

D5.3 Institutional coordination and cooperation with Innovation Packages, other H2020 projects and initiatives – V1

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About REGILIENCE

REGILIENCE is committed to supporting the European Green Deal and the EU Mission “Adaptation to Climate Change” by fostering the adoption of regional climate resilience development pathways.

The project develops, compiles, shares, and promotes tools and scientific knowledge to support European regions in identifying and addressing their climate-related risks. We work closely with sister projects, such as ARSINOE, IMPETUS, and TransformAr to enhance the capacity of 7 focus regions to tackle the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

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

C-ADAPT	Climate-ADAPT
CSA	Coordination and Support Action
EEA	European Environmental Agency
GD-SO	Green Deal Support Office ^o
IA	Innovation Action
MIP	Mission Implementation Platform
NUTS	Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics
PPP	Public Private Partnership
OTS	Open Training Session



Executive Summary

The cooperation of REGILIENCE with the sister project Innovation Actions ARSINOE, IMPETUS and TransformAr has been developed quite successfully over the first 1.5 years.

Approximately 40 topics for cooperation have been identified and agreed on. Some of the areas – e.g. communication – are well developing on a monthly basis, whilst others are hampered by different causes including change in staff or priorities.

The overall project's related KPI has been achieved and almost duplicated. The cooperation has been considered as useful and necessary to be kept and reboosted by all 4 projects during the internal review meeting in January 2023; however, given the upcoming PR1 reporting, several of the activities are on hold and will hopefully be reactivated/revised during/after the summer.

The report reflects also about the strengths and weaknesses of this cooperation. Weaknesses which might be relevant for CINEA refer to the confusing and misleading calls, the possibility for mismatches in cooperation between projects in the Grant Agreements and the growing complexity of clustering and coordination activities.

The cooperation has addressed so far approximately 20 specific topics. For the most advanced of them, specific information is provided. Regarding "Communications", the four cluster projects work intensively together with joint products and regular meetings, on "Indicators", it took a year to find a way forward which would provide added value to the work of the Innovation Actions developing a guidance for regions, the "Region's needs assessment and replication" has collected relevant information for the replication of solutions, in January 2023 a "Collection of adaptation tools and approaches" was compiled and communicated to the new Mission projects, regarding "Maladaptation", interviews and discussions were held across the projects. The results of the discussions on "Climate scenario modelling" are promising though still at a preliminary stage. Finally, a "Joint letter" was published in early 2023, summarising the main efforts of the four frontrunner projects of the Mission and inviting new projects and initiatives to join the cooperation. Such actions are currently in the scoping process.

Regarding a "look to the future of cooperation", it will continue and reinforced as stated by all engaged projects and expectable due to the drive of the Adaptation Mission. Comments by reviewers are much appreciated after PR1.



1 Introduction

This report reflects the activities carried out under Task 5.3 to foster coordination and cooperation, primarily with the Innovation Packages, but also with other projects and initiatives.

The primary related Impact Target of the Grant Agreement is “50 institutions, projects or initiatives are actively coordinating or cooperating during the project period”. The main related Key Performance Indicator (KPI) is the following: “25 coordination and cooperation meetings are organised and delivered”.

However, the project objective “Coordinate and support other initiatives – especially the projects funded under subtopic 1 of the call 1-3 – with proper tools, strategies and engagement actions to develop meaningful action, and increase replication and impact” is also related to other Impact targets (e.g. 10% increase in the number of users of knowledge platforms compared to previous system; 20 % increase in usage of knowledge platforms compared to previous system) (platforms REGILIENCE works with) and their corresponding KPIs. These will however be reported in other deliverables.

The corresponding DoA description of the task is as follows:

Why? Being this a CSA, coordination and cooperation will play an important role within the project, especially with the Innovation Packages.

What? This task will assure overall, institutional and cross-topic aspects; and specific interaction will be developed by task leads, within this overall frame.

How? Specific activities include initial contacts being established, the set-up of organised contact lists and exchange agreements, planned bi-monthly virtual meetings, with agendas being prepared in anticipation, with the Innovation Packages under subtopic 1, and individually agreed exchanges with others. Besides, surveys will be carried out to identify the degree of satisfaction of partners and track the impact target achievement. Furthermore, Clustering activities with other projects will be mapped out and looked for in this task to increase the outreach potential of the project concepts and raise awareness among a broader spectrum of stakeholders, as well as the use of communication boosters (partnerships with other organizations, newsletters such as Fleishman Hillard or eceee, blogs) (complementing T1.5 activities). The main tools used for clustering activities will be social media and the website. The website will contain an External Resources page, where existing works of other platforms and interesting related projects will be listed. Some initial targets can be found in Section 2.2b. Finally, the project will support close cooperation and joint dissemination strategies with other EU projects funded either in the same call or tackling similar issues. Clustering activities will increase the outreach potential of the project concepts and raise awareness among a broader spectrum of stakeholders.

Who? FT will coordinate and lead the institutional engagement and the activities. Other partners are participating in activities when the planned topics are of relevance for them.

When? The activity will start in M1 and end in M48.



1.1 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 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, 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 Activities

The cooperation activities started already in summer 2021 before the Gran Agreement signatures of the four projects, with first exchanges of contacts and sharing information from the Innovation Actions e.g. which case study areas they planned to develop, which climate risks would be addressed, and which solutions be put in place.

Once the Gas were awarded, in November 2021, two workshops were held – between the projects and with the Mission secretariat – to develop a joint and flexible program for cooperation, designing the workstreams and identifying preliminary objectives, leads, engagement interests and timelines.

Once this context was settled for the individual workstreams, and a common SharePoint was created for cooperation, work started by both regular and ad-hoc meetings for general coordination (lead by FT) and specific workstream topics (lead by the agreed topic leads).

