and sectors has been successful, including the deployment of novel technologies and improving operational procedures for hazard mapping. The aim is to transform the project Consortium into a long-lasting and strong partnership to implement an international agenda on floods and water safety.

Robert Johannesson (Head of Urban and Rural Unit at Boverket, the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning) presented a success story on Sweden's embrace of the EU initiative, New European Bauhaus, emphasizing collaboration and planning for sustainable living environments. The top-down approach resulted in networks and examples of implementation, such as the Visions in the North (Visioner i norr) project, where multidisciplinary teams envisioned the future development of Kiruna, integrating materials and symbols from the old town into the new design.

Breakout Session 1

Linking to the panel discussion, breakout sessions were conducted in order to:

- Reflect and expand into the topics covered during the panel discussions.
- Gather participants perceptions on the topic to influence the priorities and future work of the Mission.
- Give possibility for meeting new people, networking, and exchanging ideas

In this first session the topic was the same as the prior panel discussion: how to increase collaboration between national authorities, regions and other Mission actors to deliver on adaptation. To support participants discussions, two guiding questions were developed:

1. What are the barriers to collaboration on climate change adaptation in your region?
2. How can the Mission help overcome them?

Participants were invited to divide themselves into different groups, enhancing the possibility of actors to meet new people. In each group, participants started by introducing themselves, and then discussing ways for increasing collaboration. Each member was invited to use Slido to record key thoughts and take aways from the group they were participating in, in response to the guiding questions.

When the session was finished, the responses received via Slido where summarize and presented in plenary as seen in Figure 5. Later, the MIP4Adapt team develop a deeper analysis of all the responses, summarizing them in the bullets below.

Figure 5: High level summary of breakout session 1: How to increase collaboration between national authorities, regions and other Mission actors to deliver on adaptation?



Barriers to collaboration on climate change adaptation

- **Limited Awareness and Understanding:** A significant challenge is the limited awareness and understanding about climate change among various stakeholders, leading to less prioritization of collaboration on adaptation measures.
- **Fragmented and Incoherent Governance:** Participants pointed out conflicts and tensions among national agencies with similar tasks but different goals, leading to uncoordinated and siloed plans.
- **Need for Policy and Regulatory Changes:** Respondents suggest that current regulations and policies do not adequately enable climate adaptation efforts.
- **Funding Challenges:** There is a frequently mentioned lack of sufficient and appropriate funding for adaptation measures and need for more accessible funding opportunities.
- **Barriers to Collaboration and Communication:** Respondents indicated the need for more meetings like workshops and the creation of platforms to facilitate engagement and understanding of the severity of climate impacts.

- **Lack of Technical Knowledge and Capacity:** Some responses highlighted the lack of technical knowledge and capacity, especially within municipalities, as a key barrier to effective collaboration on climate adaptation.
- **Limited Engagement with the Private Sector:** Participants expressed the need for more engagement with private businesses in climate adaptation efforts.

Mission support for overcoming those barriers:

- The Mission needs to be **ambitious, direct** and brave to speed up activities and take the initiative to inspire, engage, and support vertical and horizontal cooperation.
- The Mission should be **inspiring and have a clear vision** and a good story highlighting the needs and benefits of adaptation to support actors in engaging their colleagues, all governance levels, other experts, and citizens with less knowledge about the urgency to become climate resilient.
- The Mission has to **connect, enable, and boost exchange** between similar interest groups from different regions (peer exchange) and between academia, local experts and authorities focusing on cross-border exchange.
- The Mission should provide **more and easier accessible funding** opportunities for local and regional authorities to finance adaptation measures and support alternative financial sources from pension funds, insurance companies, etc.
- The Mission needs to **support all levels of government** by setting clear goals and by assessing the European, national, and regional implementation based on a clear set of indicators.
- The Mission has to **provide solutions and close the gap between science and implementation**, for example, by providing a catalogue of innovative solutions including financial support for their replication.
- The Mission's activities have to **build up capacities and provide technical support**, including for small and medium-sized regions and municipalities, and helpdesk at physical meetings. Materials should be available in as many EU languages as possible.

4. Afternoon sessions

The afternoon sessions focused on scaling-up adaptation solutions and the scene was set with a Lightning Talk.

