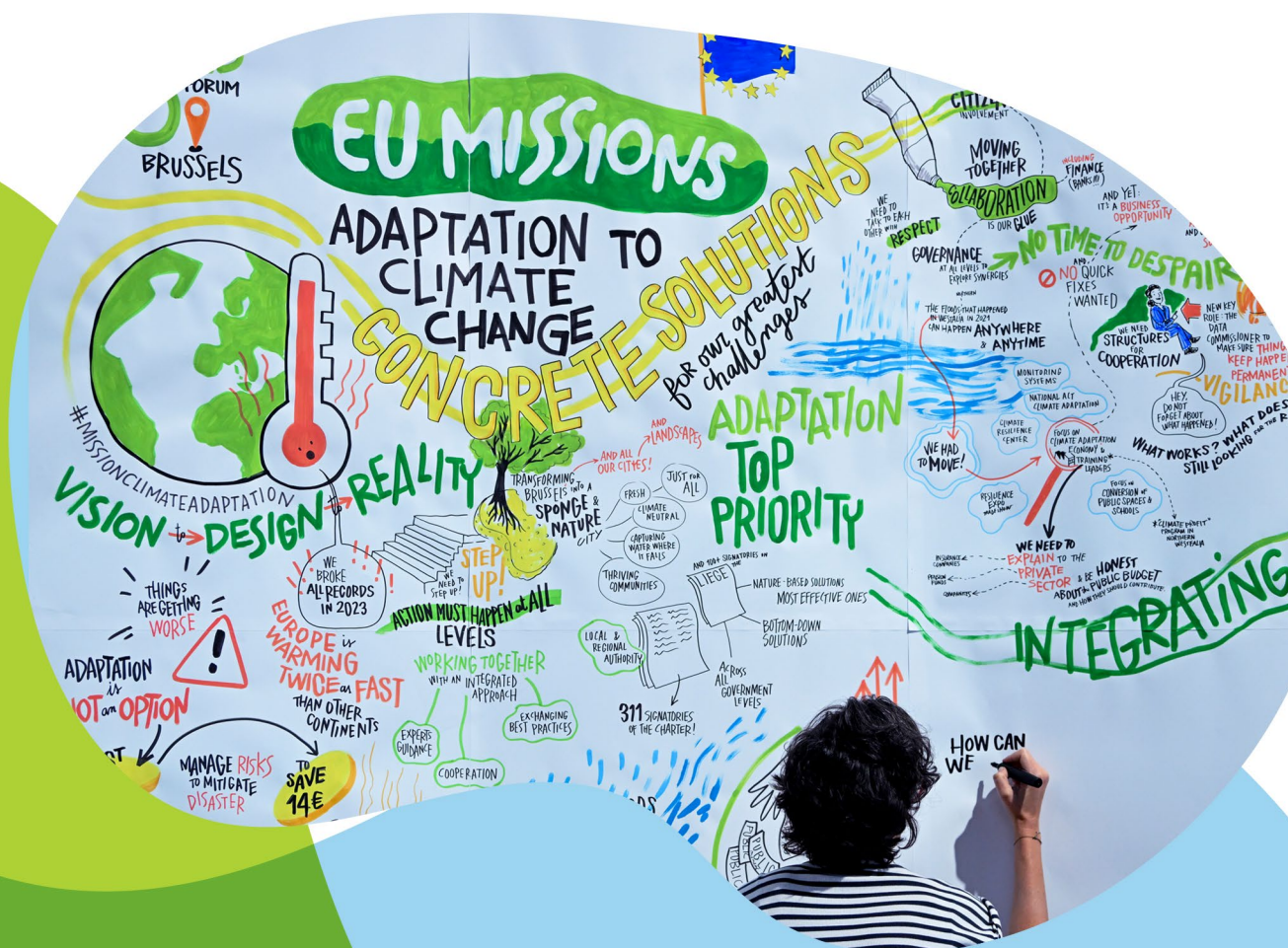




## ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

# ACTIVITY REPORT

# APRIL 2025



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Manuscript completed in April, 2025

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Title: Activity Report of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change

PDF WEB | ISBN 978-92-68-26417-1 | DOI 10.2834/3354252 | ML-01-25-019-EN-N

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|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>FOREWORD .....</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>DRIVING CLIMATE RESILIENCE.....</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| Mission Implementation Platform (MIP4Adapt) .....   | 8         |
| Mission Projects .....  | 8         |
| Reporting on the Mission.....   | 9         |
| Mission-Funded Projects Spotlight.....  | 10        |
| <b>GENERAL SUPPORT FOR ALL EUROPEAN REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN<br/>PREPARING AND PLANNING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE .....</b> | <b>12</b> |
| Success Stories .....   | 13        |
| Adaptation Tools .....  | 19        |
| Stakeholder and Citizen Engagement Manual .....   | 21        |
| Climate Risk Assessment Manual .....  | 21        |
| Funding .....   | 21        |
| Driving Collaboration and Action .....  | 22        |
| The EU Mission Adaptation Community .....   | 24        |
| Mission-Funded Projects Spotlight.....  | 28        |
| <b>TAILORED SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES .....</b>  | <b>30</b> |
| MIP4Adapt Technical Assistance: Driving Regional Adaptation .....   | 30        |
| Types of support .....  | 31        |
| Impact of Technical Assistance Programme .....  | 32        |
| Technical Assistance Spotlight .....  | 34        |
| CLIMAAX Technical Assistance .....  | 36        |
| P2R Technical Assistance .....  | 37        |
| <b>FUTURE LOOK .....</b>  | <b>38</b> |





# FOREWORD

BY ELINA BARDRAM, MISSION MANAGER

Welcome to this year's activity report on the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change. As climate impacts continue to intensify across Europe and as increasingly alarming temperature increases are reported, the urgency of preparing for these challenges has never been more apparent. At the same time, meaningful action is taking place, demonstrating to EU citizens the power of working together, using innovative approaches, and sharing good practices. This report showcases our remarkable progress together, sharing insights and stories that highlight the tangible results of our collective efforts.

Three years into the Mission, it continues to serve as a pivotal driver of climate adaptation action, uniting 400 regional and local authorities across Europe. They contribute as signatories of the Mission Charter or by participating in innovative projects under the Mission framework. This expansive collaboration has translated strategies into action, with concrete, on-the-ground results that place resilience at the forefront of local and regional initiatives.

Despite progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the EU's steadfast commitment to achieving climate neutrality by 2050, the accelerating impacts of global warming underscore the dual challenge of mitigation and adaptation. The Mission addresses this need by empowering regions and local authorities to enhance climate resilience and risk management practices and safeguard livelihoods amid increasingly extreme weather events.

