



EUROPEAN UNION



EU MISSIONS

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE



June 2022

Frequently Asked Questions on the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change

This document provides answers to questions raised by participants at information sessions. Some questions have been edited for clarity. It is a living document that will be updated with more questions and answers over time. It is intended to provide general information; for specific information on how to respond to Horizon Europe calls please refer to the specific related legal documents.

This document is made public for information only and does not bind the European Commission. The European Commission is not liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse of this document.

Contents

I. Terminology	3
II. Mission Charter.....	4
III. Horizon Europe Calls	5
IV. Selection Process.....	7
V. Eligibility	8
VI. Participation.....	8
VII. Funding	10
VIII. Mission budget	11
IX. Evaluation and monitoring	11
X. Synergies	12
XI. Implementation.....	13
XII. Networking	14
XIII. Mission Implementation Platform.....	14
XIV. Information sources.....	14

Questions & Answers

I. Terminology

1.	How do you define adaptation?	In human systems, adaptation is the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, it is the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects; human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects.
2.	How do you define climate resilience?	Climate resilience is the ability to withstand the unavoidable climate impacts. To build resilience, one must adapt to already present effects of climate change and to prepare to withstand future climate risks.
3.	How do you define vulnerability?	Vulnerability is the propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt.
4.	How do you define regions?	For the scope of the Adaptation Mission, regions are territories at NUTS 1, 2 or 3 levels following the definition of Regions in the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) classification. However, also geographical regions across countries, i.e. macro-regions or territories below NUTS 3 can participate in the mission, provided they have responsibilities for adaptation related questions and can take adaptation relevant decisions. A participating region must be a legal entity.
5.	How do you define communities?	The concept of 'communities' has been added for practical implementation purposes. It concerns groupings of people with social ties, shared values or interests, engaged in joint action. Communities can be of different size and are not always geographically confined.
6.	Why is the Mission on adaptation and not on decreasing the causes of climate change? Shouldn't we attack the problem from its roots rather than adapting to it?	Mitigation and adaptation are equally important indeed to address climate change. As Greenhouse gases remain for a long time in the atmosphere, their effects on the climate are unavoidable. We will have to undertake measures to prepare for these changes and the knowledge about how and why to prepare is not well spread throughout Europe. This is the main reason why the Mission focuses on adaptation. However, other parts in Horizon Europe and notably Cluster 5 are addressing mitigation of climate change (i.e. energy technologies, climate science, transport and mobility, etc.).

7.	What are nature-based solutions? What would be examples and best practices for those?	Nature-based solutions make use of natural processes and systems to reduce climate impacts. In the case of river overflows or heavy rainfalls, a nature-based solution could have rivers flood specific areas. As opposed to technical solutions (e.g., river dams or drains), this would allow the water to infiltrate the floodplains, replenish groundwater and boost biodiversity. In the case of heat stress in urban areas, trees allow for cooling, air purification and shade. These solutions require designated space, which might imply discussions for land use, require public acceptance or citizen engagement.
----	--	---

II. Mission Charter

8.	What is the Mission Charter and who can sign it?	By adhering to the Mission Charter and the efforts deployed by the Mission Adaptation to Climate Change, regions and local authorities will become part of a community of practice on adaptation to climate change and have the opportunity to network and share with other regions and communities in Europe. Signatories will also have access to the services of the Mission Implementation Platform, which will be operational in early 2023. Representatives from regions and communities, such as local authorities, will be the signatories of the Mission Charter. The charter is non-binding. Other entities, such as research institutions, businesses or non-governmental organisations may endorse the Charter to declare their support to the Mission.
9.	What will be the responsibilities, obligations and advantages for the selected regions?	The Charter is an offer for collaboration and an offer to become part of a community of practice. The only obligations to become part of that community of practice is to be dedicated to working on adaptation to climate change and to agree that contact details will be shared with all the other members of the community so that the Mission Implementation Platform can contact you and can establish links between those that have signed the Charter.
10.	What are Friends of the Mission and who can become one?	Friends of the Mission can be organisations adhering to the Mission Charter that are not territorial entities, regions or local authorities. They can be entities such as research institutions, businesses or non-governmental organisations that wish to declare their support to the Mission and can concretely contribute to the community of practice.
11.	Can my region still apply to sign the Mission Charter?	The application process is open and there is currently no deadline to apply. However, the European Commission invites regions and local authorities to submit their applications as soon as possible.

