REGILIENCE

Regional Pathways to Climate Resilience

D1.5 Engagement of citizens, v.1

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About

REGILIENCE aims to foster the adoption and wide dissemination of regional climate resilience pathways, following a demand-driven approach and bearing in mind the expertise and knowledge acquired, as well as the solutions available from Innovation Packages and other sources. The project aims to support the Green Deal targets and communication by implementing Innovation Packages that will address key community systems and comprises the adaptation solutions and pathways deemed essential for climate and social resilience in the specific regional contexts and the set timeline. The REGILIENCE project aims to facilitate the replication of Innovation Packages in 7 focus regions, additional to those targeted by the Innovation Package projects, after a selection process and the signature of a workplan agreement. This ambition is aligned with the Horizon Europe's proposed Mission "Prepare Europe for climate disruptions and accelerate the transformation to a climate-resilient and just Europe by 2030". It will implement the LC-GD-1-3-2020 RIA project results on the Innovation Packages.

Statement on mainstreaming gender

Moreover, we acknowledge the need to mainstream gender aspects as a transversal aspect in the project's activities. The need for gender mainstreaming arises from persistent inequalities in power distribution and access to services and opportunities between people of different sex and/or gender identities. As demonstrated by literature and advocated in the European and international arena, this influences the understanding and perception of climate change dynamics and effects. Women and men, but also people in the LGBTQI+ community, are differently affected by the accelerated change of climate. Only by taking into consideration their diverse visions can scientific research reach meaningful and universal conclusions that properly inform climate action.

For these reasons, the REGILIENCE consortium is committed to including gender and intersectionality as a transversal aspect in the project's activities. In line with EU guidelines and objectives, all partners – including the authors of this deliverable – recognise the importance of advancing gender analysis and sex-disaggregated data collection in the development of scientific research. Therefore, we commit to paying particular attention to including, monitoring, and periodically evaluating the participation of different genders in all activities developed within the project, including workshops, webinars and events but also surveys, interviews and research, in general. While applying a non-binary approach to data collection and promoting the participation of all genders in the activities, the partners will periodically reflect and inform about the limitations of their approach. Through an iterative learning process, they commit to plan and implement strategies that maximise the inclusion of more and more intersectional perspectives in their activities.

Project partners

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Abbreviations

CSA	Coordination and Support Action
CIW	Climate Innovation Window
IAs	Innovation Actions
H2020	Horizon 2020 programme
WP	Work Package
Tx.x	Task x.x
EC	European Commission
C&D	Communication and Dissemination

Executive Summary

This deliverable has been prepared as part of Task 1.5 "Engagement of citizens and wider dissemination" from WP1 "Engagement, communication and dissemination", and is the first version of the Citizen engagement strategy. A final version of this deliverable will be submitted by month 47.

This WP is dedicated to the design and implementation of a broad range of communication and dissemination activities with the target groups, the enabling actors, and the broader community. More specifically it aims at:

- Thorough and ongoing needs assessment of regional authorities for embedding Innovation Packages in their resilience pathways;
- Preparation and launching of engagement activities with a diversity of stakeholders to elicit their preferences on the innovation packages;
- Customized exchanges with citizen groups to increase public participation in the adoption of the innovation packages (and the testing of public-private partnership approaches);
- Capacity-building activities in regional authorities and agencies to support them in implementing the measures proposed in the innovation packages and develop regional resilience pathways;
- Communicating to broader audiences about REGILIENCE topic and results, and building synergies with other initiatives and projects;

Citizen engagement is necessary for the adoption of social resilience contracts, providing political support, enabling co-creation and fostering behavioural changes and broadening the outreach of the project. T1.5 "Engagement of citizens and wider dissemination" implement the activities as described in T1.2 "Stakeholder engagement, communication and dissemination plan" led by IEECP. The engagement actions will thus increase awareness, build capacities and enable the engagement of citizens in regional and community actions to develop resilience pathways and broader audiences reached by communication actions. The core element of the support mechanism of REGILIENCE is the proper dissemination of the findings of the engagement process to the citizens. The project will effectively convey the key messages of REGILIENCE to relevant citizen groups as well as increase the visibility of the project and Innovation Packages solutions along with the activities and results, thus paving the road for a potential post-project deployment and uptake. The dissemination activities to the citizens will enable the adoption of the Innovation Packages in the focus regions and will increase social acceptance, as well as the advertisement of the project methodology that can be used in other regions beyond the project scope.

In this context, task 1.5 focuses on designing citizen engagement strategies based on the analysis of the state of the art, best practices, and results achieved so far by the project.

Building upon the results, the deliverable proposes a Citizen Engagement Strategy plan, reports on all the communication and dissemination activities undertaken to foster the engagement of citizens and reports on the KPIs achieved during the first 24 months of the project.

1 Introduction

This deliverable, named "Engagement of citizens, v.1" (D1.5), was developed as part of the REGILIENCE project, as referenced in the Description of Deliverables of the Grant Agreement no. 101036560, and aims to provide a report of the activities undertaken to engage the citizens throughout the first 18 months of the project. This deliverable will be revised in M36 and a final one will be produced in M47. The main milestone for this deliverable is:

- M1.2 Citizen surveys under T1.5 (M47)

The REGILIENCE citizen engagement activities have been primarily planned and defined under D1.2 Stakeholder Engagement, Communication and Dissemination Plan, with timelines and design, and will be explored in concrete actions and expected results in this document.

In the period leading to this deliverable, REGILIENCE implemented several activities to increase awareness, build capacities and enable the engagement of citizens in regional and community actions to develop resilience pathways and broader audiences. In this deliverable, it's presented the efforts made during the first 18 months of the project, by showcasing the different citizen engagement activities performed, and planning the coming activities to the future.

The related project's key performance indicators and impact targets are:
- Performance: "152 citizens engagement activities on climate resilience have been carried out" => Impact: "20.000 citizens are more aware and engaged with climate resilience";
- Performance: "30 sharing and learning activities on climate resilience pathways have been carried out" => Impact: "600 citizens have improved their knowledge and capacities on climate resilience pathways".

1.1 Scope, objectives and expected impact

Given that REGILIENCE is a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) and the call text explicitly refers to 'support the implementation and wide dissemination of the solutions developed and tested under sub-topic 1', the measures to maximise impact are at the core of the project. Three complementary types of measures will be undertaken to maximise the impact of REGILIENCE:

1. Dissemination activities will be strategically planned and targeted in order to transfer the results and knowledge achieved in the course of REGILIENCE to the key stakeholders across the EU, focusing on attracting support for the overall methodology as well as potential replicators.

2. Exploitation will enable and support the project partners to utilize the REGILIENCE project results within their region and wider as well as support replicators to do the same.

3. Communication: strategic and targeted actions will promote the REGILIENCE approach and the opportunities it creates to a multitude of audiences including regions, local authorities, their support institutions and national decision-makers as well as the general public in the focus regions and beyond.

More specifically, the additional estimated number of reached audience under T1.5 are:

Table 1 Number of REGILIENCE communication and dissemination activities under 1.5, and its comparison with the overall numbers

Activity	Nr of activities under T1.5	Total under the project (including other activities)	Total Nr. Citizens/ stakeholders addressed by this kind of activities	Expected impact addressed by this kind of activities
Survey (Citizen)	2	6	50 to 5000[1]	10000[1]
Helpdesk Support	100	300	1	300
Website	1	1	500	500
Newsletter	8	8	100	800
Training	30	30	20	600
Media	40	40	500	20000
Citizen science	1	1	2000	2000
Total	184	386	>3171[1]	32400[1]

1.2 Structure of the deliverable

Deliverable 1.5 is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 1 –** it is given an Introduction about the context and main objectives of this document.
- **Chapter 2 -** to better define the citizen engagement strategy it is crucial to understand what citizen engagement is. In this chapter, it is explored the meaning of the concept, its differentiation, hindrance factors and best practices, aiming to leverage the citizen engagement strategy and plan definition.
- **Chapter 3 –** in this chapter is presented the literature review, and state of the art of existing European projects, namely the different concepts and processes of citizen engagement and the overall engagement strategy approaches done so far.

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[1] These numbers include the contribution from other tasks.

- **Chapter 4** – the definition of the REGILIENCE main goal for citizens is the first step to develop a sounding engagement strategy. This chapter demonstrated the steps of the development of the strategy and how the project will address the target audience.
- **Chapter 5** – this chapter identifies the two types of citizens and explains how we will inform and engage them.
- **Chapter 6** – explains the communication channels that the project will use for informing the citizens.
- **Chapter 7** – is describing the means of engagement, including the implementation of the citizen engagement.
- **Chapter 8** – gives an overview of the monitoring process and what the citizen engagement strategy achieved so far.
- **Chapter 9** – the conclusion resumes the document and meditates on the citizens engagement strategy impact.
- **References** – references used to produce the citizen engagement deliverable.
- **Annex 1** the bibliography used for producing the citizen survey concept note can be found in this annex. Basically, it reflects the list of readings utilized bearing in mind the methodology defined for analysing the state of art for citizen surveys in the field of climate change, resilience and adaptation.
- **Annex 2** - the citizen survey concept note is annexed to this document. This is a comprehensive document, with the state of art, main findings, objectives, implementation plan and Gantt of the overall activities.
- **Annex 3** – the questions of the citizen survey can be found in the this annex .These questions will probably be updated after the assessment of the results of the testing phase.
- **Annex 4** – list of relevant regional organizations mapped, that can leverage the citizen engagement impact.

1.3 Contributions from other tasks in the project

The deliverable 1.5 Citizen engagement version 1 is related and connected with several other activities of the project. The following table is reflecting the name and description of each task and how it is contributing to the activities reflected in this document:

Table 2 Contributions to T1.5 from other tasks

Name of the Task	Resume	Contribution to D1.5
T1.1 Collecting bottom-up baseline information and needs from regions	This task will foster the involvement of and benefits for target regions and communities from the Innovation Packages by better understanding their resilience challenges, needs and opportunities.	This task is contributing the D1.5 with: a) selection and definition of the 7 focus regions to be addressed by the citizen survey; b) compare the results and perspectives shared on the "needs survey" (applied to local government) to the ones to be collected by the citizen survey.

T1.2 Stakeholder engagement, communication and dissemination plan	This task will develop a plan to engage stakeholders and coordinate all the outreach, dissemination and capacity building activities under WP1. Building on a stakeholder mapping at the EU level and in the selected prioritised regions, we will engage 8-10 stakeholder groups (including interest groups such as regional policymakers, regional planners, citizen groups, scientific bodies, market enablers and others) in each of these regions to support their activities in setting up pathways for resilience, by providing learnings from Innovation Packages and other projects into the regional planning.	This task is contributing with the holistic approach for the citizen engagement, namely with the selection of the stakeholder groups, which includes the selection of the citizen groups that could gain value with our work.
T1.4 Capacity building of regions	Task 1.4 will provide targeted support to regional and local changemakers in vulnerable regions, which will include information on the opportunities and challenges for taking up solutions being developed in other projects such as the Innovation Packages, and overcome existing institutional, regulatory and financial barriers. This support will be especially valuable in those vulnerable regions and cities which face the risk of being left behind.	Citizens can be changemakers in the focused regions. This task is contributing with the definition of some content to be disseminated, where the target audience are the citizens.
D1.1 Resilience planning & development needs of regional authorities and stakeholders	Resilience planning & development needs of regional authorities and stakeholders - outcomes of the needs assessments in regions	This document is feeding the citizen engagement strategy by defining the focus regions to be addressed by the RESILIENCE project.
D1.2 Stakeholder Engagement, Communication and Dissemination Plan, with	Stakeholder Engagement, Communication and Dissemination Plan, with timelines and design - the report will be updated periodically and its first version will be compiled in the first three months of the project.	In this document are mapped of all stakeholders to be addressed by the project. The citizen engagement document is grounding its approach on the Power-Interest matrix methodology made by the

timelines and design v1		consortium and explained in the D1.2.
D1.4 Capacity building activities, including their description & evaluation, v.1	Capacity building activities, including their description & evaluation, reporting of all activities in regions, with the key outcomes in each exchange and evaluation of these activities based on KPIs.	The engagement strategy addressed to citizens is including the dissemination of the Open Training Sessions that are explained in the 1.4 deliverable.
D3.1 Structured overview of activities in Innovation Packages	Structured overview of activities in Innovation Packages to determine the steps for the implementation phase.	This document gave an overview of what is being done under the WP3 and which are the main hazards and activities to be performed by the stakeholders.
Task 5.3. Coordination and cooperation with Innovation Packages, other H2020 projects and initiatives	This task will assure overall, institutional and cross-topic aspects; and specific interaction will be developed by task leads, within this overall frame.	This task is very important because it gives to the citizen engagement strategy the holistic overview of what is being done and planned on other projects, and how REGILIENCE can coordinate and complement their activities.

2 What is citizen engagement?

Citizen engagement is relatively uncommon and recent. Citizens engage in research processes in different ways and for various purposes, depending on the ways in which knowledge and knowledge production processes are understood (Huttunen, *et al*, 2022), thus deducing that there are no right or wrong forms of citizen engagement, only adequate and less adequate (Mielke, J., 2016).

The exact origin of the term "citizen engagement" is difficult to trace, as it has likely been used in various contexts throughout history. However, the term has become increasingly popular in recent decades as a way to describe the active participation of citizens in democratic processes and decision-making. One early instance of the term being used in a contemporary context can be found in a 1995 report by the US National Performance Review, which defined citizen engagement as "the active involvement of people in the design and delivery of public services" (National Performance Review, 1995, p. 14). Since then, the term has been widely used in academic literature, policy documents, and public discourse to refer to a range of activities that involve citizens in governance and decision-making processes.

Engagement usually remains only loosely connected to transitional approaches. According to the article "What about citizens? A literature review of citizen engagement in sustainability transitions research" (Huttunen, *et al*, 2022) identifies four main forms of citizen engagement in research on transitions: a) vision of sustainable futures: where citizens contribute to the identification and development of different types of visions, goals, scenarios or pathways related to transitions; b) implementation of local transition: where citizens are invited to share their practical knowledge about the processes they are implementing locally, an action very similar to the concept of living lab experience: c) revelation of public perceptions: where the citizen provide and deliberate your values and preferences in relation to the transitions and/or provide knowledge about the possible impacts of the transitions; and d) development of participatory methods to facilitate transitions: where citizens who already have knowledge in transition processes initiated by these or another type of local stakeholder are engaged. Basically, it is intended to learn through knowledge-cause. (*idem*).

Citizen engagement is when individuals and groups actively participate in governing, decision-making, and implementation processes within their communities, cities, regions, or countries. This means that citizens are actively involved in shaping their societies by expressing their opinions and contributing to the development and improvement of their communities. Citizen engagement can take various forms, including attending community meetings, joining civic organizations or advocacy groups, voting in elections, contacting elected officials or government agencies, and using social media to raise awareness and mobilize support for various causes. Citizen engagement is essential because it provides citizens with a platform to voice their concerns, promotes transparency, accountability, and good governance, and encourages a sense of ownership and responsibility for their communities. It also inspires citizens to collaborate and work together to address common challenges and achieve shared goals.

This is an underexplored area. However, and according to the literature, it is necessary to increase the diversity of forms of citizen engagement, especially beyond local processes related, for example, to the development of national strategies related to the transition, and to reflect more on the capacities of citizen participation among the experts. There is also a need to more explicitly address power relations in terms of research participation in sustainability transition research, including attention to citizen empowerment and analyzing the benefits of participant engagement processes.

2.1 Main differences between citizen engagement and citizen participation

According to the World Bank (World Bank, 1994) it has become a fundamental concern in the field of development to understand the impact that citizen engagement and citizen participation have on the implementation of more responsible and responsive governance. More than a decade has passed since this type of engagement has occupied a central place in debates on development and innovation, but also as a strategy to achieve good governance and guarantee human rights (UN, 2008).

Despite this, there is still a large gap between the normative positions that promote citizen engagement and their empirical evidence, and also in the understanding that citizen engagement can (or cannot) make a difference in achieving the goals outlined by policymakers. Pressures to fill these gaps are driven not only by a focus on the outcomes of these policymakers but also by academic debate and the needs of other types of practitioners.

Citizen engagement and citizen participation have the same goal: to improve public service delivery and policy development. Both concepts may seem similar, but they have quite different views on the role that citizens should play. The main difference between participation and engagement is that citizen engagement requires an active and intentional dialogue between citizens and public policymakers, whereas citizen participation can only come from citizens. (Citizen Lab, 2020). There is also "citizen consultation" and "citizen information" which do bear responsibilities for the government agencies and often are processes established by laws (and e.g. the Arhus Convention). Both these types are however much less ambitious regarding the contributions of citizens and their uptake by decisions. Reed MS (2008)

More specifically, citizen participation is a fundamental tool for citizens to express their opinions on public policies. It does not require any government agency to create official rules, as this activity is not its responsibility: it is a bottom-up initiative, quite informal. However, as it is not official, it cannot be applied to all political projects. One limitation is, for example, the difficulty in applying it to large-scale political initiatives, such as participatory budgeting, as this requires a higher level of inclusion and awareness on the part of citizens. Some examples of this type of initiative are, for example, petitions and crowdfunding. (*idem*)

Citizen engagement is mainly a top-down initiative. This is promoted by a government body, which encourages citizens to discuss, evaluate policies and contribute to projects. Thus, this type of

entity should define an aggregating strategy that provides citizens with tools that allow them to know how to consult and access public information, eventually being able to discuss their perspectives with representatives of political decision-makers. In this way, this type of involvement is characterized by having a formal involvement between the two parties (citizens and political decision-makers), in which the biggest challenges are, mostly, the identification of citizens' priorities, convincing them to commit to the initiative and ensure that the information offer is sufficient and clear so that citizens can make informed decisions. (*idem*)

Citizen engagement, in fact, is fundamental at all stages of the process of defining and implementing modern public policies, as it may validate whether the measures taken by regional decision-makers are in line with the needs perceived by them. Citizen engagement is an even more complex process than, for example, public deliberation. According to James Bohman, "public deliberation [is] a dialogic process of exchanging reasons with the aim of resolving problematic situations that would not find resolution without coordination and cooperation between people." (Bohman, 1996:27).

