

## D1.3 Networking activities, including their description and evaluation v1

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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 10 vulnerable and low-capacity 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.

The project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101036560.

## Project partners





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## Abbreviations

EU MRS WEEK	EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week
EURESFO	European Urban Resilience Forum
EU Regions Week	European Week of Regions and Cities
EUSBSR	EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
EUSDR	EU Strategy for the Danube Region
EUSAIR	EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region
EUSALP	EU Strategy for the Alpine Region
EIB	European Investment Bank
MRS	Macro-Regional Strategies
NCFF	Natural Capital Finance Facility



## Executive Summary

This report aims to provide an overview of the already implemented activities of the REGILIENCE project within large-scale events. More specifically, it offers an outline of three sessions organised in the framework of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Macro-Regional Strategies Week, the 9<sup>th</sup> European Urban Resilience Forum and the 10<sup>th</sup> EU Week of Regions and Cities. The presented activities shed a light on the role of different regional approaches to climate change adaptation through resilient transformational pathways. Looking at specific technical innovations, governance processes and financial frameworks, the sessions represented a good opportunity not only for project partners but importantly for all attendees to exchange and discuss the latest resilience issues, needs and opportunities.

On the one hand, the report highlights that the participation of the coordination action project REGILIENCE, together with the innovation action projects ARSINOE, IMPETUS and TransformAr has a relevance in the dissemination of best practices and case studies of adaptation strategies to the changing climate. This has demonstrated high potential in the European arena for the replication of adaptive technical measures, but also of financial and funding schemes, approaches, and solutions. At the same time, this document shows that the participation in large-scale events allows co-development and co-creation processes that may define, shape, and even change the project plans and agendas according to specific needs and priorities. This also enriches the programmes of knowledge, experiences and ideas from practitioners, experts, and other stakeholders. The aim is, in this sense, to maximise synergies with ongoing processes and programmes while avoiding duplication and overlaps.

Research and new developments in climate change adaptation are key and a recognised priority in Europe, and this deliverable explores the importance of dissemination, outreach, and peer-to-peer exchange to accelerate this process and contribute to the European Strategy of Adaptation to Climate Change. For this reason, this document is only the first of a series of reports aiming to provide a briefing of the main dissemination activities of the REGILIENCE project.



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of the report

REGILIENCE, as a Coordination & Support Action (CSA) project – funded by the European Commission under the subtopic (2) “Support the design, testing and upscale of Innovation Packages” of the topic LC-GD-1-3-2020 “Climate-resilient Innovation Packages for EU regions” – aims to foster the adoption and wide dissemination of regional climate resilience pathways and has among its tasks to support the 3 Innovation Actions – Innovation Package projects (from now on referred as ‘Innovation Packages’), funded under the subtopic (1) “Innovation Packages for transformational adaptation of European regions and communities” of the same topic: ARSINOE, IMPETUS and TransformAr<sup>1</sup>.

To reach this goal, REGILIENCE, through WP1, will engage, upgrade, and strengthen synergies between tools, initiatives, and networks, to drive transformational change at regional and local level, through multi-stakeholder dialogue, engagement, and cooperation with pan-European regional, cities networks, and established partnerships, as part of *T1.3 Network knowledge exchange*.

Led by ICLEI Europe, this task aims to foster knowledge management cooperation amongst the existing networks, strengthen the knowledge of the EU Community of Practice (established within the EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change<sup>1</sup>) on regional resilience pathways, and to benefit from its knowledge for the implementation of the Innovation Packages and the development of pathways in the REGILIENCE 7 focus regions. It will also foster shared and cooperative learning and coordination amongst regions and communities where common needs, priorities or interests were identified. Within Task 1.3, REGILIENCE will disseminate, discuss, and upgrade existing knowledge on policies, the regulatory framework and governance structures regarding resilience and climate adaptation, considering the national, regional, and local level for all regions included in the Innovation Packages and those prioritised under this project.

This report, **D1.3 Networking activities, including their description and evaluation v1**, describes the preparation, development, and main outcomes of the large-scale workshops (in total 3/8), organised in the first 18 months of the project duration, within other established events with sub-focus on regional resilience, such as the European Week for Regions and Cities and the Macro-regional Strategies Week. The ICLEI-led European Urban Resilience Forum host the first annual event gathering regional stakeholders from the Innovation Packages. In addition to the above, a regular exchange between the Innovation Packages has been established, in the form of a bi-monthly update open to regions and their stakeholders (see more details in D5.3).

The related impact targets are listed below:

- 50 institutions, projects or initiatives are actively coordinating or cooperating during the project period.

Furthermore, the aimed impacts will all be followed and quantified with project-internal Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) developed. The associated Key Performance Indicators (KPI) are the following:

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<sup>1</sup> [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/adaptation-climate-change\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/adaptation-climate-change_en)



- 290 individual support activities have been provided to prioritised regions on climate resilience pathways, **including 8 major events**, 50 workshops/webinars;
- 30 sharing & learning activities on climate resilience pathways have been carried out.