12.	How long does it take approximately to evaluate the survey for participation in the Mission Charter?	Thorough evaluation is taking place on an ongoing basis, and selected signatories are announced in batches.
13.	When will the signatories of the Mission Charter be announced?	The first signatories of the Charter were announced at the First Mission Forum on 7 June 2022. The next batch of signatories is expected to be announced at the R&I Days in September 2022. After the announcement, the European Commission liaises with all new signatories to launch the signature process.
14.	What role will the announced signatories of the Mission Charter play in project proposals?	There is no legal obligation for a project to cooperate with the Charter signatories, nor for signatories to work with a project. The Mission Implementation Platform, once in place, will facilitate the interaction between signatories.
15.	Are they available as testing sites?	Charter signatories can manifest their interest to be testing sites for adaptation solutions.
16.	Will the regions signing the Mission Charter be prioritised to test the developed solutions?	Since the Charter is non-binding, there is no legal requirement for project proposals to include Charter signatories. For all Mission topics, a strong component of experimentation on the ground is needed. Regions that have expressed a need or an interest towards climate adaptation are suitable candidates to run the demonstrations. Demonstrated solutions should have the perspective of remaining intact and in use after the projects' finalisation.

III. Horizon Europe Calls

17.	Where can I find the calls?	In the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022 and on the Participant Portal: Search Funding & Tenders (europa.eu)
18.	CLIMA-2022-01-06: for how long will the demonstrators be funded by the Mission?	In general terms, the financing and the support will be for the full duration of the project. It is up to the proposer to define and justify the indicated project length.
19.	CLIMA-2022-01-06: could one of the demos address the marine and maritime sector?	There are currently no limitations in terms of sectors or areas. Proposals will be evaluated in the merit of climate adaptation challenges presented and the respective solutions proposed.
20.	Which are the criteria to assign the topic to the Mission Work Programme or the Cluster Work Programme?	R&I from Clusters is expected to provide innovative approaches and solutions with the potential to contribute to climate adaptation. The Mission will facilitate the acceleration of the implementation of these solutions, supporting the regions and the communities in experimenting them to address the climate challenges most relevant in their territories.

21.	What is a demonstrator?	A demonstrator should address the risks identified at a local scale, offering more than a single solution to a single risk. It should rather be the set of solutions to tackle the risks identified in the local communities. Moreover, it should include the elements that are needed at scale to build the climate resilience.
22.	Which types of risks can be addressed?	All types of climate change risks can be addressed. In the future, as the Mission portfolio gets richer year by year, the Work Programmes might be more targeted to specific risks in order to assure a good balance in the portfolio of solutions supported by the Mission.
23.	OCEAN-CLIMA-2022-01-01: does a project need to cover both the Atlantic and the Arctic Sea basins?	We are looking for solutions that work for both basins with at least one demonstration in each basin.
24.	OCEAN-CLIMA-2022-01-01: do the associated regions need to be located in either the Arctic or Atlantic basin?	The associated regions do not explicitly need to be located in those areas. They can be located in the same biogeographical area with a similar ecosystem within the neighbouring region and/or in a different sea basin. In addition, the topic calls for other areas where solutions are potentially replicable.
25.	Can cascading funds also be provided to non-legal entities (not involved as beneficiaries)?	To receive grants as third parties, entities should satisfy the Horizon Europe conditions, therefore be established as legal entity: wp-13-general-annexes_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf (europa.eu)
26.	A common problem with building nature-based solutions (NBS) is maintenance and maintenance costs. Can projects focus on this aspect to promote NBS, or should the focus be on the NBS itself?	Solutions of different demonstrations should ideally remain in operation after the duration of the project. It would therefore seem logical that the economic sustainability is addressed.
27.	Does the expected EU contribution per project depend on the number of projects expected to be funded, or the other way around?	In general terms, the number of projects funded is determined by the expected EU budget, while the contribution per project depends on the scope of the project and based on the number of regions expected to be involved in the demonstrations.
28.	Can or should a region with several risks, several vulnerabilities, focus on one risk or should it deal with all the risks?	To build climate resilience at local level, a systemic approach is needed; therefore, a region should have a multi-risks approach towards all the relevant risks locally relevant.