The forthcoming European Climate Adaptation Plan, announced by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, will represent a pivotal opportunity to advance the Mission's objectives. This plan will align policy with ongoing pioneering action, ensuring climate adaptation becomes a reality across all EU countries, regions, and cities.

As you explore this report, we invite you to reflect on how you can contribute to this collective effort—whether by advocating for robust policies, supporting local initiatives, or making sustainable choices. Together, we continue building a path toward a more resilient and sustainable future.



# DRIVING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change continues to drive progress in helping European regional and local authorities and cities build resilience to the growing impacts of climate change. Through the Mission, stakeholders and citizens are actively engaged in transforming adaptation goals into concrete actions, fostering collaboration, and accelerating Europe's path to 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.

# 326

## Mission Charter signatories

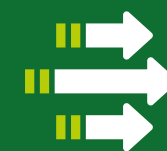
326 European regional and local authorities from 25 EU Member States that share the Mission's ambitions have signed up to the Mission's Charter.

# 63

## Friends of the Mission

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.

## Key achievements of the Mission to date include:



145 regional and local authorities received or are receiving support to fast-track their adaptation efforts through the Mission Implementation Platform (MIP4Adapt)'s tailored Technical Assistance to Mission Charter Signatories.



80 regions supported by MIP4Adapt's tailored Technical Assistance to Mission Charter Signatories and over 70 received financial support from Mission's projects such as Pathways2Resilience, CLIMAAX.



Over 200 regions and local authorities are actively testing and implementing adaptation solutions at demonstration sites, supported by Mission Projects.



## MISSION IMPLEMENTATION PLATFORM (MIP4ADAPT)

MIP4Adapt is pivotal in supporting the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, and its key offerings include:

- **Coordinating activities and fostering engagement** – supporting the alignment of Mission, Mission Projects, and Community of Practice (CoP) activities for regions and local authorities.
- **Direct support and technical assistance** – helping Mission Charter Signatories navigate their climate adaptation journey with expert technical assistance tailored to their individual circumstances.
- **Monitoring and reporting** – tracking progress and providing valuable insights to refine and advance the delivery of the Mission.
- **Broader engagement** – encouraging widespread participation in the Mission, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing through platforms including the Mission Portal and the Adaptation Mission Community of Practice.

## MISSION PROJECTS

Solutions for European regions are being developed, tested and demonstrated in 46 Mission-funded projects (directly funded by the Mission) and 204 Mission-related projects (contributing to the Mission's general objectives). These initiatives lead the way in developing and supporting the application of innovative approaches to climate adaptation and increasing resilience.

Beyond advancing theory, these projects help regional and local authorities improve their preparedness and resilience by offering tools, data, and opportunities for practical experimentation. In doing so, they identify solutions and pave the way for accelerating adaptation efforts in Europe.

The Mission is a cornerstone in Europe's efforts to build resilience, ensuring that regions and communities are equipped to face the challenges of climate change.

Through MIP4Adapt and the Mission projects, the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change continues to empower regional and local authorities to accelerate their progress towards climate resilience.

## MISSION-FUNDED PROJECTS

The Charter Signatories, Friends of the Mission, and broader European regions and local authorities are supported by 46 Mission-funded projects and 204 Mission-related projects. These 46 projects, with a combined budget of over €480 million, are active across all EU Member States and operate in a total of more than 40 countries. They directly contribute to all three Mission objectives, and you'll find project spotlights throughout this document.



## REGIONAL AND LOCAL REPORTING UNDER THE MISSION

The reporting framework for the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change includes several key components, including the Barometer updates, the Projects Portfolio dashboard, and reporting from the European Environment Agency (EEA) that showcases information on the progress of the Mission's Charter Signatories in climate adaptation.

The Barometer provides six monthly updates on the Mission's progress across its three objectives. It uses 13 indicators aligned with these objectives and reports every April and October.

The [Projects Portfolio dashboard](#) offers an interactive platform to explore Mission-funded and Mission-relevant projects. It details thematic areas, hazards addressed, steps of the adaptation planning process, and methodologies used.

The EEA's reporting highlights select information from the data submitted by Charter Signatories in support of regional local adaptation efforts.

All of these reporting tools and their outputs are available on the [Mission Portal](#).

# MISSION-FUNDED PROJECTS SPOTLIGHT



## SCALING UP NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

CARDIMED is accelerating climate adaptation by mainstreaming NbS and demonstrating their value as multipurpose, 'no-regret' solutions for building climate resilience. The project delivers over 80 large-scale NbS interventions in 10 regions and cities across the Mediterranean. However, implementing green infrastructure alone is not enough to drive systemic transformation. To support the long-term success of these solutions, CARDIMED is integrating a set of complementary actions to ensure participating regions move towards transformative adaptation.

Enabling digital technologies – CARDIMED is developing digital tools to enhance stakeholder interaction with NbS. These include NbS dashboards for operators to monitor and manage interventions, as well as a digital storytelling and augmented reality mobile app to help citizens better understand the benefits of NbS in their daily lives. In February 2025, alpha versions of five digital tools were delivered, with fully functional versions set to be published by the end of summer.

Strengthening society and governance – to bridge knowledge and communication gaps, CARDIMED is enhancing community resilience by focusing on governance structures, policy frameworks, capacity building, and citizen science. In December 2024, the project published a set of 10 policy memos, highlighting how barriers to NbS uptake create institutional traps that require shifts in thinking and organisation. These memos are designed to inspire and inform policy action across Mediterranean regions. You can find them [here](#).

Developing a holistic evaluation framework – for NbS to become a priority in regional planning, their benefits must be clearly articulated to urban planners. To achieve this, CARDIMED and participating regions developed a detailed monitoring plan in November 2024. This document outlines key indicators, measurement methods, sampling plans, required equipment, and expected trends. It provides a replicable framework for other regions to tailor and apply, ensuring a strong evidence base for the effectiveness of NbS.

All NbS demonstrators will be completed by autumn 2025. Follow their progress [here](#).

## CLIMATEFIT



## UNLOCKING CLIMATE ADAPTATION FINANCE ACROSS EUROPE

Accessing financial resources for climate adaptation remains a significant challenge for many European regions. CLIMATEFIT is tackling this issue by analysing financial ecosystems, identifying barriers, and equipping public authorities with the tools to unlock investments in climate adaptation.

So far, the project has developed Adaptation Investment Landscapes for eight countries, mapping financial flows, regulatory frameworks, and opportunities for both public and private finance. Building on this foundation, CLIMATEFIT has strengthened the capacity of public authorities, financial institutions, and private sector stakeholders through tailored training programmes. These sessions have increased awareness of adaptation finance challenges and opportunities while providing practical insights into designing and assessing bankable adaptation projects. The project has also fostered new connections with financial institutions, leading to the engagement of "Champions" – key stakeholders interested in sub-national adaptation investments.