The future of citizen engagement cannot depend on just one concept. Participation used in conjunction with deliberation ensures meaningful involvement on a large scale, thus giving citizens a central place in the decision-making process.

2.2 The citizen engagement process

2.2.1 Main challenges

Implementing a citizen engagement process is not an easy task, and it brings with it a series of obstacles and barriers. There are still not many studies that investigate and demonstrate concretely the obstacles and their impact on the process, empirically, some sources claim that they exist and even present some examples. Among these examples, we can point out:

a) **lack of time**: not all citizens have enough time, capacity and resources to meet and respond to all requests for engagement;

b) **impairments**: citizens with disabilities may face accessibility barriers depending on how engagement is facilitated, and the location, facilities, supports and technology should help them to participate in the way that best suits them;

c) **lack of trust**: citizens who have had negative experiences with policy makers (and their representatives) or have had contact with the justice system may not be willing to share their thoughts and opinions;

d) **low digital literacy**: citizens who spend less time online and have lower digital literacy may not be able to effectively participate in online community engagement and communication efforts;

e) **Concerns about privacy**: asking for a lot of personal data can make citizens fear being discriminated against or even jeopardizing their job or income;

f) **Language:** if the means of communication are not in line with nationality (and even age), it will undoubtedly be an obstacle to citizen engagement;

g) **internet access**: part of the world's population (especially in rural communities/low population density) still does not have access to the internet, and, for example, the pandemic has further demonstrated this social inequality;

h) **Financial strain**: there are citizens who may face financial hardship as a result of participating in a community engagement initiative. It may not be feasible to take time off from your job to attend a face-to-face meeting, or, for example, travel costs are too high;

i) **level of education**: citizens potentially involved in the process will have different levels of access to education throughout their lives and it is important to provide the right amount of context and information to ensure that everyone has an equal understanding of the engagement process;

j) **Location**: citizens who live further away from the physical location of face-to-face activities may have difficulty in attending. (United Nations, 2008)

When investigating the main challenges of citizen engagement, it was clear to note that most are reflected in social injustice. Citizens with more free time for recreational activities, without disabilities or impairments, with good digital literacy, who communicate in more than one language, with access to the internet, with more income and higher levels of education will be able to more easily cooperate in engagement actions. However, there is no scientific evidence that this type of persona effectively portrays most engaged citizens, it only exists for profiles. These profiles include:

a) "**citizens representing the general public**" who represent citizens who have been selected from a target group, usually the population of a city or country, based on demographic and socio-economic characteristics;

b) "**active citizens**" represented by citizens who were actively involved in initiatives (for example, sustainability transitions) and citizens who self-selected to participate in the survey and were framed by the moderators as 'pioneers', 'champions' or ' activists';

c) "**community members**" who were selected because they are members of a community or because they live or work in a specific area, normally the most common scientifically reported ones;

d) "**special citizen**" means citizens involved to represent a certain social position or knowledge they share, including citizens who represent a certain sociodemographic characteristic, such as low income or young age. (Huttunen, 2022)

2.2.2 Best practices

There is a need to deepen citizen engagement in research on transitions and to address power relations more explicitly. More creative methods may allow for more active citizen input. (Huttunen, S, et al, 2022). Developing a proactive citizen engagement strategy offers major benefits, including building community trust and enhancing successful adoption of public policy projects.

(OpenGov, 2020). That's why continued transparency and inclusion is so important. According to the challenges encountered in the citizen engagement process, it is possible to list some good practices to take into account:

a) it is important to think about the moment of your engagement: employed people may have difficulty cooperating during working hours, and parents and/or caregivers (mostly female) may find it difficult to participate in face-to-face engagement events;

b) for people with disabilities and/or impairments, the use of interpreters, appropriate language and subtitles need to be considered;

c) privileging citizens who have either never experienced or who have already positively experienced democratic processes;

d) it is important to be transparent about why you want certain specific information and explain how it will be used – the use of an easy-to-read, full informed consent can help;

e) offer multilingual services so that citizens can interpret and interact with materials in their preferred language;

f) match the right level of language for the target audience, keeping it welcoming, simple and, above all, free of jargon;

g) consider compensation for lower income groups and ensure that citizens' time and experience are properly valued.

The engagement is dependent on intrinsic and extrinsic factors that may even lead the citizen to give up at some stage of the process. The good practices listed above are just suggestions, and they should be evaluated and weighted according to the target audience of each initiative. Even applying all these good practices, it is not guaranteed that every citizen is active and participative in the initiative.

3 Literature review and state of the art

3.1 Literature review on citizen engagement actions in the environment field

A literature review is a critical and systematic analysis of existing research and scholarly articles on a particular topic or research question. It involves identifying, evaluating, and synthesizing relevant sources of information from various academic disciplines and sources, such as books, journals, and online databases. It could serve several purposes, including providing a comprehensive overview of the current state of knowledge on a particular topic, identifying gaps and inconsistencies in the literature, highlighting key debates and controversies, and identifying areas for future research. It also allows researchers to contextualize their own research within the broader scholarly discourse and to demonstrate the significance of their research question or hypothesis (University of Edinburgh, n.d.).

Citizen engagement has been recognized as an important tool for promoting environmental sustainability and addressing pressing environmental challenges. In recent years, there has been growing interest in the ways in which citizens can be engaged in environmental decision-making, planning, and management processes. This literature review aims to provide a brief overview of the current state of research on citizen engagement actions in the environmental field, highlighting the key findings and insights from previous studies, and was conducted using a systematic search of academic databases, including Web of Science, Scopus, and Google Scholar. Keywords used in the search included "citizen engagement", "public participation", "environmental management", and "sustainability". The search was limited to articles published in peer-reviewed journals between 2010 and 2022. Some of the founded articles were selected for inclusion in the review based on their relevance to the research question and the quality of the research design.

The literature on citizen engagement in the environmental field is diverse and encompasses a range of topics, including community-based natural resource management, environmental activism, and environmental education. The following themes emerged from the literature review of the selected articles:

Citizen engagement can enhance the effectiveness of environmental management: citizen engagement has been found to play a key role in promoting environmental sustainability by increasing public awareness and understanding of environmental issues, building social capital and trust, and improving the quality and legitimacy of environmental decision-making (Gibson et al., 2015; Olsson et al., 2017). Furthermore, **citizen engagement can help to foster collaborative governance arrangements** between citizens, governments, and other stakeholders, leading to more effective and sustainable environmental management practices (Choi et al., 2019; Reed, 2008).

Citizen engagement can contribute to environmental justice: several studies have highlighted the importance of citizen engagement in promoting environmental justice by giving voice to

marginalized communities and promoting their participation in environmental decision-making processes (Agyeman & Evans, 2004; Schlosberg, 2007). However, it is important to note that citizen engagement can also be used as a tool for co-optation, where marginalized communities are merely tokenized without meaningful participation or decision-making power (Bickerstaff & Walker, 2001). **Citizen engagement can promote behavioural change**: citizen engagement can also contribute to promoting pro-environmental behaviours and lifestyles by increasing public awareness and understanding of environmental issues, providing opportunities for learning and experimentation, and fostering social norms that support sustainable behaviours (Hoffman & Henn, 2011; Steg et al., 2013).

Citizen engagement can be challenging and requires careful design: while citizen engagement has the potential to be a powerful tool for promoting environmental sustainability, it is also fraught with challenges and complexities. For example, citizen engagement can be hindered by power imbalances, lack of trust, and limited resources and capacities (Cash et al., 2006; Rowe & Frewer, 2005). Therefore, careful attention must be paid to the design and implementation of citizen engagement processes to ensure their effectiveness and legitimacy (Cornwall & Coelho, 2007)

Overall, these studies highlight the importance of citizen engagement in **promoting democratic decision-making and civic participation**. They also provide insights into the different forms of citizen engagement and the factors that can impact citizens' engagement in politics. Citizen engagement actions in the environmental field can play an important role in **promoting environmental sustainability, enhancing environmental justice, and promoting behavioural change.** However, citizen engagement processes can be complex and challenging, and require careful design and implementation to be effective.

3.2 State of the art – European projects

This subchapter aims to provide a brief overview of the current state of citizen engagement actions implemented under European Projects in the environmental field, highlighting the key findings on lessons learned and recommendation.

Therefore, the team made desk research (using the google search tool) where the following sets of keywords were selected and combined in order to maximise the success of the search:

> i) CLIMATE change; climate change perception; climate adaptation measures; climate action; climate change adaptation; climate effect; climate mitigation; climate governance; climate policy; climate risk.

> ii) CITIZEN engagement; involving citizen; citizen participation.

> iii) PROJECT european; H2020.

The search was limited to deliverables between 2010 and 2022 produced under project funded under Horizon 2020. Some of the deliverables' content were selected for inclusion in the review based on their relevance/connection with our deliverable and the quality of the research design. This subchapter ends with the summary of key findings that will inspire the Citizen Engagement strategy.

3.2.1 Activities and strategies implemented under EU projects

Under EU projects, various activities and strategies are implemented to address specific objectives and challenges. Before defining the strategy for the REGILIENCE project, it was relevant to explore the strategies and tools previous projects - under similar fields - used for citizen engagement and identify good practices which we could apply in our project and build upon.

Below, it can be found a selection of nine projects which are focused on developing sustainable and innovative solutions within the environmental field and involving and/or engaging the citizens and general public. While they share a similar goal, the strategies, and tools they use for citizen engagement may vary:

Table 3 Selection of projects and their citizen engagement activities

Project acronym	Hyperlink for the project website	Aim of project	Activities promoted by the project (according to their deliverables)
REINFORCE	https://www.reinforceeu.eu/	The REINFORCE project aims to engage citizens in research activities of Large Research Infrastructures through citizen science activities to increase their awareness of science and positively influence their attitude towards it.	This project offers a wide range of tools for citizen engagement, including stakeholder workshops, webinars, surveys, and public events. The project also incorporates digital tools such as online platforms and social media to engage citizens and promote co-creation. offline activities concern summers schools, and trainings.
POCITYF	https://pocityf.eu/	The POCITYF project aims to develop and implement Positive Energy Districts in Europe	A variety of activities for citizen engagement, including co-creation workshops, citizen panels, and citizen observatories are implemented

			by the project. The project also incorporates digital tools such as online platforms and social media to engage citizens and promote co-creation.
IRIS Smart Cities	https://irissmartcities.eu/	The IRIS Smart Cities project aims to develop integrated and sustainable solutions for energy, mobility, and ICT in European cities	This project developed a range of tools for citizen engagement, including co-creation workshops, living labs, and pilot projects. The project also incorporates digital tools such as online platforms and mobile applications to engage citizens and promote co-creation.
MAtchUP	https://www.matchup-project.eu/	The MAtchUP cities will join forces to reshape their social, economic and environmental models and to promote social inclusion, liveability and prosperity for their citizens.	A variety of strategies for citizen engagement, including co-creation workshops, citizen panels, and stakeholder workshops. The project also incorporates digital tools such as online platforms and mobile applications to engage citizens and promote co-creation
CROWDTHERMAL	https://www.crowdthermalproject.eu/	The CROWDTHERMAL project aims to empower the European public to directly participate in the development of geothermal projects with the help of alternative financing schemes (crowdfunding) and social engagement tools	This project developed a range of tools for citizen engagement, including online platforms for crowdfunding and citizen participation, as well as stakeholder workshops and public events.
SmartEnCity	http://smartencitynetwork.eu/	The SmartEnCity's main objective was to develop a highly adaptable and replicable systemic approach towards	The SmartEnCity developed valuable strategies for citizen engagement, including co-creation workshops, public events, and stakeholder meetings. Additionally, the

		urban transition into sustainable, smart and resource-efficient cities in Europe.	project works closely with local communities and stakeholders to ensure that their needs and concerns are taken into account during the development and implementation of sustainable energy solutions.
Islander	https://islander-project.eu/	The ISLANDER project paves the way for the decarbonisation of EU islands' energy systems by demonstrating smart grid solutions combining renewable energy production with storage technologies in real-life settings.	The project incorporates digital tools such as online platforms and mobile applications to engage citizens and promote co-creation. It is in close cooperation with local communities and stakeholders to ensure that their needs are taken into account during the development a of sustainable energy solutions. Similar to some other projects, they developed a range of tools for citizen engagement, including citizen panels, co-creation workshops, and stakeholder meetings.
SIMRA	http://www.simra-h2020.eu/	The SIMRA project seeks to advance understanding of social innovation and innovative governance in agriculture, forestry and rural development, and how to boost them, particularly in marginalised rural areas across Europe	The project places a strong emphasis on co-creation, with the aim of fostering active participation and ownership among rural communities. The project also uses a participatory approach to research, involving local communities in data collection and analysis.
URBAN GreenUP	https://www.urbangreenup.eu/	The URBAN GreenUP aims at developing, applying and validating a methodology for Renaturing Urban Plans to mitigate the effects of	This project has a variety of tools and strategies for citizen engagement, including co-creation workshops, public events, and stakeholder meetings, online platform to

		climate change, improve air quality and water management and increase the sustainability of our cities through innovative nature-based solutions.	engage citizens; cooperation with local communities and stakeholders to ensure that their needs are taken into account during the development and implementation of nature-based solutions

3.2.2European projects methodologies

Citizen engagement actions play a crucial role in ensuring that projects are responsive to the needs and concerns of the citizens. In the process of preparation of an effective citizen engagement strategy, in-depth review of the literature on citizen science and citizen engagement plays a crucial role. This provides a starting point for identifying suitable actions within projects.

Many European projects have identified citizen engagement as an important component of their overall strategy. The review of these deliverables showed that citizen engagement processes often rely on qualitative measures and follow a similar pattern.

Qualitative methods, such as online and offline actions, are often used to engage citizens in the development of tools and solutions produced within the scope of projects. **These actions can take various forms, including a multi-stakeholder approach with workshops, interviews, surveys, public events, and public consultation**. The objective is to raise awareness and engage the targeted groups as much as possible. European projects have introduced effective mechanisms that use the co-creation process to ensure that citizens are actively involved in project design and implementation. The use of qualitative measures and effective mechanisms, such as the co-creation process, can help to ensure that engagement efforts are successful.

3.3   Summary of key findings from European projects

The review of European Projects in the environmental field has shown that citizen engagement is a crucial component, and it has a major influence on the achievement of sustainable and effective outcomes of each project. The various approaches presented in project deliverables indicated that there is no standardised approach to citizen engagement, as strategies and tools need to be tailored to the local context and local community needs.

Qualitative methods have been commonly used, such as public consultations, surveys, and workshops, both online and offline, to engage citizens. Co-creation processes have been an effective way to involve citizens in project development and implementation, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment towards the project. Citizen engagement process requires workshops and events which aim at active participation of citizens. Public involvement through active participation facilitates deeper citizen engagement.

Clear communication and transparency have been identified as crucial for building trust and maintaining engagement with citizens throughout the project. Different targeted groups of citizens will require different measures and tools, and hence targeted purpose of citizen engagement to maximise the impact.

Citizen engagement is viewed as a continuous process, rather than a one-time activity, to ensure that the project outcomes reflect community needs and aspirations. Continuous process requires tailored dissemination and communication plan which will support the citizen engagement.

The reviewed deliverables highlighted the importance of engaging a diverse range of stakeholders to ensure that solutions are inclusive and sustainable. Collaboration between different stakeholders, including public authorities, industry, and civil society, is also crucial for successful citizen engagement and project outcomes.

4 Citizen Engagement Strategy

4.1 Steps for the citizen engagement strategy

The strategy behind the citizen engagement is based on 4 main steps reflected in the following image:

Figure 1.Steps of the citizen engagement strategy

In the first step" Identify" the team aims to:

- Identify the target audience who are crucial for climate resilience efforts. In this case, it will be about citizens from our focus regions and general public.
- understand needs and concerns: conduct a survey and collect citizen's opinions, to gather insights on the needs, concerns, and priorities of the target audience regarding climate resilience. This step helps in tailoring engagement strategies to address specific challenges and interests.

In the second step "Inform":

- according to the received feedback from the regions, the team will support regions in developing educational materials: create clear and accessible educational resources that provide information on climate change, its local impacts, and the importance of regional climate resilience.
- the usage of multiple channels to share the educational materials with the citizens should be prioritized. The information should be widely accessible and comprehensible.

On the "Engage" step:

- REGILIENCE will work together with regions to develop strategies to encourage citizen participation, providing a welcoming and inclusive environment that encourages diverse perspectives and ensures that all voices are heard and valued, taking into consideration the regional context.

- encourage citizens to develop and implement their own resilience measures, fostering a sense of ownership and empowering them to act.

On the third step "Monitor" we aim to:

- evaluate engagement effectiveness: continuously assess the effectiveness of the citizen engagement strategies implemented. Monitor participation rates, collect feedback, and conduct evaluations to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement.
- based on the evaluation findings, refine the engagement strategies and adjust approaches as needed. Continuously learn from the engagement process and incorporate feedback to enhance citizen involvement and maximize the impact of the regional climate resilience efforts.
- regularly communicate the progress, outcomes, and impact of the citizen engagement initiatives to the participants and the broader community. The project aims to share success stories, lessons learned, and how citizen contributions have influenced regional climate resilience plans and policies.

