



EUROPEAN UNION



**EU  
MISSIONS**

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

# ACTIVITY REPORT

MAY 2024



Authors: Fiona Smyth, John Murray, Ximena Conti, Beatriz Mayor, Lee Madigan, Tomas Harold, William Davies, Thomas Dworak, Gloria Salmoral, Michael Ploder.  
Senior author: Richard Smithers

Email: [info@mip4adapt.eu](mailto:info@mip4adapt.eu)

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# FOREWORD

BY ELINA BARDRAM, MISSION MANAGER

Welcome to our annual report on the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change! I am thrilled to share with you the incredible progress we've made over the past year in our ongoing effort to prepare for the impacts of climate change.

In these pages, you will find a treasure trove of stories, data, and insights that highlight the tangible results of our collective efforts, from research that informs smarter adaptation strategies to innovative projects that bolster the resilience of our communities. Each success story underscores the vital importance of adaptation in confronting the climate crisis head-on.

The Community of Practice within the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change serves as an invaluable hub of collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange. It is a testament to the power of collaboration in advancing our collective resilience to the impacts of climate change.

In a world where the effects of climate change are becoming increasingly evident, adaptation isn't just a buzzword – it's a necessity. It is about equipping ourselves with the tools and knowledge to weather the storm, quite literally.

But our work is far from over. As we celebrate our achievements, we must also recognise the challenges that lie ahead. Climate change is a formidable foe, and Europe is being affected more and faster than the rest of the world. It will require all of us to come together and take decisive action.

When reading this report, I invite you to reflect on the role that you can play in advancing the cause of adaptation. Whether advocating for different policy and financial decisions, supporting local resilience projects, or making sustainable choices in your daily life, every action counts.

Together, let's continue to forge ahead on our journey towards a more resilient and sustainable future. Thank you for your unwavering support, and here's to another year of progress and collaboration.



# INTRODUCING THE EU MISSION ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change supports European regions, cities and local authorities in their efforts to build resilience against the impacts of climate change. It aims to support at least 150 European regions and communities towards climate resilience by 2030.

## THE MISSION'S OBJECTIVES

The Mission will:

- 1** provide general support to European regions, local authorities and communities in preparing and planning for climate resilience;
- 2** accelerate the transformation to a climate-resilient future, supporting at least 150 European regions and local authorities in their efforts to build climate resilience;
- 3** build deep resilience by scaling up actionable solutions through 75 large-scale demonstrations of resilience across several European regions and local authorities, emphasising cross-border cooperation and cohesion.

A total of 311 European regional and local authorities from 25 EU Member States that share the ambitions of the Mission have signed up to the Missions Charter. In addition, 63 other organisations, including research institutions and businesses, have become Friends of the Mission, endorsing the Mission and contributing to its Community of Practice.

## MISSION IMPLEMENTATION PLATFORM (MIP4ADAPT)

The **Mission Implementation Platform (MIP4Adapt)** provides central support for the goals of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, coordinating a multifaceted approach, including:

- providing direct support and technical assistance to regions and local authorities who are Mission Charter signatories along their transformation process towards climate resilience;
- facilitating the coordination of activities in the area of climate adaptation for the benefit of regions and local authorities;

- monitoring and reporting on the progress made;
- promoting and stimulating broader engagement with the Mission.

## MISSION PROJECTS

The Charter Signatories, Friends of the Mission and wider European regions and local authorities are supported by 32 Mission-funded Projects and 132 Mission-related projects. These projects are at the forefront of research and development of innovative climate adaptation and resilience approaches. They go beyond theoretical advancements by delivering tangible outcomes through guidance, tools, data, on-the-ground experimentation, and through the implementation of solutions in Mission case studies.

By providing essential resources through MIP4Adapt and the Mission projects, the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change empowers regional and local authorities to accelerate their climate preparedness.