## 1.2 Structure of the report

This document aims to provide information about the strategy developed in the framework of the REGILIENCE project to foster knowledge management cooperation amongst the existing networks and provide prioritised and customized tools and matching opportunities for dissemination and uptake of solutions developed by Innovation Packages, as well as other related Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe projects and further initiatives.

**The report is divided into 3 main sections and corresponding chapters:**

- This introduction (Chapter 1), provides background on the relevance of these knowledge exchange activities, under the broader scope of the European Community of Practice established within EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change and further initiatives;
- Chapter 2 illustrates the overall objectives of the large-scale workshops, including a detailed description of the programme development and methodology used for each session, as well as key highlights and main takeaways from the discussions;
- Chapter 3 reflects on the learning from this first round of events and knowledge exchange opportunities, to pave the way for the upcoming activities and workshops to be planned by the end of the project.

## 1.3 Gender statement

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<sup>2</sup> and advocated in the European and international arena<sup>3</sup>, 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, they 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.

Within this deliverable and throughout the different events organised, the authors guaranteed the equal access and inclusion of different gender perspectives, by:

- Widely communicating and extending the invitation for attending the events to all people, regardless of their gender.
- Ensuring an equal number of women and men as speakers.



- Providing equal space and power to all genders when moderating a discussion.

## 2 Large scale workshops (2021-2022)

Unveiled in 2021 by the European Commission, the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change aims to prepare Europe to face climate change impacts by indicating pathways to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce regions' vulnerability. In addition, the EC launched the Mission for Adaptation to Climate Change that fosters the development of innovative solutions and engages with and empower regions, cities and communities to evolve and adapt to climate change. The Mission aims to help maximize the impact of the EU's support for research and innovation and demonstrates its relevance for society and citizens. It represents a key instrument for regions and communities that seek to accelerate their actions and commitment to become climate resilient by 2050.

In this framework, the Horizon 2020 projects ARSINOE, IMPETUS, TransformAr and REGILIENCE started a series of cooperation activities and broader exchanges, in the format of large-scale workshops, with the aim of strengthening the existing networks at European level. These events gathered regional and local adaptation practitioners, national representatives, academia and stakeholders from the private sector.

Through joint meetings, the consortia of the four projects have periodically reviewed and discussed opportunities to engage and participate in different events. While REGILIENCE and the IAs representatives have attended many activities both online and in-person, independently as a project or in a multi-project collaboration, this document focuses and provides detailed information on three large-scale events: the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week; the 9<sup>th</sup> European Urban Resilience Forum; the 20<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities. These events have been selected for a few main reasons:

- Topic of the event and opportunity for cross-project contributions
- Opportunity to learn from others and disseminate the projects outcomes to a relevant audience
- Relevance of the event in the European and international arena
- Networking opportunities
- Availability of partners

This section describes the exchanges held on financial challenges, needs for access to data and knowledge, as well as on the opportunities to involve citizens in the climate resilience building, and to present the innovative tools and solutions under development, to collect diversified inputs and replication potential opportunities.

### 2.1 3<sup>rd</sup> EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week

#### 2.1.1 About the event

The EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week (EU MRS WEEK) is the biggest Brussels-based event dedicated to connecting key stakeholders from line Ministries of the four Macro-regional Strategies - MRS (EUSBSR, EUSDR, EUSAIR, EUSALP<sup>2</sup>) and beyond, representatives of EU institutions,

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<sup>2</sup> EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, EU Strategy for the Danube Region, EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region, EU Strategy for the Alpine Region



research and academia, various sectors, civil society organisation and citizens. The EU MRS Week helps improve public understanding of the benefit of MRS, it features debates about their future development, it coordinates exchanges and best practises among the four MRS, and it improves the overall understanding of the broad impact of Cohesion Policy on the Commission priorities (e.g. European Green Deal, A Stronger Europe in the World).

The third edition followed the motto Engage, Empower, Evolve, centred on three topics: Youth, European Green Deal, and Social Change. From 7-11 March 2022, the EU MRS Week engaged stakeholders from across the four MRS and the EU institutions, to empower them to take charge of the opportunities MRS offer in order to evolve their Macro-Regions towards a smart and sustainable future in the 2021-2027 programming period. With 2022 being the European Year of Youth, the 3rd EU MRS Week put a special notion on how MRS empower young people to become active citizens and actors of positive change, to promote opportunities provided by EU policies for young people and to include the ideas and visions of young people.

For the first time, a call for stakeholder sessions was launched around the three chosen topics to form part of the programme. These sessions broadened involvement and gave various stakeholders from the EU and beyond to possibility to shape the EU MRS Week with the organisers. All stakeholder sessions were held in digital formats.