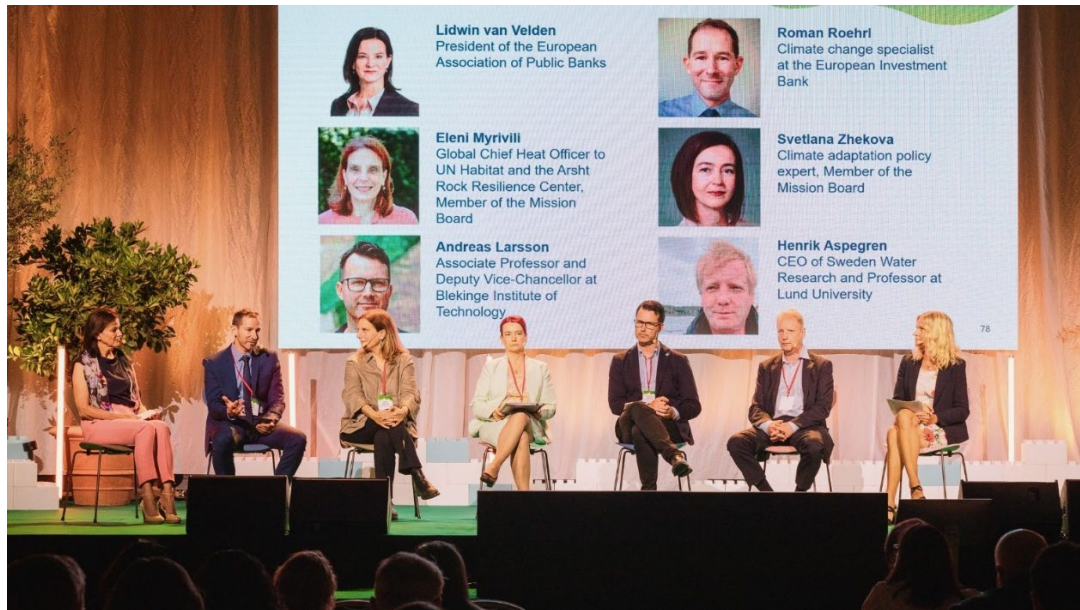
Lightning Talk

Mariana Mazzucato (Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London) delivered a talk on embracing public purpose and achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs). She emphasized the need to move beyond market fixes and instead shape and co-create the economy. Drawing lessons from the Apollo program, she highlighted the importance of problem-oriented systems and outcomes-oriented procurement. Mazzucato called for a new policy narrative that prioritizes shared risks and rewards, intersectoral collaboration, and stakeholder participation. She discussed the role of Missions and how they require redesigning financial institutions, adopting conditionality, and fostering public-private partnerships. Mazzucato stressed the need for a common good approach, urging governments to invest in their own capacity rather than outsourcing.



Panel 2 - 'From knowledge to solutions: how to scale up adaptation solutions?'

The second panel address how to scale up adaptation solutions. It was moderated by Elina Bardram (Mission Manager and Director of DG CLIMA, European Commission). The panellists included Lidwin van Velden (President of the European Association of Public Banks), Roman Roehrl (climate change specialist at the European Investment Bank), Eleni Myrivili (Global Chief Heat Officer to UN Habitat and the Arsht Rock Resilience Center, Member of the Mission Board), Svetlana Zhekova (climate adaptation policy expert, Member of the Mission Board), Andreas Larsson (Associate Professor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Blekinge Institute of Technology), Henrik Aspegren (CEO of Sweden Water Research and Professor at Lund University).



The panel launched with the third Poll which asked the question, what is most important for successful climate adaptation? Participants were asked to select form a range of possible responses.

Figure 6: Results to Poll 3 - What is most important for successful climate adaptation?



Elina Bardram remarked that the results of the panel were not surprising in light of the morning's discussions. She expanded on this to say that relating is key and it is critical to the Mission that policies make sense to the citizen. On funding, she remarked that several of the panellists would be addressing this topic directly.