## MISSION-FUNDED PROJECTS



# GENERAL SUPPORT FOR ALL EUROPEAN REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN PREPARING AND PLANNING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Mission provides broad support to all European regions, local authorities and communities in preparing and planning climate resilience solutions. This support includes:

- The Mission Portal
- Adaptation Tools
- Adaptation Stories and Mission Case Studies
- The Mission Adaptation Webinar Series
- Mission Resources
- The Mission Forum

## MISSION SOLUTIONS

Mission Solutions support regions and local authorities in their adaptation journey. Regional and local authorities need to quickly identify, plan and implement relevant adaptation actions to combat climate change impacts. Some actions may need to be implemented over many years due to their scope, scale and the time they may take to deliver benefits, as exemplified by how long it takes a tree to grow and cast shade.

The Adaptation Stories and Mission Case Studies provided by regional and local authorities showcase the successful implementation of climate adaptation solutions across Europe that other regions may wish to adopt. They demonstrate the power of collaborative

action and innovative approaches to addressing climate challenges and creating a more resilient and sustainable future for Europe.

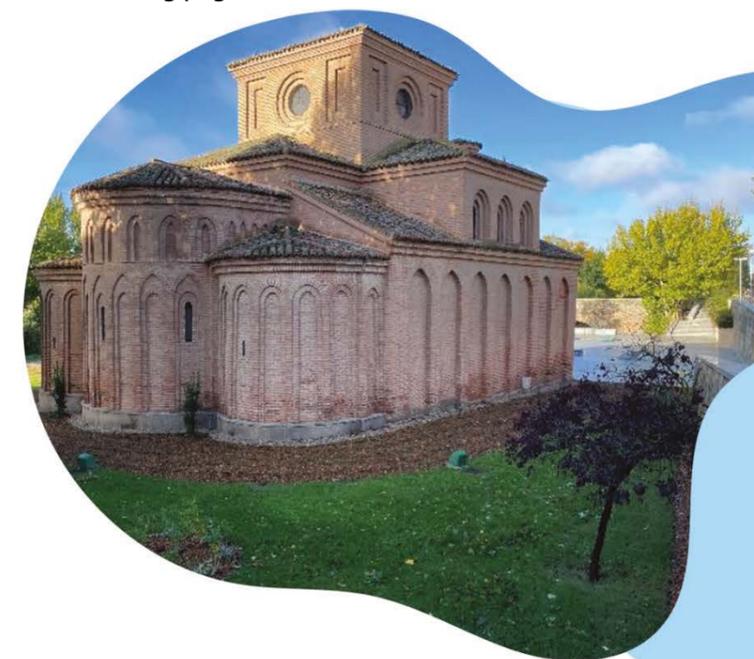
Since June 2023, the Mission has published ten Adaptation Stories, with more than 50 in the pipeline from regions across Europe by the end of 2025, each tackling different climate hazards, from extreme temperatures and droughts to flooding and rising sea levels. The first of these are now available on the Mission Portal.

Examples of Adaptation Stories are summarised on the following pages.

## ADAPTATION STORIES

### SALAMANCA, SPAIN

The World Heritage City introduced nature-based solutions to tackle climate risks, developed an adaptation action plan, including decision-making tools and a roadmap, applied machine learning to identify climatic zones, and created a green corridor through the city. This innovative project presents 'the green heritage' as a path for other cities to further develop as the basis to create a network of Heritage Adaptation Cities.