Coordination and cooperation activities have taken place with the following actors:

The Innovation Action projects under subtopic 1 of the call LC-GD-1-3-2020 RIA, also called “Innovation Packages”, which is the primary focus of this CSA as they make up the cluster:

- ARSINOE
- IMPETUS
- TransformAr

Other projects awarded under Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe calls:

- LC-GD-1-2-2020 (RIA) “Towards climate-neutral and socially innovative cities”.
- LC-GD-9-2-2020 (RIA) “Developing end-user products and services for all stakeholders and citizens supporting climate adaptation and mitigation”
- LC-GD-10-2-2020 (RIA) “Behavioural, social and cultural change for the Green Deal”
- LC-GD-10-3-2020 (IA) “Enabling citizens to act on climate change and environmental protection through education, citizen science, observation initiatives, and civic involvement”.
- Other (later) calls

These include, with different levels of interaction:

- CoCliCo
- NetZeroCities
- REACHOUT
- I-CISK
- LOCALISED
- PROVIDE
- Pathways to Resilience
- AGORA

Other projects and initiatives have been approached, including:

- EU Climate Adaptation Mission secretariat and implementation platform contractor



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- European Environmental Agency, as host of Climate-ADAPT

2.1 KPI: Coordination and cooperation meetings

The following coordination and cooperation meetings have been developed by REGILIENCE with Innovation Packages, other H2020 projects and initiatives:

Table 1. Coordination and cooperation meetings (in bold and red marked, the lead project)

Nr	Date	Type/objective	REGILIENCE	ARSINOE	IMPETUS	Transf..	Others
1	14 Jun 2021	Meeting: first exchange and workplan	x	x	x	x	
2	19 Nov 2021	Workshop preparation meeting	x	x	x	x	
3	24 Nov 2021	Workshop with Mission Secretariat	x	x	x	x	x
4	11 Jan 2022	Jan 2022 Coordination Meeting	x		x	x	
5	14 Jan 2022	Meeting with EEA (indicators, C-ADAPT)	x			x	x
6	26 Jan 2022	Meeting on Climate modelling	x	x	x	x	
7	28 Jan 2022	Meeting on resilience indicators	x	x	x	x	x
8	22 Feb 2022	ERRIN Mission Sounding Board	x				x
9	23 Feb 2022	Meeting on French Presidency event	x		x	x	
10	18 Mar 2022	Mar 2022 Coordination Meeting	x	x	x	x	
11	28 Mar 2022	Meeting on Climate modelling	x	x	x	x	
12	29 Mar 2022	Coordination meeting Water Europe	x	x			
13	6 Apr 2022	Coordination meeting Water Europe	x	x			
14	8 Apr 2022	Monthly comms & diss meeting	x	x	x	x	
15	13 Apr 2022	Meeting with GD-SO team	x				x
16	27 Apr 2022	TRAMI kick off missions	x				x
17	2 May 2022	Academic symposium on climate change	x			x	
18	5 May 2022	Meeting on resilience indicators	x	x	x	x	
19	13 May 2022	Monthly comms & diss meeting	x	x	x	x	
20	25 May 2022	May 2022 Coordination Meeting	x	x	x	x	
21	8 Jun 2022	GDSO WG Meeting	x				x
22	10 Jun 2022	Monthly comms & diss meeting	x	x	x	x	
23	12 Aug 2022	Monthly comms & diss meeting	x		x	x	x
24	6 Sep 2022	Sep 2022 Coordination Meeting	x	x	x	x	x
25	9 Sep 2022	Monthly comms & diss meeting	x	x	x	x	x
26	16 Sep 2022	Meeting with EEA	x	x	x	x	x
27	21 Sep 2022	Maladaptation-Playbook interaction	x			x	
28	23 Sep 2022	ARSINOE Webinar Water Security	x	x	?	?	x
29	17 Oct 2022	Call REG-TRA about pathways	x			x	
30	24 Oct 2022	GD-SO Webinar	x				x
31	2 Nov 2022	Call REG-TRA about joint deliverables	x			x	
32	17 Nov 2022	Nov 2022 Coordination Meeting	x	x	x	x	x
33	18 Nov 2022	GD-SO Meeting WG	x		x	x	x
34	10 Jan 2023	Jan 2023 Coordination Meeting	x	x	x	x	
35	12 Jan 2023	Monthly comms & diss meeting	x				
36	12 Jan 2023	GD-SO webinar	x	?	?	?	x
37	26 Jan 2023	Mission CoP, Brussels	x	x	x	x	x
38	9 Feb 2023	Monthly comms meeting	x	x	x	x	x
39	28 Feb 2023	Meeting on Indicators	x	x	x	x	
40	9 Mar 2023	Monthly comms meeting	x	x	x	x	x



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Nr	Date	Type/objective	REGILIENCE	ARSINOE	IMPETUS	Transf..	Others
41	13 Mar 2023	Mar 2023 Coordination Meeting	x	x	x	x	
42	22 Mar 2023	OTS1	x			x	x
43	27 Mar 2023	Meeting with PROVIDE	x				X
44	13 Apr 2023	Monthly comms meeting	x	x		x	
45	19 Apr 2023	ARSINOE webinar Water Health	x	x			x
46	21 April 2023	OTS2	x			x	x
47	3 May 2023	Climate-ADAPT training	x	x	x		
48	16 May 2023	MERLIN 2nd Insurance Roundtable	x			x	X
49	1 Jun 2023	Water Europe Webinar NbS stormwater	x	x			X
50	21 Jun 2023	ECCA workshops	x	x	x	x	x

This list includes only those events where at least two of the cluster projects have actively participated or those where larger groups were brought together (e.g. GDSO), but where no participant list was shared, thus no exact tracking of all participants has been possible, though the presence of other cluster projects was very likely.

The list also includes different types of cooperation meetings:

- Overall cooperation between the 4 cluster projects (usually every 2 months).
- Contact meetings with further projects or initiatives, e.g. EEA, PROVID, etc.
- Specific cooperation topic meetings, e.g. on indicators, communications, PPPs, etc.
- (Larger) events where the projects participate, including conferences, webinars, and workshops.