By following these steps of identification, information dissemination, active engagement, and continuous monitoring, a citizen engagement strategy can effectively involve citizens in regional climate resilience efforts.

4.2 REGILIENCE project for citizens

Citizen Engagement is vital for effective climate resilience and REGILIENCE recognizes the importance of equipping citizens with the knowledge and understanding necessary to navigate climate challenges. In this sense, REGILIENCE aims to empower the citizens in two ways: a) by supporting regional governments with tools and solutions to engage citizens in climate adaptation and resilience actions b) by increasing climate resilience literacy among citizens through accessible and engaging tools.

REGILIENCE will engage citizens through regional governments allowing them to make informed decisions and to take proactive measures to adapt and mitigate climate risks. The project aims to support regional governments to engage citizens to contribute with their ideas, expertise, and local knowledge in shaping regional innovative solutions. Creating these kinds of opportunities will empower citizens to participate in decision-making processes alongside regional governments. **The project will also take advantage of the recently released "Stakeholder and Citizen Engagement in Climate Adaptation: A DIY Manual"[2] available at the Mission Implementation Platform for Adaptation to Climate Change (MIP4Adapt) to support the regions in engaging citizens.**

The strong partnerships with regional governments enable the project to align its efforts and collaborate on climate resilience strategies with the focus regions. By working closely together, the project will develop alongside with regional governments means to ensure that the citizen's

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[2] weblink for the Stakeholder and Citizen Engagement in Climate Adaptation: A DIY Manual: https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/the-mission/about-the-mission

perspective is integrated into policy development, planning, and implementation processes. This collaboration fosters a sense of ownership and shared responsibility among citizens and government entities. By involving citizens in the process, we tap into their creativity and harness their collective wisdom, fostering a culture of innovation and co-creation.

REGILIENCE aims primarily to empower citizens from the focus regions. By supporting regional governments to facilitate a collaborative and inclusive environment, citizens can engage in climate resilience and actively contribute to the development and implementation of regional innovative solutions that address climate challenges and promote a sustainable future. Additionally, REGILIENCE will engage with the European general public aiming to increase their climate resilience literacy.

5 Step 1 - Identify

The definition of the levels of citizen engagement was grounded on the work performed under T1.2, where was made the Stakeholder Analysis for the project. The Stakeholder Analysis is the technique used to identify the key people who must be won over and engaged, and it will support the dissemination strategy and the definition of the key messages.

The first step in this Stakeholder Analysis was to brainstorm who REGILIENCE stakeholders are, and could be affected by the project's work, who have influence or power over it, or have an interest in its successful or unsuccessful conclusion.

For the exercise, it was used the Power-Interest grid methodology, where the first step was to brainstorm on who our stakeholders are. The full (and original) list of stakeholders and the explanation of the methodology can be found at D1.2 "Stakeholder Engagement, Communication and Dissemination Plan, with timelines and design v1".

The project identified two levels of citizen engagement:
1) Citizens from the focus regions;
2) Other citizens, that can be characterized as European general public.

After this step, we completed the matrix accordingly:
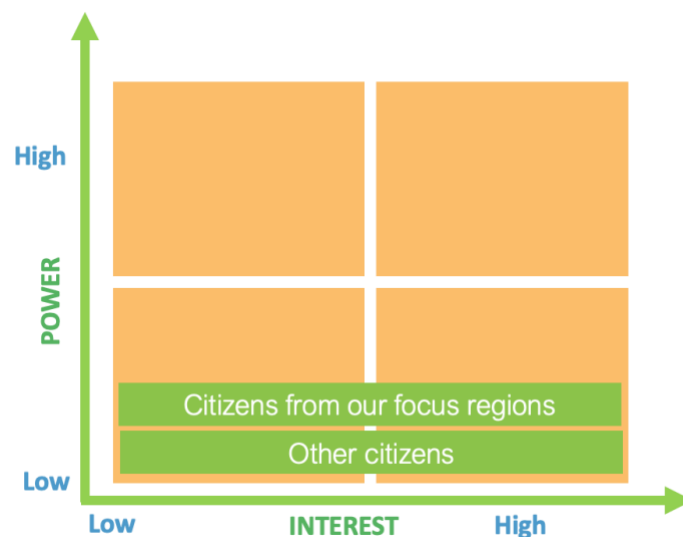
Figure 2.Distribution of the selected two citizen profiles in the Power-Interest grid

It was clear that both citizens from our focus regions and the European general public (other citizens) have low power compared to other type of stakeholders. Since REGILIENCE is working closely with the regional governments, the citizens from our focus regions have more power comparing to the general public.

After the exercise, REGILIENCE concluded that the **main role of the project is to engage with the citizens aiming to increase their power near the regional governments**. On the seven focus

regions, the project will engage citizens through (and supporting) the regional government channels and means. For the European general public ("other citizens"), the project will engage directly through REGILIENCE communication channels.
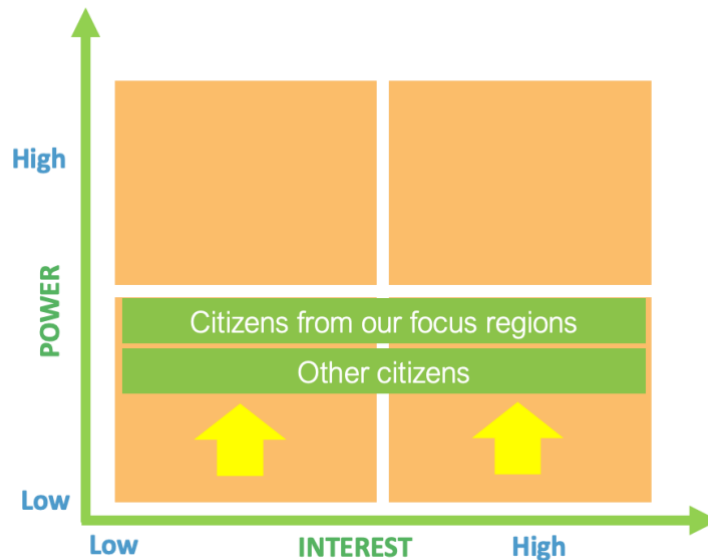
Figure 3. Citizen's profiles distribution through the grid, after the project ends

5.1 Wider dissemination for citizens

A wider dissemination strategy will always include the general public (in this context, the "other citizens"). Regarding this, the main communication channel used for the wider dissemination will be: social media channels, project website and newsletter. The main objective of the strategy for the wider dissemination (addressing general public) is to:

- deliver content which will increase citizen's environmental literacy;
- aware citizens to the unavoidable impacts of climate change;
- disseminate tools and solutions that can support citizens resilience and adaptation actions and measures;

Additionally, the project will take advantage of climate online platforms, such as Climate-ADAPT, Mission Implementation Platform (MIP4Adapt), Climate Innovation Window and weADAPT to leverage the dissemination.

5.2 Citizens from our focus regions

By the beginning of 2023, 10 regions were selected from more than 50 regions, where 7 of them accepted to cooperate in the aim of the REGILIENCE project. The selection process can be analysed in the Deliverable 1.1 "Resilience planning & development needs of regional authorities and stakeholders".

According to the document the 7 focus regions selected, and their resume, are the following:

- **La Réunion:** this French island, located in the Indian Ocean, is home to about 860,000 people. Due to the big distance to the mainland and the importance of sustainable development, the regional government wants to be 100% energy independent by using only renewable sources. They are also developing plans to preserve their natural parks and implement new bioclimatic construction methods.
- **Kentriki Makedonia:** Central Macedonia region has a population of almost 1.8 million. The area has suffered the effects of flooding more persistently over the last 5 years (e.g. flash floods). Transport infrastructures and energy consumption of public buildings are other important issues that need to be improved.
- **Jadranska Hrvatska:** The Adriatic Croatia region forms the coastal part of the country. It is home to 33% of Croatians, with about 1.37 million inhabitants. The Croatian coastal area attracts thousands of tourists every year, so local infrastructure needs to adapt to the effects of climate change to ensure that this economic activity is not affected, as well as to reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions from buildings.
- **Yuzhen tsentralen:** 1.41 million people live in this Bulgarian region. Their main priorities are to renovate buildings and prevent disaster risks; however, there is a lack of a strategy/action plan for climate change mitigation. Climate adaptation and resilience needs to be recognised on a national, regional and local level, in order to implement effective actions.
- **Região Autónoma da Madeira:** this autonomous region of Portugal is an archipelago composed of 4 islands, situated in the North Atlantic Ocean. There are around 250,000 people living on these islands. They have adopted SECAP (Social, Environmental and Climate Adaptation Procedures) at regional and municipal levels, as well as a regional strategy for climate change. They have developed a strategy to adapt their coastal zones, tourism and energy activities to climate change.
- **Comunidad Valenciana:** almost 5 million people live in the Valencian Community. The territory and the citizens are concerned about floods and fires, as well as the loss of the coastal areas, biodiversity and silviculture, which will be more important due to climate change.
- **Región de Murcia:** 1.488 million people live in this coastal region. They have implemented regional and national instruments on climate resilience. The region is exposed to high temperatures and the increasing coastal risks caused by climate change.

Another result coming from the Deliverable 1.1, was the establishment of cooperation agreements with regional government organisations. The already confirmed partnerships taking place are the following:

Table 4. Already established regional partnerships

Region	Country	Already established local partnerships

La Réunion	France	Horizon Réunion https://energies-reunion.com/
Kentriki Makedonia	Greece	Resilient Thessaloniki office, City of Thessaloniki https://thessaloniki.gr/?lang=en
Jadranska Hrvatska	Croatia	IRENA - Istarska Regionalna Energetska Agencija (Istrian Regional Energy Agency) https://www.irena-istra.hr/en/subsites/irena/irena-en/general-information/
Yuzhen tsentralen	Bulgaria	Green Synergy Cluster https://greensynergycluster.eu/about-us/?lang=en EAP - Energy Agency of Plovdiv https://www.eap-save.eu/?lng=EN&m=18
Região Autónoma da Madeira	Portugal	AREAM (Regional Agency for Energy and Environment of the Autonomous Region of Madeira) https://aream.pt/
Comunidad Valenciana	Spain	Generalitat Valenciana https://www.gva.es/va/inicio/presentacion
Región de Murcia	Spain	Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia https://www.carm.es/web/pagina?IDCONTENIDO=1&IDTIPO=180

These seven regional organizations will be supported by the REGILIENCE team by several means. One of the means will be our tailored support with tools and solutions to engage these regional citizens, increasing their power near the regional governments.

6 Step 2 - Inform

This citizen engagement plan includes a description and timeline for engagement activities, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in the engagement process, and methods for evaluating the success of the engagement effort.

One of the most important steps to understand what could be disseminated and used to inform and engage citizens with climate adaptation actions was the collection of all the project activities that could be exploitable through communication activities. To do so, it was developed a board on the online MIRO tool (https://miro.com/), where it was asked the contribution of all the REGILIENCE partners to compile and complete the information. The first iteration was done during the online Management Board Meeting in November 2022, and during almost one hour the team brainstormed and discussed the main activities to display on the board. Beyond the list of tools, it was discussed as well the best timeline to disseminate each of the listed items.

The last version of the complete board can be found below:
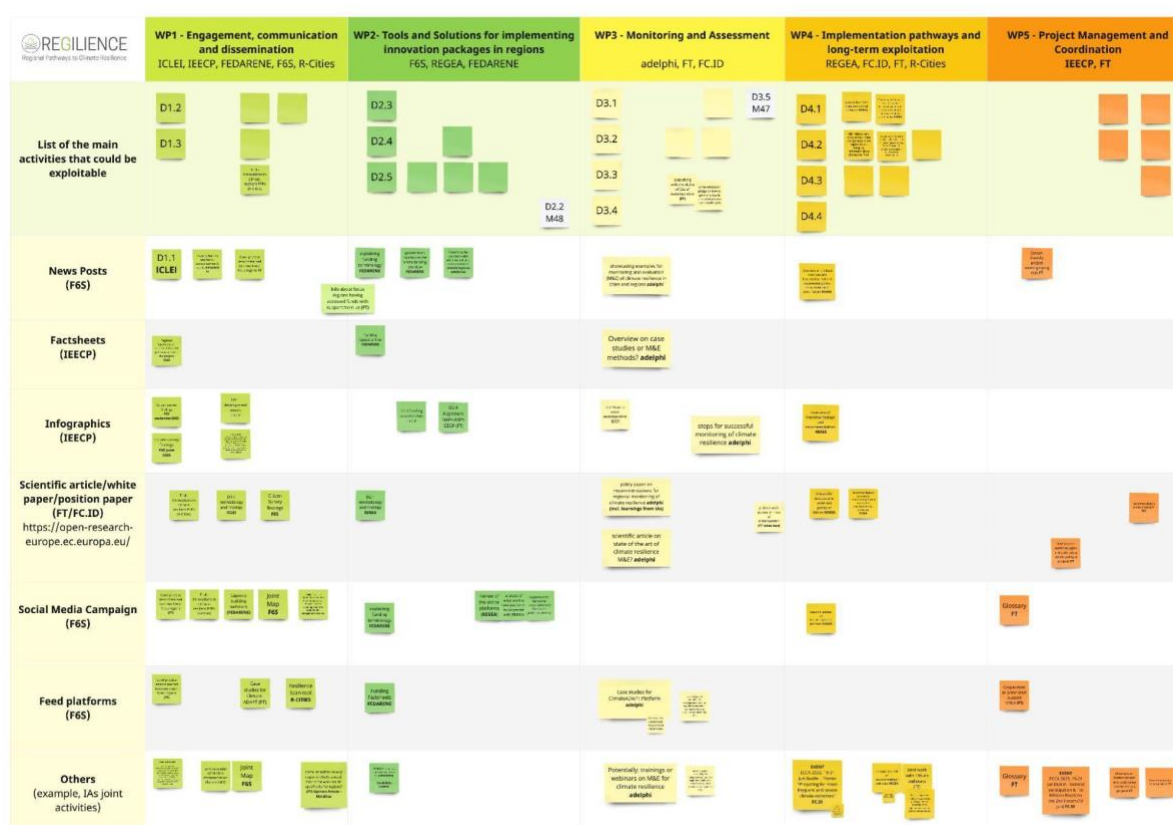
Figure 4. Miro board resulting from the brainstorming session about exploitable results through communication and dissemination actions

The team plans to assist these regions in crafting educational materials. These materials will aim to present information on climate change, its local effects, and the significance of regional climate resilience in a clear and accessible manner. Emphasis will be placed on utilizing various channels

to distribute these educational resources widely, ensuring that the information is easily understandable and available to a broad audience.

6.1 Communication channels

There are several communication channels that can be used to increase the citizen engagement with the actions promoted by the project, and the best channels to use may depend on the nature of the initiative. In this specific case, the citizens, and it was easy to list some possible options:

- **Social media channels:** social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Linkedin are already being used to share information about climate change, adaptation and resilience, and other initiatives under the theme, and promoting events and campaigns.
- **REGILIENCE website**: is being used to share detailed information about the project initiatives, as well as providing opportunities for citizens to participate in surveys, sharing feedback, and requesting support for the actions taking place.
- **The CLIMATE RESILIENCE POST Newsletter**: is being used to share regular updates about the initiatives, and events, and provide opportunities for citizens to get involved.
- **Social media campaigns**: campaigns can be used to raise awareness about resilience and adaptation issues and promote more sustainable behaviours. they can increase citizen's literacy and knowledge on the adaptation to climate change.

6.1.1 Social Media

The REGILIENCE team has identified 3 social media channels for optimal citizen engagement, which were set up during the beginning of the project:

- Twitter
- LinkedIn
- Facebook

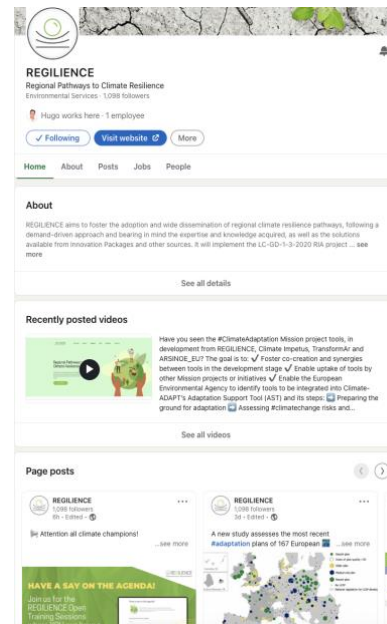*Figure 5. Print screen of the REGILIENCE twitter page*

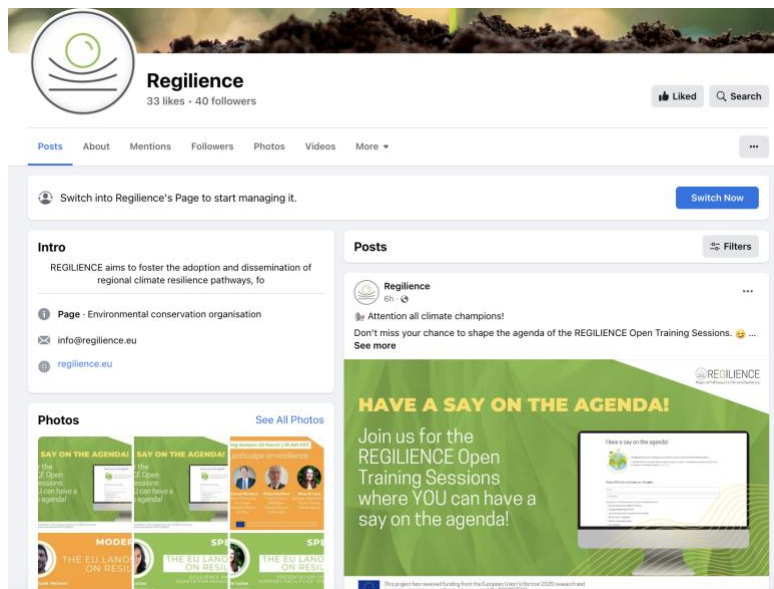*Figure 6. Print screen of the REGILIENCE LinkedIn page*

Figure 7. Print screen of the REGILEINCE Facebook page

The team aim to develop several campaigns to engage citizens and raise awareness about a climate resilience and adaptation measures, adapting the content to each social media platform to ensure maximum engagement.