### TOULOUSE, FRANCE

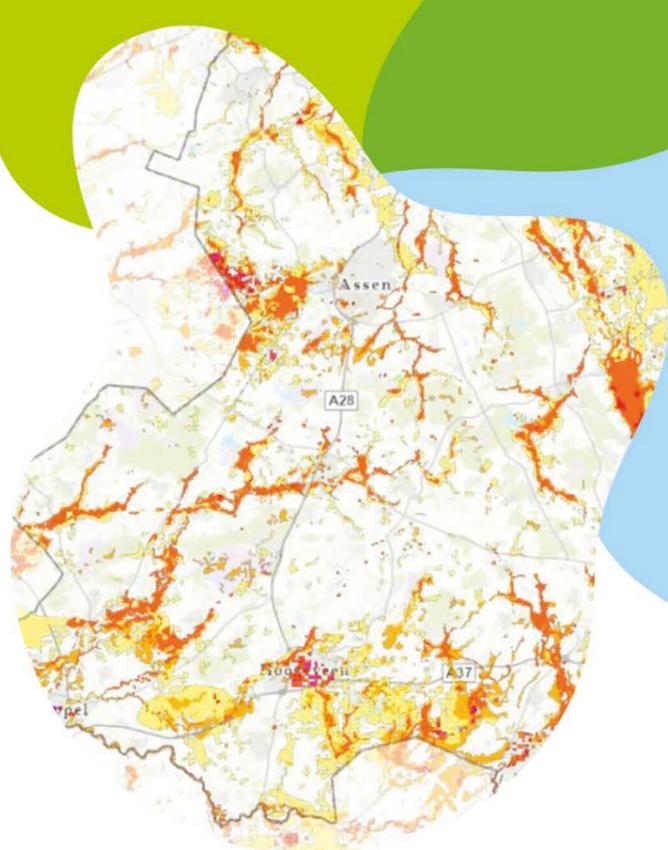
To combat increasing heat, Toulouse has developed a comprehensive plan for implementing multiple climate adaptation actions, such as revegetation, shading, soil desealing, better water management, lighter surfaces, and adapting public services and activities. The region tested several approaches to choose the most effective combination to be rolled out more widely across the region.



## ADAPTATION STORIES

### DRENTHE, NETHERLANDS

The Drenthe province has developed a tool that visualises various climate scenarios for 2050 and suggests adequate adaptation measures. The Drents AdaptatieBeeld platform can help decision-makers better understand and prepare for climate change risks, guiding them in choosing which adaptation measures to implement. It also acts as a gateway to other resources on climate change adaptation, such as government websites and scientific reports.



### CASCAIS, PORTUGAL

To increase biodiversity and climate resilience and create a new space for nature and people, Cascais restored the Vinhas River and the surrounding valley. The project established a green corridor from the mountains to the coast as a natural barrier to flooding and wildfires. The city implemented urban nature-based solutions that require minimal long-term maintenance.



### STIEFINGTAL, AUSTRIA

Stiefingtal adapted its building infrastructure to tackle the increasing impacts of climate change, improving the livelihood of residents and users cost-effectively. The project's success was due to early engagement with citizens, collaboration and cooperation amongst all stakeholders and securing a diverse funding source.

### EUSKIRCHEN, GERMANY

Euskirchen County is developing a comprehensive adaptation strategy to address climate change risks. The county demonstrated the importance of early engagement with relevant stakeholders to pave the way for the political decision to develop a strategy. Involving internal experts to build on exciting projects and initiatives ensured the later acceptance of the strategy.



### ZAGREB, CROATIA

Zagreb demonstrates that implementing green infrastructure and nature-based solutions offers a promising response to increasing heat in cities. Such green structures contribute to cooling city blocks by several degrees and offer a broad range of co-benefits to cities plagued by heat stress.



### SARDINIA, ITALY

The efforts to develop and implement the Coastal Contract in the Gulf of Oristano demonstrate a model for sustainable conservation and effective governance, inspiring other regions to adopt similar practices for a resilient Europe. It highlights the collaboration between different levels of governance and between public and private sector organisations.

## MISSION RESOURCES

MIP4Adapt has developed resources to help guide European regional and local authorities through the adaptation planning process. These are designed to empower stakeholders to engage effectively, secure appropriate funding, and robustly assess climate risks as a starting place to develop adaptation solutions and a resilient future.

### STAKEHOLDER AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT MANUAL

The **DIY Manual for Stakeholder and Citizen Engagement in Climate Adaptation** is a robust toolkit designed to empower regional and local authorities to foster meaningful engagement with stakeholders and citizens. It supports readers in identifying which engagement actions should be implemented to ensure the relevance, credibility and legitimacy of their adaptation strategies and plans. It presents tried and tested tools and methods to help regions and local authorities take a ‘whole-of-society’ approach that leaves no one behind.

The DIY manual is available to download in all official EU languages from the Mission Portal.