2.2 Impact target

The following Impact target is related to this workstream: 50 institutions, projects or initiatives are actively coordinating or cooperating during the project period. In this respect, the following list can be made. So far, cooperation has taken place at least between 18 institutions, projects or initiatives:

1. ARSINOE, as one of the cluster projects, actively engaged in several workstreams and on a continuous basis
2. IMPETUS, idem
3. TransformAr, idem; with furthermore bilateral activities e.g. Exploitation Agreement
4. CoCliCo; regular exchanges about adaptation topics, limited participation in workstreams of cooperation
5. NetZeroCities: limited participation in workstreams of cooperation
6. REACHOUT: limited participation in workstreams of cooperation
7. I-CISK: participation in common GD-SO work group
8. LOCALISED: limited participation in workstreams of cooperation
9. PROVIDE: limited participation in workstreams of cooperation; project interaction at a March 2023 event organized by PROVIDE
10. Pathways 2 Resilience: contacts since December 2022, first organized exchange in April 2023



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11. AGORA: contacts since December 2022
12. CLIMAAX: contacts since December 2022
13. Green Deal Support Office (GD-SO): Participation in one of the working groups, with limited active and passive engagement
14. EU Climate Adaptation Mission Secretariat: contacts and exchanges, including joint events since beginning 2022
15. Adaptation Mission implementation platform contractor (Ricardo): contacts since January 2023, briefing on activities running in the cluster
16. European Environmental Agency, as host of Climate-ADAPT: several meetings in 2022, agreement on some actions to be developed in coordination (e.g. assessment of Resilience and Recovery Plans)
17. ECCA 2023: Exchanges since autumn 2023, participation in advisory board; two proposals for sessions submitted
18. FORENV Cycle 5 2022-2023: Participation in the sense making workshop on “emerging environmental and other issues impacting our ability to achieve a water-resilient Europe by 2050”; April 2023
19. Water Europe, several webinars organized, including as partner of ARSINOE

Regarding the above, please note that the term “limited” aims to be an objective description of the level of joint activities and does not assign any responsibility or criticism to any of the involved institutions, projects or initiatives.

2.3 Topic-specific activities

2.3.1 Scope of the IA projects

By January 2022, REGILIENCE supported by the IAs with information collection, review, and prepared an overview on the geographical scope of the combined action of the 4 projects. This includes the identification of the corresponding NUTS level targeted, to identify if either regions or communities are addressed.

The following overview (table 2) and maps (figures 1 and 2) were prepared to illustrate the website:

Table 2. Regions and communities in which the IAs will act. Source: Information from IAs. In orange: Areas with overlaps.

		Regional category				Resilience topics/sectors addressed		
		NUTS1	NUTS2	NUTS3	Urban	ARSINOE	IMPETUS	TransformAr
DE	Berlin-Brandenburg	DE3 (Berlin), DE4 (Brandenburg)					Water Resource Management, Irrigation water management, economic impacts of physical climate risks	
DE	Main river		DE71 (Darmstadt), DE24 (Oberfranken), DE25 (Mittelfranken), DE26 (Unterfranken) (part)			Energy, Water Scarcity/Droughts, Flooding/Sea-Level Rise, Biodiversity, Agriculture, Transport, Fisheries/Aquaculture		



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DK	Southern Denmark		DK03 (Southern Denmark)			Energy, Water Scarcity/Droughts, Flooding/Sea-Level Rise, Biodiversity, Agriculture, Transport, Fisheries/Aquaculture		
EL	Attica	EL3 (Attiki)					Environmental agriculture solutions, Digital tools climate adaptation, Water-Energy master plan, Forest fires & restoration	
EL	City of Egaleo		EL30 (Attica) (part)		x			urban microclimate; monitoring, IoT, citizen app, awareness
EL	Athens Metropolitan Area			EL301 (Northern Athens), EL302 (Western Athens), EL303 (Central Athens), EL304 (Southern Athens)		Biodiversity, Health, Heatwave		
ES	Galicia		ES11 (Galicia)					mussel and clam aquaculture; monitoring and digitalisation, IoT
ES	Canary Islands		ES70 (Canary Islands)			Energy, Water Scarcity/Droughts, Flooding/Sea-Level Rise, Biodiversity, Forestry, Agriculture, Transport, Fisheries/Aquaculture		
ES	Catalonia Coast		ES51 (Catalonia) (part)				Multifunctional wetlands, circular economy & reuse, Sand dunes restoration, sediment transportation through irrigation networks, analyze biodiversity loss, water quality & pathogens detection, economic impacts extreme storms, Alliance resilient coast, Behavioral change in tourism	
FI	City of Lappeenranta		FI1C (South Finland) (part)		x			Urban stormwater management (NBS), modular treatment, IoT, citizen app
FR	Guadeloupe archipelago		FRY1 (Guadeloupe)					Local adaptation acceleration fund for the agriculture and tourism sectors



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IT	Oristano			ITG2G (Oristano)				Smart lagoon management (and related ecological monitoring system) & coastal contract approach
IT	Sardinia		TG2 (Cerdena)			Agriculture, Energy, Water Scarcity/Droughts, Biodiversity		
IT	Valle el Laghi			ITH2 (Trentino-Alto Adige/Sudtirol)	?		Water management, Bio-district to address altitudinal shift of crops, insurance products for agriculture, forestry & hydropower, cultural heritage	
LV	Zemgale			LV009 (Zemgale)			Digital Twins for climate adaptation, governance plans	
NL	Zeeland		NL34 (Zeeland)				Digital Twins (climate adaptation), heat awareness system, Monitoring dashboard	
NO	Gjøvik municipality		NO02 (Hedmark og Oppland) (part)		x			Follower (Urban stormwater management)
NO	Troms og Finnmark			NO074 (Troms og Finnmark)			Digital Twins (climate adaptation, marine spatial planning)	
UK	West Country region			Part of UKK30 (Cornwall and Isles of Scilly), UKK43 (Devon CC), UKK23 (Somerset)				Financial mechanisms for nature-based rural nutrient management; integrated coastal wetland; nutrients; sensors and monitoring
UK	Torbay and Devon County			UKK42 (Torbay), UKK43 (Devon CC)		Energy, Flooding/Sea-Level Rise, Biodiversity, Health, Agriculture, transport, Fisheries/Aquaculture		
INT	Ohrid/Prespa lakes			EL533 (Florina), MK003 (Jugozapaden), MK005 (Pelagonis ki), AL034 (Korce)		Water Scarcity/Droughts, Flooding/Sea-Level Rise, Biodiversity, Health, Forestry, Agriculture, Energy, Fisheries/Aquaculture		
INT	Black Sea			RO223 (Constanta), RO225 (Tulcea), BG131 (Varna), BG332 (Dobrich Province), BG341 (Burgas province), TR100 (Istanbul province), TR213 (Kirkklareli)		Water Scarcity/Droughts, Flooding/Sea-Level Rise, Biodiversity, Health, Forestry, Agriculture, Fisheries/Aquaculture		



