

VALENCIA REGION, SPAIN

The cornerstone of the Valencia region's progress in climate action lies in the unwavering commitment of its policymakers who have made climate adaptation a top priority, offering crucial support and resources. By dismantling silos and fostering coordination mechanisms, they ensure a unified approach to climate adaptation across sectors. Moreover, the region emphasises the importance of identifying and accessing a wide range of funding sources to implement adaptation actions effectively on a larger scale.



EU MISSION IMPACT

As recipient of Technical Assistance from the Mission, the Valencian region is receiving impartial and expert advice to support the execution of its adaptation measures. This support is facilitating the transition from the broad concepts outlined in the original Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan into active implementation.

Through participation in various Mission Projects, Valencia is tapping into a vast network of European partners, identifying and adapting successful policies and evidence-based solutions to its own needs.

In the Valencia region, we recognise the need of implementing climate adaptation efforts swiftly to safeguard our region's future. The EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change has provided invaluable support, enabling us to accelerate our actions and collaborate with European partners to address pressing climate challenges effectively. We would encourage regions in a similar situation to Valencia to get involved in any way that they can.

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REGIONAL PROFILE

Valencia, Spain, situated on the Mediterranean coast, boasts 500km of stunning coastline and various landscapes. Its Mediterranean climate brings hot summers and mild winters. Valencia is home to several ecosystems, including Mediterranean forests, wetlands, and coastal dunes. The economy of Valencia is diverse, with key sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and services.

CLIMATE CHALLENGES

Valencia faces a pressing climate risk from extreme heat, amplifying threats of forest fires, desertification, and freshwater shortages. With scorching summers exacerbated by climate change, the region is vulnerable to prolonged droughts and dwindling water supplies, impacting agriculture and urban areas alike. The risk of forest fires also intensifies, threatening biodiversity and communities. Adaptation solutions tackling these impacts of extreme heat are urgently becoming a necessity.

SOLUTIONS

To ensure resilience in the face of escalating environmental challenges, the Valencia region is developing a comprehensive Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan, geared towards moving the region from the planning stage to the crucial implementation phase of climate action. The Plan serves as a cohesive framework, fostering effective collaboration among the various government departments. This coordinated effort ensures that climate considerations are mainstreamed into all aspects of governance, maximising synergies and enhancing the region's adaptive capacity.

To support this implementation phase, the region also joined EU-funded projects SOTERIA and DESIRMED, as partner to implement pilot schemes. Involvement in the pilot schemes for climate insurance and forest fire prevention respectively allows Valencia to test and refine innovative solutions, enhancing the region's resilience to climate change and contributing to broader European sustainability efforts.

Moreover, Valencia is actively seeking funding opportunities through several EU calls, such as the CLIMAAX open call, to expedite the implementation of its Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation plan. By securing funding from these sources, the region can expand its initiatives and fast-track the deployment of innovative solutions to address climate challenges.



OUTPUTS

Valencia is developing a comprehensive Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan, outlining tangible strategies to address the region's specific climate challenges.

Through concerted efforts, Valencia has fostered stronger inter-departmental collaboration, breaking down siloes and facilitating coordinated action across various sectors. This collaborative approach has resulted in more effective implementation of climate initiatives and optimised resource allocation among the departments.

Valencia's proactive approach to securing funding has yielded significant results, with successful applications worth over 940,000 EUR supporting the implementation of key climate actions. These funds have enabled the region to scale up its efforts and accelerate progress towards its sustainability goals.

LESSONS LEARNED

Leadership commitment is essential for driving climate action forward. Valencia's success stems from policymakers across different government departments prioritising climate adaptation efforts and providing the necessary support and resources.

Breaking down siloes and establishing mechanisms for coordination and communication to ensure a coherent approach to climate adaptation across sectors has been at the core of the Valencia success.

Identifying and accessing diverse funding sources is critical for implementing adaptation actions at scale.