*“This document is very pragmatic and synthetic, providing valuable insights into various stakeholder engagement strategies. What stood out to me was its balanced perspective, highlighting both the anticipated benefits and potential obstacles. So, congratulations to the team who developed it.”* Feedback received July 2023



### CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT MANUAL

Evaluating climate risks will provide regions or local authorities with a sound basis for identifying and prioritising what actions need to be taken to adapt to climate change. **Assessing Climate Change Risks and Vulnerabilities (Climate Risk Assessment): A DIY Manual** and the associated practical templates explain the core elements of a climate risk assessment, taking regions through a step-by-step process, from preparing the groundwork to interpreting the results.

### FUNDING AND FINANCING GUIDE

One of the significant adaptation challenges for regions and local authorities is the complex process of securing funding or financial support. This is addressed by the **Funding and Financing Guide**, which provides paths to financial resources and imparts insights on enhancing preparedness before seeking funding or financing. To inform decision-making, the guide introduces the benefits of diverse funding and financing options for informed decision-making.

## ADAPTATION TOOLS

### Regional Adaptation Support Tool

As part of the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, the European Environment Agency (EEA) has developed the first version of the **Regional Adaptation Support Tool (RAST)**. The RAST assists local and regional authorities in navigating climate change adaptation strategies and plans, from planning to implementation. With user-friendly guidance, RAST covers six key steps of the adaptation planning cycle:

1. Preparing the ground for adaptation
2. Assessing climate change risks and vulnerabilities
3. Identifying adaptation options
4. Assessing and selecting adaptation options
5. Implementing adaptation policies and actions
6. Monitoring, evaluation and learning.

The RAST guidance tool incorporates practical examples and a curated list of resources under each step, such as relevant data sources, further guidance, and tools to enrich understanding and support decision-making. Updates will be made periodically based on new research, feedback from local authorities, and the latest developments.

### EEA Adaptation Dashboard

The EEA has further developed the Adaptation Dashboard, located under **Knowledge and Data in the Mission Portal**. The Adaptation Dashboard provides easy access to a wealth of essential data that local and regional authorities can use in the process of developing their adaptation plans. It provides data relevant to climate risks at regional and national levels, such as on climate hazards, impacts, vulnerabilities, adaptation policy and action responses. This is sourced from Copernicus services (C3S, CLMS), the Joint Research Centre (JRC), and other platforms. With a long list of indicators, improved user interface and enhanced data visualisation, it enriches users’ understanding of potential climate risks.

### Mission Case Studies

Additionally, the EEA has been developing **Mission Case Studies**, spotlighting useful practices and innovative adaptation solutions across different scales and locations. The first case study, developed with the City and Region of Valencia (Spain) showcased their collaborative governance framework for driving and implementing the EU Missions. The EEA is developing two more case studies. One features the Normandie region’s (France) efforts to coordinate and support local authorities in planning for coastal adaptation and relocating businesses from the coast. The other highlights Päijät-Häme region’s (Finland) initiatives to raise awareness among rural residents and forest owners about climate risks.

## MISSION ADAPTATION WEBINAR SERIES

Launched in December 2023 for regions and local authorities, the Mission Adaptation Series of lunchtime webinars raises their awareness and understanding of the solutions and services available to them on their climate adaptation journey.

Across six events, more than 500 attendees have been equipped with the knowledge and insight needed to effectively address climate risks and capitalise on emerging opportunities. They have had exposure to and gained inspiration from other local and regional authorities as they prepare for and manage climate risks and opportunities.

*"I was very happy with the webinar's format, length and content. It provided me with interesting insights and practical knowledge that I can apply to my day-to-day job. I particularly liked the engagement of the audience through the online polls and the Q&A. I'm looking forward to the next ones!"*

*Feedback on the "Spotting the Risks of Maladaptation" webinar, December 2023*

In addition to benefiting regions and local authorities who attend, these events provide a platform for Mission projects' representatives to disseminate their work results, present their guidance, tools, and solutions and secure feedback from stakeholders and potential users..