Four Local Resilience Taskforces are being launched in Flanders, Brescia, Strasbourg, and Alba Iulia to drive action at the local level. These Taskforces will coordinate adaptation investment planning, with the first Investment strategies now being produced to pave the way for pilot projects. CLIMATEFIT lays the foundation for a systemic shift in adaptation finance across Europe and beyond by aligning technical expertise, stakeholder engagement, and innovative finance solutions.



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

The Mission continues to deliver general support to all European regional and local authorities, which can be used by them to prepare, plan, and implement actions effectively for climate resilience. This general support is delivered through the Mission Portal, which continues to evolve and includes:

**A Mission overview** – including information about MIP4Adapt and the regional and local authorities that are Charter Signatories.

**Success stories** – showcasing real-world examples and best practices of climate adaptation actions taken by regional and local authorities.

**Mission-funded projects** – a searchable database of summary information about each of these projects.

**The Regional Adaptation Support Tool (RAST)** – designed to help local and regional authorities with climate change adaptation strategies and plans.

**The adaptation dashboard** – providing access to information on climate-related hazards, associated climate vulnerabilities, exposure and impacts, and adaptation policies and actions.

**Stakeholder and citizen engagement** – information and resources to support activities

**Mission resources** – including DIY Manuals on Climate Risk Assessment and Barometer Reports

**Adaptation tools** – a searchable database of up-to-date, helpful, and reliable adaptation decision-making tools.

**Funding** – a Funding and Financing Guide; Supporting Regional Climate Adaptation and a searchable database of EU and national funding opportunities.

**Events** – information about Mission-related past and upcoming events, including the Mission adaptation webinar series, featuring experts and regions sharing insights on key adaptation topics.

**News** – on Mission-related activities.

## SUCCESS STORIES

Successes are captured through three types of stories: Adaptation Stories, showcasing climate solutions from across Europe; Mission Success Stories, highlighting actions directly enabled by the Mission; and Mission Case Studies, providing in-depth scientific insights from the EEA.

Covering a range of climate hazards—such as extreme heat, drought, flooding, and rising sea levels—these stories highlight innovative solutions and collaborative approaches in action. Together, they offer valuable lessons, inspiration, and practical guidance for regions and local authorities tackling similar challenges.

A selection of these stories is featured on the following pages.

## ADAPTATION STORIES



### SLOVENIA

In Slovenia, a European Innovation Partnership project equips small landowners with digital tools and training to implement climate adaptation measures. By centralising environmental data and fostering collaboration between climate, agriculture, and forestry experts, the initiative enhances biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and sustainable land use—offering a scalable model for resilient rural economies.

### SHEFFIELD, UK

Sheffield's Grey to Green project transformed a major inner-city road into the UK's longest "green street" corridor, integrating a sustainable urban drainage system to enhance flood resilience. The project reduces runoff, protects infrastructure, and boosts biodiversity by replacing roads with cycle paths, rain gardens, and bio-infiltration features. This nature-based approach strengthens climate adaptation and improves urban liveability and economic regeneration.





## ADAPTATION STORIES

### POZNAŃ, POLAND

Poznań is revitalising urban spaces with nature-based solutions, transforming schoolyards and playgrounds into green oases that support climate adaptation while enhancing outdoor spaces for children's well-being and play. By replacing concrete with permeable surfaces and native plants, these spaces enhance water retention, improve air quality, and provide natural cooling. The initiative aligns with Poznań's historic "green wedges and rings" system, strengthening urban resilience while promoting outdoor education and biodiversity.



### FLANDERS, BELGIUM

To combat drought and water scarcity, Flanders launched the Blue Deal, a pioneering programme with 70+ actions to improve water availability and efficiency. Over €500m has been mobilised during the current legislative period to drive investments in wetland restoration, water infrastructure, and sustainable water use. The initiative has already achieved significant results, including watercourse redesign and increased water reuse.



### NORTHERN NORWAY AND SKAGERRAK, NORWAY

Norway is advancing blue forest conservation by exploring the socio-economic benefits and financing models for ecosystem restoration. These vital marine habitats support biodiversity, enhance fish stocks, and capture carbon, helping coastal communities adapt to climate change. By engaging stakeholders and developing sustainable business models, the project aims to scale up restoration efforts, ensuring long-term ecological and economic resilience.

### MILAN, ITALY

Milan embeds climate adaptation and resilience into local policies through cross-departmental collaboration, research, and innovation. The city's Urban Resilience Department works closely with Civil Protection and Urban Regeneration to integrate adaptation into development plans, implement NbS, and enhance climate risk communication. By aligning mitigation and adaptation strategies, Milan is shaping a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.



### EMSCHER, GERMANY

The Emscher Generation Project is one of Europe's most significant river restoration initiatives, transforming heavily modified waterways into climate-resilient ecosystems. Led by the EmscherGenossenschaft cooperative, the project has restored 170 km of rivers, created flood retention areas, and enhanced biodiversity. Through nature-based solutions (NbS), urban greening, and stakeholder collaboration, the project strengthens flood resilience, mitigates droughts, and improves the quality of life across the region.



### KASSEL, GERMANY

Kassel introduced the Heat Telephone Parasol initiative to protect vulnerable residents from extreme heat, providing personalised heat warnings and safety advice to elderly citizens. Run by Seniors' Advisory Board volunteers, the service has been ensuring direct outreach during summer heatwaves since 2010. Over its 15 years of operation, it has proven highly effective, offering prevention tips and social support. Its success has led to plans for expansion to other at-risk groups.



## MISSION SUCCESS STORIES

### LEUVEN, BELGIUM

Leuven is strengthening its climate resilience through NbS, governance improvements, and spatial planning. As a Charter Signatory to the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, MIP4Adapt's Technical Assistance supports the city in refining its Climate Risk Assessment and securing funding for adaptation projects.

#### Solutions

Leuven 2030, a local non-governmental organisation (NGO), drives climate adaptation by coordinating stakeholders and developing investment plans for city climate contracts. The city is also advancing a climate fund to link profitable and non-profitable adaptation projects with consultancy support from MIP4Adapt. Spatial planning initiatives focus on de-paving and greening public spaces to mitigate flooding and urban heat, while EU-funded projects like PACT and JustNature promote NbS. Citizens are further encouraged to contribute through subsidies for tree planting and green roofs.

#### Outputs

Leuven has gathered climate data and is now analysing hazard impacts across the city to guide targeted adaptation efforts. An inter-departmental group has coordinated adaptation initiatives across local government sectors, ensuring a cohesive strategy.