## 2.1.2 Session description

**Format:** Panel Discussion – Online

**Title:** Transformative Action for Climate Resilient and Adaptive Regions

**Date:** 9 March 2022

**Duration:** 90 min

**Organising partners:** EU H2020 funded projects REGILIENCE, ARSINOE, IMPETUS, TransformAr

### Concept and objectives:

This session is co-organised by four EU Horizon 2020 projects addressing specifically regional transformation towards climate adaptation and resilience. By coordinating to identify common goals, challenges and focus areas, as well as maximize efficiencies and synergies, REGILIENCE, ARSINOE, IMPETUS and TransformAr will achieve the best possible outcomes for regions and communities impacted by climate change. These projects have received funding under the Green Deal Call 1.3 on 'Climate-resilient Innovation Packages for EU regions' and were officially kicked-off in Autumn 2021. By assessing and improving regional climate resilience, these projects will help them prepare for future crises and reduce their associated risks.

In light of the implementation of the Mission to Climate Change Adaptation, the session had the objective to:

- Raise the relevance and necessity for integrated climate adaptation for regions;
- Explain the opportunities of working together in a project cluster, by providing an overview of tools, processes and impact of the four projects laying the groundwork for potential collaborations with other stakeholders and partners in the upcoming months and years;
- Showcase the approach and existing good practices from regions as well as the motivation of regional partners to step forward regional climate action;
- Agree upon important steps for scaling up action in regions in the next months and years.



## Methodology:

The session has been organised as a panel discussion format and split in three main parts: a keynote speech to set the scene on the EU Mission for Adaptation to Climate Change, followed by video testimonials presenting innovative action plans of regional demonstrators involved in ARSINOE, IMPETUS and TransformAr projects, and a panel discussion. A detailed agenda can be found in the Annex I.

**Keynote speaker:** Johannes Klumpers, DG CLIMA, Head of Secretariat for Climate Adaptation Mission

**Video testimonials:** 3 short video testimonials from regional demonstrators on 1) why is the work carried out in such a project important for them; 2) what are the main challenges for climate resilience that they face; and 3) what are the main activities and how they intersect with regional challenges, focuses, needs and existing (project) activities. The proposed testimonials are:

- Eleni Myrivili, Chief Heat Officer, Region of Attica (ARSINOE project)
- Marie-Edith Vincennes ADEME, Research Project Manager, Guadeloupe Region (TransformAr project)
- Artur Pencura, Project Manager, Zemgale Planning region (IMPETUS project)

The session moved forward with a panel discussion with the following speakers:

- Stefania Manca, Technical Coordinator Climate Adaptation Partnership Urban Agenda for the EU
- Chrysi Laspidou, ARSINOE project coordinator, University of Thessaly, Greece
- Alessio Satta, Research Director, MEDSEA Foundation, Sardinia, Italy
- Laurence Couldrick, Chief Executive Officer West Country Rivers Trust, West Country Region, UK
- Giovanni Luigi Brumat, Cantina Toblino viticulture cooperative, Trentino, Italy

**Facilitated by:** Vasileios Latinos and Jole Lutz, ICLEI Europe

The moderators ensured that the session could work well in digital format by moving directly into the panel discussion, without having initial statements from the speakers; tailored questions have been addressed to each speaker, while the speakers had also been advised to challenge each other and direct questions to fellow speakers. All panellists were properly briefed (including an internal preparatory session several days before the event) and had proven to have high quality skills and experience in participating in online/digital events.

Guiding questions provided to the speakers prior to the event:

- What does the implementation of the new EU Adaptation Strategy mean for regional authorities and communities? How does this link to the Mission for Adaptation to Climate Change and Societal Transformation?
- What is in the pipeline for regions to build resilience in the upcoming months and years and how does this link to efforts for green and resilient recovery from Covid-19 and beyond?
- How to make resourcing and financing adaptation less complex for regions and how to overcome the 'adaptation-gap', (especially now that cities and regions are looking further than the current global pandemic crisis and plan for a resilient future)?



Throughout the session, the audience was encouraged to actively participate, by utilizing the chat box to share their name and location, as well as a series of polls to keep the attendees interested and connected. The Q/A section also ensured interaction with the speakers. Close to the end of the session, a final poll asked to share key takeaways in the chat box.

### 2.1.3 Main outcomes

The EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change aims to support at least 150 regions and communities to become climate resilient by 2050. Under step 3 of the mission's implementation plan, the formulation of a vision and transformative pathway to climate resilience is envisaged. It is however not straightforward for EU communities, cities and regions to choose and apply a method. The session gave an overview of approaches and tools for adaptation pathways, as well as innovative actions that will be tested across the regional demonstrators involved in the ARSINOE, IMPETUS and TransformAr projects.

