



# VALONGO, PORTUGAL

Valongo has made climate action a political priority and seeks a deeper understanding of the challenges posed by climate change and its impacts. It is working to develop strategies that can be effective in tackling climate change that also meet the needs of its communities.

## EU MISSION IMPACT

MIP4Adapt Technical Assistance provided invaluable support to the Valongo Municipality, enabling a thoughtful reflection on its climate action journey and sustainability goals. Through methodologies grounded in strategic planning, collaboration, and co-creation, the assistance played a pivotal role in shaping new governance dynamics, most notably the establishment of the Municipal Council for Environment and Climate Action. It also strengthened the implementation of key adaptation measures outlined in the Municipal Climate Action Plan, helping to ensure Valongo evolves into a more sustainable, cohesive, and climate-resilient territory.

## REGIONAL PROFILE

Valongo is a territory in the Northern region of Portugal, belonging to the Porto Metropolitan Area. It covers 75.12 km<sup>2</sup> and has more than 100,000 inhabitants, combining rural and urban areas: 58.3% is covered by forest, part of which is classified as a Natura 2000 Site and part of a Regional Protected Landscape Area.

## CLIMATE CHALLENGES

In recent years, Valongo has become increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, particularly extreme weather events such as intense rainfall, flooding, heatwaves, and strong winds. Urban areas face heightened risks due to limited green spaces and rising levels of soil impermeability, which exacerbate these climate impacts. To safeguard people, biodiversity, and infrastructure, it is essential to implement proactive and preventive measures that reduce exposure to these risks and enhance the municipality's resilience.

*Valongo's journey under MIP4Adapt is a powerful testament to how collaboration, vision, and unwavering commitment can transform climate ambition into action. When communities unite around a shared purpose, local action becomes the driving force for global change and a more sustainable future*

**GISELA MARTINS**

Head of the Environment Division  
Municipality of Valongo

## SOLUTIONS

Valongo Municipality has made significant strides in advancing the sustainable development of its territory, earning recognition through the prestigious European Green Leaf Award.

The decision to seek Technical Assistance from MIP4Adapt marked a strategic opportunity to build on this progress and establish a clear, actionable roadmap for climate adaptation. Central to this effort were the 'All Streets with Trees' and 'Urban Microforest Network' initiatives, key components of the Municipal Climate Action Plan. These projects aim to expand green spaces in urban areas, helping to mitigate heat island effects and flooding, while also fostering stronger connections between residents and nature, enhancing biodiversity, and improving overall quality of life.

The support provided through coaching sessions, document reviews, planning templates, and risk analysis tools greatly strengthened the design and implementation of these initiatives. It also played a vital role in preparing for citizen engagement, particularly through the 'All Streets with Trees' programme, which encourages public participation in tree stewardship.



## OUTPUTS

MIP4Adapt's Technical Assistance was instrumental in building Valongo Municipality's capacity to respond to climate challenges, equipping the local administration with practical tools tailored to its context.

In light of projected climate impacts, initiatives such as All Streets with Trees and the Urban Microforest Network are expected to enhance urban resilience and quality of life significantly. These projects mitigate the urban heat island effect, improve air quality, increase soil permeability to reduce flooding, and create climate shelters for residents.

Beyond technical support, the assistance also fostered valuable networks and collaborative governance. It is informing the structure and regulations of the Municipal Council for the Environment and Climate Action, a new participatory platform that will bring together local and regional stakeholders to co-design policies for a greener, more equitable future.



## LESSONS LEARNED

Valongo Municipality benefited from high-level training in climate adaptation, which underscored the value of collaboration across international, national, and local levels. The MIP4Adapt Technical Assistance highlighted the strategic importance of investing in data monitoring and analysis to support informed decision-making in land management and territorial planning. This partnership created space for meaningful exchange and deep learning, reinforcing that successful climate adaptation depends on strong networks, shared knowledge, and continuous feedback. Valongo looks forward to sharing updates on ongoing projects shaped by this support, confident that collaboration is the driving force behind lasting change.