## MISSION-FUNDED PROJECTS

EU Mission Projects play a pivotal role in advancing the overarching goal of strengthening climate resilience across European regions, local authorities and communities by putting concrete solutions on the ground. These projects offer an array of innovative approaches to tackle specific risks e.g., related to water management, protecting critical infrastructure, or implementing nature-based solutions. They also provide new knowledge and understanding and comprehensive guidance developed to support regions on their climate adaptation journeys.

Mission Projects are at the core of the Mission and are currently working on the solutions that will help advance implementation of adaptation planning by regional and local authorities. From advancing nature-based solutions to developing instrumental frameworks for maladaptation, each project's outputs will inform tomorrow's adaptation solutions across Europe.

**32**  
projects

**€337.7m**  
EU financial contribution

**840+**  
participations

## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

 RESIST

### RESIST

Mission Project RESIST is implementing a novel, practical framework in which climate adaptation pathways will be tested in four leading EU regions before being transferred to eight twinned regions through mutual-learning activities and immersive digital twins. One of the leading regions is Turku in South-West Finland, which is renovating and upgrading stormwater infrastructure with a nature-based solutions' lens in the Rauvolanlahti residential area and the Oriketo industrial area.

#### Progress so far includes:

- Data collection for Rauvola bay as a baseline for the development of the future drainage basin-based stormwater plan; data collection and first meetings to engage the companies of the Oriketo district; site visits and landowner meetings to outline key characteristics of the river basin, as well as the landowners' interests and insights regarding climate change impacts and adaptation at the Savijoki river basin.
- Benchmark analysis of regulatory measures; Quantification of the key metrics related to stormwater and green infrastructure from the building permits; comprehensive notations concerning stormwater-related aspects in the plans.

 Regions  
4Climate

### REGIONS4CLIMATE

Burgas, Bulgaria faces a series of climate-related risks, including flooding and urban heat and air pollution due to rising temperatures and the characteristics of its terrain and wetlands. These are compounded by urban density and limited green spaces.

To combat these climate challenges, the region is part of the Smarter Adaptation Challenge Suite in the **Regions4Climate** project. The Challenge Suite recognises that innovative digital tools can help

illustrate the effects of climate change. By gathering the latest data from diverse sources, the region can bridge the science-stakeholder-policy gap, raise citizen awareness, and improve the use of existing data.

Burgas' adaptation actions so far include introducing novel community-involved planning solutions and enhancing flood-risk prediction to inform mitigation and protection measures. The focus is on the implementation of multi-functional nature-based solutions to mitigate the effects of urban heat islands, address air pollution, and increase urban resilience. The region is also using digital simulations for knowledge sharing and defining a tailor-made climate resilience model to improve decision-making. Through the multi-stakeholder engagement approach, a Local Climate Resilience Group was established to monitor, navigate and consult the pilot actions' implementation and suggest corrective measures.

 REGILIENCE  
Regional Pathways to Climate Resilience

### REGILIENCE

During a region's adaptation journey, it is vital to avoid maladaptation – the process where an adaptation action may lead to unintentional and negative consequences.

To help regions avoid maladaptation, the Mission Project REGILIENCE has developed a self-assessment tool that explicitly focuses on spotting potential risk factors for maladaptation as early as possible. Its objective is to help regions avoid or reduce maladaptation risks when planning adaptation actions. **Download the tool here.**

*"It makes sense to think about the risks of maladaptation right from the start... I definitely see overlaps between the maladaptation task and our project goals. I encourage the self-assessment sheet on maladaptation to be promoted by the National Centre for Climate Adaptation (Zentrum für Klimaanpassung) to the wider community."* German region representative



# MISSION COMMUNICATIONS

## MISSION FORUM

The annual Forum is a major governance element of the Mission, convening national, regional and local authorities, European institutions, Charter Signatories, and Friends of the Mission. More than just a gathering, the Forum is a catalyst for collaboration and knowledge exchange. It highlights regional adaptation initiatives, showcasing best practices and innovative approaches. It serves as a pivotal environment to steer the course of the Mission, shaping its future trajectory and ensuring its alignment with evolving needs and priorities.