#### Lessons learned

Diversifying funding sources, from grants to public-private partnerships, is key to financial stability. Effective governance, with broad stakeholder engagement, enhances knowledge-sharing and ensures the long-term success of adaptation initiatives.



### BASQUE COUNTRY, SPAIN

As a Mission Charter Signatory, the Basque Country has used MIP4Adapt Technical Assistance to refine its adaptation strategy. RAST has helped structure adaptation pathways, identify demonstrator projects, and align actions with long-term resilience goals.

#### Solutions

A new regional climate change law and Adaptation Roadmap translate the Basque Climate Change Strategy 2050 into action. The Klimatek programme funds research and innovation, while local funding supports NbS. Ihobe, the Basque Government's Environment Agency, coordinates efforts across government, academia, and municipalities to ensure effective implementation.

#### Outputs

As part of the Regions4Climate project, the Basque Country is piloting coastal resilience solutions—projects like LIFE IP Urban Klima 2050 address sea-level rise, flooding, and heat hotspots. MIP4Adapt support has strengthened adaptation planning, helping prioritise and fund key demonstrators.

#### Lessons learned

Strong governance and stakeholder collaboration are key to effective adaptation. Aligning regional efforts with EU initiatives and securing targeted funding accelerates implementation. The Basque approach highlights the need for scalable, evidence-based solutions to strengthen climate resilience.

### EMILIA-ROMAGNA, ITALY

Emilia-Romagna is strengthening climate resilience through integrated spatial planning and water management, advancing its goal of climate neutrality by 2050. As a Mission Charter Signatory and ARCADIA project participant, the region uses Mission support to enhance adaptation planning.

#### Solutions

Emilia-Romagna has introduced a construction moratorium in flood-prone areas to allow for climate risk mapping and new spatial planning. Measures include buffer zones along rivers, improved vegetation management, and controlled flooding to reduce risks. Incentives will support the relocation of at-risk activities.

#### Outputs

The region's approach is expected to enhance long-term resilience despite initial challenges. Integrated planning will help manage increasing climate risks more effectively.

#### Lessons learned

Strong stakeholder collaboration is essential for effective planning. Best practices for post-emergency waste management have already been shared with other regions, and a scientific commission has been established to assess climate risks and inform future adaptation measures.



## MISSION CASE STUDIES

The European Environment Agency has been developing Mission Case Studies to showcase effective practices and innovative adaptation solutions across different scales and locations. Building on the first case study with Mission signatories from the City and Region of Valencia, which highlighted their collaborative governance approach to implementing EU Missions, the EEA developed another Climate-ADAPT case study last year. This case study, which is also featured on the Mission Portal, explores the planned relocation of a municipal campsite alongside floodplain restoration in the Normandy region (France). It demonstrates how proactive coastal adaptation, habitat restoration, and the relocation of key municipal assets can effectively reduce exposure and vulnerability to climate risks.



## ADAPTATION TOOLS

### Regional Adaptation Support tool (RAST)



As part of the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, the EEA has developed RAST to guide local and regional authorities in designing and implementing climate adaptation strategies and plans.

With a user-friendly structure and accessible content and visuals, RAST provides step-by-step guidance across the six key stages of the adaptation policy cycle, now further detailed with sub-steps to support more tailored decision-making:

- 1. Preparing the ground for adaptation**  
Establish adaptation governance, secure political commitment, gather data, assess resource needs, and ensure clear communication.
- 2. Assessing climate change risks and vulnerabilities**  
Conduct climate risk assessments, identify political risks, analyse data, highlight key risks, and define adaptation objectives.
- 3. Identifying adaptation options**  
Explore solutions to address key risks, drawing inspiration from successful adaptation examples and best practices.

### 4. Assessing and selecting adaptation options

Apply a stakeholder-agreed framework to evaluate options based on sustainability, resilience, economic impact, and costs.

### 5. Implementing adaptation policies and actions

Integrate adaptation into policies, secure funding, and foster multi-level stakeholder collaboration.

### 6. Monitoring, evaluation, and learning

Establish a framework to track progress, assess outcomes, and continuously refine adaptation plans based on lessons learned.

RAST also offers practical examples and a curated list of resources under each step, including relevant data sources, guidance materials, and tools to support informed decision-making. The tool continues to be regularly updated based on new research, user feedback, new case studies, and evolving adaptation needs to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.

### EEA Adaptation Dashboard

The EEA has further developed the Adaptation Dashboard, which can be located in the Knowledge and Data section of the Mission Portal. The [Adaptation Dashboard](#) provides access to essential data that local and regional authorities can use to develop their adaptation plans. It provides data relevant to climate risks at regional and national levels, such as climate hazards, impacts, vulnerabilities, adaptation policy, and action responses. This is sourced from Copernicus services (C3S, CLMS), the Joint Research Centre, and other platforms. With a long list of indicators, improved user interface and enhanced data visualisation, it enriches users' understanding of potential climate risks. It also allows them to leave feedback using a form that includes guided questions.



## Tools Database

Last year, MIP4Adapt launched a dedicated [Tools Database](#) to simplify decision-making for regional and local authorities. By providing access to a carefully curated selection of adaptation planning and implementation tools, the database supports users in addressing key challenges at different stages of their climate resilience journey.

Currently, 15 tools are available, selected based on their relevance to climate hazards, adaptation needs, and user expertise. This resource is continuously expanding, integrating the latest innovations from European research, national initiatives, and private sector developments.

Authorities and Mission Projects are encouraged to explore the database and contribute additional tools to ensure it remains a comprehensive and practical support system for adaptation planning. More information is available on the Mission Portal, and those interested in promoting their tools can contact the MIP4Adapt team via the [Helpdesk](#).

Examples of some of the tools are shown below.

[The Aqueduct Global Water Risk Atlas](#) was the most visited tool in the database. It offers an accessible way to view water risks for all locations. Its user-friendly interface allows for easy identification of areas at risk from floods, droughts, and water stress, making it an essential resource for understanding and addressing water-related challenges.

[The Thermal Assessment Tool](#) provides valuable insights into extreme heat episodes (heat waves) across European regions, offering visualisations of past, present, and future heat risks. It supports heat risk assessment and helps raise awareness by categorising heat events into varying risk levels, such as “warning,” “alert,” and “alarm.”

[The Adaptation Policy Credibility tool](#) assesses the effectiveness of local climate change adaptation plans, focusing on policy, scientific, and technical credibility and legitimacy. It helps evaluate the likelihood of successful implementation and sustainability, guiding cities and policymakers in prioritising plans, allocating funds, and identifying best practices.

## STAKEHOLDER AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT MANUAL

The DIY Manual for Stakeholder and Citizen Engagement in Climate Adaptation is a key resource for regional and local authorities. It provides practical tools to foster meaningful engagement with stakeholders and citizens and helps users identify practical actions to enhance the relevance, credibility, and legitimacy of their adaptation strategies and plans.