The messaging of the campaign aims - and is being designed - to be clear, concise, and memorable. It should communicate the key message of the campaign in a way that resonates with the target audience, in this case, the citizens.

Each campaign is including a clear call-to-action, which could be to attend an event, to share their say on the agenda of the Open Training Sessions, or take some other action related to the campaign's purpose.

The campaigns are including a range of engagement strategies, including visual content, user-generated content, contests, and other interactive elements. These strategies can help to build a sense of community around the campaign and increase engagement. Each campaign will be monitored and evaluated to determine its effectiveness. Metrics such as engagement rates, reach, and conversions should be tracked to assess the impact of the campaign and identify areas for improvement.

The expected social media campaigns are the following:

Table 4. List of some possible social media campaigns

Name of the campaign	Objective
Literacy and Knowledge (based on the glossary produced by the project)	With this campaign, we aim to unlock the language of climate resilience. This literacy campaign aims to explore our glossary of key terms, demystifying the language of climate change. From adaptation to mitigation, we aim to bring the basic knowledge that citizens need to navigate the challenges of a changing climate.
"What's the difference?"	This campaign is already being implemented. Its main aim is to show the difference between crucial concepts and learn how both are essential in building a resilient future. It is also based on the glossary.
"Adaptation measures"	This campaign aims to discover practical ways to adapt to climate change in everyday life. It will showcase real-life examples of citizen-led adaptation measures. From rainwater harvesting to rooftop gardens, to get inspired and take action to protect regional communities.
Share your adaptation measure	This campaign is a kind of call to action and to reflect the engagement with general citizens. The project will ask citizens to share their climate adaptation action (which will be validated before its dissemination) aiming to inspire others.

Contact Us for Peer-to-Peer Support	This campaign aims to offer peer-to-peer support for climate resilience adaptation near the regional government. REGILIENCE will provide advice, tips, and guidance on how to adapt and become more resilient in the face of climate change.

Additionally, the **team will translate some campaigns to 6 different languages** (according to the focus regions), namely: portuguese, spanish, french, bulgarian, greek and croatian.

6.1.2 Website

The aim of the REGILIENCE project website is to provide a centralized online location for information and resources related to the project activities, and is serving as a hub for project stakeholders, including citizens, to access project updates, documents, and other relevant information.

The REGILIENCE project website is now seen as a platform, since it allows project stakeholders to a) stay up-to-date on the project's progress and milestones, as well as any changes in project plans, schedules, or other relevant information; b) increase transparency and accountability by making project information accessible to all stakeholders, building trust and foster a sense of teamwork among project participants; c) promoting the project and showcasing its unique features and benefits to our target audience; d) serving as a repository for project documentation, including (funding) factsheets, tools, latest news and events, ensuring that project information is organized, easily accessible, and searchable.

The project website is divided into the following sections:

- REGILIENCE Homepage
    - Supporting the EU Mission
    - Available Resources
- The project
- About us
- Resources
    - Community Building
    - Funding Opportunities
    - Maps
    - Self-assessment tool for maladaptation
    - Tools and Solutions
    - Reports and Findings
    - Promotion Materials
- News
    - News
    - Events
- Newsletter
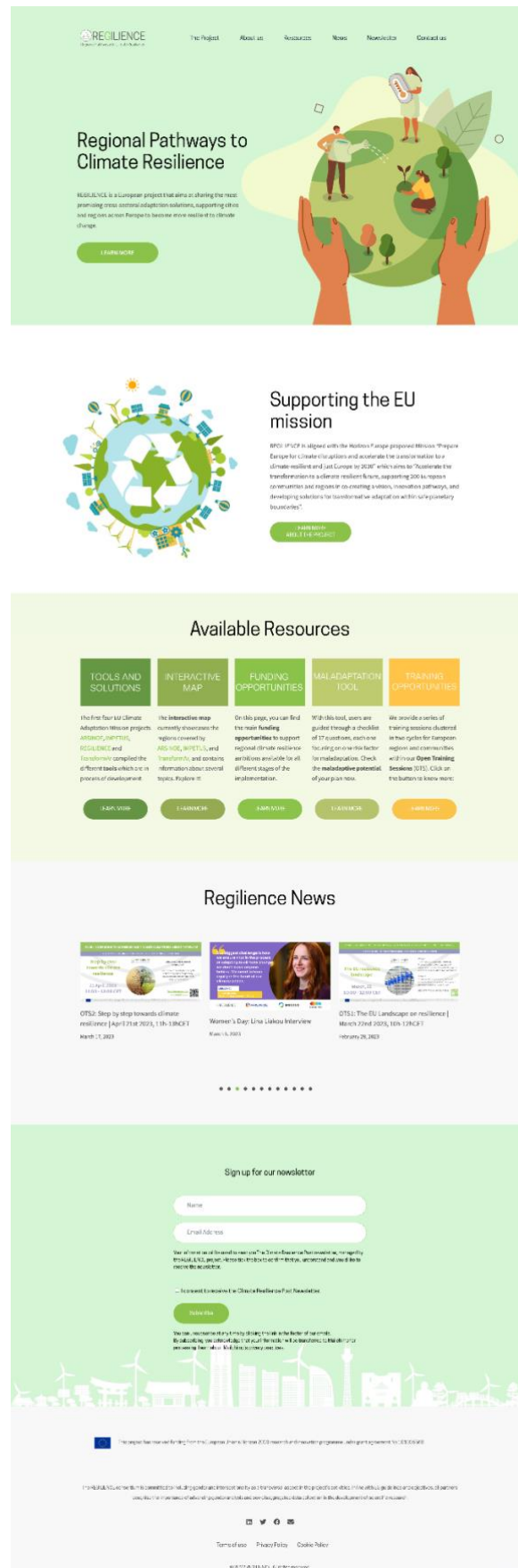
- ○ Newsletter archive
- Contact us

Figure 8. Print screen of the project website homepage

6.1.3 Newsletter

A newsletter aims to provide regular updates and information to a specific audience, typically subscribers who have opted-in to receive the newsletter. Newsletters can be distributed through a variety of channels, including email, print, or digital formats, and may serve various purposes depending on the context and goals of the organization or individual creating the newsletter.

The primary objectives of our newsletter include:

- Relationship building: it is helping to establish trust and credibility near the subscribers, and provide opportunities for engagement and feedback.
- Information dissemination: is providing a platform for sharing information about the first four projects of the European mission on adaptation: ARSINOE, IMPETUS, REGILIENCE and Transformar. They include news, updates, and announcements, as well as educational content.
- Brand promotion: THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE POST is being used as a marketing tool to promote the four projects, showcase success stories or case studies, and highlight other initiatives promoted by us.
- Metrics tracking: our Newsletter is being used to track and analyze and to evaluate their effectiveness in achieving specific goals, such as increasing of the 4 websites traffic.

REGILIENCE has sent out 4 newsletters throughout the reporting period. One is under the REGILIENCE brand and 3 are under the flag of The Climate Resilience Post, which is a joint initiative between the four sister projects and managed by the REGILIENCE team.

The agreed sections:

Table 6. Agreed sections for the joint Newsletter

SECTION	CONTRIBUTION
In focus - introduction	REGILIENCE
Community news	at least one per project
Good practices/cases from our Regions	one per project
Interview/opinion articles	REGILIENCE (feel free to suggest)
Events / Agenda	all
Good news! Inspiration from across the globe / On the spotlight (news from other projects, other resources, etc.)	all

7 Step 3 - Engage

It is essential to listen attentively to the concerns and ideas of citizens and provide support for their initiatives, thereby nurturing a collaborative and responsive approach to addressing challenges and promoting community resilience. In this sense there are some activities that will engage directly with general public and citizens from our focus regions. Additionally, there is an emphasis on encouraging citizens to take an active role in developing and implementing their own resilience measures, instilling a sense of ownership and empowerment.

For this step the main activities will be focusing in:

- **Citizen survey**: this tool aims to collect data to assess and monitor citizens' perceptions on climate change and adaptation, needs and aspirations;

- **Community events**: community events such as **open seminars** and **training evens** can be used to engage citizens in fun and interactive activities that promote resilience and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

- **Direct support**: this activity will allow citizens to share their personal concerns through a peer-to-peer support. The team will answer to concrete answers and needs.

Additionally, the REGILIENCE team also found interesting the following activities:

- **Public meetings**: Public meetings such as town hall meetings, community workshops, and public hearings can be used to engage citizens in face-to-face discussions and debates about environmental issues and initiatives.
- **Mobile applications**: can be used to provide citizens with information about environmental initiatives and projects, as well as enable them to report environmental issues and participate in citizen science initiatives.
- **Public art:** can be used to raise awareness about environmental issues and inspire citizens to take action. Public art installations can be strategically placed in public spaces to encourage engagement and dialogue.
- **Press media/television:** the constant release of press media can increase the awareness of the citizens for whom the traditional channels, such as television and journals, are the main source of information, engage them in resilience and climate adaptation activities.

These last activities are out of the project scope, however the **team aims to produce recommendations to regions to support them on engagement of citizens on their activities.** These last 3 activities will be included in the recommendations document.

Additionally, the project will take advantage of the recently released "Stakeholder and Citizen Engagement in Climate Adaptation: A DIY Manual" available at the Mission Implementation Platform for Adaptation to Climate Change (MIP4Adapt) to support the regions in engaging citizens. This document is intended for regional and local authorities and its purpose is to provide comprehensive guidance on involving stakeholders and citizens at large across the six key stages of climate change adaptation planning outlined in the Regional Adaptation Support Tool (RAST).

There, it can be found well-established tools and methodologies that can facilitate the adoption of an all-inclusive 'whole-of-society' approach, ensuring that no one is left behind. Conceptually, the manual is anchored in four essential elements: communication, engagement, connection, and empowerment for taking action.

Inspired by the DIY manual, the **objective is to develop and implement strategies jointly with the focus regions in order to engage regional citizens** in their actions and with the regional governments.

7.1   The Citizen Survey

The development of the citizen survey concept note was a very comprehensive task, which involved all the REGILIENCE team, aiming not only to support the citizen engagement activities, but also to create value near other REGILIENCE work packages, local governments and also other projects and organizations, if interested in the subject.

It was made the analysis of the state of the art on existing studies that report citizens' perceptions regarding climate change and their adaptation measures, and it concluded that this survey should collect information/data about socioeconomic, demographic, and cultural factors, as well as the regional information channels most used by citizens (with the aim of maximising awareness of the effects of climate change). This questionnaire should include questions that make it possible to quantify the awareness of citizens regarding their exposure and vulnerability to climate risks and local/regional hazards, to understand whether they are already implementing some measure (and, if so, which one), and also how to consider being more adequate to integrate them (if interested) in the process of developing procedures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. More information can be found in the Annex 2 - Citizen Survey concept note.

The scope of the citizen survey is restricted to climate change and climate resilience, at regional level, and has the following goals:

1.   Quantify the awareness of citizens about:
     a.   their own (local/regional) climate risks (hazards, exposure and vulnerability);
     b.   the need for climate adaptation resilience of the region to the unavoidable effects of climate change;
2.   Collect data to monitor citizens' perceptions of what has taken place during the project;
3.   Assess the economic, social and cultural differences before and after the implementation of the project.

The expected benefits of the survey are the following:
   ●   identify the most appropriate messages to promote the citizen's awareness and engagement with best practices and actions to be implemented by the project;

- understand how far the regional resilience actions are supported by citizens (benefit for IAs and REGILIENCE);
- validate the expert opinion from those stakeholders REGILIENCE interviewed for the selection of the regions;
- feed into infographics and briefings, to be disseminated widely;
- find out how citizens can be motivated to increase their own resilience towards the regional hazards or contribute to the resilience of others;

The project aims to collect between about 300 responses from each region that accepts to cooperate in implementing the survey. The survey will be available in the national region language of its implementation and will allow the addition of up to 3 questions from the regional government. The project will provide the data analysis and report to each region.

7.1.1 Implementation of the citizen survey

The survey is being conducted in three phases:

First phase: Test

- Target audience: Centro region of Portugal;
- Dissemination and data collection during July 2023;
- Assessment of results during August 2023;
- Update of the survey according to the results;

Second phase: Baseline

- Target audience: up to 7 regions (coming from the REGILIENCE project)
- Dissemination and data collection by December 2023 and January 2024;
- Assessment of results, between February to March 2024 ;
- Production of the first report.

Third phase: Comparison

- Target audience: the total of up to 7 regions,
- Data collection between   May 2025 and June 2025;
- Assessment of results;
- Production of a new report, including the comparison between the results of the two first phases and listing the needs for sustaining the climate resilience actions/good practices lifetime at the end of the project.

7.2   Open Seminars

Open seminars provide an opportunity for attendees to learn about and engage with a topic of interest, to hear from experts in the field, and to connect with others who share their interests.

Under the REGILIENCE project is foreseen the organization of four Open Seminars, online, aiming to highlighting the importance of maximising the resilience and adaptation of regions, local communities and the extent of the transformations and innovation in social, economic and environmental and economic institutions and relationships likely to be required.

These Open Seminars aim to support citizens from the regions in implementing their adaptation and mitigation actions to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. In this sense, all seminars shall use simple language (without jargon), and will be recorded, allowing citizens to watch the recording after.

The four themes could be selected from:

- Sustainable lifestyle choices: this seminar could focus on the actions individuals can take to reduce their carbon footprint and adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as adopting green transportation, reducing energy consumption, and changing dietary habits, among others.
- Nature Based Solutions: this seminar could explore how citizens can implement nature-based solutions and green infrastructure to adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as using green roofs, rain gardens, and permeable pavement to manage stormwater and reduce the urban heat island effect.
- Online platforms for climate adaptation: this seminar could join Climate-ADAPT, weADAPT, Climate Innovation Window and REGILIENCE to present how citizens can take advantage of online tools and solutions to promote their adaptation and resilience.
- Community-based adaptation and resilience: could highlight how communities can work together to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as creating emergency response plans, building social networks, and promoting community-based agriculture.
- The regional government perspectives: this seminar would focus on the share of regional governments opportunities for citizens engagement in the development of (innovative) adaptation measures.

An additional one could be "climate justice and equity": This theme could focus on the social and economic dimensions of climate change adaptation and resilience, and address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on marginalized communities, as well as the need for inclusive and equitable policies and practices.

7.3 Training events

Training events are central to ensure that citizens have the opportunity to actively participate in the development of resilience pathways. For this reason, REGILIENCE partners will participate in events and develop informative sessions, targeting different citizen groups. Resilient Cities Network will lead this activity and coordinate the content to be presented during the sessions. For instance, these include a module on Resilience Fundamentals to provide participants with key concepts and the foundation of resilience thinking; F6S will run online seminars to highlight the importance of maximizing resilience and adaptation of regions and local communities, focusing on

the necessary innovations in the socio-economic and institutional context. Other partners of the consortium will also support this activity, either providing additional content or delivering specific sessions based on the regions involved and the target groups. Learnings and experiences in citizens engagement from both IAs regions and REGILIENCE Focus Regions could also be presented.

Regarding the timeline, this activity started in M19 and will continue until the end of the project, therefore the majority of events are expected to be delivered in 2024 and 2025.

7.4 Direct support

Estimated 100 direct support actions provide citizens with the necessary assistance to overcome problems, misunderstandings, and give answer to their immediate questions. It creates a sense of partnership in a project when direct support and feedback are given and increases their confidence and commitment to the project. The platform solution (which is composed by REGILIENCE website, and the supported weADAPT and Climate Innovation Window platforms) will allow peer-to-peer support through the chat and forum. The REGILIENCE platform is already receiving some requests through the forms, and the presence of a helpdesk is being administered by the project partners. Such direct support can include the facilitation of downloadable resilience strategies for citizens, and a comparison of best practice across EU regions (based on work under T3.3 and 4.1).

8 Step 4 – Monitor

The project aims to assess the effectiveness of the implemented strategies. This involves ongoing monitoring of disseminations and communication activities, including analysing statistics, participation rates, the collection of feedback, and the conduct of evaluations to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. Additionally, the project emphasizes regular communication of progress, outcomes, and impact to participants and the broader community. This iterative cycle aims to enhance the project's efficacy by incorporating insights from evaluations and maintaining transparent communication channels with stakeholders.

8.1   Social Media

Throughout the reporting period, REGILIENCE has implemented 9 main social media communication activities to engage with its community and disseminate information about the project's goals and progress and engage with citizens.

1. The first activity, **"Meet the team behind REGILIENCE**," introduced the project partners and the people working on the project. This helped to establish a personal connection between the community and the project team, and provided insight into the different roles and responsibilities of each partner. This also helped us in building trust and credibility within our community.