The panel went on to address the critical need for strategic partnerships and cooperation to scale up and implement on-the-ground climate adaptation solutions. It discussed the importance of communication between academia, industry, the financial sector, and various levels of governance, including urban centres and regional authorities. Drawing from real-world examples and case studies, it discussed the challenges and opportunities in these collaborations, and their potential to accelerate the transition from knowledge to the implementation of actionable solutions. It provided insights into effective strategies and best practices to foster such collaborations, facilitating a better understanding of the role they play in the broader mission of climate adaptation.

Lidwin van Velden emphasized the need to scale up investments in climate adaptation, mitigation, energy transition, and biodiversity. Public banks, with their long-term societal goals, are well-positioned to fund projects. Collaboration

between public and private funds, knowledge, and parties, including commercial banks, can lead to complementary financing structures. Challenges exist with banking regulations and suitable frameworks for public banks.

Roman Roehrl described how The European Investment Bank (EIB) aims to dramatically increase its adaptation finance by 2025. The EIB offers advisory support to project developers, including climate risk assessments and tailored adaptation solutions. They encourage collaboration and urge more projects to come forward for financing to address the resilience challenges. The EIB's offering is versatile, available to public and private sectors, regions, municipalities, cities, businesses, and financial intermediaries.

Eleni Myrivili addressed how heat adaptation and resilience, particularly in urban centres, is a crucial yet neglected issue. Heat-related deaths, especially among vulnerable populations, are on the rise. Athens implemented innovative strategies including a heat health categorization system and collaboration with universities. Preparedness measures and city redesign, focusing on incorporating nature, are essential for protecting lives. European Union support and funding, including from the EIB, can accelerate the greening of cities to address the deadly consequences of heat.

Svetlana Zhekova described how policy implementation for climate adaptation faces challenges in accessing available funds. Bottlenecks include the complexity of multiple EU programs and the integration of climate adaptation into regional and sectorial planning. Reliable information on vulnerabilities at the local level is lacking. Mission implementation platforms and technical assistance can aid regions in overcoming these barriers for better fund accessibility.


Andreas Larsson asserted that the public sector should take a proactive role in climate adaptation by becoming co-creators of solutions alongside the private sector. Cross-sectorial partnerships, such as the Marine Technology Centre in Sweden, demonstrate the value of collaboration. The public sector's involvement can drive the transformation towards a safe and green Europe. Scaling up and continuing education programs are needed to increase the absorption capacity of public sector organizations.

Henrik Aspegren recounted how climate adaptation measures in southern Sweden and eastern Denmark are driven by local triggering events such as cloud bursts, droughts, and storm surges caused by climate change. The water industry is under pressure to address these challenges through simple measures like retaining water and recycling. The REWAISE project with European water companies aims to demonstrate the value of water and implement stormwater harvesting for reuse at the property level. Despite technical challenges, they are ready to tackle these substantial yet interesting societal challenges.

Following the panel discussion, the Q&A opened with the question *"If you were to send a tweet to mobilise action and share information about what's possible, based on what you've heard during the other panellists' interventions and your own experience, what would your Tweet say?"*

Lidwin van Velden – "Complementary collaborative action" 

Collaboration, complementarity, and action are essential. Knowledge institutions, private companies, and banks must work together to scale up and take immediate action.

Roman Roehrl – "Don't be daunted, perfect can be the enemy of good" 


Urgency is key; now is the time to scale up adaptation. Don't be intimidated by complexity; it's better to start than wait for full understanding. Adaptation may be less familiar than mitigation, but success will come with action.

Eleni Myrivili – "Brave interdisciplinary action" 


Mitigation and adaptation must always be linked; don't separate them. Bankability and return on investment are challenges. Embrace interdisciplinarity to solve issues. Bring diverse knowledge and skills to the table. Collaboration among communities is essential.

Svetlana Zhekova – "Synergies. Let's go ahead with small steps in this long journey" 

Start the journey with small steps, be brave. The time is now. Emphasize synergies and interdisciplinarity in planning, funding, and community engagement. Take small steps together.

Andreas Larsson – “Don't reinvent the wheel. Steel with pride from other sectors” 

Don't reinvent the wheel. Learn from other sectors. Utilize knowledge from industries like aerospace, automotive, and construction. Adapt existing technologies like digital twins. Build on what already exists to tackle new challenges.

Henrik Aspegren – “Urban living labs” 

Stay curious and embrace replication. Introduce social sciences for mindset transition. Technology alone is not enough. Step up in new ways with Urban living labs.