The ARSINOE project will shape the pathways to resilience by bringing together SIA (Systems Innovation Approach) and the CIW (Climate Innovation Window), to address the growing complexity, interdependencies and interconnectedness of modern societies and economies, focusing on the functions of the cross-sectoral system “as a whole” and on the variety of actors. IMPETUS has demonstration sites in 7 of Europe's 11 biogeographical regions, as defined by the European Environment Agency. In these sites, the project team is testing various relevant technologies and nature-based solutions that will mitigate the local impacts of climate change, while engaging with local communities, policymakers and businesses in co-creation of knowledge, policies and innovative approaches. The methods chosen aim to encourage ‘ownership’ of adaptation measures by local stakeholders so they can sustain activities beyond the projects lifetime. The TransformAr project aims to develop and demonstrate solutions and pathways to achieve rapid and far-reaching transformational adaptation (TA) across the EU. The project will combine cross-sectoral and multi-scale innovation packages, by delivering user-friendly, accessible, and comprehensive multi-sector dynamics data services relevant to transformational adaptation and its water-related challenges and fit the needs of public and private. It aims to accelerate investment for TA across the EU by means of demonstrating bankability and innovative financial schemes; consolidate a catalogue of solutions and IPs, associated guidance documents, and an understanding of the acceptance and preference of citizens of solutions for transformational adaptation.

## 2.2 9<sup>th</sup> European Urban Resilience Forum

### 2.2.1 About the event

The 9th edition of the European Urban Resilience Forum (EURESFO) took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of September in Athens, Greece. The event gathered once again city representatives, researchers, and stakeholders from local and regional institutions to discuss strategies and actions for adapting to climate change, building urban resilience and managing climate-related disasters.

The forum has been co-organised by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the European Environment Agency. Based on a “PowerPoint free” format, EURESFO kept its informative, open, and interactive character. Through different formats of sessions and



workshops, participants had the opportunity to exchange on the number of challenges faced by European cities and regions as well as the measures in place to address them.

An interactive marketplace was also set-up, where participants had the opportunity to hear short project pitches, get their hands-on climate resilience assessments, and try decision support tools from different exhibitors, while having the chance to network and kick-start key collaborations.

## 2.2.2 Session description

**Format:** Workshop – In person

**Title:** Transformative pathways for a more resilient, regional development in Europe and beyond

**Date:** 15 September 2022

**Duration:** 120 min

**Organising partners:** EU H2020 funded projects REGILIENCE, ARSINOE, IMPETUS, TransformAr

### Concept and objectives:

The EU Horizon 2020 funded projects ARSINOE, IMPETUS and TransformAr have started in 2021 assessing climate risks and developing pathways in 23 regions and communities across Europe. In addition, the project REGILIENCE facilitates the upscaling of the most promising resilience solutions: supporting their implementation in highly impacted and low-capacity regions in Europe and replication beyond those; communicating through various channels and actions; and inspiring policymakers, organizations, and individuals to become part of this transformational change.

This session represented a great opportunity, 1 year since the project started, to foster shared collective learning and coordination amongst the existing networks, to discuss with actors from the regional and community levels about the challenges faced, and to agree on the joint way forward for the next years. In particular, it displayed to a broad audience of European stakeholders how European regions can benefit from the projects' solutions portfolio and upcoming activities and how to engage further with them.

### Methodology:

The session has been organised as a workshop format and divided in two parts, including a keynote speech to set the scene on “Accelerating climate adaptation action for a resilient Europe: the role of regional and community risk assessments, pathways, adaptation action pilots and demo sites”. In the second part, participants were moving around three tables in the World Café, followed by a panel discussion. A detailed agenda can be found in the Annex I.

**Keynote speaker:** Johannes Klumpers, DG CLIMA, Head of Secretariat for Climate Adaptation Mission

### World Café

Participants clustered into three tables to discuss the following topics:

- **Involving and engaging stakeholders throughout Europe:** In a moment when climate change stakeholders are overwhelmed by too many messages and too many



opportunities, in this breakout session projects will present upcoming opportunities for interaction and will gather feedback on how to best involve and communicate with stakeholders;

- **Replicating climate adaptation innovation for a resilient Europe:** Replication must become a key component of climate change adaptation projects, if we aim at a European goal of resilience already by 2050. This breakout session will investigate and gather inputs on how to best ensure replication of innovative solutions within and beyond the 4 projects can be achieved and best coordinated;
- **Climate adaptation indicators: monitoring opportunities and challenges:** The four projects will produce a common set of indicators to measure climate adaptation, coordinated with the work undertaken by the European Environmental Agency (EEA). It is thus clear that the alignment of methodologies and action is needed to make results comparable and to avoid repetition. In this breakout session, participants provided insights on how to best coordinate the development of indicators through an inclusive process where feedback from outside parties was welcome.