IV. Selection Process

29.	How will you select the regions and communities?	The Mission has an open character and engagement in its objectives is open to all regions and communities. Concerning the support that will be provided under Horizon Europe, the selection process will not deal with regions and/or communities but with the research and demonstration projects that will involve these regions and/or communities. The proposals will be evaluated based on the Horizon Europe criteria, i.e. excellence, impact and quality of management. Additional selection criteria (for example to assure balance of the portfolio) could be added in specific calls in the future.
30.	How will you assess the vulnerability of regions in the proposals?	The proposal should describe the vulnerability of the region(s) concerned, which includes the climate risks and their potential impacts (i.e. agriculture, food, buildings, infrastructures, etc) as well as preparedness to deal with these risks. The proposal needs to substantiate how the project will contribute to reduce vulnerability. During the evaluation, the experts will evaluate the quality of the concept and methodology proposed and the impact of the proposal, in line with the Horizon Europe evaluation criteria.
31.	Will regions with low population but with great potential for climate adaptation be in competition with more populated regions?	The proposers should describe the potential positive impacts of the proposed actions. The evaluation is about evaluating project proposals not about evaluating regions.
32.	Should regions and/or communities be legal entities?	In line with Horizon Europe rules, the “regions” and the “communities” are requested to be legal entities and nominate a legal representative to become members of a consortium.
33.	Will the Mission be managed as a programme in itself with thematic calls?	Each Mission will be managed as a programme, mirroring the detailed objectives as described in the Mission Implementation Plan.
34.	What type of organisation is expected as project coordinator?	All types of organisation can be a project coordinator.
35.	Who can be the legal entity that represents the participating region in research projects?	This depends on the legal establishments in each MS. As an indication, the authorities expected to participate should be those responsible for climate change matters. A region is in many instances a legal entity in itself and, as such, does not need to be represented by another legal entity, but rather by its legal representative.

36.	Can a region that already has a Climate & Sustainable Energy Plan, for example through the Covenant of Mayors, participate in the Mission?	We welcome the active participation of members of the Covenant of Mayors. Cities are important actors in the resilience to climate change.
37.	Are engineering companies allowed in the consortium?	Engineering companies are allowed and welcome in many cases in the consortium, notably when they can contribute to the development and implementation of technological solutions.

V. Eligibility

38.	Are groups of municipalities, towns/cities or agglomerations eligible to participate in the Mission, in the sense of “communities” as described in the Implementation Plan?	They are eligible to participate in a project together as long as they constitute a legal entity according to Horizon Europe rules. Each of them is encouraged to adhere to the Charter.
39.	Are EU macro-regions eligible?	They are indeed eligible, as long as they constitute a legal entity according to Horizon Europe rules.
40.	Can associated countries participate in the Mission?	Regions established in countries associated to Horizon Europe or in other third countries negotiating association to Horizon Europe can be involved in the Mission actions funded under Horizon Europe. However, as the Mission scope goes beyond Horizon Europe, they should be aware that they may not be eligible to receive funding from other EU programmes and therefore will need to secure other means to contribute to the Mission objectives.
41.	Can Swiss and UK entities or researchers participate to the Mission?	For all calls and funding, the rules of the Horizon Europe funding programme apply.