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				Province), TR211 (Tekirdag Province)			
INT	Mediterranean ports: Piraeus, Valencia, Limas sol			EL307 (Piraeus, Isx lands) (part), CY000 (Cyprus) (part), ES523 (Valencia) (part)	Transport, Flooding/Sea- Level Rise, Biodiversity, Fisheries/Aquaculture		

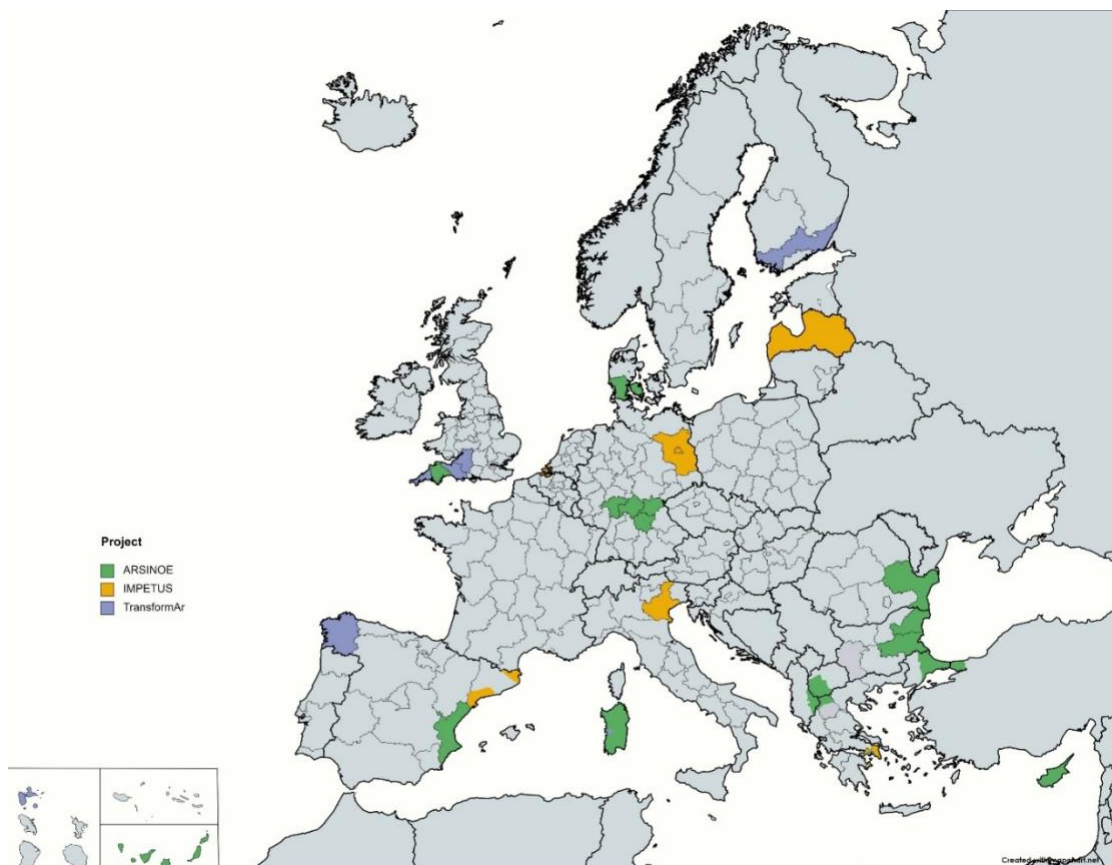


Figure 1. Map of targeted regions and communities by IA projects (January 2022)

The map has been updated in early 2023 with the following clickable and searchable map on the REGILIENCE website:

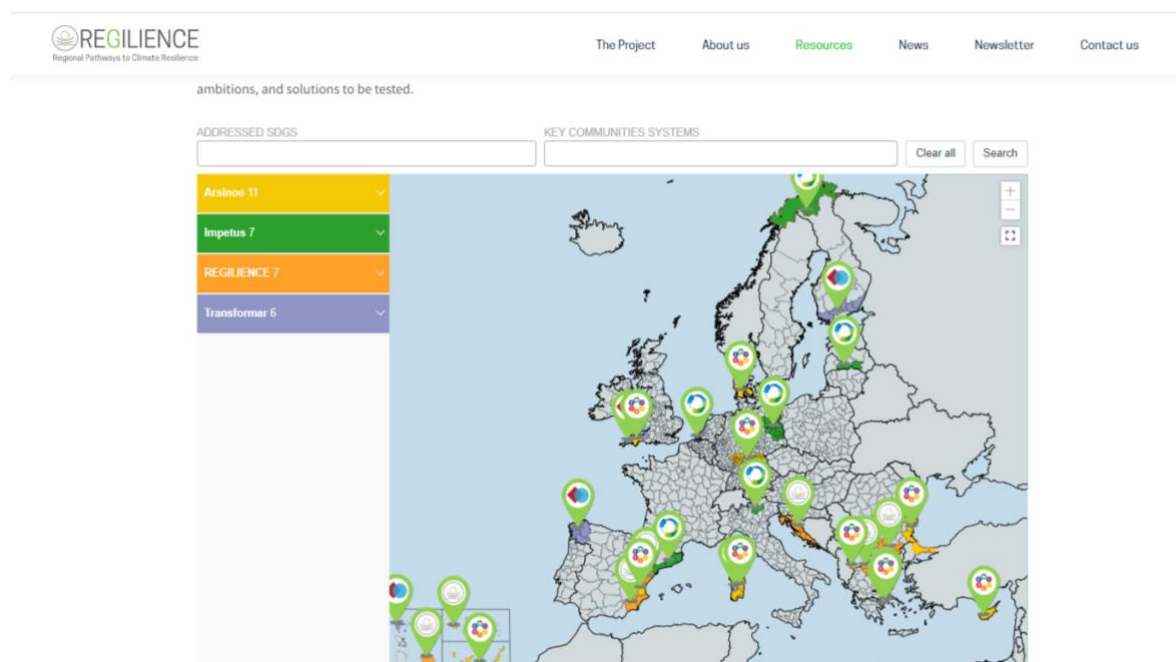


Figure 2. Interactive map of targeted regions and communities by the four projects (February 2023)

The map (figure 2) has been developed in a way which allows the Innovation Action projects to display the corresponding information on their own websites.

