

# DRENTHE, THE NETHERLANDS

This case study highlights Drenthe's initiative to convene neighbouring regions for a roundtable discussion, co-organised by the provinces of Drenthe and Gelderland, on climate adaptation synergies. Through collaborative dialogue, the event aimed to identify strategic alignments and enhance collective resilience against climate change impacts.

## EU MISSION IMPACT

Since joining as a Charter Signatory in 2022, Drenthe has been able to utilise the EU Mission network to raise the profile of climate adaptation efforts in the area and in turn, other stakeholders and regions. It is hoped that this surge in interest will elevate adaptation priorities, with different governmental departments and other external stakeholders, such as academia, entrepreneurs and municipalities, now actively engaged.

Events coordinated under the EU Mission, such as the recent roundtable, enjoy enhanced credibility, attracting high-calibre participants drawn by the Mission's esteemed reputation.

*By taking the initiative to convene regions and drive discussions on climate adaptation, we've unlocked a wave of momentum that is pushing the area towards a more resilient future. It is important to understand that everyone can play their part in climate adaptation, no matter how big or small it may be.*

**CLAUDIA DE BOER**  
Coordinator of European Affairs

## REGIONAL PROFILE

Situated in the northeastern area of the Netherlands, Drenthe is one of 12 provinces in the country. It has a rural character and is the least densely populated province. Unlike the other Dutch regions, most of Drenthe lies above sea level; only some areas in the North and Southwest are below sea level, forming the "Drenthe Plateau".

## CLIMATE CHALLENGES

Climate change poses multiple challenges in the Dutch province of Drenthe. Despite getting drier and warmer, with an average temperature rise of 1.1°C over the past three decades, there has been a notable increase in rainfall, often extending over longer periods. While dry summers contribute to a reduction in average precipitation, there are forecasts of localised disruptions featuring heavy rainfall.

## SOLUTIONS

Drenthe, alongside the province of Gelderland, recently spearheaded a pivotal roundtable discussion among fellow Charter Signatory regions, focused on leveraging synergies and addressing common challenges in combating climate change. Organised by Drenthe and Gelderland, the roundtable aimed to foster collaboration and solidarity among regions, emphasising the importance of pooling resources to maximise impact. Representatives from various regions convened to explore avenues for cooperation, sharing insights, best practices, and innovative approaches to sustainability.

The Charter Signatories were joined by representatives from different layers of government, from the European Commission and national government, to regional and local authorities.

Emphasising a spirit of collaboration, the participants underscored the significance of viewing each other as allies rather than competitors, particularly in the realm of funding applications. By forging strategic alliances and working collectively, the regions sought to amplify their efforts and effect positive change on a broader scale, demonstrating a shared commitment to combating climate change and safeguarding the planet for future generations.



Opening speakers of the roundtable: (L-R) Reinier Zweers, province of Gelderland and Claudia de Boer, province of Drenthe.

## OUTPUTS

The roundtable discussions yielded tangible outputs that are poised to shape the region's climate adaptation efforts moving forward. Firstly, participants expressed enthusiasm about establishing new relationships with fellow regions, recognising the potential for collaborative action in addressing shared challenges.

Importantly, synergies were identified, particularly in the realms of climate risks. Participants honed in on the pressing issues of extreme heat, drought, and water shortages, pinpointing these as priority areas for collective intervention. Additionally, the challenge of engaging citizens and stakeholders in adaptation efforts emerged as a focal point, prompting discussions on innovative strategies for fostering broader participation and buy-in.

Looking ahead, there was consensus on the value of reconvening at the Third Mission Forum 2024 to dive deeper into actionable solutions for tackling these challenges. Furthermore, participants expressed interest in exploring joint funding opportunities, recognising the potential for stronger applications and greater impact through collaborative endeavors among Charter Signatories.

## LESSONS LEARNED

Get to know other regions and work together to overcome similar challenges. No matter how far along the adaptation process you are, there will always be another region that you can learn from.

Involving national government in adaptation efforts early can act as a catalyst for adaptation in the region. The national government can raise the profile of the work in the region as well as provide a helicopter view of the combined challenges in the country.

