



KOŠICE, SLOVAKIA

Košice Region is stepping up its climate adaptation efforts by transforming strategic planning into concrete action. With tailored support from the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, the region is developing nature-based solutions, engaging citizens, and advancing funding-ready projects that respond to local climate risks.

EU MISSION IMPACT

With support from the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, Košice Region has adopted a more structured and inclusive approach to climate adaptation. Tailored technical assistance helped refine strategic documents, prioritise climate actions, and identify suitable funding opportunities. Expert input strengthened project design and monitoring, while participatory tools such as Water Boards encouraged community involvement.

This support enabled Košice to develop a pipeline of well-scoped adaptation projects and secure funding for initiatives focused on water retention, biodiversity, and nature-based solutions. The Mission's contribution helped the region move from planning to implementation, laying a strong foundation for long-term resilience.

Taking time to engage in the consultations and meetings proved to be one of the most rewarding aspects of the technical assistance process. Despite the demands of day-to-day work, these sessions brought fresh energy, new perspectives, and renewed motivation to our work. The support provided us with valuable ideas and guidance, helping us make our activities more structured, systematic, and effective.

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REGIONAL PROFILE

Košice Region is located in eastern Slovakia, bordering Hungary and Ukraine. It covers approximately 6,753 km² and is home to around 780,000 people. The region includes Košice, Slovakia's second-largest city, alongside a mix of rural municipalities. Its landscape ranges from lowlands and rolling hills to rivers such as the Hornád, and includes protected natural areas like Slovak Paradise National Park. The regional economy is diverse, with strengths in industry, information technology, agriculture, and tourism. The regions known for its cultural richness and growing innovation ecosystem, is taking bold steps on climate resilience.

CLIMATE CHALLENGES

Košice Region is experiencing rising temperatures, up by more than 1.6°C since 1881, and an increasing number of extreme heat days above 30°C. Rainfall patterns are shifting, with more intense summer downpours and longer dry spells in lowland areas. These changes are driving flooding, soil erosion, and reduced groundwater recharge. At the same time, drought, pest outbreaks, and deforestation are placing added pressure on ecosystems. Urban areas face growing risks from heat stress, water scarcity, and poor air quality, while critical sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and public health are increasingly vulnerable.

SOLUTIONS

The Košice self-governing region applied to the MIP4Adapt Technical Assistance programme to bring an external perspective to its growing climate adaptation efforts. While the region was already active in awareness raising, planning, and implementation, there was a recognised need to strengthen strategic processes, improve quality control, and enhance the impact of public engagement activities. MIP4Adapt offered the opportunity to improve existing plans and explore new ideas with expert guidance.

The support provided was wide-ranging and practical. Advisory sessions and workshops helped refine strategic documents and improve internal planning methods. Experts gave detailed feedback on project ideas and supported the preparation of applications to various funding sources, including the LIFE Programme, Interreg, and EEA Grants. This helped the region expand and diversify its adaptation finance strategies.

The technical assistance also helped identify and shape specific demonstration projects. One standout initiative is the reconstruction of the Envi Centre's grounds to serve as a living example of urban greening and heat adaptation. The process also boosted cooperation among local actors, enhanced the region's action planning, and supported creative outreach through events like the "Water is Over the Gold" youth competition, where expert input helped increase relevance and participation.



OUTPUTS

The technical assistance provided to the Košice region has supported the development and submission of multiple adaptation demonstration projects, many of which address water retention, ecosystem restoration and environmental education. Notable examples include the ongoing Danube-ADAPT project and the LIFE Zemplín proposal, which focuses on water quality and biodiversity. Several smaller initiatives integrating nature-based solutions across urban and agricultural landscapes are also progressing, with new project ideas in development.

The region's strategic frameworks have been strengthened through expert recommendations, particularly across six key documents including the Adaptation Strategy and Programme of Landscape Revitalisation. Active stakeholder participation has been central to implementation, supported by tools such as "Water Boards" that facilitate local dialogue on drought and water management.

Košice is aligning its project pipeline with regional and national adaptation goals, using clear indicators such as retained water volume to measure impact. Support from MIP4Adapt has helped improve strategic planning, prioritisation, and fundraising, enabling the region to secure funding and build partnerships. Showcased in forums such as [EURESFO](#), these efforts are positioning Košice as a reference point for locally grounded, scalable adaptation solutions across Europe.

LESSONS LEARNED

Support from the EU Mission on Adaptation highlighted the value of collaborative planning, early stakeholder involvement and expert guidance in shaping effective climate strategies. One key insight was the need to integrate measurable indicators to monitor progress and demonstrate impact. Challenges such as securing funding and aligning actions with broader strategies were tackled through targeted consultations and capacity-building. The process reaffirmed that inclusive governance, technical input and clear prioritisation are critical for success.