Audience Q&A

The first audience question was addressed to Eleni Myrivili - *“Greening up cities can be difficult due to the density of existing cities. How can cities become Greener without increasing urban sprawl?”*

Eleni Myrivili emphasized the need to reprioritize public space in dense cities like Athens, shifting away from car-centric allocations. Instead of increasing urban sprawl, she advocated for leveraging density to integrate nature into cities. Creating intensive forests in small areas and establishing corridors can maximize green spaces. Additionally, water management plays a crucial role, using water for nature in sustainable ways and economizing its use in dense urban environments.

The second audience question was addressed to Lidwin van Velden - *“How can we make public investors value adaptation solutions more? What argument would you use, or have you been using, to get the attention and involvement that we need?”*

Lidwin van Velden emphasized the importance of a longer-term horizon when engaging public investors in valuing adaptation solutions. By highlighting the potential increase in costs if action is not taken, investors, including pension funds and institutional investors, show interest in sustainable impact bonds. Transparency in reporting impact bonds and aligning with ambitious goals, such as energy and climate neutrality, attracts favorable funding rates and enables the realization of cost-effective climate adaptation products, benefiting both society and private companies.

The third audience question was addressed to Andreas Larsson – *“Obviously it's not so easy to articulate the profitability around adaptation action. What kind of arguments do you use to get the private sector to support your work?”*

Andreas Larsson noted a shift in the private sector's perception of profitability in adaptation action. Companies now recognize the business value of sustainability and addressing climate concerns. Pressure from regulations and public demand has influenced their mindset, leading to a greater focus on sustainability as core business. While there is still progress to be made, sustainability and societal value are increasingly valued throughout companies, from top to bottom..

The fourth audience question was addressed to Roman Roehrl – *“How can the EIB support the mission and how can the mission help the EIB, because it's of course important that your clients find you.”*

Roman Roehrl highlighted the mutual benefits between the EIB and the Mission. The EIB can provide advisory services for project origination, ensuring coordination and support for scaling up initiatives. It's important for the EIB to stay informed about mission developments and collaborate to amplify impact. Ideas and perspectives from mission participants are welcomed for a stronger partnership going forward.

The fifth audience question was addressed to both Henrik Aspegren and Svetlana Zhekova – *“How can we identify indicators for scaling up and what are the success factors in this?”*

Henrik Aspegren highlighted that public investors and real estate developers are increasingly interested in solutions that resonate with customers' lifestyles, particularly in small-scale projects like the REWAISE initiative. This trend aligns with a Scandinavian tradition of identifying with sustainable living choices.

Svetlana Zhekova emphasized the need for a shift in perspective when identifying indicators for scaling up. By recognizing the returns on investment in adaptation, with each dollar invested potentially saving up to nine dollars, a new perspective on the value of adaptation and its financing can be achieved.

Project Showcase

Following the second panel discussion, three project showcases provided concrete examples of the successful scaling-up of adaptation solutions.

Giulia Balugani (supervisor of the LIFE ADA project, Sustainability Manager at Unipolsai Assicurazioni) presented on the LIFE ADA project, which aims to increase resilience in the agricultural sector. It targets three supply chains: dairy, fruit and vegetables, and wine production. The project supports farmers and producer organizations in identifying and planning actions to mitigate climate-related risks using a web app. The insurance sector plays a crucial role in supporting vulnerable entities and ensuring the insurability of the agricultural sector. The public-private partnership between the insurance company and the region helps identify effective adaptation measures and incentivizes their adoption through policies and funding. The cooperation aims to reduce risks, bridge insurance gaps, allocate resources to prevention rather than remediation, and preserve the agricultural sector's capacity to create value.

Adolfo Uriarte (Director of Natural Heritage and Climate Change at the Basque Government) presented the climate mitigation and adaptation roadmap of his organization. They have been working on both mitigation and adaptation together, recognizing the potential impacts of mitigation strategies on adaptation. They have integrated climate action into their environmental programs since 2002 and are preparing to launch the Law of Energy Transition and Climate Change. They emphasized the importance of deploying climate action in consensus with local authorities and showcased their climatic projects, including regionalized scenarios, vulnerability assessments, and coastal vulnerability studies. They provide tools and support to local municipalities and have collaborative projects for governance and specific actions such as renaturalizing reclaimed land.