Updated in Autumn 2024, the Manual includes additional thematic flyers and tools to support engagement throughout the adaptation planning cycle. These new resources offer guidance on the following:

- Creative engagement
- Engaging the private sector
- Supporting vulnerable groups
- Establishing the core foundation of participation

The DIY Manual and thematic flyers are available to download in all official EU languages from the [Mission Portal](#).



The DIY Manual was further updated in April 2025 to include collaborative approaches and experiences for engaging the broad range of stakeholders in adaptation planning.

## CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT MANUAL

A comprehensive climate risk assessment is crucial for regions and local authorities to identify and prioritise adaptation actions. The Assessing Climate Change Risks and Vulnerabilities DIY Manual provides a step-by-step guide to conducting a structured assessment, forming the foundation for effective adaptation planning.

Practical templates and examples in Microsoft Excel format are now available for direct download to support data collection and analysis.

These resources guide regional and local authorities through every stage of the process—from initial groundwork to interpreting results—ensuring a systematic approach to climate adaptation. All the materials can be accessed via the [Mission Portal](#).

## FUNDING

Securing funding and financial support remains a key challenge for regions and local authorities advancing climate adaptation. [The EU and National Funding Opportunities searchable database](#) and the [Funding and Financing Guide](#) help navigate this complexity by outlining available economic resources and offering practical insights on improving preparedness before applying for funding.

The guide explores diverse funding and financing options, equipping decision-makers with the knowledge needed to identify the most suitable approaches for their adaptation projects. By clarifying pathways to investment, it supports regional and local authorities in turning adaptation plans into action.

## DRIVING COLLABORATION AND ACTION

### Mission Forum

The Mission Forum is the flagship annual event of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change. It brings together national, regional, and local authorities, European institutions, Charter Signatories, and Friends of the Mission. More than just a meeting, the Forum is a dynamic space for collaboration, where participants share insights, showcase innovative adaptation solutions, and shape the future direction of the Mission.

Each year, the Forum provides a platform to highlight regional successes, discuss challenges, and strengthen synergies between Mission-funded projects, policymakers, and adaptation practitioners. Through interactive sessions, case studies, and peer-learning exchanges, attendees gain valuable insights to accelerate their adaptation strategies.

As the Mission evolves, the Forum remains a vital platform to guide its direction, align priorities with real-world needs, and drive Europe's collective efforts toward climate resilience.



### 2024 Mission Forum Highlights

- Nearly 450 participants joined the Third Mission Forum in Brussels, Belgium, engaging both in-person and online to drive forward climate adaptation across Europe.
- Key speakers, including Mission Manager Elina Bardram and European Commissioner for Climate Action Wopke Hoekstra, reinforced the urgency of adaptation and the Mission's role in supporting regions and communities.
- Panel discussions, breakout sessions, and networking opportunities provided a platform for sharing success stories, discussing challenges, and shaping the future direction of the Mission.
- The event showcased local and regional initiatives, fostering collaboration and strengthening dialogue between Charter Signatories, policymakers, and technical experts.

### Communicating the EU Mission on Climate Adaptation

Effective communication ensures that European regions and local authorities stay informed, engaged, and equipped to advance climate adaptation. The Mission's communications network highlights available support and showcases best practices, solutions, resources, and collaboration opportunities.

Over the past year, the Mission has expanded its outreach efforts, strengthening engagement through tailored events, digital platforms, and knowledge-sharing initiatives. By promoting the available tools and funding, the Mission encourages collective action, helping regions accelerate their resilience-building efforts.

### Showcasing the Mission at Key Events

Over the past year, the Mission has actively engaged with stakeholders at major European and regional events, strengthening its presence and fostering collaboration on climate adaptation. Representatives participated in 46 key events, including COP29, contributing to discussions on city decarbonisation and climate change adaptation, the EU Green Week, Climateurope2: 4th Webstival, and the European Climate Pact: Together in Action 2025.

By participating in high-profile conferences, exhibitions, and forums, the Mission continues to highlight adaptation challenges, share best practices, and connect with stakeholders to drive meaningful climate action.



**2,490**  
newsletter subscribers



**22**  
news stories published



**450**  
Mission Forum attendees



**70**  
events attended



**1,070**  
video views



**27**  
languages website is available in



**3,980**  
LinkedIn followers



**2025**  
launched on Bluesky





## THE EU MISSION ADAPTATION COMMUNITY

Facilitated by MIP4Adapt, the EU Mission Adaptation Community of Practice connects European adaptation practitioners to exchange knowledge, collaborate, and stay informed. Members include Charter Signatories and other European local and regional authorities, Mission projects, EU institutions, and Friends of the Mission. The Community supports learning through events, workshops, and discussions linking research, policy, and practice. By joining, members can build partnerships, shape adaptation strategies, and contribute to best-practice resources, enhancing their impact and visibility.

### The Online Site

The [EU Mission Adaptation Community site](#), available in all EU languages, is open to any organisation committed to developing climate resilience. It offers a space to learn, connect, and take action. Members can stay informed about events and resources, share their experiences of climate adaptation, join discussions, and explore the Mission Projects space and database.

### Events

The EU Mission Adaptation Community of Practice hosts events for knowledge-sharing, peer learning, and collaboration on developing climate resilience. Each event organised by MIP4Adapt follows a monthly theme, addressing real-world adaptation challenges and equipping stakeholders with practical strategies.

Beyond themed discussions, the Community's online site allows members to promote their own events. In June 2024, a matchmaking event connected over 120 participants to foster partnerships with a view to developing projects for Horizon Europe, focusing on financial strategies, resilience tools, and capacity building. A second event is planned for May 2025.



### Peer Learning Programme

Launched in January 2024, a first cycle of the Peer Learning Programme connected 15 Charter Signatories to tackle climate adaptation challenges. Over four months, participants shared best practices, explored tailored content, and joined peer-learning groups focused on NbS water management, urban areas, and agriculture. They also applied tools like the RAST to enhance adaptation measures.

Through 10 sessions, experts from the MIP4Adapt team and Mission Projects shared valuable insights, tools, and funding opportunities. Hands-on exercises helped participants apply these resources to their strategies, demonstrating how peer learning can drive meaningful climate action.

A second cycle of the Peer Learning Programme, launched in July 2024, focused on extreme heat and droughts, and coastal areas and flooding. It brought together 26 participants from 16 regional and local authorities across 10 EU Member States.

The programme fostered collaboration and knowledge exchange, helping authorities tackle their most urgent climate adaptation challenges. Key outcomes included exploring flood management strategies and adaptation measures for coastal areas, and developing governance strategies for extreme heat, emphasising protecting vulnerable populations through climate shelters and awareness-raising campaigns.