One of the outcomes of this exercise was spotting that there were three geographical overlaps of the projects:

- Athens, where all three IAs work with different institutions at local or regional level
- Southwest UK, where ARSINOE and TransformAr work, partly with the same organisations
- Sardinia, where ARSINOE and TransformAr work

REGILIENCE followed up with the individual projects to see if any coordination activity would be required and the feedback received was that no such action was needed from the CSA, as projects would coordinate bilaterally.

Topic cooperation (e.g. exchanges, joint development, comparison or benchmarking) would be possible in the following fields, where several case studies are working on:

- Urban stormwater management and flooding
- Urban microclimate
- Aquaculture
- Soil and nutrient management in coastal areas
- Irrigation management

2.4 Coordination and cooperation topics



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At the November 2021 workshop, a set of preliminary topics was agreed between the 4 projects and grouped to guide the further activities, which should always be of benefit for at least two of the projects. This includes the following:

Information gathering

- Info gathering IAs: regions, solutions, themes
- IA contacts in regions
- IA case study leveraged funds
- Region's needs assessment
- Funding & financing

Metrics

- Indicator set
- Risk modelling

Strategies & tools

- Maladaptation
- Pathways
- PPPs
- Climate modelling & uncertainties
- Augmented intelligence tools
- Stakeholder identification
- Replication
- Communication and dissemination
- Contact list established
- Rules/template for joint communication
- Glossary
- Comms cooperation meetings
- Online platform assessment
- Citizen surveys
- Support to Mission Forum

The process of work regarding cooperation on this list involved the following steps:

Step 1: We collected information and then discussed within a workshop what the individual projects plan to develop related to each of the topics.

Step 2: Then, we identified for each of the topics the critical issues for the implementation of REGILIENCE as CSA and agreed on what the challenge/added value/output of the cooperation would be. An example is showing below in Figure 3 on such a definition.

4.3 Opportunities for financing innovation packages through EU, national and third-party financing

What is the challenge or topic for cooperation:

REGILIENCE will develop an updated overview of relevant EU and national funding programs for climate action to support the implementation of regional inter-sectorial resilience pathways. IA projects could contribute to desk research and expert interviews with focus on their pilot regions and focus on national level. REGILIENCE will provide customized support for financing pathways for the prioritized regions. IA partners could provide special support for their pilot regions.



Figure 3. Illustration of the defined challenges for the cooperation topic on financing opportunities

Step 3: We listed individual people from the different project partners interested in engaging in the activity (including their contact data – we had previously agreed on a protocol for exchanging personal data between the projects).

Step 4: We generated a Teams shared workplace (see figure 4).

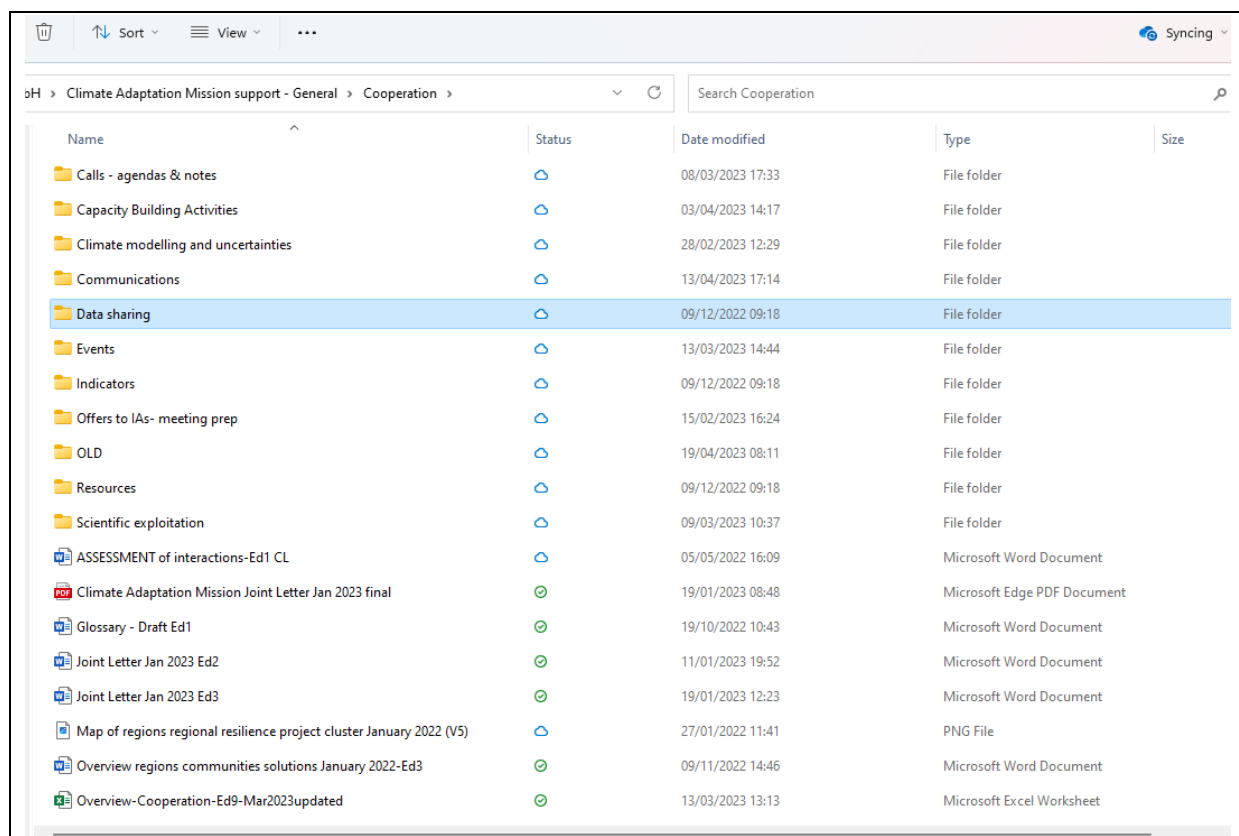


Figure 4. Screenshot of the main joint work folder under MS teams (April 2023)

Step 5: We drafted a tentative timeline, indicating the key steps, expected results and responsibilities, as illustrated by Figure 5 for one such workstream.