Karin de Beer (Climate Adaptation Coordinator at Värmland County Administrative Board) presented on climate adaptation efforts in their county, Värmland. She highlighted the county's characteristics, including forests, water, and sparsely populated areas. de Beer emphasized the need for climate adaptation in every field and discussed examples such as creating nature reserves, flood risk management plans, and supervision of hazardous activities. She identified risks such as landslides, flooding, and forest fires, and addressed the challenges faced by municipalities in implementing climate adaptation measures. Learning networks and knowledge sharing among municipalities and experts were key strategies for addressing these challenges, including nature-based and multifunctional solutions.

Breakout Session 2

Linking again to the panel discussion, breakout session 2 was conducted with the same objectives as stated in the first breakout session. Therefore, the topic that was covered during the second panel discussion, how to scale-up adaptation solutions, was also addressed here to deepen the conversation and exchange among participants. To support discussions, participants were invited to respond to two guiding questions via Slido:

1. What ideas do you have to strengthen adaptation in your region?
2. How can the Mission help shape these ideas?

When the session was finished, the responses received via Slido were summarized and presented in plenary as seen in Figure 7. Later, the MIP4Adapt team developed a deeper analysis of all the responses, summarizing them in the bullets below.

[Figure 7: High level summary of breakout session 2: how to scale-up adaptation solutions?](#)

- **Strengthening Stakeholder Collaboration**
- **Increasing Public Awareness and Engagement**
- **Incorporating Climate Adaptation into Existing Processes**
- **Promoting Innovative Approaches and Experiments**
- **Facilitating Cross-Border Collaboration**
- **Investing in Climate-Adaptive Solutions**
- **Building a Knowledge Sharing Platform**
- **Recognizing and Addressing Barriers to Scaling Up**

Ideas for strengthening adaptation work:

- **Strengthening Stakeholder Collaboration:** A frequently suggested idea was bringing all stakeholders, from different sectors, together to strategize and implement climate adaptation plans. Examples included local government, SMEs, companies, researchers, and citizens. Collaborative innovation and pilot projects were a common proposal. This could involve sharing examples and practices, networking across sectors, and possibly even sharing staff across regional actors.
- **Increasing Public Awareness and Engagement:** The need to educate and raise awareness about climate change was a major point. Several participants suggested campaigns, citizen engagement, involvement of young people, and the use of mixed media for communication. Small information packages for different groups and localized information offices were some of the practical suggestions made.
- **Incorporating Climate Adaptation into Existing Processes:** Participants frequently suggested integrating climate adaptation considerations into current local and regional policies and sectoral plans. Some called for the mainstreaming of climate-proof infrastructure and buildings. An example was provided from Leiden, which has spatial planning regulations regarding the proximity of shadowed areas for all households.
- **Promoting Innovative Approaches and Experiments:** Many participants emphasized the importance of experimenting with adaptation measures and seeking innovative solutions. These could be through novel ideas, pilot projects, or funding for sector-specific networks focusing on adaptation.
- **Facilitating Cross-Border Collaboration:** Several participants mentioned the need to work across borders and tackle problems collectively, particularly when those issues transcend political boundaries. They proposed using common resources like water as a unifying, rather than dividing, factor.
- **Investing in Climate-Adaptive Solutions:** Participants called for an adaptation investment program for better access to institutional funding. They suggested scaling up successful practices into business cases. Some also asked for a simplification of EU funding applications and project management to involve more actors.
- **Building a Knowledge Sharing Platform:** Participants recommended the creation of a user-friendly portal to share best practices and support funding applications. The existing ClimateAdapt platform was mentioned as a useful resource.
- **Addressing Barriers to Scaling Up:** The recognition of barriers to scale-up, such as high upfront costs and distant future benefits, was also a theme. Some suggested seeking common ground that benefits all stakeholders to overcome these barriers.

Mission support for shaping those ideas:

- The Mission has to **raise awareness and demonstrate the value of climate adaptation**, e.g., by creating a promotional video to boost engagement with subtitles in all European languages, highlighting the best

examples of climate adaptation investments with a positive cost-benefit ratio, considering also avoided damages, etc.