Figure 9 Some print screens of the "meet the partners" social media campaign

2.   The "**What's the Difference Campaign**" was launched at the beginning of the project to introduce the project and explain key terms and concepts that the project would be working with. By explaining key terms and concepts in simple language, it helped to ensure that everyone was understanding the key messages, which the project aims to convey.
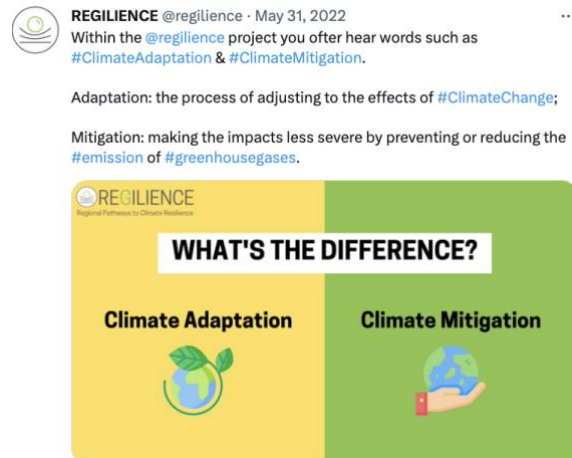
Figure 10. Some print screens of posts under the "what's the difference" social media campaign

3. Dissemination of resources:
   - **Funding Opportunities** - a funding tool, aiming to raise awareness of available financial on European and national level dedicated to support regional climate resilience;
   - **Map** showcasing the regions covered by REGILIENCE and sister projects ARSINOE, IMPETUS and TransformAr. The map contains information about the resilience topic covered by the regions, the existing conditions, their ambitions, and solutions to be tested;
   - **The Self-Assessment Tool for Maladaptation**, which is a checklist for users to self-assess the maladaptation potential of their planned adaptation actions, based on selected risk factors, and spot those factors where further action to avoid maladaptation is needed;
   - **The Tools and Solutions page**, compiling different tools which are in process of development by the first four EU Climate Adaptation Mission projects ARSINOE, IMPETUS, REGILIENCE and TransformAr.
   - **Online adaptation platforms,** which is disseminating mostly weADAPT, Climate Innovation Window, MIP4Adapt, and Climate-ADAPT features, events, and news.
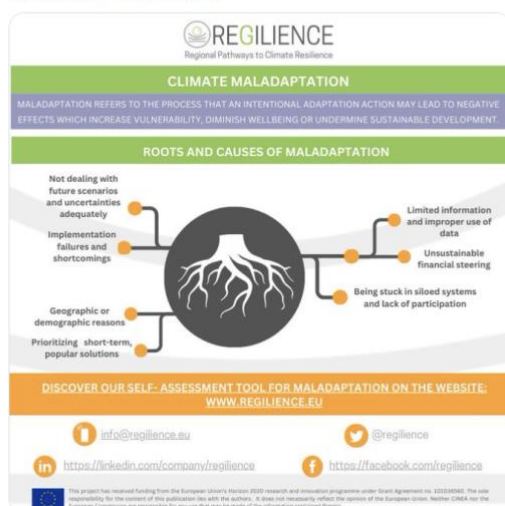
These resources provided valuable information to the project's community and helped to raise awareness of the project's goals and activities and facilitated collaboration with other organizations working in the field of climate resilience.

Figure 11. Some print screens of posts with the dissemination of resources produced by the REGILIENCE project

4. In collaboration with the project's sister projects, REGILIENCE launched a **Women in STEM** campaign to highlight the contributions of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This campaign featured interviews with relevant representatives from each project, which helped to showcase the expertise and talent of women in the field of climate resilience.
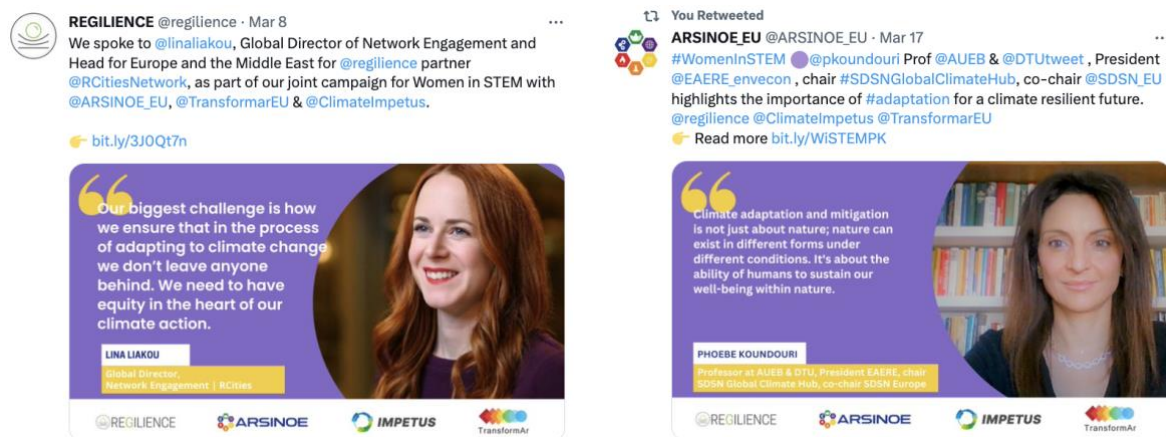
Figure 12. Some print screens of posts under the joint social media campaign "Women in STEM"

5. **Open Training Sessions** are part of the capacity-building activities of the project, and REGILIENCE disseminated social media visuals for each session, featuring the speakers and the title of the session. The goal of the campaign was to promote the capacity-building activities of the project and encourage participation from the community. The Training Sessions facilitated knowledge-sharing and collaboration and provided support among the attendees.

Figure 13. Some print screens of posts disseminating the REGILIENCE Open Training Sessions

6. The "**Have a Say on the Agenda**" campaign invited people to shape the agenda of the Open Training Sessions and provide feedback on the topics to be covered. By doing so the project demonstrated a commitment to co-creation and community involvement. This helped to ensure that the project's activities were relevant and responsive to the needs of the community.

Figure 14. Some prints of posts under the "Have a say on the Agenda" social media campaign

7. **Opinion Articles** - Each month, experts in the field of climate resilience and adaptation measures are invited to write an Opinion Article on something they consider relevant. These articles provided valuable insights and perspectives and were very well-perceived by the readers. The opinion pieces were uploaded to the website as articles as well as downloadable pdf files and were disseminated through the REGILIENCE social media channels.

Figure 15. Print screens from an opinion article social media post

8. Dissemination of **events and webinars**, which are of interest to our followers.
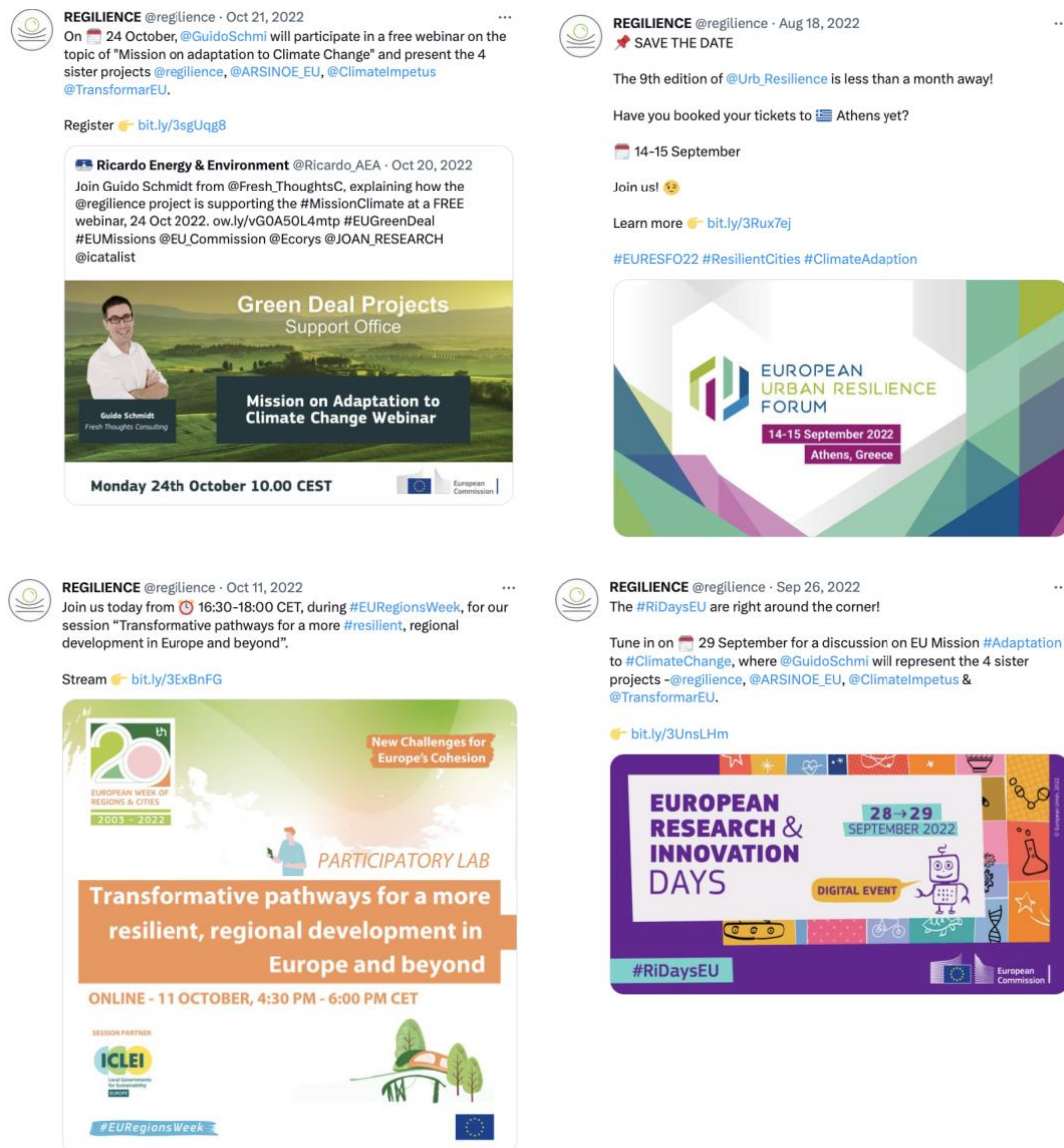
Figure 16. Print Screen of some events and webinars social media posts

9. Sharing of **community news** to keep the community informed about relevant developments.

Figure 17. Print screens of some community news social media posts

10. Dissemination of the Central Region testing of the **citizen survey**, in Portuguese:

Figure 18. Print screens of the citizen survey post in Portuguese

The table below is describing the achieved social media KPIs from the beginning of the projects, up until M24.

Table 5. Achieved social media KPIs until the month 24

Type	#total number
Social media followers	2598
Number of social media posts	1 228
Social media impressions	392 572
Social media engagement	32 479

8.2 Website

The REGILIENCE website turned into a platform, where are displayed all the tools, solutions, information, opportunities, events among others. It is also a privilege place for direct contact with the REGILIENCE team.

The Google Analytics report of the website, during the period between **01/11/2021** and **31/10/2023** is the following:

Engagement & File downloads:

- 92 052 engagements by 13 681 users;
- 406 downloads by 216 unique users;
- 12 169 first visits;

File downloads by country:

- Among the top 7 countries that downloaded REGILIENCE materials, most downloads are from Portugal and Belgium; least from Bulgaria;
- 406 downloads from more than 7 countries;

Engagement per screens (project pages) top 15 most looked pages of the project website:

- Pages of highest interest seem to be the home as home page (7097 views by 3186 users); the project (3712 by 1748 users); About (2115 views by 1118 users);
- Average engagement rate: >60%
- Average views per user >2
- Average engagement times <1 min.

Demographics:

- The project website was visited by 138 countries
- Most visits from UK, USA, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, France, Portugal and Greece.

User acquisition (from where we get most users?):

- 8972 direct – means users entered the website name directly in the browser;
- 2121 – organic search – entering the project name through Google search
- 1626 users through referral – through other websites
- 1507 through social media

Other:

- 11 509 k new users this year since 01/01/2023
- 81 user engagements in the last day (31/10/2023)
- 613 in the last 7 days
- 2900 in the last 30 days

Being a relative recent website, the **total numbers of the report are impressive**, meaning that the website is being visited all over the world, by thousands of new users.

8.3 Newsletter

REGILIENCE has sent out 6 newsletters throughout the reporting period. One is under the REGILIENCE brand and 5 are under the flag of The Climate Resilience Post, which is a joint initiative between the four sister projects and managed by the REGILIENCE team.

- [Welcome to the first REGILIENCE Newsletter!](#)
- [The first issue of the Climate Resilience Post is here!](#)
- [The Climate Resilience Post - issue number 2 is here!](#)

- [The Climate Resilience Post - issue number 3 is here!](#)
- [The Climate Resilience Post - issue number 4 is here!](#)
- [The Climate Resilience Post - issue number 5 is here!](#)

The newsletters we send out are essential for keeping our community informed and engaged with the latest developments in the field of climate resilience. Each newsletter is packed with valuable content, including community news, news from the four sister projects (ARSINOE, IMPETUS, REGILIENCE and TransformAr), cases from the regions covered by the 4 projects, interviews with experts in the field, positive news, and information about upcoming events.

Our newsletters aim to inspire, educate, and connect our community, ensuring that everyone has access to the latest information and opportunities. The newsletter is planned to be sent out 4 times a year.

Below is a table showcasing the achieved newsletter KPIs from the beginning of the projects, up until M24.

Table 6. Achieved Newsletter KPIs until month 24

Type	KPI achieved	Expected Impact
Newsletters sent out	5	8 newsletters
Number of subscribers	372	100 citizens/stakeholders
Newsletter Openings	622	800

8.4   Direct Support

REGILIENCE is already providing direct support to citizens (and not only). For example, on the website, the citizens can share their thoughts on the "Have a say on the agenda" form, which will be reflected on the main topics to be addressed on the coming Open Training Sessions:

Figure 20. Print screen of the "Have a say in the agenda" page

REGILIENCE also have the "Contact us" form, where citizens can leave their questions or need any kind of support or cooperation:

Figure 21. Print screen of the website contact form

So far, the REGILIENCE project already received more than 20 requests, under many different topics. Many of them were related to the "Have a Say on the Agenda", others requesting events recording and also citizens/students offering for internship positions.

8.4.1 Citizen survey testing

The team implemented the citizen survey in the central region of Portugal during the month of July 2023. This initiative was seen as a test/exploratory, where the project tried to understand if this survey had flaws and limitations, and to assess its quality.

The dissemination was made in Portuguese, taking advantage of the REGILIENCE social media channels and also personal contact.

Main results were the following:

- It was definitely worth taking the test;
- We collected 68 answers total, where 5 were not from Central Region;
- The platform registered 16 drafts, of which we don't have access to what was done until the withdrawal;
- 58% of the answers came from female respondents, 41% of the respondents have between 35 to 44 years old (which demonstrates some bias), 28% have a master's degree, and 50% are paid workers;
- Only 8% are satisfied with the local government's initiatives in adapting to climate change;
- 43% say that the low public awareness of the importance of adapting to climate change is one of the main challenges that the region faces in implementing climate-related measures;

- 81% consider that "effectively managing and conserving water" is one of the most important actions to face the impact of climate change in the region;
- 37% said that already took some action to adapt to climate change;

Segmentation (dissemination):

- The responses came mostly from personal contact (about 50 answers);
- We received 2 answers coming from a Facebook group of environmental activists (it was disseminated on 2 Facebook groups of this kind);
- We received 1 answer from a Whatsapp Group of about 150 PhD students researching Social Studies at Coimbra University;
- About 10 answers from REGILIENCE social media (including Linkedin, Twitter, Facebook).
- The RESIST project didn't collaborate with us, even having a pilot in Central Portugal;
- The Coimbra Intermunicipal Community didn't cooperate;
- The project needs the support from the regions disseminating and addressing personally locals in order to collect more answers and control the bias on the respondent's profiles

Structure of the questionnaire:

- The questionnaire has a good structure and works for the defined objectives;
- We analysed the answers, and updated some questions with a few words, considering suggestions from the citizens.
- It was considered a bit long by some of the respondents. But if we delete questions we will lose consistency and important knowledge.

EU survey Platform:

- Have some limitations:
  - the exporting file is not interoperable with the SPSS software;
  - the conditional rules for the questions are a bit difficult to add, being some of them not possible to implement - we contacted EuSurvey support);
  - the platform could be much more responsive in the mobile version;
  - It doesn't allow us to see answers from the withdrawals, to understand until when they answered (other survey platforms allow);
  - The translation option should be improved;
- The option of having several languages in the same link is a plus compared to other survey platforms.