Next steps for cooperation:					
Nr.	What?	Why?	Who?	When?	How?
1	Identify relevant contacts in each region to address for the survey and receive enough responses (in time) and conduct interviews with selected regions. The results, outcomes and overall needs will be summarized in a report to be submitted by M9.	To achieve better understanding of the resilience challenges, needs and opportunities of the target regions and beyond	Lead: ICLEI Europe Contributors: FC.ID, R-Cities, Fedarene, F6S, IEECP. IA case study leads?	Nov 2021 (M1)- July 2022 (M9)	<u>Approach:</u> interviews and a survey to regional key actors <u>Schedule:</u> M1 to M9 (November 2021 to July 2022) <u>Methods:</u> literature review, information from the Innovation Packages, about 30 interviews, and a survey <u>Outcomes:</u> a detailed database and a summary report
2	Involve during information gathering – refine survey and interviews – avoid duplications	The survey results shall provide input on regional needs to all 4 projects	Lead: ICLEI. Contributions: IA Coordinators and WP leads	Jan-Feb 2022	
3	Dissemination of survey and interviews among the networks		FEDARENE and ICLEI with the support of IAs	Feb 2022	Direct reach out to FEDARENE members and partners organisations ICLEI to reach out to member cities and regions
					IA to case study regions
4	Report drafting		Lead: ICLEI Europe	June-July 2022	IAs invited to comment on draft, maybe specific discussion meeting/workshop

Figure 5. Illustration of a draft planned cooperation action plan for one of the topics (regional needs assessment)

Step 6: The implementation of the workstream is supervised by the project coordinators at bi-monthly meetings, based on a rough Excel file indicating progress and next steps, as illustrated by Figure 6.

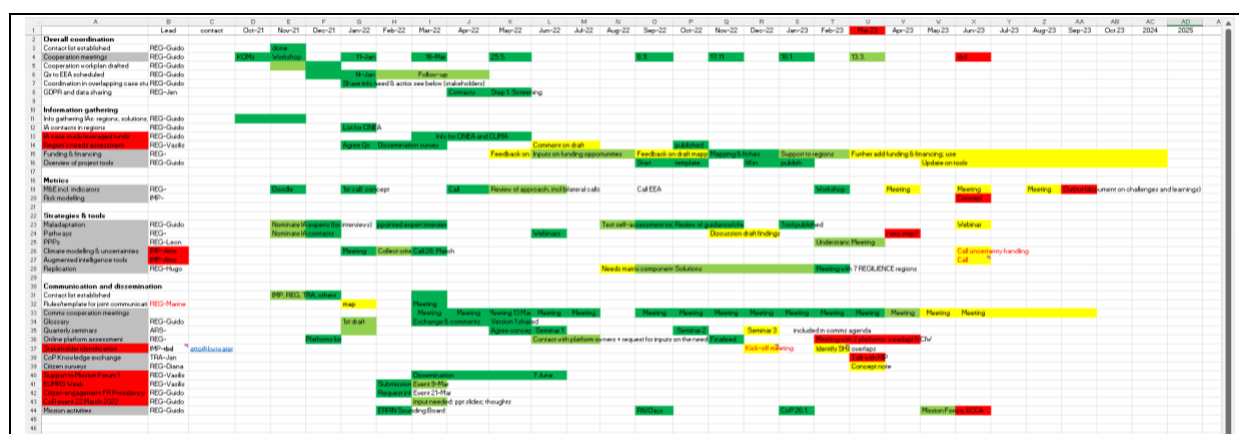


Figure 6. Illustration of the progress tracker for the different workstreams (March 2023 meeting). Green colours indicate actions finalised or in progress, yellow actions which are planned, and red actions which shall be discussed at the cooperation meeting

For some of these workstreams, a full development has been implemented, whilst others are rather at an initial stage. This fact that some of the workstreams are still at an initial stage is due to:

- Changes in staff, including lacking capacity or interest in continuing with the activity.
- Delays in the implementation, e.g. for the co-development of PPPs.



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- Workload, e.g. the projects agreed in the March 2023 meeting to halt many activities until the PR1 reporting was finalised.
- Changes in the prioritization of the work, e.g. stakeholder identification was done in all projects at an early start, so no common approach or exchange was managed further.

The projects agreed to have a flexible approach to these workstreams, and in fact some of them have been skipped, whilst new ones have been added. In any case, at the January 2023 coordination meeting, all 4 projects confirmed their interest in continuing the cooperation and reboost some of the activities.

In the following subsections, some of the most outstanding cooperation activities are illustrated with more detail.

2.4.1 Communications

The respective communications lead partner/staff of the four cluster projects meet on a regular monthly basis. The main outputs so far include the following:

- A common visual identity for joint initiatives
- The development and edition of a joint newsletter “The climate resilience post” instead of managing four different newsletters
- Participation in shared events, e.g. presenting TransformAr’s Adaptation Playbook at a training event organized by REGILIENCE, or REGILIENCE’s work on maladaptation at a Water Europe-ARSINOE event in April 2023
- Development in Spring 2023 of a joint editorial calendar to strengthen communications of the four projects in thematically related fields
- Development of a Trello Board which includes all relevant events and communications activities of the four projects (and externals) which helps to ensure coordination and avoid overlaps, e.g. events at same dates
- Development of a glossary of key adaptation terminology, aimed for a consistent use across the four projects

2.4.2 Indicators

The call for projects provided a rather confusing and overlapping approach for the development of indicators between the Innovation action projects, the CSA and the Mission itself. This resulted in a complex start, where the CSA was supposed to coordinate and guide IAs; however, IAs had fixed their approaches already in the Grant Agreements.