- The Mission has to **connect regional actors** to steer peer learning, showcase and exchange solutions, network across borders, etc.
- The Mission needs also to **connect with mitigation** actions for strengthening the understanding and knowledge of mitigation and adaptation nexus, e.g., by working with the Climate Neutral Cities Mission.
- The Mission has to **financially support regions in their climate adaptation ambitions** with more dedicated calls for supporting the Mission Adaptation, including funding for the implementation of measures, the facilitation of public-private partnerships, and the cooperation between partners from different regions or sectors.
- The Mission needs to **engage the most vulnerable and rural communities** by supporting and facilitating local and grassroots initiatives that are implementing practical solutions.
- The Mission needs to **provide an adaptation website or database developed collaboratively** that includes practices for scaling and replicating, funding application support, knowledge-sharing opportunities, and recommended actions for regional actors to implement climate change adaptation.

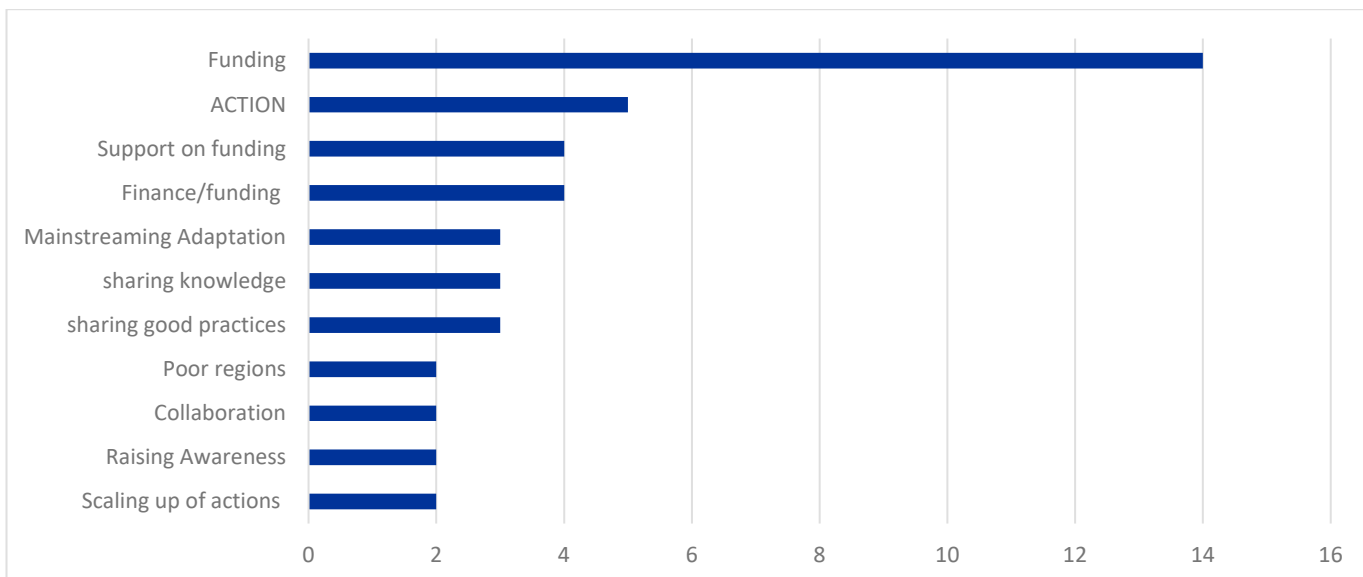
5. Closing

The closing session opened with the fourth audience Poll, which asked the question What should the Mission focus on? Participants were invited to submit free-text responses.

Figure 8: Results to Poll 3 - What should the Mission focus on?



Figure 9: Results to Poll 3 - What should the Mission focus on? Showing the most popular entries, all of which were submitted more than once.



In her closing remarks, Elina Bardram (Mission Manager and Director of DG CLIMA, European Commission), expressed appreciation for the SLIDO input and emphasized the importance of financing in the international and European context. Funding was highlighted as a key factor in facilitating climate action and enabling progress to the next level, it is the essential element that greases the wheels of adaptation efforts.