### 2023 Mission Forum highlights

- Almost 500 in-person and online participants gathered in Blekinge, Sweden for a day full of insightful and inspiring discussions, fostering collaboration between national authorities, regions and other Mission stakeholders to deliver on climate adaptation.
- Frans Timmermans, the European Commission's Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal and Commissioner for Climate Action Policy highlighted the need for urgent climate action.
- Panel discussions, lightning talks, breakout sessions and networking opportunities focused on increasing collaboration, scaling up adaptation solutions, and sharing learnings between national authorities, regions and local communities to deliver on climate adaptation.



**>460**  
in-person and  
online participants



## EU MISSION COMMUNICATION

The EU Mission has a comprehensive communications network designed to keep regions and local authorities throughout Europe informed and engaged with activities. Promoting the support available to regions from the EU Mission is vital to encourage collective action. It shows the best available approaches, solutions, resources, networks, and broader opportunities accessible to regions and local authorities to help drive resilience across Europe.

## EU MISSION AT MAJOR EVENTS

Representatives of the Mission attended 28 European and regional events over the last year. These included participating in COP28 at the online event Adaptation Beyond Borders: An EU Mission Towards Climate Resilience; exhibiting at the 10th European Summit of Regions and Cities; and speaking at the first-ever Global Stocktake Event.



**1,525**  
newsletter subscribers



**14**  
news stories published



**12**  
newsletters issued



**28**  
events attended



**1,859**  
LinkedIn followers



**228**  
X followers

# TAILORED SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

By providing tailored support for individual regional and local authorities, the Mission is addressing its second and third objectives which are to:

- accelerate the transformation of at least 150 European regions and local authorities towards a climate-resilient future;
- scale-up actionable solutions through 75 large-scale demonstrations of resilience across a number of European regions and local authorities.

*"I was impressed by the broad knowledge of our reality in terms of adaptation to climate change. They have also adapted the content and the work plan of the assistance to our needs."* Representative from Basque Country, Spain

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

MIP4Adapt and various Mission-Funded Projects are supporting individual regional and local authorities to accelerate their transformation to a climate-resilient future by providing tailored support for:

- engaging and mobilising stakeholders and citizens;
- developing climate vulnerability and risk assessments;
- identifying and prioritising adaptation options;
- developing adaptation strategies, plans and demonstration projects;
- securing funding and finance to enable implementation;
- developing monitoring frameworks and indicators.

### MIP4Adapt Technical Assistance

MIP4Adapt provides technical assistance to address Charter Signatories' individual needs regarding their adaptation planning. This ensures that solutions are not only practical but aligned with the individual challenges faced by the region.

MIP4Adapt supports Charter Signatories in:

- moving from risk assessment to the development of adaptation pathways;
- identifying appropriate climate adaptation demonstration projects and accessing relevant funding and finance;
- enhancing the region's citizen and stakeholder mobilisation and engagement;
- mobilising and engaging stakeholders and citizens.

### MIP4Adapt Technical Assistance Programme Highlights

- Number of Charter Signatories already receiving technical assistance as of April 2024: 54
- 54 Signatories provided positive feedback about their technical assistance programmes
- Support in the organisation of 12 community-level events
- Due to popular demand, the threshold for eligibility has been reduced from 50,000 to 20,000 inhabitants
- Support provided is available in all official Member State languages.

*"It is good to have an external facilitator to guide the preparation of our adaptation strategy. In our case, we do not have a regional authority, so we need to talk with all the municipalities and finance the process. The Technical Assistance is a good support to keep us on the right track and to guide us on the next steps easily. We also expect a new way of thinking concerning the adaptation measures."* Representative from Goriška region, Slovenia

*"My team and I are impressed by the lead time between application to kick-off, the professionalism, and the tailoring of solutions to our specific needs."* Representative from Rogaland region, Norway

## CASE STUDY: NANTES METROPOLE

Having completed its climate vulnerability and risk assessment, Nantes Metropole began receiving technical assistance from MIP4Adapt in October 2023. Nantes Metropole needed support to engage its primary stakeholders in prioritising adaptation actions in its climate adaptation strategy.