8.5 Gantt

Bellow it can be found the planning of all activities under the T1.5 "Engagement of citizens and wider dissemination":

Table 7. Gantt for the first reporting period of the T1.5

		2021		2022															
Calendar Month		11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4
										Reporting Period 1									
Meetings		KOM	WP	WP	WP	WP	AB-MB	WP	WP	WP		WP	AB-MB	WP		WP		WP	AB-MB
Project Month		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
F6S 1.5 Engagement of citizens and wider dissemination																			D1.5
1 Project Website - F6S				M3															
2 Map - F6S																			
3 Social media management - F6S																			
4 8 Newsletters - F6S					N1							N2					JN3		
5 30 Training events (Resilience Fundamental Course (R-Cities)																			
6 4 Open Seminars - F6S																			
7 100 Direct Support (Citizens) - F6S																			
8 1 Handbook/Playbook (R-Cities)																			
9 20 articles/PRs - F6S																			
10 2 Citizens Surveys - F6S																			
11 Citizen Science (Resilience Scan Tool R-Cities)																			

Table 8. Gantt for the second reporting period of the T1.5

		2023								2024									
Calendar Month		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
										Reporting Period 2									
Meetings		WP		WP		WP	AB-MB	WP		WP		AB-MB	WP		WP		WP	AB-MB
Project Month		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
F6S 1.5 Engagement of citizens and wider dissemination							D1.12											D1.13	
1 Project Website - F6S																			
2 Map - F6S																			
3 Social media management - F6S																			
4 8 Newsletters - F6S		JN4		JN5			JN6			JN7				JN8		JN9			
5 30 Training events (Resilience Fundamental Course (R-Cities)																			
6 4 Open Seminars - F6S																		OS1	
7 100 Direct Support (Citizens) - F6S																			
8 1 Handbook/Playbook (R-Cities)																			
9 20 articles/PRs - F6S																			
10 2 Citizens Surveys - F6S																			
11 Citizen Science (Resilience Scan Tool R-Cities)																			

Table 9. Gantt for the third reporting period of the T1.5

		2025											
Calendar Month		11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
						Reporting Period 3							
Meetings		WP		WP		WP	AB-MB	WP		WP		WP	AB-MB
Project Month		37	28	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
F6S 1.5 Engagement of citizens and wider dissemination													
1 Project Website - F6S													
2 Map - F6S													
3 Social media management - F6S													
4 8 Newsletters - F6S		JN10			JN11			JN12			JN13		JN14
5 30 Training events (Resilience Fundamental Course (R-Cities)													
6 4 Open Seminars - F6S		OS2				OS3			OS4				
7 100 Direct Support (Citizens) - F6S													
8 1 Handbook/Playbook (R-Cities)													
9 20 articles/PRs - F6S													
10 2 Citizens Surveys - F6S													
11 Citizen Science (Resilience Scan Tool R-Cities)													

9 Conclusions

Throughout the development of this deliverable focused on citizen engagement, we have emphasized the importance of empowering citizens, increasing their climate resilience literacy, fostering their active participation in decision-making processes and increasing their involvement in the definition, creation, and implementation of regional Innovation Packages. By collaborating with regional governments, we aim to develop and promote a platform for citizens to contribute their ideas, expertise, and local knowledge in shaping innovative climate resilience solutions.

Through our efforts, we aim to witness a significant shift in the dynamics of regional climate resilience, making citizens feel more informed, engaged, and motivated to take action. The development and implementation of regional innovation packages will benefit greatly from citizen involvement, as their unique perspectives and insights will enrich the decision-making processes.

Our citizen engagement initiatives aim not only to enhance climate resilience literacy but also to foster a sense of ownership and shared responsibility among citizens. REGILIENCE will empower citizens to play an active role in shaping the future of their communities and contributing to sustainable development.

Furthermore, our collaboration with regional governments will be instrumental in bridging the gap between policymakers and citizens. By creating an inclusive and collaborative environment, we aim to build trust and strength the partnership between these two crucial stakeholders. This collaboration will set the stage for continued cooperation and co-creation in the realm of climate resilience.

As we move forward, it is imperative to sustain the momentum generated by the citizen engagement initiatives. Ongoing efforts should focus on maintaining open lines of communication, providing continuous climate resilience education, and further integrating citizen perspectives into regional policies and initiatives.

During the development of the citizen engagement deliverable, it was demonstrated that when citizens are empowered, equipped with knowledge, and actively involved, they become a driving force in building climate resilience. By valuing their contributions and fostering meaningful participation, REGILIENCE aims to pave the way for resilient regions that can effectively adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Together, citizens and regional governments can forge a path towards a sustainable and resilient future for generations to come.

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Annex 1 - Bibliography for the citizen survey

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The EIB Climate Survey 2021-2022: Citizens call for green recovery	2022	https://doi.org/10.2867/414948
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Public Engagement on Climate Change: A Case Study Compendium	2021	https://gulbenkian.pt/uk-branch/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2021/04/Case-Study-Compendium_Public-Engagement-on-Climate-Change.pdf
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Public Engagement for Net-Zero: A Literature review	2021	https://gulbenkian.pt/uk-branch/publications/public-engagement-for-climate-change-a-literature-review/
Successful Community Participation in Climate Change Adaptation Programs: on Whose Terms?	2021	https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-020-01421-2
Beyond participation: when citizen engagement leads to undesirable outcomes for nature-based solutions and climate change adaptation	2019	https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-019-02557-9

Annex 2 – Citizen Survey Concept Note

1.   Introduction

The impacts of climate change are already being felt globally whether by the increase in extreme weather-related events such as droughts, or by a gradual change in environmental conditions and nature. There are several European and national initiatives that are supporting the development of solutions to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change, but much can be done to involve citizens in the process of developing and implementing these solutions. The problem becomes even more critical when the citizen's level of awareness, knowledge and implementation of measures could be inadequate, considering the current degree of the impacts of climate change. Since this issue is so crucial for the effectiveness of the measures, we must start there: **assess the perspectives of the citizens** for each region, bearing in mind that each region has its own effects and needs. From here, and according to their feedback, the entire process of co-developing and implementing measures can be facilitated.

The citizen survey is part of the work performed under WP1 "Engagement, communication and dissemination" which involves the design and implementation of several communication and dissemination activities with the identified target groups, enabling stakeholder and broader community.

Some of the main goals of this Work Package are:

● prepare and launch engagement activities with a diversity of stakeholders to elicit their preferences on the innovation packages,
● customise exchanges with citizen groups and increase public participation in the adoption of the innovation packages (and the testing of public-private partnership approaches),
● implement capacity-building activities in regional authorities and agencies to support them in implementing the measures proposed in the innovation packages and develop regional resilience pathways, and finally to
● communicate to broader audiences about REGILIENCE topics and results, building synergies with other initiatives and projects.

The related project's key performance indicators and impact targets are:

● Performance: "152 citizens engagement activities on climate resilience have been carried out" => Impact: "20000 citizens are more aware and engaged with climate resilience";

● Performance: "30 sharing and learning activities on climate resilience pathways have been carried out" => Impact: "600 citizens have improved their knowledge and capacities on climate resilience pathways".

This survey aims to collect information to **reflect citizen awareness and engagement, also taking into consideration different geographic, economic, social and cultural contexts.**

Conclusions will be drawn following an analysis of literacy and practices before and after **the project's execution and its climate resilience actions/good practices and will validate any changes**

after their implementation. The results are also set to unveil the needs for sustaining the climate resilience actions/good practices' lifetime at the end of the project.

The outcomes of the study will feed the project publication "Citizen Engagement Report", infographics, briefings and will be widely disseminated.

2.   State of the art

Citizen involvement in the process of adapting to climate change is crucial. According to The World Bank, citizens play a critical role in contributing and developing innovative solutions to the most diverse development challenges (The World Bank, 2022).

Progressively pieces of evidence confirms that citizen involvement can help organisations and innovation processes to achieve better results in their development and impacts felt by society (*idem*). By creating this type of citizen relationship, social inclusion and empowerment are also promoted through the sharing of knowledge (Nwachi, 2021).

In the last decade, efforts have been made to enhance citizen involvement in innovation processes and the development of innovative solutions (OECD, 2022). These efforts are often noticed in the initial stages of concept building (*idem*), for example, through needs assessment and co-creation sessions – which may include workshops, focus groups, interviews, surveys – as well as in more advanced stages of development (OECD, 2022) – through the carrying out usability, user experience and validation tests.

Evidence also shows, however, that the outcomes of citizen engagement are context-specific and depend on the ability and willingness of organisations and citizens to engage collaboratively (The World Bank, 2022). Engaging citizens is especially important in times of crisis, as the effectiveness of response efforts often depends on changing behaviour at the micro level (individual) (*idem*). Timely feedback from citizens can provide information on how the crisis/event is affecting communities, as well as allow correction of adaptation and resilience actions in short time intervals, and in rapidly evolving situations. Social, political, economic, environmental, cultural, geographic, and other factors, such as gender dynamics, shape the opportunities and effectiveness of citizen engagement. The engagement of citizens in these initiatives depends on their level of knowledge/literacy in the area under study, the perception of urgency and their usefulness (UNESCO, 2019).

What studies exist that report citizens' perceptions regarding climate change and their adaptation measures? And what do these studies say?

To better define the questions and the added value of the survey, an intensive desk research has been done and was found two main sources of information:

- **fundamental research**: to increase our base of scientific knowledge, which is more theoretical, with the intention of broadening the understanding of certain phenomena or behaviour;
- **applied research**: research that involves the practical application of science, and uses part of the accumulated theories, knowledge, methods, and techniques of research communities (mainly from Academy) for a specific purpose. Therefore, the team made a desk research where

the following sets of keywords were selected and combined in order to maximise the success of the bibliographic search:

> i) CLIMATE change; climate change perception; climate adaptation measures; climate action; climate change adaptation; climate effect; climate mitigation; climate governance; climate policy; climate risk.

> ii) CITIZEN engagement; involving citizen; citizen participation; citizen survey;

> iii) Collaboration GOVERNMENT;

> iv) SUSTAINABILITY;

> v) Environmental EDUCATION.

Based on this search, the first publications on the subject date back to the early 2000s. However, only *ca.* in 2010 it was observed a relevant increase in scientific production, having peaked in 2018 and then again in 2022.

Concerning scientific areas, publications are spread across multidisciplinary areas of knowledge, albeit being Environmental Science and Social Science, the most representative fields.

2.1 Findings from the desk research

Among the several articles, there were some that raised more awareness because they are more focused in the problematic addressed, and will be presented in the following paragraphs:

Starting with the article "Citizen engagement in climate adaptation surveyed: The role of values, worldviews, gender and place" (Brink & Wamsler, 2019). This article argues that little research and/or almost no empirical evidence exists on what inspires engagement in adaptation among different groups of citizens. In this context, the article examines the external/material aspects (e.g., resources, hazards, public support) and internal aspects (e.g., values and worldviews) that shape citizens' involvement in adaptation processes. Based on this research with Swedish citizens at risk of severe weather events, it is shown that engagement is a gendered process, mediated by personal values, worldviews, and place - aspects rarely considered in public adaptation. Economic considerations (e.g., low cost) are not the only motivation for adaptation: the potential of an adaptation action that can contribute to the implementation of new green and prosperous spaces was considered almost as (and among the women interviewed, more) motivating. Women were also more motivated to engage in adaptation if it helps other community members at risk. Motivation to adapt does not automatically translate into action and indicates a "mitigation-adaptation gap" in citizens' climate awareness, which can lead to ineffective climate responses (*idem*). Considering these findings, we discuss alternative approaches to support increased citizen engagement and more effective and transformative climate action.

The article "Principles for supporting city-citizen commoning for climate adaptation: From adaptation governance to sustainable transformation" (Wamsler & Raggers, 2018) brings together the results of two decades of research on how public and individual adaptation efforts interact before, during and after the impacts of climate disasters. Specific forms of governance of adaptation measures involving municipal administrations are examined, where citizens can help (or hinder) the creation of a strategy for more sustainable climate adaptation and transformation.

According to the article, policy approaches need to be holistic and analyse different risk factors (i.e., hazards, vulnerabilities, responsiveness, and recovery), different types of solutions (i.e., nature-based solutions), the underlying root causes (e.g., larger systems, power structures), engaging all related actors, with a focus on the most vulnerable and marginalised groups. Likewise, the complementary roles and responsibilities of actors need to be defined to ensure that risk is comprehensively addressed. Although municipal administrations play a key role in managing climate change adaptation measures and associated impacts, their effectiveness is directly related to the behaviour and level of engagement of citizens.

An article that portrays a study in the central region of Portugal is the "Citizen participation and climate change: social perceptions about climate change - a case study in the Central Region of Portugal" (Alva *et al*., 2022). This study sought to develop a strategy for involving citizens in the preparation of Local Adaptation Plans to Climate Change, through an online questionnaire survey. The sample for this study is made up of 326 individuals from 19 municipalities, mostly female (62%), between 25 and 54 years old (73%) with a university degree (86%). Of the total sample, 85% consider climate change to be a serious problem and 89% revealed that its impacts were already being felt globally. However, this perception was less evident at local (48.5%) and regional (74.2%) levels, where 9.5% believed that climate change was not a problem. With regards to the causes of climate change, 66% believed that they were anthropogenic and that citizens have a shared responsibility for tackling them (56%), changing their behaviour (98%). It was interesting to note that 76% had already participated in at least one plan/initiative associated with climate change, but only 21.4% were able to identify which one. The identification of local priorities for the adaptation plan revealed that forest management, the promotion of renewable energy, the protection of ecosystems and the development of measures to deal with natural risk were at the top of the priorities.

The questionnaire carried out by the European Investment Bank entitled "The EIB Climate Survey 2021-2022: Citizens call for green recovery" (European Investment Bank, 2022) also brings value in this matter. The main objective of this study is to find out what citizens consider to be the most effective way of dealing with the climate emergency and what kind of impact they expect from government policies on their daily lives. With four editions already held, it is concretely concluded that: a) the majority of European citizens believe that climate policies are a source of economic growth; b) climate change adaptation policies will create more jobs than they will eliminate; c) 61% of respondents believe that climate policies will improve their quality of life; d) 25% fear losing their job as it becomes incompatible with the need to mitigate climate change; e) citizens do not expect the climate crisis to end anytime soon - 66% think that climate change will be a serious problem by 2050.

Another relevant initiative in this area is the work carried out by the European Commission through the Eurobarometer. More specifically, it is the "Special Eurobarometer 513 – Climate Change" (European Commission, 2021). This initiative already has several editions, the last of which was launched in 2021. Taking the 27 member states of the European Union as a sample, a total of 26,669 citizens from different social and demographic categories were consulted. This study aims to assess citizens' perceptions on three major topics: a) perceptions of climate change: what is the position of climate change compared to other global challenges and how serious the problem of climate change is considered; b) Act on climate change: understand, according to the citizen's perception, who has the primary responsibility for addressing the problem and measures to mitigate climate change, attitudes towards actions to combat climate change, transition to clean energy , reducing fossil fuel imports, improving public health and the costs of climate change to

the economy; c) Looking to the future: where it is questioned if national governments are doing enough to face climate change; whether national governments or the European Union should set targets for renewable energy and whether they should support energy efficiency; support for the EU economy to become climate neutral by 2050; and whether the economic recovery plan should focus on the traditional economy based on fossil fuels or the new green economy. The report from this questionnaire is quite extensive, yet it clearly shows that European citizens believe that climate change is the most serious problem facing the world. More than nine out of ten respondents consider climate change a serious problem (93%), with almost eight out of ten (78%) considering it very serious.

"The Peoples' Climate Vote" (UNPD, 2021) is the largest public opinion survey on Climate Change carried out to date, which covered about 50 countries, counting more than half of the world's population. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and partners, including the University of Oxford and several non-governmental organisations (NGOs), conducted this questionnaire with the aim of connecting citizens with policymakers, gauging their level of knowledge on climate changes, and asking them what actions they think governments should take to support adaptation to change. In the survey, respondents were asked, for example, whether climate change would be a global emergency. The results showed that citizens generally want broad climate policies, well beyond the current state. For example, in eight of the ten countries surveyed with the highest emissions in the energy sector, a majority supported more renewable energy. Nine out of ten of the countries with the most urbanised populations were most supportive of using clean electric cars and buses, or bicycles. This research shows a direct link between a citizen's level of education and their desire for climate action (UNPD, 2021). There was very high recognition of the climate emergency among those who attended university or college in all countries, from low-income countries like Bhutan (82%) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (82%), to rich countries like France (87%) and Japan (82%). When it comes to age, younger people (under 18) are more likely to say that climate change is an emergency than older people. However, other age groups were not far behind, with 65% of those aged 18-35, 66% aged 36-59, and 58% of those aged over 60, illustrating how this view has become widely accepted and understood.

2.3 Summary of the key findings

There is already some evidence of the unavoidable impacts of climate change. This fact fosters the level of citizen awareness of the current climate state and favours the adoption of mitigation and adaptation actions to climate change outlined by political decision-makers (preferably) with the support of the citizen. The studies that survey citizens' perceptions of climate change, found throughout this research, mostly do so with a component of perceptions at a national level, and those that do so at a regional level are very rare.

In the various studies, it was not possible to identify and quantify the local/regional climate risks and dangers, exposure, and vulnerability of citizens, as well as the most important regional information channels, nor the way they consider to be most appropriate to integrate them into the process development of mitigation measures and adaptation to climate change.

When analysing the various sources of information, it is clear that regional aspects have an impact on the definition of adequate strategies that allow the implementation of mitigation and adaptation

actions. All regions have their own needs, as they are exposed to different climatic conditions and climate change impacts, and have their own characteristics of socio-economic, demographic, and cultural factors, meaning that they will need appropriate strategies also aimed at the actors who will be able to implement them.

There are several European and national initiatives that are supporting the development of solutions to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change, but much can be done to involve citizens in the process of developing and implementing these solutions. Considering the current degree of impact of climate change, drawbacks might transpire or become even more critical when a citizen's level of awareness, knowledge, or/and practices are deficient or not intertwined with the intended main purpose. Since this issue is so crucial for the effectiveness of measures/actions, we must start with an overall assessment of citizens' perspectives, representations and practices for each designated region, not only for a better understanding of necessities but also for better optimisation of the entire procedure and activities to be implemented. From here, and according to the collected feedback, the entire process of developing and implementing measures will be facilitated.

