

GORIŠKA, SLOVENIA

In this success story, we share the experience of the Goriška region in Slovenia, which has leveraged the Mission to raise awareness of climate risks, engage diverse stakeholders, and advance the development of its Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

EU MISSION IMPACT

The Goriška region, A Mission Charter Signatory, has taken bold steps to strengthen its climate resilience. With Technical Assistance provided through the MIP4Adapt programme, the region has made significant progress in developing a comprehensive Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

A dedicated expert group, supported by Stritih Consulting, has driven this effort, fostering collaboration across stakeholders and creating actionable pathways for long-term adaptation planning.

REGIONAL PROFILE

Situated in western Slovenia, the Goriška region is a picturesque area defined by its rolling hills, lush vineyards, and the emerald-green Soča River. Known for its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty, the region is home to 13 municipalities and is a key hub for viticulture, the cultivation and production of wine, particularly renowned for its premium wines. Tourism flourishes here, driven by outdoor activities such as hiking, cycling, and water sports, as well as its historic towns and alpine landscapes.

CLIMATE CHALLENGES

The Goriška region faces significant climate challenges, including heatwaves, droughts, and flooding, which are increasing in frequency and intensity due to climate change. These risks threaten agriculture, water resources, and infrastructure, placing both rural and urban communities under pressure. The region's diverse landscape makes targeted adaptation strategies essential to safeguard its natural and socio-economic systems.

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.

IVANA KACAFURA

Project Manager – Energy Technical Expert

SOLUTIONS

The Goriška region joined the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change through the approval of its Regional Council, the highest representative body at the regional level in Slovenia. To advance its efforts, the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Expert Group, comprising the GOLEA Energy Agency and four regional development agencies (RRA NG, ICRA, ROD, and PRC), was established. This group applied for and received support through the MIP4Adapt Technical Assistance programme.

With the support of MIP4Adapt and guidance from Stritih Consulting, the region held more than 10 intensive working meetings to refine its climate adaptation approach. These sessions involved brainstorming, vision-setting, proposing actions, and exchanging best practices. The collaboration resulted in a draft Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and a workshop attended by over 60 stakeholders, fostering greater awareness of climate risks and encouraging broad support from municipal leaders.

This structured and collaborative approach is ensuring Goriška's climate adaptation strategy is both comprehensive and actionable, making significant strides in building resilience and mobilising policymakers, stakeholders, and citizens alike. The region's efforts highlight the importance of regional cooperation and tailored guidance in tackling the urgent challenges posed by climate change.



Image: Stakeholder workshop event in Nova Gorica

OUTPUTS

Participation in the MIP4Adapt programme has delivered tangible results for the Goriška region. A key milestone is the development of a draft Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, providing a strong foundation for future resilience planning. Equally significant is the heightened awareness among stakeholders about the pressing need for climate adaptation and the steps required to address these challenges.

This process has driven significant progress, guided by the Climate Change Adaptation Expert Group in collaboration with Stritih Consulting. The group has moved from risk assessment to actionable adaptation pathways, identified demonstration projects, and mobilised citizens and stakeholders through community-level engagement.

LESSONS LEARNED

Collaborative engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders is critical to creating a comprehensive and actionable climate adaptation strategy.

Awareness-raising efforts are essential to mobilise key decision-makers and ensure adaptation is viewed as an urgent priority, especially among municipal leaders and policymakers.

The role of a dedicated expert group, such as the Climate Change Adaptation Expert Group, proved invaluable in driving progress. Their structured approach and collaboration with technical experts like Stritih highlighted the importance of coordinated leadership.