MIP4Adapt provided support with the design and organisation of the stakeholder workshop, identification and preparation of the elements required for the adaptation strategy, and arranged a community-level event to present the results. Once Nantes Metropole has completed the development of its adaptation strategy, MIP4Adapt will help it to identify a suitable climate adaptation demonstration project and the funding to implement it.

Nantes Métropole provided the following feedback about ACTeon, the *MIP4Adapt Member State Facilitator in France*:

*“The ACTeon expertise is completely in line with our local needs. The MIP4adapt team clearly explained the frame and operating mode of the assistance.”*



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH GRANTS



### CASE STUDY: CLIMAAX

The CLIMAAX methodological framework and supporting climate risk assessment toolbox helps regions carry out their own regional and local multi-risk assessments. In January 2024, CLIMAAX launched its first Open Call for Regions and Communities and received 119 applications for technical assistance.

The successful applicants will benefit from:

- financial support of up to €300,000 to enhance regional climate and emergency risk management plans;
- access and support to the comprehensive CLIMAAX methodological framework and toolbox, providing a structured approach to climate assessments;
- tailored technical guidance to implement region-specific methodologies utilising local data and methods.



### CASE STUDY: PATHWAYS2RESILIENCE

Some regions and communities in Europe are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change as they face more frequent and severe climate events.

To safeguard human lives, maintain critical services, and preserve ecosystems, it will be essential to support vulnerable regions and communities to access technical and financial assistance to accelerate the development and implementation of their climate adaptation strategies.

To support them, Mission Project **Pathways2Resilience** launched its first open call to help regions and communities develop strategies and action plans to boost their resilience to the impacts of climate change. This first call aims to provide 40 regions and communities with financial support through subgrant agreements, up to a maximum of €210,000, and support services and capacity-building activities for subgrants lasting up to 18 months.

The call is ongoing, with the selection of the first cohort of regions to be announced in early summer 2024.

# THE EU ADAPTATION COMMUNITY

The Community of Practice facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experiences and strengthens coordination and collaboration among diverse adaptation practitioners.

Its membership comprises of regional and local authorities that are Charter Signatories, Mission projects, regions and local authorities participating in the implementation of Mission projects, the European Commission and other European institutions, national authorities, and Friends of the Mission.



## ONLINE EU ADAPTATION COMMUNITY

Facilitated by MIP4Adapt, the Mission has created the online EU Adaptation Community, where members can benefit from targeted events on adaptation topics and training courses designed to expand their knowledge and skills, such as on citizen and stakeholder engagement and climate risk assessments. Members can benefit from meaningful dialogues and develop valuable alliances and partnerships. The Community can open doors to exciting new projects and initiatives, showcase members' best practices and raise their community profile.

*"I believe the Community of Practice is enriching, especially from a networking perspective. Likewise, having webinars where the other projects are presented is a great opportunity to identify synergies and touch points between us, which would probably be difficult to achieve otherwise. Without the Community, we would struggle to find these common areas as many initiatives are taking place concurrently, which would be time-consuming and resource-intensive to identify." Feedback from a project representative of AGORA*

### ONLINE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE KEY STATISTICS:



**700**  
members...



**11**  
events delivered



**85%**  
... of Charter Signatories



**1,085**

Over 1,085 attendees from # EU regions

## STAKEHOLDER AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Stakeholder and Citizen Engagement Training Programme has been developed to increase Charter Signatories' capabilities in engaging their stakeholders and citizens. The programme provides guidance on the essential aspects and proven methods for effective stakeholder and citizen engagement across the different stages of the adaptation planning cycle. By equipping Charter Signatories with the tools and knowledge necessary to engage effectively with stakeholders and citizens, this programme plays a pivotal role in building broad-based support and participation, which is crucial for the success of the Mission.

The programme has delivered 12 sessions with almost 500 participants actively engaging in topics ranging from designing an engagement strategy to different engagement methods.