In this regard, and according to the critical analysis, this survey should collect information/data about socioeconomic, demographic, and cultural factors, as well as the regional information channels most used by citizens (with the aim of maximising awareness of the effects of climate change). This questionnaire should include questions that make it possible to quantify the awareness of citizens regarding their exposure and vulnerability to climate risks and local/regional hazards, to understand whether they are already implementing some measure (and, if so, which one), and also how to consider being more adequate to integrate them (if interested) in the process of developing procedures to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

3. Proposed objectives and scope

3.1 Objective and scope

The main goal of the REGILIENCE project is to develop and foster the adoption and wide dissemination of regional climate resilience good practices and actions that will support the adaptation of citizens and society to climate change, and roll them out in the seven regions, considered vulnerable and low-capacity ones by REGILIENCE project, which accepted to cooperate with the project. For this specific citizen survey, and bearing in mind that we are a Coordination and Support Action, we will discuss with the Innovation Action projects, namely, ARSINOE, IMPETUS and TransformAr, the possibility of implementing it in one region of each (having the total of up to 10 regions).

The scope of the citizen survey is restricted to climate change and climate resilience, at **regional level**, and has the following goals:

1. Quantify the awareness of citizens about:
    a. their own (local/regional) climate risks (hazards, exposure and vulnerability);

        b. the need for climate adaptation resilience of the region to the unavoidable effects of climate change;

2. Collect data to monitor citizens' perceptions of what has taken place during the project;
3. Assess the economic, social and cultural differences before and after the implementation of the project.

The expected benefits of the survey are the following:

- identify the most appropriate messages to promote the citizen's awareness and engagement with best practices and actions to be implemented by the project;
- understand how far the regional resilience actions are supported by citizens (benefit for IAs and REGILIENCE);
- validate the expert opinion from those stakeholders REGILIENCE interviewed for the selection of the 7 regions;
- feed into infographics and briefings, to be disseminated widely;
- find out how citizens can be motivated to increase their own resilience towards the regional hazards or contribute to the resilience of others;

3.2 Target audience

The survey aims to target the 7 focus regions identified by the REGILIENCE project and, up to 3 regions where Innovation Actions work.

The 7 regions selected are the following:

- **La Réunion:** this French island, located in the Indian Ocean, is home to about 860,000 people. Due to the big distance to the mainland and the importance of sustainable development, regional government wants to be 100% energy independent by using only renewable sources. They are also developing plans to preserve their natural parks and implement new bioclimatic construction methods.
- **Kentriki Makedonia:** Central Macedonia region has a population of almost 1.8 million. The area has suffered the effects of flooding more persistently over the last 5 years (e.g. flash floods). Transport infrastructures and energy consumption of public buildings are other important issues that need to be improved.
- **Jadranska Hrvatska:** The Adriatic Croatia region forms the coastal part of the country. It is home to 33% of Croatians, with about 1.37 million inhabitants. The Croatian coastal area attracts thousands of tourists every year, so local infrastructure needs to adapt to the effects of climate change to ensure that this economic activity is not affected, as well as to reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions from buildings.
- **Yuzhen tsentralen:** 1.41 million people live in this Bulgarian region. Their main priorities are to renovate buildings and prevent disaster risks; however, there is a lack of strategy/action plan for climate change mitigation. Climate adaptation and resilience needs to be recognised on national, regional and local level, in order to implement effective actions.

- **Região Autónoma da Madeira:** this autonomous region of Portugal is an archipelago composed of 4 islands, situated in the North Atlantic Ocean. There are around 250,000 people living in these islands. They have adopted SECAP (Social, Environmental and Climate Adaptation Procedures) at regional and municipal levels, as well as a regional strategy for climate change. They have developed a strategy to adapt their coastal zones, tourism and energy activities to climate change.
- **Comunidad Valenciana:** almost 5 million people live in the Valencian Community. The territory and the citizens are concerned about floods and fires, as well as the loss of the coastal areas, biodiversity and silviculture, which will be more important due to climate change.
- **Región de Murcia:** 1.488 million people live in this coastal region. They have implemented regional and national instruments on climate resilience. The region is exposed to high temperatures and the increasing coastal risks caused by climate change.

Before the 7+3 regions, it will be tested in the Centro Region of Portugal.

The project aims to collect between 50 to 100 responses from each region. This survey is targeting the general citizen from each region, because everyone will directly or indirectly feel the impacts of climate change.

3.2.1 Hindrance factors

The citizen survey will be **anonymous,** meaning that it is not possible to ensure that this survey will collect answers from the same respondents in the two iterations (baseline and comparison survey). To mitigate this, two actions will be implemented:

1- the first survey will include a question where the respondents can leave their email if they want to be contacted for future activities, including a follow up survey in 2025 – meaning that they will be contacted to respond to the second survey later;
2- on the second survey, there will be a mandatory question to assess if the respondent answered to the first survey.

Sampling and self-selection bias: citizen surveys are often conducted on a limited sample of the population, this may be a consequence of the limit of resources, namely financial, time, and human restrictions. This means that the data collection may not accurately represent the entire population, which can lead to less accurate results. On the other hand, sometimes there is a self-selection bias, where only certain types of citizens choose to participate in a survey. This can lead to an unrepresentative sample that does not reflect the views and opinions of the broader population, however, reflects the views of some of them. The dissemination strategy is tackling both biases, for example by translating the survey and campaigns to the local language and promoting in-person survey dissemination by taking advantage of local partnerships.

Being a citizen survey, it is also expected the **interpretation bias**: where the results are interpreted in a way that is consistent with the beliefs or biases of the surveyor (citizen). To minimize this

factor, it was used simple language and terms (without jargon) in the mother language. This will decrease the probability of interpretation bias.

The statistical **representativeness** of various groups and/or populations from each region, based on the data and resources available, is never guarantee. Being an online survey, even with the most appropriate tools to develop a representative sample of the population, it is not guarantee that every citizen profile is represented equally mainly because not everyone has an internet provider or devices (mobile or computer) to contribute with their answers. To address this risk, the REGILIENCE team is developing a dissemination strategy, targeting different levels of citizen engagement.

4. Implementation

4.1 Overview of the implementation process

According to already exposed, the survey will be conducted in three phases:

First phase: Test

- o Target audience: centro region of Portugal,
- o Dissemination and data collection during June 2023;
- o Assessment of results during July 2023;
- o Update of the survey according to the results;

Second phase: Baseline

- o Target audience: up to 10 regions (coming from the REGILIENCE project) + 3 coming from the IAs,
- o Dissemination and data collection by July to September 2023;
- o Assessment of results, between October and November 2023;
- o Production of the first report.

Third phase: Comparison

- o Target audience: the total of up to 7 regions,
- o Data collection between May 2025 and June 2025;
- o Assessment of results;
- o Production of a new report, including the comparison between the results of the two first phases and listing the needs for sustaining the climate resilience actions/good practices lifetime at the end of the project.

4.1.1 Overall Gantt for the "test" and "baseline" activities*

Table 10. Overall Gantt for the baseline activities

Name of the task	2023												2023	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
Establishment of the concept note and questions for the survey	■	■	■	■	■									
Testing						■	■							
Survey dissemination and data collection												■	■	■
Reporting														■

4.1.2 Gantt for the "Comparison" activities

Table 11. Overall Gantt table for the comparison activities

Name of the task	2025										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Review and update the survey		■	■								
Update communication plan			■								
Dissemination near the regions and data collection				■	■						
Reporting						■	■	■			

4.2. Dissemination

Developing a dissemination strategy to increase the data collection of a citizen survey involves several key steps. Here are some steps to consider:

- **Identify the target audience**: determine who the survey is intended for, and who is most likely to participate in the survey. This will help tailoring the dissemination strategy to the right audience. In this case it is clear that the survey aims to address citizens from the regions identified by the project.
- **Determine the key messages**: identify the most important messages that convey to the target audience. These messages should be clear, concise, and relevant to the survey.

- **Choose the appropriate channels**: identify the most effective communication channels to reach the target audience. This could include social media, email, newsletters, flyers, posters, or direct mail.
- **Utilise partnerships**: identify partners who can help promote the survey to their audiences. This could include local community groups, government agencies, or non-profit organisations.
- **Create a timeline**: develop a timeline for when the release of the survey and its promotion. **It must allow enough time for** participants to respond to the survey.
- **Track and analyse results**: monitor the response rates and adjust the dissemination strategy as necessary. Analyse the data to identify any patterns or trends that may help inform future dissemination strategies.

4.2.1 Messages

To best address the citizens, it's a good practice to include a brief explanation of why the survey is important and how the results will be used to motivate people to participate. The messages must also include a concrete call to action which will lead the reader to act and fill the survey.

Some of the messages could be:

"Make your voice heard! Participate in our citizen survey and help shape the future of your community's preparedness and response to climate change."

"Climate change is real and affects us all. Let us know how you and your community are preparing for its impacts by taking our citizen survey."

"Did you know that the impacts of climate change are already being felt in your region? Help us understand how we can better prepare and adapt by sharing your thoughts and experiences in the REGILIENCE citizen survey."

"Do you want to help make your region more prepared for climate change? Take our citizen survey and share your ideas on how we can adapt and thrive in a changing climate."

"Climate resilience is essential for a sustainable future. Your participation in our citizen survey will help us develop effective strategies to address the impacts of climate change in your region."

"Don't let climate change catch us off guard. Share your insights by participating in our citizen survey and help us plan for a better future."

"Be a part of the solution. Take our citizen survey and help us identify the most effective ways to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of climate change in your region."

"Climate change poses significant challenges to your region, but we can work together to build resilience. Take our citizen survey and let us know your priorities for adaptation and preparedness."

"Your region's future depends on your ability to adapt to a changing climate. Share your vision for a resilient future by participating in our citizen survey on climate resilience."

4.2.1.1 Translations

To build a successful social media strategy, REGILIENCE will translate the citizen survey and its campaign into national languages. Translating the campaign into national languages, it may increase the chances of reaching a wider audience. Not everyone speaks the same language, and by offering content in multiple languages, it will be easier for citizens to understand and engage with your REGILIENCE. It can also create a better connection with the audience, making it easier for them to understand and respond to the survey: citizens are more likely to engage with actions that make an effort to communicate in their language.

For that, the partners that will support the translating process are the following:

Table 12. Table for the peer review translations

Language	Partner responsible for reviewing
English	F6S
French	IEECP
Spanish	FT
Bulgarian	F6S
Croatian	REGEA
Portuguese	F6S
Greek	ICLEI

4.2.2 Communication Channels

There are several channels that can be used to disseminate a citizen survey, and the best channels to use may depend on the target audience and the nature of the survey. In this specific case, the survey aims to target citizen from the seven regions, and it was easy to list some possible options:

- Email: taking advantage of already existing databases of email addresses, can be an effective way to distribute the survey. REGILIENCE aims to use its own mailing list and to ask the cooperation of the already established regional partnerships and future ones.
- Social media: Social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn can be used to share the survey with a broad audience. The usage of targeted advertising on social media to reach specific demographic groups will be evaluated, according to the

results achieved during the implementation. REGILIENCE will take advantage of its social media channels, and ask for the cooperation of the already established regional partnerships and future ones.

- Website: if the website is frequently visited by the target audience (citizens from specific regions), it could be a good platform to promote the survey.
- Community building activities: REGILIENCE project aims to promote some community-building activities. If they occur during the data collection, it could be an effective way to collect data.
- In-person: it may be possible to "distribute" surveys in person, for example at events, public meetings and gatherings. REGILIENCE aims to ask the already established regional partnerships for their support, taking advantage of their statistics team.
- Online survey platform: The survey will be distributed via EU survey. This tool is GDPR compliant and was developed by the European Union (EU) to conduct surveys, collect data, and gather feedback from individuals and organisations across the EU member states. The citizen survey will take advantage of this tool.
- Survey interviewers or field researchers: usually regional governments have a dedicated team to in-person collect answers for a survey and other initiatives. The team aims to ask the already established partnerships (regional policy makers) for this support and to invite them to add two or three questions in the survey, only applied for the regional citizens.

4.2.2.1 Regional partnerships

Since the target audience is the citizens from each addressed region, and the project already have some partnerships taking place in all of them, namely:

Table 13. Already established regional partnerships

Region	Country	Already established local partnerships
La Réunion	France	Horizon Réunion https://energies-reunion.com/
Kentriki Makedonia	Greece	Resilient Thessaloniki office, City of Thessaloniki https://thessaloniki.gr/?lang=en
Jadranska Hrvatska	Croatia	IRENA - Istarska Regionalna Energetska Agencija (Istrian Regional Energy Agency) https://www.irena-istra.hr/en/subsites/irena/irena-en/general-information/

Yuzhen tsentralen	Bulgaria	Green Synergy Cluster https://greensynergycluster.eu/about-us/?lang=en EAP - Energy Agency of Plovdiv https://www.eap-save.eu/?lng=EN&m=18
Região Autónoma da Madeira	Portugal	AREAM (Regional Agency for Energy and Environment of the Autonomous Region of Madeira) https://aream.pt/
Comunidad Valenciana	Spain	Generalitat Valenciana https://www.gva.es/va/inicio/presentacion
Región de Murcia	Spain	Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia https://www.carm.es/web/pagina?IDCONTENIDO=1&IDTIPO=180

The REGILIENCE project aims to invite each regional representatives to include up to 3 questions in the citizen survey. Normally, each region regional organization, due to the governmental profile, has a statistics team that we will invite, whenever possible, to cooperate in the data collection phase.

To support the dissemination strategy, a research was made for each region, to understand the environment and citizen **participation organisations and univerities** that could leverage the dissemination and promote the survey near the local citizens. The results were the following can be found in the Annex 4.

4.2.3 Track and analyse results

Continuously monitoring and evaluating the data collection process will support the identification of areas for improvement and make necessary adjustments, taking informed decisions based on the results achieved. This action will optimise the data collection process to reach better results over time. To do so, it is needed to set clear goals and establish quality control measures (to ensure that the data collected is accurate, reliable, and consistent), and define the frequency of the monitoring process.

- **Goal:** collect at least 300 answers per region;
- **Quality control measures**: Understand if the questions are valid: will be made by the specialists;
- **Monitoring frequency**: two times after the beginning and before ending the dissemination.
- **Evaluation:** Positive:
  - in the first monitor, the total of valid answers should be more than 100 per region;
  - in the second monitor, the total of valid answers should be more than 200 per region.
  - If the valid answers are less than the 100 and 200 (respectively) the dissemination strategy should be analysed and improved.

4.2.3 Data analysis and reporting

Data analysis is the process of examining and interpreting the data gathered in order to gain insights, identify trends, and draw the conclusions. It involves a range of techniques, such as statistical analysis, transforming the raw data into meaningful information. The project also aims to create some infographics to be disseminated widely.

After collecting the data, there are some steps to be done:

- Descriptive global analysis;
- Descriptive analysis per region;
- Descriptive analysis between regions;
- Reporting.

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Annex 3 - Citizen Survey

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

1.1. (*) Please select the region where you live in:

- ❏ Spain: Murcia
- ❏ Spain: Comunidad Valenciana
- ❏ Portugal: Região Centro
- ❏ Portugal: Região Autónoma da Madeira
- ❏ Bulgaria: Yuzhen Tsentralen
- ❏ Croatia: Jadranska Hrvatska (Istrian County Area)
- ❏ Greece: Kentriki Makedonia + (Metropolitan region of Thessaloniki, 12 municipalities)
- ❏ France: La Réunion
- ❏ Other

  IF selected: "Other"
  END OF THE SURVEY

1.2 (*) Gender:

- ❏ Male
- ❏ Female
- ❏ Other
- ❏ Prefer not to answer

1.3. (*) Age:

- ❏ 18-24
- ❏ 25-34

❏ 35-44
❏ 45-54
❏ 55-64
❏ 65+

1.4 (*) Highest level of education you have <u>completed</u>:

❏ I have not completed any formal education
❏ Primary education
❏ Lower secondary education
❏ Upper secondary education
❏ Post-secondary non-tertiary education
❏ Short-cycle tertiary education
❏ Bachelor's degree or equivalent tertiary education level
❏ Master's degree or equivalent tertiary education level
❏ Doctoral degree or equivalent tertiary education level

IF selected: "Bachelor", "Master" or "Doctoral"
1.4.1 (*) Which? Answer: [plain text]

1.5 (*) What is your main occupation:

❏ Paid worker
❏ Unemployed
❏ Looking for a first job
❏ Retired or a pensioner
❏ Studying
❏ Student worker
❏ Without any activity
❏ Other situation.

IF selected: "Other situation":
1.5.1 (*) Which? Answer: [plain text]

1.6 (*) Do you have any difficulties paying bills:

❏ Always
❏ Sometimes
❏ Never

2. Me and Climate Change

2.1(*) From the following list, which are your three main sources of information about the environment and climate change? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)

- ❑ Television
- ❑ Social media networks and the internet
- ❑ Newspapers
- ❑ Radio
- ❑ Films and documentaries
- ❑ Family, friends, neighbours or colleagues
- ❑ Magazines
- ❑ Books or scientific publications
- ❑ Brochures or information materials
- ❑ Events (conferences, fairs, exhibitions, festivals, etc)
- ❑ Museums, national parks

2.2 (*) Have you ever heard about the following concepts:

Concept	Yes	No	I don't remember
* Climate resilience ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate			
* Climate change adaptation actions that reduce the negative impact of climate change			
* Sustainability meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs			
* Regional development about the geography of welfare and its evolution			
* Green transition a shift towards economically sustainable growth and an economy that is not based on fossil fuels and overconsumption of natural resources			

2.3 (*) How serious of a problem do you think climate change is at this moment for you?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Don't know
◉	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉

0 means   10 means

not at all a serious problem   an extremely serious problem

2.4 (*) Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

Statements	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Environmental issues have a direct effect on my daily life and health.	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉
Climate change has a negative impact on my job and income sources.	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉
I already experienced the impact of climate hazards (e.g., floods, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, etc…)	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉
My consumption habits affect the environment.	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉
Climate change is caused by human activities.	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉
Climate change is a natural phenomenon, and I cannot do anything about it.	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉
Climate change is having a significant impact in my region.	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉	◉

| My region is exposed to climate risks. | ◉ | ◉ | ◉ | ◉ | ◉ | ◉ |

| The government should increase incentives for people who try to slow down climate change. | ◉ | ◉ | ◉ | ◉ | ◉ | ◉ |

| There are more important matters than climate change. | ◉ | ◉ | ◉ | ◉ | ◉ | ◉ |

2.5(*) How the following <u>hazards/climate change impact(s)</u> are affecting your region at this moment:

Please select from "Not affecting the region", "Affecting in some ways", "Strongly affecting the region" or "I don't know".