#### Table hosts:

- Chrysi Laspidou, ARSINOE project coordinator, University of Thessaly
- Rim Khamis, Project Manager, Acterra (TransformAr project)

Tereza Hnátková, Principal investigator & Senior Researcher, Czech University of Life Sciences (TransformAr project)

**Facilitated by:** Luca Arbau, Officer Urban Resilience and Climate adaptation, ICLEI Europe

#### Proposed structure

- The moderator introduced the World Café process to the participants, setting the context, sharing the Cafe Etiquette, and putting participants at ease.
- Small group discussion – Round 1: The “table host”/moderator from each group set the scene. Each round was prefaced with a question specially crafted for the specific context and desired purpose of the breakout.
- Participants move to a different table: The appointed lead and “table host” stayed in the same table and welcomed the next group, by briefly filling them in on what had happened in the previous round.
- Small group discussion – Round 2: The same question previously used was kept for the following round as well, or in some case built upon a following one to focus the conversation or guide its direction.
- To close the world café, table hosts were invited to share insights or other results from their discussions.



Figure 1. EURESFO 2022, Athens - Photo by Stephan Kohler, ICLEI Europe

## Panel discussion

### Speakers:

- Harriët Tiemens, Director Green Metropolitan Region Arnhem-Nijmegen
- Ana-Maria Mitroi-Ciobica, Transport Specialist European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Konstantina Karydi, Senior Advisor Resilient Cities Catalyst, Climate Change Hub Greece

**Facilitated by:** Jole Lutz, Officer Urban Resilience and Climate Adaptation, ICLEI Europe

The following guiding questions were directed to the speakers to foster discussion and interactive exchange:

- Q to Harriët Tiemens: From the Green metropolitan region of Arnhem-Nijmegen, we could look at a number of examples of successful cooperation and coordination among different institutional bodies and stakeholders - and how the regional strategies can align to national plans, to guide and support the local scale in up taking and implementing specific actions on the ground. We know the region includes 18 cooperating municipalities, effectively coordinates, and has intensive partnerships with representatives of the knowledge institutions and enterprises. How does this work?
- Q to Ana-Maria Mitroi-Ciobica: With the need to adapt becoming more urgent and the increase in financial flows towards this goal, it is key to be able to demonstrate the progress achieved. Which are the main aspects EIB is looking at, in terms of monitoring and indicators from the projects you are working on?
- Q to Konstantina Karydi: Based on your previous experience supporting city to city relations and peer exchange, you have quite a horizontal overview of the local priorities and challenges faced when transposing key urban policies required from the European union level. Would you like to share with us your perspective on how to make sure replication and up-scaling of successful interventions across different context could support in this sense? What kind of mechanisms have you experienced along the way and what would be the learnings you may bring to this audience, to support them moving forward?



## 2.2.3 Main outcomes

The Mission for Adaptation to Climate Change launched by the European Commission represents a key instrument for regions and communities that will need to accelerate their actions and commitment to become resilient by 2050. This workshop displayed to a broad audience of European stakeholders how regions can benefit from the different ongoing projects' solutions and upcoming activities and how they can engage further with them. In order to engage with stakeholders adequately, it is necessary to prove that actions are being taken and that their voices are being heard. However, it is important to make a good choice of the type of stakeholders that should be involved. Trying to refuse destructive thoughts and bringing in constructive ones is crucial, even if this gathering of ideas can lead to a scenario of conflicts of interest. On the other hand, to avoid breaking the consensus between all stakeholders, it is fundamental to define these interests and be strategic in incorporating them into the design process. Identifying different profiles and concerns to then separate them into groups can be helpful for that. In this classification, most disadvantaged groups should also be engaged by proactively approaching them instead of waiting for them to approach, as it is being done in Greece. The actions to be developed must be tracked by using indicators. All the necessary components when defining an indicator need to be examined in detail, which includes evaluating the impacts and side effects of adaptation actions. Data management is also an important element for that; how administrations interact and how work needs to be done in an integrated way depends directly on proper data management. Replicating other projects' activities also need to become a key component to build climate resilient regions. As problems that two different projects are being faced with might be quite similar, there is an opportunity to learn what works or not and generate new knowledge from it. In this way, the economic resources are better used, and the qualitative assessment is improved upon. For that purpose, it is necessary to be immersed in the specificities of the place and its stakeholders' landscape and start from what did succeed.