Discussions led to a review of the approach, where the added value of the clustering (and the CSA work) will be:

- A compilation of climate adaptation indicators, and their availability
- A review of strengths and weaknesses in applying climate adaptation indicators in the IAs
- Recommendations for regions to build on the expertise gathered so far by the four projects



This is currently under development and planned to be drafted by the end of 2023; this will be reported in D3.3.

2.4.3 Region's needs assessment and replication

The REGILIENCE project conducted a needs assessment across European regions. The report “[Resilience planning & development needs of regional authorities and stakeholders](#)” (D1.1) present the main results from this study, gathering baseline information from key stakeholders and reflecting on what lessons can be learned from these experiences. The needs assessment was defined jointly with the Innovation Actions and will serve them to design solutions which are replicable in the regions covered by feedback in 30 interviews and a survey (see map in Figure 7, shown as screenshot of the report).

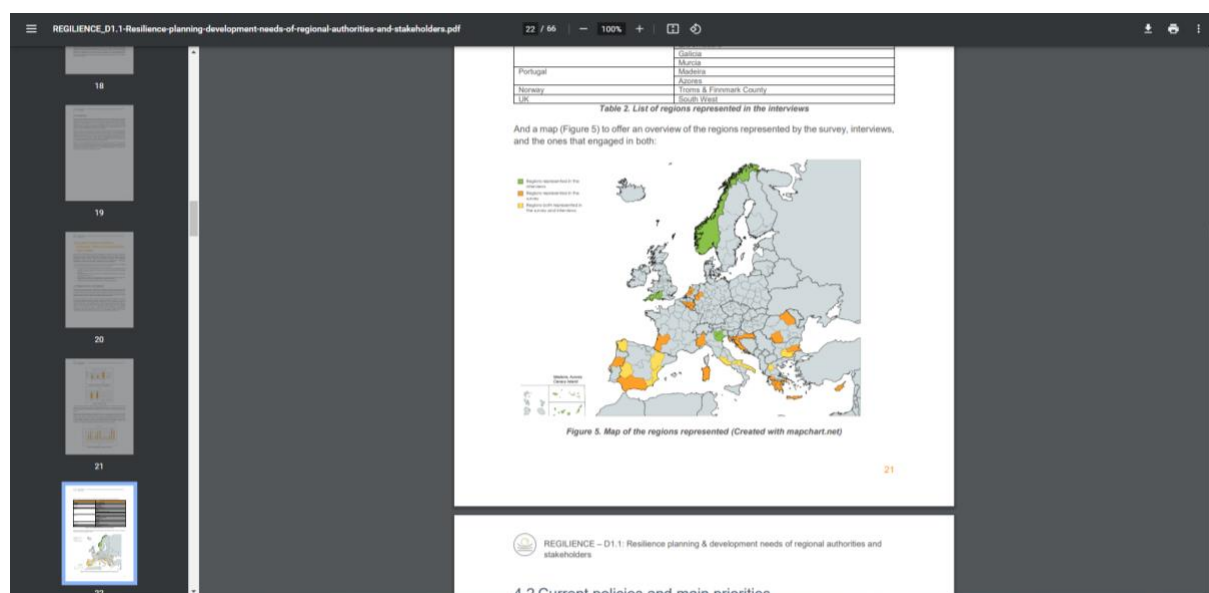


Figure 7. Illustrative screenprint of Deliverable 1.1 reflecting the regions covered by the needs assessment with interviews and surveys.


Source: REGILIENCE [Deliverable 1.1](#)

In addition, active replication of IA solutions is foreseen in the 7 REGILIENCE focus regions, with work just having started in February 2023.

2.4.4 Compilation and promotion of tools

In early 2023, REGILIENCE [published](#) a shortlist of 13 solutions and tools ready for use and or in development by the four projects, as a contribution to the implementation of the Climate Adaptation Mission.



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Overview of the Climate Adaptation Mission project tools – January 2023

This overview aims to compile the different tools which are in process of development by the first four EU Climate Adaptation Mission projects ARSINOE, IMPETUS, REGILIENCE and TransformAr.

Its main purpose is to:

- Foster co-creation and synergies between tools in the development stage
- Enable uptake of tools by other Mission projects or initiatives
- Enable the European Environmental Agency to identify tools to be integrated into Climate-ADAPT's Adaptation Support Tool (AST) and its steps:
 - Preparing the ground for adaptation
 - Assessing climate change risks and vulnerabilities
 - Identifying adaptation options
 - Assessing adaptation options
 - Implementing Adaptation
 - Monitoring and Evaluating Adaptation

This list provides a first glance of the tools already developed or still under development, and is structured according to the Climate-ADAPT AST steps, as indicated in the table below:

	Name of the tool	Climate-ADAPT AST steps					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
1	ARSINOE Data Catalogue	x					
2	Hot Spot Risk Assessment Tool		x				
3	Resilience Knowledge Boosters		x	x			
4	Cascading impacts and permeable services modelling tool		x	(x)	x		
5	System Dynamics Modelling (SDM) tool		x		x		
6	Distributed Hybrid Modelling for Climate Resilience Analysis		x		x		
7	Traffic Impact Assessment Model		x		x		
8	Playbook for transformational adaptation			x	x		
9	Maladaptation self-assessment tool				x		
10	Choice experiment survey for understanding the acceptance of transformational adaptation solutions				x		
11	Socio-economic impact assessment of adaptation solutions				x	x	

Figure 8. Screenprint of the overview on tools being developed by the four cluster projects (January 2023)



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Each of the tools is presented with a short info box, as well as associated to the Climate-ADAPT Adaptation Support Tool steps, in order to ease its uptake. In addition, the tools are being promoted by REGILIENCE in Open Training Sessions (OTS) and have been listed in the Joint letter (see below).