*"Today's session showed a really good process, which is key for us now in Cork city. It was very useful to have the overview of stakeholder engagement and the material provided as it helps me to explain internally to my people the relevance of the engagement processes."* **Representative from Cork, Ireland**

*"The tool shown in today's session will be useful for our ongoing engagement activities to identify key stakeholders who are missing from our original plans."* **Representative from Paijat-Hame, Finland**

*"The material provided is very helpful as we will be able to use it to strategically design the process for setting up a Climate Citizen Assembly."* **Representative from Almada municipality, Portugal**

## FACILITATING COOPERATION AND COHESION ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION

The online EU Adaptation Community hosts several initiatives to facilitate cross-border cooperation and cohesion on climate adaptation and encourages collaboration across the EU Missions. Matchmaking events, thematic working groups and a peer learning programme all aim to build climate resilience in EU regions and local authorities.

Matchmaking is regularly conducted between regions and local authorities to support Charter Signatories in linking with others with similar interests to collaborate and eventually submit joint applications for Technical Assistance.

Eight thematic working groups have been established to dive deeper into topics of interest and work collaboratively on specific outputs. These include:

- Citizen and stakeholder engagement
- Climate Services
- Ecosystem and Nature-based Solutions
- Financing Climate Actions
- Integrating Mitigation and Adaptation
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Water Management
- Transformational adaptation.

The Peer Learning Programme was launched in January 2024. This four-month programme matched regions and local authorities based on common topics of interest. Currently, there are three groups: Citizen & Stakeholder Engagement, Assessing Adaptation Measures, and Ecosystem and Nature-based Solutions. Within these groups, more than 20 regional and local authorities have attended each session to learn from each other, share experiences, receive mentoring from experts, and connect with existing projects working on the same topic to understand better the tools and solutions available to move from learning to action.

*"I think it is an excellent initiative of this community and the Forum. Let's see if we can move forward together towards the objectives of the Mission Adaptation by building synergies."*  
**Feedback from Mission Projects Seminar**

### CASE STUDY: EU MISSIONS JOIN FORCES IN FIRST CROSS-MISSION CLIMATE WORKSHOP

The EU Missions for 'Climate Neutral and Smart Cities' and 'Adaptation to Climate Change' hosted the first cross-mission joint workshop exploring climate change in urban environments on 6 September 2023.

Attended by representatives of 41 cities that are Signatories of both EU Missions, the workshop facilitated the exchange of ideas, experiences, and best practices to address the impacts of climate change in urban settings among participating cities.

Creating synergies between these two EU Missions is vital for holistically addressing climate change in urban settings, and building a solid foundation to promote cross-sectoral and joint action towards climate change.





# FUTURE OUTLOOK

**PHILIPPE TULKENS, DEPUTY MISSION MANAGER**

As we reflect on the achievements detailed in our activity report, it is clear that the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change has made significant strides in our collective efforts to prepare our territories to withstand the impacts of climate change. From the innovative projects bolstering community resilience to the research informing smarter adaptation strategies, our mission remains crucial in the face of a changing climate, which the EEA recently described as expected to affect Europe more heavily than the globe.

The Community of Practice within the Mission has played a crucial role in fostering collaboration, innovation and knowledge exchange among stakeholders, enriching our collective understanding and approach to climate adaptation.

Yet, as we celebrate our successes, we must also acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead. Climate change poses a formidable threat that requires urgent and decisive action from all sectors of society. The increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events, rising sea levels and ecosystem disruptions are stark reminders of the urgent need for adaptation measures.

Looking to the future, the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change must continue to evolve and adapt in response to these challenges. We must prioritise innovation, collaboration, and knowledge exchange to develop and implement effective adaptation strategies that build resilience at all levels, from local communities to global ecosystems.

As we navigate the complex landscape of climate change adaptation, I invite all stakeholders to join the Mission in this crucial endeavour. Whether advocating for policy change, supporting local resilience projects, or making sustainable choices in our daily lives, each of us has a role to play in shaping a more resilient and sustainable future.

### **More information:**

Adaptation to climate change -  
European Commission (europa.eu)

EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate  
Change Portal (europa.eu)

Mission platform [https://futurium.  
ec.europa.eu/en/eu-mission-  
adaptation-community/](https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en/eu-mission-adaptation-community/)

**#EUmissions**

**#HorizonEU**

**#MissionClimateAdaptation**