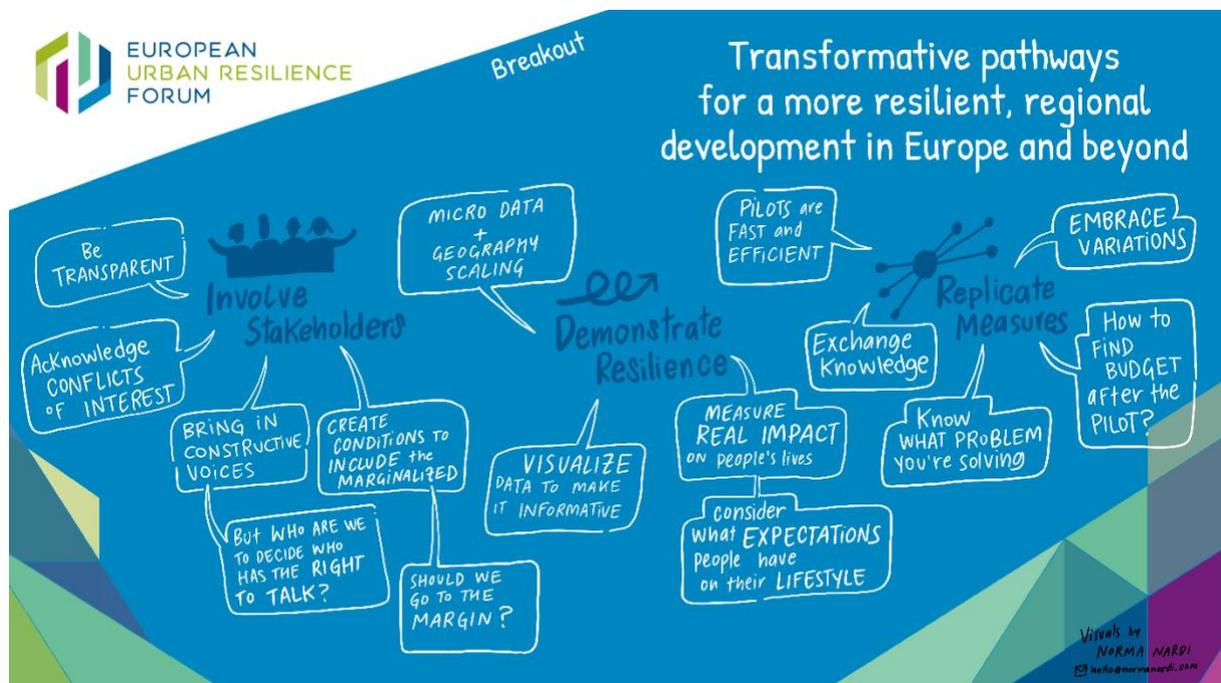


Figure 2. Graphic recording by Norma Nardi

## 2.3 20<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities



### 2.3.1 About the event



Figure 3. EURegionsWeek22 <<https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/>>

The European Week of Regions and Cities (#EURegionsWeek)<sup>3</sup> is the biggest annual event dedicated to cohesion policy. It has grown to become a unique communication and networking platform, bringing together regions and cities from all over Europe, including politicians, administrators, experts and academics. Over the last 19 years, it has done much to promote policy learning and the exchange of good practices.

The 20th edition provided the opportunity to debate, keeping communities connected, exchanging best practices and ideas between partners and participants on four themes: **Green transition, Territorial Cohesion, Digital transition, Youth empowerment.**

### 2.3.2 Session description

**Format:** Participatory Lab - Online

**Title:** Transformative pathways for a more resilient, regional development in Europe and beyond

**Date:** 11 October 2022

**Duration:** 90 min

**Organising Partners:** Eurecat Centro Tecnológico de Cataluña, Fresh Thoughts Consulting GmbH, Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy (IEECP), Local Governments for Sustainability - ICLEI Europe, University of Antwerpen, University of Thessaly (UTH)

#### Concept and objectives:

Regional pilot projects and innovation actions from four EU H2020 funded projects (ARSINOE, TransformAR, IMPETUS and REGILIENCE) have been presented at this interactive lab. By assessing and improving regional climate resilience, these projects will help them prepare for future crises and reduce their associated risks. In this framework, new tools and methodologies

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<sup>3</sup> <https://eu.app.swapcard.com/event/euregionsweek-2022>



help regions and communities to better understand, plan and develop strategies tailored to their needs that will maximise their resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The session had the objective to leverage regional innovation for climate adaptation, featuring case studies and good practices on a variety of topics, from Nature-Based Solutions and biodiversity to flooding prevention, tackling droughts and heat waves, and fighting water scarcity. Regional government representatives paired with EU institutions such as the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission. The session did not only target local and regional governments, but also individuals, policymakers, and businesses.

### Methodology:

The session was organised as a panel discussion, including a keynote speech and short pitches by all the panellists. A detailed agenda can be found in the Annex I.

### Speakers:

- Elissavet Bargianni, Landscape architect, City of Athens, Greece
- Chrysi Laspidou, University of Thessaly (ARSINOE project coordinator)
- Sebastian Schlecht, Architect and Urban planner, Region of North Rhine-Westphalia

**Facilitated by:** Vasileios Latinos, Coordinator Urban Resilience and Climate Adaptation, ICLEI Europe

Following a short pitch presentation from each speaker, the panel provided an open discussion where participants from policy and practice reflected on what they see as novel activities for accelerating resilience and what the adaptation community should be taking away with them as challenges and ideas that might lead to faster, more pervasive action for regional development towards climate resilience.