In addition, an outstanding issue is the signature of an Exploitation agreement between TransformAr and REGILIENCE to further employ, promote and review the TransformAr's Climate Adaptation Pathway Development Playbook – a guidance on how to conduct a process of adaptation plan development at the regional/community level - (signed on 18 November 2022); substituting a similar activity initially foreseen by REGILIENCE, but thus avoiding duplication.

2.4.5 Maladaptation

REGILIENCE has developed a self-assessment tool for detecting the risk of maladaptation in adaptation plans or projects. The work has included a screening of planned actions of the other cluster projects, through interviews with project team members.

Currently, we are exploring how this tool can be applied in the 30 regions in which the four projects are working.

2.4.6 Climate scenario modelling

In January 2022, the cluster had a meeting regarding climate modelling and uncertainties. The aspects which were discussed and agreed were having a common approach to the use of existing data and similar approaches – e.g. using as far as possible CMIP6 data; timeframe of 20-30 years for mid-term and end of century for long-term scenario projections – except for case studies, where such would not be appropriate to address the stakeholder requests.

The meeting also discussed that further work and agreement shall be taken on identifying criteria on the definition of the scenarios and time frame. Some of the criteria mentioned during the meeting include:

- Address both long-term strategic planning as well as extreme events, reflecting ranges
- Availability of downscaled data
- Easiness of understanding and acceptance by stakeholders
- Scientific rigor
- Compliance with the European Green Deal

However, within the group, no further activities were developed: no final meeting minutes were prepared, no further meeting has been held.

Though this activity would have been useful in order to streamline the scenario modelling approaches to ensure better acceptance by stakeholders, continuity will only be discussed after the PR1 review process.



2.4.7 Joint letter in 2023

In early 2023, the project cluster approached the new 2023 Mission projects and the Mission Implementation Platform. We invited them to make use of a set of tools being already developed or in process, to meet us in person at the Mission Adaptation Community of Practice (CoP) launch event on 26 January, and to join our cooperative effort. We invited them also to join us in active cooperation between Mission projects. We encouraged them to exchange with our projects so together we can share good cooperation, experiences, successes and learn from common challenges. We also looked forward to learning from them including the new projects taking the lead on common topics in which the projects will develop the main actions. We expected new projects to agree on and contribute to a common approach, timing and labelling of capacity-building Climate Adaptation Mission webinars to primarily target regional and local authorities and key stakeholders (we plan to initiate such webinars in March 2023), as well as joining forces in regular newsletters.

So far, no specific cooperation action has been initiated with the new projects.

3 Critical reflections on the work so far

The following strengths and weaknesses can be reflected and are based on the work so far:

3.1 Strengths

In our work, we shifted the terminology of the “CSA = Coordination and Support Action” towards “(voluntary) cooperation”, which is more appropriate given the setup of Grant Agreements and the spirit supporting action.

The design of the CSA focusing on engagement and communication with 1/3 of its budget provides a specific added value to the IAs, as their own communications budget is more limited and there is shared understanding of reaching impact, which is easier by working together. This is reflected in the regular meetings and the joint activities.

Furthermore, the inclusion in the CSA of potential replication regions – where the IA solutions and approaches could be used – allows for thinking in terms of impact. However, it is yet too early to judge if this approach will be successful.

Focusing first discussions for the selection of cooperation topics on the added value across the cluster projects was a fundamental step to clarify what exactly should (not) be done, and to ensure engagement in the action plan implementation.

We consider also that part of the success was the early action, even before signing the Gas. It was facilitated by the fact that all 4 project awards were previously communicated by the awarded teams in the social media (early spotting) and that there had been previous work between many of the new project leads and partners (easy contacting). This early action was able to shape the implementation actions of the projects.



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During 2022, the four projects have been the only Climate Adaptation Mission projects, which “forced” us to work together, show progress and engage with local actions. This has changed however since January 2023 as more and much larger projects are now in place.

3.2 Weaknesses

The call for proposals included some ambiguity and duplications which can potentially different interpretations and approaches between the projects. This has been especially evident for the topic of “monitoring and evaluation” where the CSA was supposed to develop an overarching framework which – according to the call text - should be implemented by the IAs. However, the IA Grant Agreements already adopted the M&E approaches of the IAs, so there was very little to coordinate as a top-down intervention of an overarching M&E framework.

There is a growing landscape of further clustering and coordination actions. In our field, this includes not only REGILIENCE as CSA for the three IA projects, but also the Green Deal Support Office, the Mission Secretariat, the MIP4ADAPT platform, and the TRAMI project. It is increasingly difficult to understand and to communicate the added value of these additional layers on top of the projects which do hands-on work. These initiatives also compete for time and dedication of the implementing projects.

As many of the cooperation activities are not directly related to the outputs (deliverables) of the projects, the related actions, outcomes, and impacts are usually perceived as lower priorities, leading to a constant postponing of actions – either by the corresponding lead of the action or the contributing partners/individuals. This is especially relevant for cooperation beyond the cluster (e.g. with CoCliCo, NetZeroCities, etc.) as the contacts with these projects are much less frequent and regular. Furthermore, so far, no clear work relation has been established with any of the new 2023 Mission Adaptation projects or the Mission Implementation Platform, despite a clear request for cooperation from our side in January 2023. This might result in duplications or lacking uptake of lessons learned, tools developed, continuity of expert exchanges, etc.

The relevance of this task and the magnitude of work required has been underestimated in our project proposal.

4 Conclusions

This first version of the cooperation report explains the approach/process for setting up the activities of the CSA and project cluster and illustrates some of the main outcomes.

Already at this stage in PR1, the project has achieved/largely surpassed the corresponding KPI and the Impact Indicator. This can partly be explained by the fact that the four projects in this cluster have been the first Climate Adaptation Mission projects and therefore received much attention and visibility, and the cooperation work has been much more relevant than initially thought.

As stated previously, all four projects have expressed interest to continue, strengthen and focus the cooperation, including specific (publishable) outputs. It is also expected that in the next years,



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cooperation will be strengthened with other Mission projects and by the replication of solutions in the 7 REGILIENCE focus regions.



References

None

Annex

None.

The cooperation documents, meeting agendas and minutes include personal data and internal information, which is not appropriate for sharing. If evidence is needed for the project review, such information can be provided individually to CINEA.