VI. Participation

42.	What are the opportunities for companies to participate in the Mission?	Companies are eligible to participate as legal entities in Horizon Europe. Companies can participate as innovators, for example providing innovative solutions or climate services. They can also learn how to adapt to climate change and protect their own business by participating in projects. Companies can therefore be part of a consortium that applies for a call.
-----	--	--

43.	Is there a minimum number of participants from different Member States in the Mission actions?	The rules that apply to Horizon Europe calls also apply to the Horizon Europe support to the Mission. For every action, minimum three independent legal entities in three different countries, two of which established in a different EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country are required. To foster exchange of knowledge and scale-up innovative solutions, there might be specific requirements for certain calls for a minimum number of regions participating different than the minimum Horizon Europe criteria.
44.	How can Member States participate in the Mission?	While the Mission has a strong regional dimension requiring mobilisation of regions, Member States play an active role, through their national adaptation strategies and their support to regions, including with national programmes. The Mission aims to engage with the Member States in different ways, such as via the Working Group on Adaptation, the ad-hoc expert group set up under the Horizon Europe Strategic Programme Committee, the network of National Contact Points.
45.	Can all types of regions or communities of the EU can apply and participate, either rural, peri urban, urban?	Yes, all types of regions can participate provided they have a legal entity that can commit and contract.
46.	Are cities valid actors or should regional authorities be the key local actors?	Cities are also valid local actors and as such are also eligible to participate in the Mission.
47.	Is international cooperation expected or is the Mission focused on Europe?	The Mission will for the time being concentrate on the resilience of Europe (including outermost regions).
48.	How can research infrastructures (ERIC, ESFRI) participate?	They can participate in all Horizon Europe calls they deem suitable for their participation.
49.	Can financial institutions participate in the Mission?	Financial institutions are encouraged to join, as investors or to offer their existing products, or to develop new products that support climate resilience, such as insurance for example. Financial institutions can be part of a consortium that replies to a Horizon Europe call.
50.	How can micro SMEs participate in the Mission?	Any legal entity can participate in Horizon Europe calls. A micro SME could be part of a consortium that replies to a call.
51.	Can SMEs with expertise in adaptation be part of the Mission?	Any legal entity can participate in Horizon Europe calls. In addition, companies can apply to become Friends of the Mission.

52.	How do you see the involvement of the pre-commercial procurements (PCPs) and public procurements of innovative solutions (PPIs)?	PCP and PPI can provide valuable instruments to implement certain Mission actions; however, as they generally require an extensive preparation phase, they are not foreseen for the first Horizon Europe calls.
53.	Can Climate KIC participate?	Climate-KIC and their partners are invited to participate in the Mission.

VII. Funding

54.	Is co-funding required?	For certain Mission actions, in particular those going beyond research and innovation, co-funding will indeed be required. The financial needs to build climate resilient regions and communities are very large and will need to be supported and shared by several public and private sources.
55.	How can co-funding be achieved?	Funding for the Mission calls currently open comes from Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programmes for research and innovation. Regions and communities should also mobilise other funding, for example funding from European regional and cohesion programmes. Over time, other EU funding and financing opportunities (for example from the EIB) could also support the Mission actions.
56.	Will this mission need additional financial commitments from Member States? How will the finances be delivered per project?	The Mission is addressing adaptation to climate change under Horizon Europe. However, considering the scale of the challenge, we expect regions or private actors to contribute to its deployment. Other sources are available such as the regional funds, national funds for adaptation, etc.
57.	Can projects count in co-financing from international funds/attract private sector funding? Is this an element of the project design stage?	In general terms, projects are welcome to explore co-financing from other source of funding and look for opportunities to attract them. For some specific topics, co-funding might be a requirement of the topic as specified by the call text.
58.	Do you expect that the participant regions and communities contribute to the required financial budget?	It is expected that Horizon Europe will contribute only partially and other sources of EU, national, regional or private funding will co-fund the efforts. This could take the form of co-funding of specific actions or supporting in full some specific actions aligned to the overall objectives.
59.	Are there any activities funded at 100%?	In line with the legal basis of Horizon Europe, research actions will be funded at 100%.
60.	What kind of costs are eligible for funding within the projects?	Eligibility of costs follows the Horizon Europe rules.