*"The exchange with other participants was a great opportunity to get motivated for my work as I learned that other regions face similar problems. The hands-on exercises helped me to get more insight into the topics. I will be sure to use them in the future."*

**Feedback from a Charter Signatory who participated in the first cycle**



## Services for Mission Projects

The [Mission Projects Space](#) on the EU Mission Adaptation Community online site is a hub for collaborating, sharing resources, and coordinating action on climate adaptation. It includes the [Mission Projects Database](#), featuring key information on all Mission Projects that are members of the Mission Adaptation Community.

## Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)

[Thematic Working Groups](#) (TWGs) foster collaboration across all Mission Projects, enhancing knowledge sharing and impact. Each group focuses on a key theme, producing outputs that support the Mission's objectives, with dedicated spaces for updates, discussions, and shared documents.

Current TWGs address: Citizen and Stakeholder Engagement, Climate Services, Financing Climate Action, Integrating Mitigation and Adaptation, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Transformational Adaptation. Over the past year, TWGs have organised events and developed reports, policy briefs, and strategic documents, which are available in the [Resources and Outputs](#) section of the EU Mission Adaptation Community online site.

Key outputs include:

- [Understanding Transformational Adaptation: A Shared Vision Across EU Horizon Projects](#)
- [Insights on Monitoring Climate Adaptation Activities: Lessons from EU Mission Adaptation Projects](#)

These contributions showcase the expertise of the Community of Practice, with TWGs continuing to develop outputs to enrich the shared knowledge base on adaptation.



## Stakeholder and Citizen Engagement Training Programme

In 2024, a training programme on stakeholder and citizen engagement tools attracted over 60 Charter Signatories. The training also fostered peer exchange, allowing participants to share insights and learn from each other's projects. Participants valued the sessions' content, case studies, exercises, and discussions. Recorded sessions and materials are available [here](#).

*"Stakeholders need to be important; they are important, and they need to feel this. One of the ways we managed to do it is to shout out the stakeholders' engagement activities through all kinds of mass media." Andreas Panagopoulos (Pineos River Basin, Greece)*





# MISSION-FUNDED PROJECTS SPOTLIGHT



## SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Adaptation AGORA is helping advance the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change by providing practical models for citizen engagement and governance. In collaboration with MIP4Adapt, the project has hosted joint webinars, fostering knowledge exchange between European and global adaptation initiatives. It has also built strong connections with international stakeholders, including private sector actors and institutions beyond Europe.

Through its pilot regions — Zaragoza (Spain), Rome (Italy), Malmö (Sweden), and Dresden (Germany) — Adaptation AGORA is co-designing and testing participatory approaches to ensure citizens, policymakers, and key stakeholders actively shape climate adaptation strategies. Over the past year, the project has hosted co-creation workshops, focus groups, and citizen assemblies to identify local adaptation priorities. Engaging a diverse range of participants, including youth, elderly residents, and people from migrant backgrounds, strengthens inclusive decision-making. In Rome, for example, citizen consultations directly contributed to the city's climate adaptation plan, which the City Assembly approved in early 2025.

To support knowledge-sharing and engagement, Adaptation AGORA has developed several digital tools, including:

- **The [AGORA Community Hub](#)** – an interactive online platform fostering networking and collaboration among policymakers, experts, and citizens.
- **Digital Academies** – providing open access to [climate data](#) and training on countering [climate disinformation](#).
- **The [AGORA Quiz App](#)** – a gamified mobile tool designed to improve climate literacy through interactive quizzes.
- **The [Digital Handbook](#)** – an upcoming multimedia platform capturing project insights and lessons learned.

With a growing network of over 50 regions and other civil stakeholders, the project continues to promote inclusive and scalable adaptation approaches that empower communities and strengthen climate resilience across Europe.



## EMPOWERING REGIONS WITH TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION PATHWAYS

The Mission project TransformAr accelerates and upscales transformational climate adaptation across Europe by developing and demonstrating innovative solutions that enhance climate and water resilience in six diverse territories. Integrating water-focused adaptation strategies helps regions address climate-induced water challenges more effectively.

A key resource in this effort is the Playbook for Transformational Adaptation, a practical, step-by-step guide for public and private entities designing adaptation pathways. Grounded in a participatory, multi-stakeholder approach, the Playbook combines local expertise with scientific knowledge to create tailored solutions. Complementing this, the TransformAr Climate Services Data Portal, hosted by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, provides visualised critical climate impact data to support decision-making.

The TransformAr Open Days highlighted progress in transformational adaptation, demonstrating its 21 innovative solutions across its pilot sites. These solutions encompass nature-based, technological, digital, governance, behavioural, and financial approaches. In the Oristano Gulf, Italy, wetland

protection and smart water monitoring were demonstrated, while Lappeenranta, Finland, focused on stormwater management through bio-infiltration and the CitySen app. Galicia, Spain, showcased adaptation strategies for the mussel and clam sectors, and Guadeloupe, France, presented its climate adaptation fund and nudging experiments to encourage water resilience in tourism and agriculture. In the West Country, UK, stakeholders explored natural flood management tools such as ditches, scrapes, and retention ponds designed to mitigate flash flooding. Each event reinforced TransformAr's commitment to building resilient, climate-adaptive communities, and videos on each Open Day are available on the [TransformAr YouTube channel](#).

Tested in all TransformAr demonstrator sites – three regions (Galicia, Spain; Sardinia, Italy; West Country, UK) and three cities (Lappeenranta, Finland; Egaleo, Greece; Gjøvik, Norway) – the Playbook and Climate Services Data Portal are now available to support other regions and cities in their adaptation planning. You can download the [Playbook for Transformational Adaptation here](#) and access the [Climate Data Portal](#).

# TAILORED SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

To support the Mission's objectives, MIP4Adapt provides hands-on guidance, expert mentoring, and practical resources to assist Charter Signatories in developing and implementing their climate adaptation planning.

## MIP4ADAPT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: DRIVING REGIONAL ADAPTATION

Delivered in the Charter Signatory's national language, MIP4Adapt's tailored support enables them to identify, select and progress practical, impactful, and sustainable adaptation solutions.

## TYPES OF SUPPORT

MIP4Adapt delivers three types of Technical Assistance:

### **Type 1: From risk assessment to adaptation plans**

Objective: Build on climate risk and vulnerability assessments to develop actionable adaptation plans.

MIP4Adapt's experts are supporting local and regional authorities in addressing key climate vulnerabilities and risks to people, ecosystems and species, and economic, social, and cultural assets, increasing their resilience.

