



TORRES VEDRAS, PORTUGAL

The Municipality of Torres Vedras is advancing climate resilience through inclusive governance, strategic planning and citizen engagement. With support from the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, it is developing innovative frameworks to drive local adaptation and community-led action.

EU MISSION IMPACT

Torres Vedras has benefited from tailored support through the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, which helped refine its local adaptation strategy and strengthen participatory governance.

Through expert guidance, capacity-building sessions and collaborative planning, the municipality developed the Climate Action Pact, enhanced the role of the Municipal Council for Climate Action, and identified clear pathways for implementation. This support has reinforced local ownership and created a replicable model for integrated and community-driven adaptation planning across Europe.

The support from the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change has been instrumental in helping Torres Vedras define clear climate priorities and strengthen its strategic vision. MIP4Adapt's Technical Assistance played a key role in developing structured adaptation pathways and promoting inclusive, stakeholder-driven approaches. It has greatly enhanced our capacity to advance innovative and effective climate strategies.

LAURA RODRIGUES
Mayor of Torres Vedras
Torres Vedras City Council

REGIONAL PROFILE

Torres Vedras is a coastal municipality in western Portugal, located about 50 km north of Lisbon. It spans 407 km² and has a population of more than 83,000. The municipality combines urban and rural areas, with a rich cultural and natural landscape that includes coastline, vineyards, hills, and two main rivers, Sizandro and Alcabrichel. Its economy is based on agriculture, particularly wine production and horticulture, as well as manufacturing and tourism. Over recent decades, Torres Vedras has shown a strong commitment to sustainability and climate action, embedding these priorities into its local planning and policies.

CLIMATE CHALLENGES

Torres Vedras faces growing climate pressures, including rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, droughts, and extreme weather events that affect agriculture, water resources, tourism, and infrastructure. Coastal erosion and sea level rise further threaten natural habitats and low-lying areas. These changes are disrupting crop cycles, reducing biodiversity, and challenging economic stability.

SOLUTIONS

Building on its longstanding commitment to climate action, the Municipality of Torres Vedras applied for MIP4Adapt's Technical Assistance to strengthen and accelerate its adaptation planning. The municipality had already implemented key strategies, including a Municipal Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change and an Energy Sustainability Action Plan that achieved a 29% reduction in emissions. The MIP4Adapt support aligned with their ambition to advance towards carbon neutrality by 2030 and foster more inclusive, citizen-led approaches to resilience.

The technical assistance, provided by the Member State Facilitator team under the MIP4Adapt, included targeted guidance on structuring the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) and revising the draft Climate Action Pact. Through a combination of coaching sessions, document reviews, planning templates and stakeholder engagement tools, the support helped the municipality refine adaptation measures, improve governance frameworks and identify suitable funding and financing sources.

The Regional Adaptation Support Tool (RAST) also helped assess gaps and prioritise actions. The result was a more structured, objective and inclusive adaptation pathway supported by a clearly defined set of measures. This process has laid the foundation for stronger implementation capacity and long-term resilience planning across Torres Vedras.



OUTPUTS

Torres Vedras strengthened its participatory governance structures to drive long-term climate action. A key outcome was the launch of the Climate Action Pact in October 2024, a formal commitment co-created with local stakeholders. The Pact already includes 11 participants, with further outreach underway.

The Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP), was supported by the application of the BECCA (BASE Evaluation Criteria for Climate Adaptation) methodology, which helped prioritise adaptation actions and identify opportunities for inclusive implementation. Additional initiatives, such as the Climate Action Platform, are helping to scale community-led projects and deepen civic engagement.

Together, these outcomes are fostering stronger coordination, shared ownership and greater alignment with regional and European adaptation goals, offering a replicable model of governance-led climate resilience.



LESSONS LEARNED

Torres Vedras found that targeted support and early involvement of internal teams are crucial for effective adaptation planning. Open, regular communication with both technical experts and local stakeholders helped build trust and shared ownership. The co-creation of the Climate Action Pact showed that inclusive engagement strengthens commitment and accelerates action. The experience underscores the value of clear processes, realistic timelines and continuous feedback.