Hazard/Climate change impact	Not affecting the region	Affecting in some ways	Strongly affecting the region	I don't know
Changing air temperature	◉	◉	◉	◉
Heat waves	◉	◉	◉	◉
Frost	◉	◉	◉	◉
Heavy precipitation	◉	◉	◉	◉
Flash floods	◉	◉	◉	◉
River floods	◉	◉	◉	◉
Droughts	◉	◉	◉	◉
Wildfires	◉	◉	◉	◉
Severe windstorms	◉	◉	◉	◉
Sea level rise	◉	◉	◉	◉
Coastal floods	◉	◉	◉	◉

2.6 (*) Considering the impacts of climate change in our region, which actions do you believe are the most important to address these challenges?

Instructions: Please select actions that you consider crucial for adapting to climate change in our region. You may choose multiple options.

❑ Improved agricultural practices and technologies.
❑ Effective water management and conservation.
❑ Protection of coastal areas vulnerable to sea-level rise.
❑ Promotion of renewable energy sources and reducing fossil fuel dependence.
❑ Strengthening public health systems for climate-related risks.
❑ Enhancing transportation infrastructure for extreme weather events.
❑ Conservation and restoration of ecosystems.
❑ Integration of climate considerations into urban planning.
❑ Encouragement of sustainable consumption and production.
❑ Implementation of waste management and recycling initiatives.
❑ Other

IF selected: "Other":

2.6.1 Which other? Answer: [plain text]

2.7 (*) Have you personally taken some action to adapt to climate change?

❑ Yes
❑ No
❑ I don't know

IF selected: "Yes":
2.7.1 Which action(s)? Answer: [plain text]

3. What is taking place in my region?

3.1 (*) Do you think that your <u>regional government</u> **is doing enough to tackle the impacts of climate change?**

❑ Nothing
❑ Not enough
❑ Enough
❑ Too much
❑ I don't know

3.2 (*) How satisfied are you with the <u>regional government</u>**'s activities on climate change adaptation?**

❏ Very satisfied
❏ Satisfied
❏ Neutral
❏ Dissatisfied
❏ Very dissatisfied
❏ I don't know

3.3 (*) Which are the main challenges your region is facing when implementing Climate-related measures? Multiple answers are possible.

❏ Lack of communication and exchange with local communities
❏ Distrust in local/regional governments
❏ Low public awareness of the importance of climate change adaptation
❏ Difficulty in getting people to commit to long-term projects
❏ People's lack of acceptance of public-private investment/partnership projects
❏ Not enough successful examples of climate adaptation measures to follow
❏ I don't know
❏ Other

IF selected: "Other":
3.3.1 Which? Answer: [plain text]

3.4 (*) Are you aware of any <u>educational or community engagement offers</u> on the impact of climate change in your region? *E.g. workshops, reading materials, training opportunities, and seminars.*

❏ Yes, I am aware of some offers.
❏ No, I am not aware of any offers.

IF selected: "Yes, I am aware of some offers.":

3.4.1 (*) Have you taken advantage of any of these offers?

❏ Yes, I have taken advantage of more than one offer.
❏ Yes, I have taken advantage of one offer.
❏ No, but I am planning to take advantage.
❏ No, and I'm not planning to take advantage.

IF selected: "Yes"
3.4.1.1 (*) Was this beneficial?
❏ Yes, they helped me change my behaviour.
❏ Yes, they helped me become more informed or aware.
❏ Not sure yet.
❏ No, I did not find them beneficial.

IF selected: "No":
3.4.1.2 (*) Why didn't you find them beneficial?
Answer: [plain text]

3.5 (*) Are you aware of any climate adaptation efforts in your Region?

❑ Yes
❑ No
❑ I don't know

If selected "Yes":

3.5.1 (*) What climate adaptation efforts are you aware in your Region?

Answer: [plain text]

3.5.2 (*) Are those efforts beneficial for your Region?

❑ Yes
❑ No
❑ I don't know

If selected "Yes":

3.5.2.1 (*) Why are they beneficial?

Answer: [plain text]

If selected "Not":

3.5.2.1 (*) Why are they not beneficial?

Answer: [plain text]

4. Final considerations

4.1 If you would like to be contacted for future activities related to the project, please leave your email address below:

Answer: [plain text]

Could you please send the survey to someone from your family or colleague?

Thank you for your answer.

Annex 4 - Mapping of relevant regional complementary organizations

REGILIENCE team mapped from the seven regions:

- associations and other forms of citizen participation organizations;
- regional universities;

Regional associations

La Reunion

- Association pour la Sauvegarde du Patrimoine et de l'Environnement de La Réunion (ASPEL): A non-profit organization founded in 1974 with the aim of preserving and protecting the natural heritage of La Reunion.
- Réunion Nature Environnement (RNE): A non-profit association founded in 1976 that aims to protect and preserve the natural environment of La Reunion. It focuses on biodiversity conservation, water resource management, and sustainable development.
- Association Réunionnaise pour la Protection de l'Environnement (ARPE): An environmental organisation founded in 1981 that focuses on environmental education, awareness-raising, and advocacy for sustainable development in La Reunion.
- Témoignages Nature: A non-profit organisation that aims to promote the protection and preservation of natural heritage in La Reunion through advocacy, education, and awareness-raising.
- Association pour la Protection de l'Environnement et des Consommateurs (APEC): A non-profit organization founded in 1982 that focuses on consumer protection and environmental advocacy in La Reunion.
- Association pour la Protection et la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement de Saint-Paul (APSE): A non-profit organisation founded in 1997 that aims to protect and preserve the natural heritage of the city of Saint-Paul in La Reunion.

Kentriki Makedonia

- Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature (HSPN): A non-profit environmental organisation founded in 1951 that focuses on biodiversity conservation, environmental education, and sustainable development in Greece, including the region of Central Macedonia.
- Ecological Recycling Society (ERS): A non-profit organisation founded in 1994 that aims to promote waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable waste management practices in Greece, including the region of Central Macedonia.
- Association for the Protection of Prespa (APP): A non-profit organisation founded in 1996 that focuses on the protection and conservation of the Prespa Lakes ecosystem, located on the border of Greece, Albania, and North Macedonia, which is a significant wetland area in Central Macedonia.

- Greenpeace Greece: The Greek branch of the international environmental organisation, Greenpeace, which works to promote environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development in Greece, including the region of Central Macedonia.
- WWF Greece: The Greek branch of the international environmental organisation, WWF, which focuses on biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development in Greece, including the region of Central Macedonia.
- Friends of the Earth Greece: The Greek branch of the international environmental organisation, Friends of the Earth, which focuses on environmental advocacy, campaigning, and policy development in Greece, including the region of Central Macedonia.

Jadranska Hrvatska
- Eko Zadar - a non-profit organisation based in Zadar that focuses on environmental protection and sustainable development in the Zadar region.
- Eko Omblići - an environmental organisation based in Split that works to preserve and protect the natural and cultural heritage of the Omblići area.
- Green Istria - an environmental organisation that works to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the Istrian peninsula.
- Javna ustanova Park prirode Biokovo - a public institution responsible for managing and protecting Biokovo Nature Park, which is located in the Dalmatian region.
- WWF Adria - a branch of the World Wildlife Fund that works to protect the natural resources of the Adriatic Sea and the surrounding region.
- Green Action Croatia (Zelena akcija): A non-profit organisation founded in 1990 that focuses on environmental protection, sustainable development, and social justice in Croatia, including the Adriatic region.
- Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation (BWI): A non-profit organisation founded in 1999 that focuses on marine conservation, research, and education in Croatia, particularly in the Adriatic Sea.
- Association Sunce: A non-profit organisation founded in 1998 that focuses on sustainable development, environmental protection, and nature conservation in Croatia, including the Adriatic region.
- Society for Sustainable Development Design (DOOR): A non-profit organisation founded in 1996 that focuses on sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation in Croatia, including the Adriatic region.
- Croatian Ecological Society (Hrvatsko ekološko društvo): A non-profit organisation founded in 1972 that focuses on environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development in Croatia, including the Adriatic region.
- Eko Kvarner: A non-profit organisation founded in 1991 that focuses on environmental protection, sustainable development, and nature conservation in the Kvarner region of Croatia, which includes several islands in the Adriatic Sea.

Yuzhen Tsentralen
- Za Zemiata - a Bulgarian environmental organisation that focuses on a wide range of issues, including climate change, air and water pollution, waste management, and sustainable development.
- Ecoglasnost - a nonprofit organisation based in Plovdiv that works to promote environmental awareness and advocacy.
- Biodiversity Foundation - an organisation that works to protect and conserve Bulgaria's biodiversity through various initiatives, including habitat restoration, education, and advocacy.

- **Green Balkans** - A non-profit organisation founded in 1988 that focuses on biodiversity conservation, environmental education, and sustainable development in Bulgaria, including the South-Central region.
- **BlueLink** - a Bulgarian environmental organisation that focuses on issues such as climate change, environmental policy, and biodiversity conservation.
- **Association of Parks in Bulgaria** - A non-profit organisation founded in 2003 that focuses on the protection and management of parks and protected areas in Bulgaria, including those in the South-Central region.
- **Balkani Wildlife Society** (BWS): A non-profit organisation founded in 1997 that focuses on wildlife conservation, research, and education in Bulgaria, including the South-Central region.
- **Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation** (BBF): A non-profit organisation founded in 2007 that focuses on biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and environmental education in Bulgaria, including the South-Central region.

Região Autónoma da Madeira

- **Quercus Madeira** - a non-profit environmental organisation based in Funchal that works to protect Madeira's natural resources, including its flora and fauna, forests, and marine ecosystems.
- **Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves** (SPEA) - Madeira branch - a birdwatching and conservation organisation that works to protect and conserve the birdlife of Madeira.
- **Associação de Defesa do Ambiente da Madeira** (ADAM) - an environmental organisation that focuses on issues such as waste management, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable tourism.
- **ARDITI** - a research and development organisation that works on a variety of environmental issues, including renewable energy, climate change, and sustainable tourism.
- **Parques Naturais da Madeira** - a public institution responsible for managing and protecting Madeira's natural parks and other protected areas.
- **Madeira Whale Museum** - an educational and research institution focused on the marine biodiversity of the Madeira archipelago.

Comunidad Valenciana

- **Acció Ecologista Agró** - an environmental organisation that works to promote sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation.
- **Greenpeace Valencia** - a local chapter of the international environmental organisation that works on various issues, including climate change, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development.
- **SEO/BirdLife Comunidad Valenciana** - a birdwatching and conservation organisation that works to protect and conserve the birdlife of the region.
- **Fundación Line** - an organisation that works to protect and conserve the wetlands of the Albufera Natural Park in Valencia.
- **Xúquer Viu** - an environmental organisation that focuses on the protection and restoration of the Xúquer River basin's ecosystems and biodiversity.
- **Fundación Global Nature** - a non-profit organisation that works on various environmental projects in the region, including biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, and ecotourism.
- **Asociación de Naturalistas del Sureste** (ANSE) - an environmental organisation that works on various issues, including marine conservation, wildlife protection, and sustainable development.

● Associació per la Defensa de la Natura (ADN): A non-profit organisation founded in 1984 that focuses on environmental protection, sustainable development, and nature conservation in the Valencian Community.
● Grup d'Acció Valencianista i Ecologista (GAVE): A non-profit organisation founded in 1995 that focuses on environmental protection, social justice, and cultural identity in the Valencian Community.
● Plataforma per la Defensa de l'Aigua i la Terra del Camp de Morvedre: A non-profit organisation founded in 2007 that focuses on environmental protection, water management, and sustainable development in the Camp de Morvedre region of the Valencian Community.

Región de Murcia

● ANSE (Asociación de Naturalistas del Sureste) - A non-profit organisation founded in 1973 that focuses on environmental protection, sustainable development, and nature conservation in the Murcia Region.
● Ecologistas en Acción: A non-profit organisation founded in 1986 that focuses on environmental protection, social justice, and sustainable development in Spain, including the Murcia Region. Ecologistas en Acción Murcia is the local chapter of the Spanish environmental organisation that works on various issues, including air and water pollution, waste management, and sustainable development.
● Fundación Sierra Minera - a non-profit organisation founded in 2000 that focuses on the conservation and restoration of natural and cultural heritage in the Sierra Minera region of the Murcia Region.
● CARMaqua - an environmental organisation that focuses on marine conservation and sustainable tourism in the region.
● Regenera Murcia - an organisation that promotes sustainable living practices, including waste reduction, composting, and urban agriculture.
● Plataforma Pro-Soterramiento de Murcia - an organisation that advocates for the underground construction of the high-speed train line through the city of Murcia to minimise its environmental impact.
● Asociación Columbares: A non-profit organisation founded in 1991 that focuses on environmental protection, sustainable development, and social integration in the Murcia Region.
● Plataforma Pacto por el Mar Menor: A non-profit organisation founded in 2016 that focuses on the protection and restoration of the Mar Menor coastal lagoon in the Murcia Region.
● Proyecto Abraham: A non-profit organisation founded in 1994 that focuses on social and environmental initiatives, including sustainable agriculture, recycling, and energy efficiency, in the Murcia Region.

Regional universities

La Reunion

● University of La Réunion (Université de La Réunion) and was founded in 1982. It offers a range of undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including arts, humanities, social sciences, science and technology, law, and health sciences. The university has multiple campuses located across the island and is recognized for its research in fields such as marine biology, volcanology, and tropical medicine.

Kentriki Makedonia

- <u>Aristotle University of Thessaloniki</u>: This is the largest university in Greece and is located in the city of Thessaloniki. It was founded in 1925 and offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including arts, humanities, social sciences, science and technology, engineering, and medicine.
- <u>University of Macedonia</u>: This is a public university located in the city of Thessaloniki. It was founded in 1990 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in economics, business administration, social sciences, and humanities.
- <u>International Hellenic University</u>: This is a private university located in the city of Thessaloniki. It was founded in 2005 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including business administration, law, social sciences, and engineering.
- <u>Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki</u>: This is a public higher education institution located in the city of Thessaloniki. It was founded in 1983 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including engineering, technology, business administration, and agriculture.

Jadranska Hrvatska

- <u>University of Split</u>: This is a public university located in the city of Split, which is located on the central Dalmatian coast. It was founded in 1974 and offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including humanities, social sciences, science and technology, medicine, and law.
- <u>University of Dubrovnik</u>: This is a public university located in the city of Dubrovnik, which is located on the southern Dalmatian coast. It was founded in 2003 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including tourism, economics, engineering, and marine sciences.
- <u>Juraj Dobrila University of Pula</u>: This is a public university located in the city of Pula, which is located on the Istrian peninsula. It was founded in 2006 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including humanities, social sciences, science and technology, and economics.
- <u>University of Rijeka</u>: This is a public university located in the city of Rijeka, which is located on the Kvarner Bay. It was founded in 1973 and offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including humanities, social sciences, science and technology, and law.

Yuzhen Tsentralen

- <u>Plovdiv Medical University</u>: is a public university located in the city of Plovdiv. It was founded in 1945 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in medicine, dental medicine, and pharmacy.
- <u>Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv</u>: is a public university located in the city of Plovdiv. It was founded in 1961 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including humanities, social sciences, science and technology, and law.

- Technical University of Gabrovo: This is a public university located in the town of Gabrovo. It was founded in 1964 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including engineering, economics, and humanities.
- St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo: is a public university located in the city of Veliko Tarnovo. It was founded in 1963 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including humanities, social sciences, science and technology, and education.

Região Autónoma da Madeira

- University of Madeira (Universidade da Madeira) and was founded in 1988. It offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including arts, humanities, social sciences, science and technology, engineering, and health sciences. The university is located in the city of Funchal, which is the capital of Madeira, and is recognized for its research in areas such as marine sciences, environmental studies, and social sciences.

Comunidad Valenciana

- University of Valencia: is a public university located in the city of Valencia, which is the capital of the Valencian Community. It was founded in 1499 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including humanities, social sciences, science and technology, medicine, and law.
- Polytechnic University of Valencia: is a public university located in the city of Valencia. It was founded in 1968 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including engineering, architecture, and technology.
- Jaume I University: is a public university located in the city of Castellón de la Plana. It was founded in 1991 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including humanities, social sciences, science and technology, and business administration.
- Miguel Hernández University of Elche: is a public university located in the city of Elche. It was founded in 1996 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including humanities, social sciences, science and technology, and health sciences.

Región de Murcia

- University of Murcia: is a public university located in the city of Murcia, which is the capital of the Region de Murcia. It was founded in 1272 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including humanities, social sciences, science and technology, and health sciences.
- Polytechnic University of Cartagena: is a public university located in the city of Cartagena. It was founded in 1998 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including engineering, architecture, and technology.
- Catholic University of San Antonio: is a private university located in the city of Murcia. It was founded in 1996 and offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including humanities, social sciences, science and technology, and health sciences.
- University of Murcia-Catholic University of San Antonio Joint Campus: This is a joint campus located in the city of Murcia that combines the resources of the University of Murcia and the Catholic University of San Antonio. It offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including humanities, social sciences, science and technology, and health sciences.