Key outcomes include:

- Climate adaptation strategies and plans
- Implementation plans for selected adaptation actions
- Monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track progress
- Increased capacities for adaptation planning
- Governance structures to enhance cross-departmental collaboration and political support.

### **Type 2: Demonstration projects and financing**

Objective: Identify scalable adaptation projects and secure relevant funding.

MIP4Adapt is supporting regional and local authorities in developing climate adaptation demonstration projects that align with their adaptation strategies or plans. A key focus is helping authorities identify how to fund project capital and ongoing maintenance costs.

Key outcomes:

- Climate adaptation demonstration projects appropriate to implement regional and local authorities' climate adaptation strategies and plans

- Financing strategies tailored to each project that seek to reallocate budgets, and secure funding from partners, commercial returns, and philanthropic, private or public sources

- Provision of information on how to obtain the funding sources identified.

By bridging the gap between project design and financing, MIP4Adapt helps regional and local authorities progress in implementing scalable and replicable adaptation projects that will increase resilience.

### **Type 3: Stakeholder and citizen engagement**

Objective: Mobilise and engage stakeholders and citizens to co-create and support adaptation strategies.

MIP4Adapt is supporting Charter Signatories in engaging stakeholders from the public, private, and third sectors, as well as citizens, in climate adaptation.

Key outcomes:

- Stakeholder and citizen engagement strategies
- Workshops to validate adaptation measures
- Public awareness campaigns to enhance understanding and participation
- Local communities of practice to foster collaboration.

Involving stakeholders and citizens is essential to ensure the relevance, credibility, and legitimacy of climate adaptation strategies, plans, and projects and thereby ensure a common understanding, commitment, and desire to implement them.





## IMPACT OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

MIP4Adapt's technical assistance enables Charter Signatories to advance adaptation strategies, secure funding, and engage communities in climate resilience efforts. It has been well received by Charter Signatories, with 75% of the already completed services rated as high or very high quality.

*"The event at the community level was a great success, as the participating stakeholders were representatives of all sectors at different levels. Technical assistance helped us organise the event and also invited suitable speakers."*  
Gorenjska region, Slovenia



## MIP4Adapt's Achievements

MIP4Adapt has supported:



**32**  
Charter Signatories to complete the development or improvement of their adaptation plans



**8**  
Demonstration projects developed and financed



**50**  
Community-level events delivered



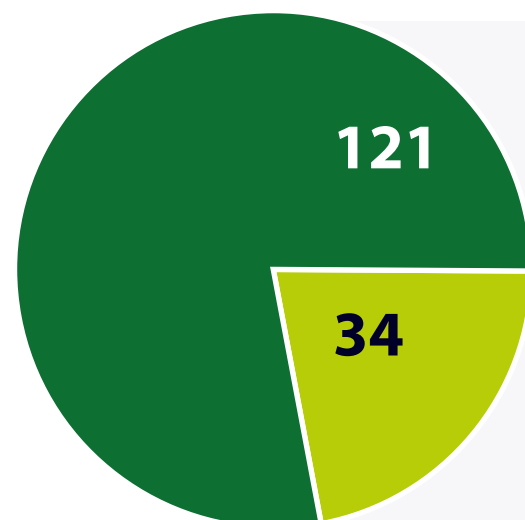
**35**  
Charter Signatories with stakeholder and citizen engagement

MIP4Adapt's ongoing technical assistance to other Charter Signatories includes supporting:

**89**  
Charter Signatories to complete the development or improvement of their adaptation plans and 34 more to make substantial progress with their adaptation planning

**142**  
Charter Signatories to develop demonstration projects and secure financing

**40**  
Further community-level events to be delivered



Charter Signatories that will develop or improve adaptation plans by 31/12/2025

Other Charter Signatories that will have made progress on their adaptation planning by 31/12/2025

By December 2025, MIP4Adapt will have completed technical assistance to a total of **168 Charter Signatories**.



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SPOTLIGHT

### WARSAW, POLAND – TYPE 3

Warsaw benefited from Type 3 support, using a structured approach to design and implement a citizen survey on climate adaptation. Key objectives were defined through a series of intensive meetings, followed by the development of a detailed survey covering public awareness, climate-related challenges, and the need for targeted financial support from the city.

Conducted in collaboration with the city hall and an external research company, the survey captured insights from a representative sample of residents. The results were later presented and discussed at the CLE workshop, helping to shape future adaptation strategies.

*“The workshop highlighted the need to target the city’s educational activities towards NGOs, which can then help spread awareness among residents, as well as strengthen cooperation between the city, housing communities, and cooperatives. It also emphasised the importance of modifying information channels and expanding the range of subsidies available to individual households. Our sincere thanks for your help and support.”*



### VENETO, ITALY – TYPES 1 AND 3

The Veneto Region received tailored support through Type 1 and 3 assistance facilitated by Ambiente Italia. Type 1 involved five stakeholder meetings, gathering over 300 feedback points to refine the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (SRACC). Type 3 support engaged citizens and stakeholders through a conference and collaborative tools, fostering stronger partnerships.

This approach enabled the region to incorporate diverse perspectives into the SRACC, fostering strong stakeholder engagement and ensuring a foundation for successful adaptation planning.

*“The support provided was instrumental in facilitating the consultation process and effectively engaging key stakeholders. Their valuable feedback was crucial in refining the proposed SRACC measures. This collaborative approach ensured the strategy’s relevance and practicality, fostered a shared sense of ownership, and strengthened partnerships among all participants.”*

### GORIŠKA, SLOVENIA – TYPES 1, 2 AND 3

The region received comprehensive support through all three types of Technical Assistance, working closely with the local consultancy, Stritih. Several productive meetings were held to brainstorm ideas, draft a vision, propose actions, and coordinate tasks.

This collaboration led to the development of a draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and the organisation of a workshop with over 60 stakeholders from various sectors. The workshop raised awareness of climate adaptation needs and secured strong support from municipal mayors. A dedicated Climate Change Adaptation Expert Group continues collaborating under Stritih’s leadership, progressing from risk assessment to creating actionable pathways and mobilising stakeholders through community engagement.

*“We are grateful to be part of the MIP4Adapt initiative, which has helped us enhance our region’s climate resilience. Through the initiative, we established a working group that organised a regional event, raised awareness, and engaged stakeholders in ways that wouldn’t have been possible otherwise.”*

### REGION OF BREMEN, GERMANY – TYPES 1 AND 2

The region received Type 1 support while drafting its revised adaptation strategy. MIP4Adapt provided guidance on best practices, NbS, and adaptation indicators. As a result, Bremen finalised and validated a set of improved implementation plans that integrate NbS into its adaptation measures.