61.	Are external consultancy costs eligible under the Mission, as many regions need external support to apply to the Mission and implement projects/activities?	Eligibility of costs follows the Horizon Europe rules.
62.	What will be the funding rates?	The funding rates will follow the Horizon Europe rules.
63.	What will be the type of actions in those calls: RIA, IA, CSA, others?	Yearly calls will foresee different actions.
64.	Who is eligible to apply for funding?	Eligible beneficiaries need to satisfy the Horizon Europe conditions: wp-13-general-annexes_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf (europa.eu)
65.	What is the required co-financing. (e.g. can it be in kind, or should it be in funding, a mix, etc.)? Should it be equally divided between countries/partners?	Please refer to the Horizon Europe participation rules: wp-13-general-annexes_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf (europa.eu)

VIII. Mission budget

66.	What is the budget of the Mission?	The Horizon Europe budget for Mission is slightly more than 360 million EUR for 2021-2023.
67.	How will the budget be shared between calls and projects?	Yearly calls will be set up for a budget of slightly more than 120 million EUR each for 2021-2023.
68.	How many calls and topics are there?	There will be one yearly call with dedicated topics, with a maximum of 10 topics to streamline the efforts.

IX. Evaluation and monitoring

69.	How will you monitor the achievements?	<p>There will be three different types of monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The formal monitoring tools in Horizon Europe. • The Mission Implementation Platform, which will be contracted end of 2022 through public procurement, will be in charge of analysing and monitoring the different activities of the Mission and will help designing future activities of the Mission. • The grant management monitoring will be carried out by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Agency (CINEA).
-----	---	--

70.	How will the evaluation of the calls/topics take place?	The calls and topics will be evaluated in general according to Horizon Europe rules.
71.	Should the scale of projects be similar to the Green Deal projects?	For the scale of projects, please refer to the Work Programme.

X. Synergies

72.	How will alignment and synergies between different programmes and funding sources be ensured?	Work is ongoing on identifying synergies amongst different Horizon Europe parts and on funding beyond Horizon Europe.
73.	What are the synergies with other Missions?	There are clear areas where different Missions can act with synergetic effect and where joint actions by different Missions will be ideally implemented. For example, building climate resilience in coastal areas through natural restoration is an area where the Climate and Ocean Missions can support activities jointly.
74.	If cities participate in both the adaptation and climate neutral cities missions, how will they coordinate?	Cities wanting to participate in both missions are invited to describe in their project proposals how they plan to co-ordinate processes.
75.	Can a region participate in more than one Mission?	Yes, a region or a city can participate in more than one mission.
76.	Could a region implement an area-based lighthouse for both Mission Soil and Mission Climate Adaptation?	Indeed, a region could implement an action on the ground which contributes to more than one Mission. Exchange of knowledge on lessons learnt and best practices amongst actions under the same Mission but also amongst actions under different Missions will be facilitated by the Mission Implementation Platform (and its equivalent in other Missions).
77.	How to create synergies with the Cancer Mission?	A potential area where Climate and Cancer Missions can create synergies relates to the health related key systems as described in the Mission Implementation Plan.
78.	Will there be joint activities/projects/fundings between this mission and the mission on climate neutral cities?	There are indeed clear areas where the two mentioned Missions can act with synergetic effect and where joint actions could be implemented. A joint call is included in the work programme 22, and more might be included in the following work programmes.
79.	How will the New European Bauhaus initiative be included in this Mission?	While the New European Bauhaus Initiative does not specifically address adaptation, there might be some common purposes with the Mission.