She went on to praise the determined and powerful community present at the conference, highlighting its potential as a change agent at both national and European levels. She mentioned the ongoing reviews of the Missions, emphasizing the need for a refocus and greater synergy between Missions with similar objectives. Bardram acknowledged the challenges posed by the COVID crisis, energy crisis, and political complexities, but emphasized the validation of the Green Deal and the growing recognition that adaptation is essential. She called for mainstreaming climate action, breaking down silos, and fostering coherence across sectors and policies. Bardram emphasized the importance of preparedness, resilience, and collaborative efforts to achieve climate solutions.

Figure 10: complete illustration produced by the graphic recordist, Carlotta Cataldi, during the Forum



6. Annexe

Agenda for the 2nd Forum on the EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change

09:00-09:30	<i>Registration and refreshments</i>
09:30-10:00	Opening
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming words by master of ceremony, Claire Doole • Frans Timmermans, European Commission's Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal and Commissioner for Climate Action Policy (video message) • Elina Bardram, Mission Manager (Director DG CLIMA) European Commission • Vasco Alves Cordeiro, President of the European Committee of the Regions (video message)
10:00-10:15	Lightning Talk: Edoardo Croci, Professor of Practice and Director of the Sustainable Urban Regeneration Lab at Bocconi University
10:15-11:30	Panel discussion: How to increase collaboration between national authorities, regions and other Mission actors to deliver on adaptation?
	<p>Moderated by Philippe Tulkens, Deputy Mission Manager, Head of Unit (DG for Research & Innovation) European Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Klara Ellström, Committee of the Regions Young Elected Politician (YEP) and local elected politician for Uppsala kommun, Sweden • Miriam Haritz, President of International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine • Vladimir Svet, Deputy Mayor of Tallinn • Erika Augustinsson, Innovation Strategist, Region Blekinge • Nina Alsen, Senior Policy Officer, Ministry for the Environment of Germany • Alison Gilliland, Dublin City Councillor and member of the Committee of the Regions <p>Audience Q&A</p> <p>Project showcase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benjamin Dewals, Professor in Hydraulic Engineering and Water Resources Management, University of Liege • Robert Johannesson, Head of Urban and Rural Unit at Boverket, the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning
11:30-11:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:45-12:45	Breakout session 1: How to increase collaboration between national authorities, regions and other Mission actors to deliver on adaptation
12:45-14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30-13:45	Lightning Talk: Mariana Mazzucato, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London
14:00-14:10	Wrap-up of 1 st Breakout Session
14:10-15:30	Panel discussion: From knowledge to solutions: how to scale up adaptation solutions?
	<p>Moderated by Elina Bardram, Mission Manager (Director DG CLIMA) European Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lidwin van Velden, President of the European Association of Public Banks • Roman Roehrl, climate change specialist at the European Investment Bank

- Eleni Myrivili, Global Chief Heat Officer to UN Habitat and the Arsht Rock Resilience Center, Member of the Mission Board
- Svetlana Zhekova, climate adaptation policy expert, Member of the Mission Board
- Andreas Larsson, Associate Professor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Blekinge Institute of Technology
- Henrik Aspegren, CEO of Sweden Water Research and Professor at Lund University

Audience Q&A

Project showcase:

- Giulia Balugani, supervisor of the LIFE ADA project, Sustainability Manager at Unipolsai Assicurazioni
- Adolfo Uriarte, Director of Natural Heritage and Climate Change at the Basque Government
- Karin de Beer, Climate Adaptation Coordinator at Värmland County Administrative Board

15:30-
15:45

Coffee break

15:45-
16:45

Breakout session 2: How to scale up adaptation solutions

16:45-
17:00

Closing

- Elina Bardram, Mission Manager (Director DG CLIMA) European Commission
- Closing words by master of ceremony, Claire Doole

The 2nd Forum for the Mission Adaptation to Climate Change took place on 13 June 2023. It brought together regional and local authorities, members of the European Committee of Regions, research organisations and non-governmental organisations to take stock, identify issues, provide direction, and define the path ahead for the Mission.

The Forum presented the situation in Europe regarding adaptation to climate change and gathered input from regions, including on their intentions to participate in the Mission by signing the Mission Charter or becoming Friends of the Mission.