Bremen also received Type 2 support to secure financing for one of its most advanced demonstration projects, Luneplate. The project was assessed regarding costs, objectives, benefits, and financing structures. Although European Investment Bank and national loan options were explored, the regional government determined that taking on loans was not feasible. A match-making exercise identified one national and two EU funding sources. Based on its priorities, Bremen decided to consider applying first for EU LIFE funding, with MIP4Adapt providing the necessary administrative documents and contact details to initiate the application process.







## MISSION PROJECT: CLIMAAX

CLIMAAX is designed to significantly contribute to the harmonisation and consolidation of climate risk assessment (CRA) practices, leaving a substantial legacy for future European initiatives. Through two open calls, the project will select at least 60 regions and/or communities to implement the proposed methodological framework and supporting toolbox to conduct regional/local multi-risk CRA.

The first Open Call (December 2023-March 2024) selected 32 regions from 13 countries, receiving over €5.4 million in funding. The evaluation process for the second Open Call (July-October 2024) is still ongoing.

The selected beneficiaries – primarily public regional and local institutions – benefit from:

- Financial support of up to €300,000 to enhance regional climate and emergency risk management plans.
- Access to the comprehensive CLIMAAX methodological framework and toolbox, providing a structured approach to climate assessments.
- Tailored technical guidance to implement region-specific methodologies.

### Supporting the regions

In November 2024, the first 32 regions began executing their own CRA. To celebrate this significant step towards a more climate-resilient Europe, the consortium invited representatives from each region to participate in three “get to know” meetings held the following month. Additionally, the CLIMAAX support team offers weekly drop-in sessions for regions and members

of the Community of Practice. These meetings put practitioners in direct contact with project experts and each other, allowing them to discuss and resolve current issues related to the application of the CLIMAAX Handbook. Progress and experiences are shared, and this feedback informs the ongoing development of the Handbook.

### Community of Practice (CoP)

The CLIMAAX CoP is a collaborative network designed to foster learning, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among practitioners, experts, and stakeholders engaged in climate risk assessment at local and regional levels across Europe. The CoP brings together individuals and organisations committed to advancing climate resilience by sharing experiences, co-designing solutions, and building capacity through interactive workshops, knowledge-sharing activities, and the development of innovative tools for CRA.

The activities of the CoP include:

- A call for evidence and survey to map best practices, challenges, and lessons learned from CRA practice across Europe, as well as expert consultations to inform and co-develop the CLIMAAX methodological framework and toolbox.
- Webinars and thematic conference sessions.
- A monthly newsletter featuring news, insights, and resources to support better-informed CRA.
- Targeted discussion forums to engage members in meaningful dialogue, collaborating with peers to enhance expertise and address specific risks.

Joining the community is simple! Learn how on the project’s website.



## MISSION PROJECT: PATHWAYS2RESILIENCE (P2R)

In September 2024, P2R marked a key milestone by selecting its first group of regions and communities. This innovative programme will support selected regions and communities to strengthen their resilience to a wide range of hazards, from droughts to wildfires, to better protect their combined population of more than 53 million. Some 16 of the selected 39 regions reported being at high risk of exposure to climate hazards, citing heatwaves, wildfires, droughts, and floods as the most urgent.

Over the past year, P2R has designed the Regional Resilience Journey framework, which provides step-by-step guidance, including methods, tools, and checklists, to help regions and communities at all maturity levels create or improve their Climate Resilience Strategies and Actions Plans.

The P2R initiative is empowering 100 regions and communities across Europe to design and implement transformative climate resilience strategies. Through a comprehensive and ambitious learning programme, P2R supports regions with varying levels of adaptive capacity—ranging from those equipped with advanced climate risk knowledge and governance structures to highly vulnerable communities in need of foundational support.

To address the diverse challenges posed by climate impacts, P2R offers a wide array of opportunities for regions, stakeholders, and partners to collaborate, innovate, and strengthen their climate resilience.

### How can regions benefit from the programme?

Over five years, P2R will help regions develop transformative climate adaptation pathways through:

- Two open calls allocating a total of €21 million in sub-grants to up to 100 applicants (up to €210,000 per project).
- Over 10 Innovation Practice Groups connecting regions with international experts, local practitioners, and citizen groups to explore best practices around governance, knowledge access, behavioural change, and economic systems.
- Standardised guidance such as the Regional Resilience Journey (RRJ), training and resources on adaptation finance, business models and transformative innovation policies, as well as an Adaptation Finance Innovation Lab to design innovative finance mechanisms tailored to regions.
- Training modules to share knowledge and tools such as the P2R Climate Toolbox, developed within the programme.
- A one-stop-shop transformative toolbox providing a step-by-step guide with methodologies and tools to support regions in their own journey towards resilience.

### What’s next?

As the second Expression of Interest was launched in February 2025, regions and communities have the opportunity to show their interest and readiness in taking part in the next cohort of the P2R programme. Linked to that is the Second Open Call for regions and communities, which is scheduled to be announced by June 2025.

P2R is a flagship project of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, which focuses on supporting EU regions, cities, and local authorities in their efforts to build resilience against the consequences of climate change.



A circular portrait of Philippe Tulkens, a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue shirt. The background of the portrait is a map of Europe.

# FUTURE OUTLOOK

**PHILIPPE TULKENS, DEPUTY MISSION MANAGER**

With increasing heatwaves, storms, floods, and ecosystem disruptions, we have all seen that no region is immune. The data provided by Copernicus Services underscore the accelerating risks Europe faces, reinforcing the urgency to build resilience. Adaptation to climate change must be accelerated now, which requires immediate and sustained action at all relevant levels. Regions that have invested in resilience measures have seen that the investment paid off, while other regions have been painfully reminded that more needs to be done.

In 2024, the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change continues to turn ambition into action. Our focus remains on supporting regions, cities, and local communities in preparing for climate impacts. Over the past year, we have seen tangible progress—innovative projects are strengthening resilience on the ground, new financial and governance models are emerging, and knowledge-sharing is driving smarter adaptation strategies.

A key force behind this progress is the Community of Practice, which has fostered collaboration and innovation across Europe. Yet as we build on these successes, we must also acknowledge that adaptation is an ongoing effort. The increasing severity of climate events demands that we scale up solutions, integrate adaptation into all sectors, and ensure that investments today create long-term resilience.

Everyone has a role to play. Whether shaping policies, supporting regional initiatives, or making sustainable choices, collective action supported by adequate financing will determine the resilience of our future. The Mission will continue to support, connect, and empower those working towards this goal. Let's move forward together—because adaptation cannot wait.







■ Publications Office  
of the European Union

### **More information:**

Adaptation to climate change -  
European Commission ([europa.eu](https://europea.eu))

EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate  
Change Portal ([europa.eu](https://europea.eu))

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

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**#MissionClimateAdaptation**