XI. Implementation

80.	What are the priority topics?	The Mission Implementation Plan identifies 10 areas of innovation addressing key systems and enabling conditions. For the Horizon Europe calls, the priorities are indicated in each call text.
81.	What are the possibilities to help set the priorities of the Mission?	An annual Mission Forum will be organised, where progress made, and/or possible adjustments to the Mission will be discussed.
82.	Many countries in Europe still lack the capacity to deliver adaptation projects - how can those countries be supported?	This Mission aims to facilitate twinning between less advanced and more advanced regions in terms of adaptation capacities. A matching between regions with different adaptation levels is welcome. This represents a win-win situation where one learns from another and best available solutions are shared.
83.	Can you give examples of how to engage with citizens?	Adaptation and in particular adaptation solutions need to be owned by the citizens. Examples of citizen engagement can be found on the webpage of the Climate Pact (i.e. dialogues, Peer Parliament, etc).
84.	Is the focus on rural or urban areas?	Both rural and urban are in scope. As the Mission aims to develop a balanced portfolio, it is expected that both types of areas will be fairly represented and supported.
85.	How will the Mission be linked to the Covenant of Mayors?	The EU Covenant of Mayors, as an existing regional partnership relevant for climate resilience, will be a key partner in engaging with regions and wider communities. As indicated in the Mission Implementation Plan, the Mission may contribute to scaling up the Policy Support Facility, hosted by the Covenant of Mayors.
86.	Will the Mission secretariat have desk officers providing information on stakeholders, governance etc.?	The Mission secretariat team coordinates the Mission and liaises with colleagues from other Commission departments when necessary. Mission related information is also available through the network of National Contact Points and will be available through the Mission Implementation Platform (as of 2023)
87.	Will Joint Programming Initiatives (Climate, Urban) also be part of the Missions?	Relevant Joint Programming Initiatives are invited to participate to the Mission.

XII. Networking

88.	Will the Commission organise brokerage events to encourage networking of interested actors?	<p>A search engine is available on Partner Search (europa.eu). You can also watch the recording of the information session Preparing and submitting a proposal organised on 18/01/2022. In addition, actions helping to find partners will be organised throughout the lifecycle of the mission.</p> <p>Beyond these instruments, the horizontal and thematic National Contact Points can help shape your proposal.</p>
-----	--	--

XIII. Mission Implementation Platform

89.	When will the Mission Implementation Platform be operational?	<p>The Mission Implementation Platform is expected to be contracted by the end of 2022 in parallel to the signature of the first projects. It will be operational in 2023.</p>
90.	Will the Mission Implementation Platform play a role in selecting or engaging with the regions selected in projects 2021-02-01 and 2021-02-02?	<p>The selection of the regions to benefit of third party support under topic 2021-02-01 and topic 2021-02-02 will be under the responsibility of the consortiums that will be awarded. The consortiums will be responsible to engage them and to provide them direct support.</p> <p>The Mission Implementation Platform will have a fundamental role in facilitating the further engagement of the regions to the Mission and the coordination of all the Mission activities.</p>
91.	What is the status of the Mission Implementation Platform? Has a project been selected to manage this platform?	<p>The Terms of reference and the Call for tender will be published soon. It will be a Public Procurement. The Contractor will be selected after the evaluation. Activities are expected to start in 2023.</p>

XIV. Information sources

92.	Where can I find the information about the Mission?	<p>All information is available on EU Mission: Adaptation to Climate Change European Commission (europa.eu)</p>
93.	Whom can I contact for more information?	<p>You can send your questions to EU-CLIMATE-ADAPTATION-MISSION@ec.europa.eu</p>
94.	Where can I find a list of national contact points?	<p>The network of National Contact Points (NCPs) is the main structure to provide guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in Horizon Europe. A list of National Contact points is available.</p>
95.	Where can I find detailed information on participation and procedures?	<p>How to participate (europa.eu)</p>