The moderator provided speakers with the following guiding questions for discussion:

- Replication of innovative solutions is a key component of the Mission and all projects in the cluster. Which is the replication potential in other regions of the best practices you presented today?
- How do we evolve towards resilient communities lived in and protected by engaged and empowered citizens?
- Which initiatives and programs will help with this? Which initiatives should regions connect with, collaborate and consult?

### 2.3.3 Main outcomes

The recent IPCC report has shown that by 2050, temperatures could be as much as 2.5°C higher than today. Aiming to prepare for this unprecedented scenario, Southern European cities like Athens have taken a first step towards planning against these climate hazards. The City of Athens, with the support from the European Investment Bank (EIB), is addressing the challenge of urban heat by implementing a series of climate adaptation interventions. For this purpose, the Natural Capital Finance Facility (NCFF), a financial instrument set up by the European Commission and the EIB, offers both financing resources and technical assistance to support the preparation, design, implementation, and monitoring of projects that use nature-based solution for adaptation to climate change. City's 2030 Resilience Strategy has been developed with the goal to cool down the capital of Greece, whose high density makes temperatures, floods, and land erosion more



severe. This plan aims to combine mitigation and adaptation approaches into one strategy. In addition to this, the success of its implementation also depends on cross-complementarities between experts and committed people with local knowledge.

Speakers agreed that it is important to have people who are engaged and committed to local adaptation: bringing consultants with knowledge to support, but also local people who know the processes and procedures, are essential when facing demanding challenges such as the protection of cultural heritage. Stakeholders need to be familiar with the projects and strategies to know how to operationalise the vision for the city. Using tools such as websites, explanation about the project need to be reached out to stakeholders, who can share their thoughts about the ongoing process.

In Germany, North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) is playing its pioneering role in the field of climate adaptation, through the climate adaptation law, with the purpose to create the legal and administrative requirements to consider all planning decisions at the municipal level from the perspective of climate adaptation. The landscape laboratory project is another instrument that establishes itself as a network to connect people, institutions, organizations, and projects not only at the regional level but also internationally.

In the ARSINOE project, Brigaid Connect developed the Climate Innovation Window platform, where climate adaptation innovators, end users and investors can connect and meet each other needs, supporting decision makers to face new challenges and leverage investments. Through this tool, innovators showcase their climate adaptation solutions, while end user and investors have relevant and easy to find information and can connect with innovation providers directly. The development process is based on a design thinking agile methodology. The draft interface with functionalities was presented, including option to filter by climate hazards, thematic area and navigate the different innovations. The Climate Innovation Window is about connection, usability, and communication, i.e.: connection to create relations; usability to facilitate data accessibility; communication to engage stakeholders.



## 3 The way forward

This document is the first report on the REGILIENCE networking activities at large-scale events. This presents and analyses 3 sessions within important European events, this is only the first group of a total of 8 large events that the project will engage in. Indeed, it is foreseen that ICLEI Europe will lead the development of other two public reports, Deliverable 1.8 in October 2024, and Deliverable 1.9 in November 2025, which represent the updated versions of this document with further activities to be developed in the following months. This iterative process establishes a monitoring framework to periodically review the achievements and limitations of the REGILIENCE approach to networking activities, dissemination and exploitation sessions and events. In particular, it allows maximising innovative formats and a deepen unexplored topics but also to fulfil needs identified in previous experiences.

Building on the results and achievements of the three above-mentioned sessions, REGILIENCE wants to further explore in the next years of the project duration topics that resulted of particular interest for the audience, such as funding regional resilience (through new collaborations with EU Mission projects), nature-based solutions, and just transition. Learning from the past events, REGILIENCE will increase collaboration with EU bodies, projects, and international organisations at events in order to collaboratively communicate innovations, tools, resources and opportunities to accelerate resilience, thus minimising the stakeholders' fatigue.

The consortium, and particularly ICLEI as leading partner, is committed to take advantage of upcoming and future relevant large-scale events for accelerating knowledge sharing and contribute to a successful development and acceleration of the project expected outcomes. A mapping of the conferences and interest has been developed and will continue be updated throughout the duration of the project. The main upcoming events that the REGILIENCE consortium is interested in, have been applied or intends to apply for participation are:

- European Climate Change Adaptation Conference (ECCA), 19-21 June 2023, Dublin (Ireland)
- Adaptation Futures, 2-6 October 2023, Montréal (Canada)
- 10<sup>th</sup> European Urban Resilience Forum, 18-20 October 2023, Cascais (Portugal)
- UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), 30 November – 12 December 2023, Dubai (UAE)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Conference for Sustainable Cities and Towns, 1-3 October 2024, Aalborg (Denmark)
- 11<sup>th</sup> European Urban Resilience Forum, date and venue TBD (2024)

The list above is meant to grow with time, according to available opportunities. More than ICLEI, all partners are involved in the co-design of a strategic agenda for the engagement of REGILIENCE and the innovation action projects in further upcoming events.



# Annex

## Annex I Sessions' detailed agendas

### 3<sup>rd</sup> EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week

Timing	Activity	Speaker
5 min	Welcome and introduction	ICLEI Europe
30 min	Video testimonials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eleni Myrivili, Chief Heat Officer, Region of Attica (ARSINOE project)</li> <li>• Marie-Edith Vincennes ADEME, Guadeloupe Region (TransformAr project)</li> <li>• Artur Pencura, Zemgale Planning region (IMPETUS project)</li> </ul>	ARSINOE, IMPETUS, TransformAr projects
45 min	Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stefania Manca, Municipality of Genoa/EU Agenda Partnership for Climate Adaptation</li> <li>• Chrysi Laspidou, University of Thessaly</li> <li>• Alessio Satta – MEDSEA Foundation, Sardinia, Italy</li> <li>• Laurence Couldrick –West Country Rivers Trust, West Country Region, UK</li> <li>• Giovanni Luigi Brumat, Cantina Toblino viticulture cooperative, Trentino, Italy</li> </ul>	Moderated by ICLEI Europe
10 min	Next steps and closing	ICLEI Europe

### 9<sup>th</sup> European Urban Resilience Forum

Timing	Activity	Speaker
5 min	Welcome	ICLEI Europe
10 min	Accelerating climate adaptation action for a resilient Europe: the role of regional and community risk assessments, pathways, adaptation action pilots and demo sites	Johannes Klumpers, DG CLIMA
50 min	World Cafè: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involving stakeholders throughout Europe (lead: Chrysi Laspidou, UTH)</li> <li>• Replicating climate adaptation innovation for a resilient Europe (lead: Rim Khamis, Acterra)</li> <li>• Climate adaptation indicators: monitoring opportunities and challenges (lead: Tereza Hnátková, Czech University of Life Sciences)</li> </ul>	Moderated by: UTH, Acterra, , Czech University of Life Sciences
45 min	Panel discussion: main insights and way forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harriët Tiemens (Director, Green Metropolitan Region Arnhem-Nijmegen)</li> <li>• Ana-Maria Mitroi-Ciobica (European Investment Bank)</li> <li>• Konstantina Karydi (Senior Advisor and EU Representative; Urban Innovative Actions, Resilient Cities Catalyst; Deputy Head, Climate Change Hub Greece)</li> </ul>	Moderated by ICLEI Europe
10 min	Next steps and closing	ICLEI Europe



20<sup>th</sup> European Week for Regions and Cities

Timing	Activity	Speaker
10 min	Welcome and introduction to the session	ICLEI Europe
15 min	Short input and pitches by all speakers	City of Athens, University of Thessaly, Region of North Rhine- Westphalia
60 min	Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elissavet Bargianni, City of Athens, Greece</li><li>• Chrysi Laspidou, University of Thessaly, ARSINOE project coordinator</li><li>• Sebastian Schlecht, Region of North Rhine-Westphalia</li></ul>	Moderated by ICLEI Europe
5 min	Closing remarks	ICLEI Europe



## Annex II Dissemination materials (Social Media)

3<sup>rd</sup> EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week

**TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION  
FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT  
AND ADAPTIVE REGIONS**

9 MARCH AT 09:00 CET

JOIN US!

Presented by:

TransformAr ARSINOE REGILIENCE IMPETUS

REGILIENCE  
Regional Pathways to Climate Resilience

IMPETUS  
Innovation Platform for  
EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
EUROPEAN UNION

DANISH REGION  
EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN UNION

9<sup>th</sup> European Urban Resilience Forum

**EUROPEAN  
URBAN RESILIENCE  
FORUM**

**15. September**

**9:00 - 11:00**

**Transformative pathways for a more resilient,  
regional development in Europe & beyond**

*This session represents a great opportunity to foster shared collective learning and coordination amongst the existing networks, to discuss with actors from the regional and community levels about the challenges faced, and to agree on the joint way forward for the next years.*

**Join this workshop & more at #EURESFO22**

Source: Pixabay



20<sup>th</sup> European Week for Regions and Cities

**New Challenges for Europe's Cohesion**

**EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS & CITIES**  
2003 - 2022

**PARTICIPATORY LAB**

**Transformative pathways for a more resilient, regional development in Europe and beyond**

**ONLINE - 11 OCTOBER, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM CET**

SESSION PARTNER

**ICLEI**  
Local Governments for Sustainability  
EUROPE

**#EURegionsWeek**