

Long-term sustainability and exploitation strategy AUGUST 2023

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Project Acronym:	REGILIENCE
Programme	Horizon2020
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Action
Grant Agreement number	101036560
Start day	01/11/2021
Duration	48 months
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Document information

Document Factsheet	
Full title	D4.4 Long-term sustainability and exploitation strategy
Work Package	WP4
Task(s)	Task 4.4 Sustainability and long-term exploitation
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Date	August 2023

Document dissemination Level

Dissemination Level			
X	PU - Public		
	PP - Restricted to other programme participants (including the EC)		
	RE - Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the EC)		
	CO - Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the EC)		

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Document history

Version	Date	Main modification	Entity
V0.1	25 June 2023	Draft version distributed for quality review	RCN
V0.2	4 July 2023	Internal Quality review	REGEA
V0.3	13 July 2023	Review by the project coordinator	IEECP
V0.4	21 July 2023	Review by consortium partners	FS6, FEDARENE, FC.ID, ICLEI, IEECP, REGEA, Fresh Thoughts,
V0.5	21 July 2023	Final review by project coordinator	IEECP

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How to cite this report: REGILIENCE (2023). Long-term sustainability and exploitation strategy. By Federico Aili & Leon Kapetas (R-Cities). Available at: https://regilience.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/D4.4 Long-term-sustainability-and-exploitation-strategy.pdf



About

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

CoP	EU Mission Adaptation Community of Practice
DOI	Digital object identifier
IAs	Innovation Actions (IAs regions and IAs projects under the same call)
GA	Grant Agreement
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
MIP4Adapt	Mission Implementation Platform
Mission	Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change
WP	Work Package



Executive Summary

The current document presents the strategy for the long-term sustainability and exploitation strategy of REGILIENCE. Exploitation is a key component of EU-funded projects, and consortium partners are required to take measures aiming to ensure the exploitation of results both during the project and in the upcoming years.

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 Actions (or sister projects) ARSINOE, IMPETUS, and TransformAr and other sources. It is by definition a "Coordination and Support Action" (CSA), supporting other sister projects to amplify the reach and impact of results, coordinate actions and maximise benefits for communities impacted by climate change. The objective of the sustainability and long-term exploitation strategy is to ensure that the solutions and outcomes achieved, as well as processed developed, are utilized by relevant institutions, partners and stakeholders. Given the nature of REGILIENCE project, the focus of the exploitation strategy is not to make new solutions marketable; rather, the aim is to ensure the uptake from other European regions beyond the timeframe of the project. This means ensuring that the solutions and tools developed (both within Innovation Actions regions and REGILIENCE Focus regions) can be as much as possible visible and accessible to other European regions. It also implies maintaining and strengthening synergies and collaborations between regional authorities, institutions, communities and key stakeholders in the implementation of climate-resilient development pathways.

REGILIENCE moves in the context of the European Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, supporting EU regions, cities and local authorities in their efforts to build resilience against the impact of climate change. Within this context, it is crucial for REGILIENCE to strengthen the connection with Climate-ADAPT platform, where to showcase the project results. In fact, Climate-ADAPT has become the Mission's knowledge hub, it hosts the Mission on Adaptation portal and will also work as Mission Implementation Platform.

In terms of project results and outcomes, the strategy outlines the list of exploitable assets, including tools developed (such as the self-assessment maladaptation tool, the funding factsheet), publications and research outcomes (for instance the decision support matrix), and active communication means (including the project website). These assets could be either used as static reference or be further refined and developed in future.

Lastly, the strategy outlines the key target groups and define the exploitation opportunities for each partner of REGILIENCE consortium.

The Long-term Sustainability and Exploitation Strategy will be regularly updated by Resilient Cities Network until the conclusion of the project in October 2025. A final version will be in included in REGILIENCE final report at the conclusion of the project.



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.

Despite this deliverable does not directly involve data collection and development of new tools, it encourages to monitor and evaluate the involvement of different genders in the activities developed by making use of REGILIENCE assets.



1 Introduction

Communication, dissemination and exploitation are an integral component of EU-funded Horizon projects, critical to determine their success and maximize the impact. Generally speaking, while communication and dissemination focus on transferring knowledge and results by showing the generated impact and benefits, the objective of exploitation is to make effective use of project results, not only from a scientific perspective but also in the broader socio-economic and political context. More precisely, exploitation refers to "the utilization of results in further research activities other than those covered by the action concerned, or in developing, creating and marketing a product or process, or in creating and providing a service, or in standardisation activities" (European Commission Research and Innovation, 2023). Exploitation can be commercial, societal, political, or aimed at improving public knowledge and action.

REGILIENCE project aims to foster the adoption and wide dissemination of regional climate resilience pathways in Europe, adopting a long-term perspective which goes beyond the duration of the project (2021-2025). One of the most important objectives of REGILIENCE is to build the capacity of 7 Focus regions, vulnerable European regions in Europe selected by the consortium. These regions have signed a cooperation agreement with the consortium and will work together to make use of the solutions developed both within REGILIENCE and the sister projects. The list of Focus Regions covers: Comunitat Valenciana (Spain), Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia (Spain), Regão Autónoma da Madeira (Portugal), La Réunion (France), Jadranska Hrvatska Istrian County Area (Croatia), Yuzhen tsentralen (Bulgaria), Central Macedonia (Greece).

In order to ensure the uptake of solutions in time and the replication in other European regions, a dedicated work package in REGILENCE focuses on implementation pathways and long-term exploitation (Work Package 4). The current document constitutes Deliverable 4.4 "Long-term sustainability and exploitation strategy", which aims to define the needed activities and key synergies to ensure the success and the legacy of REGILIENCE. In order to pave the way for the long-term sustainability of REGILIENCE, the document describes the list of exploitable assets, the targeted stakeholders and institutions, as well as the actions to take up the learnings and continue utilizing them.

This document was concluded at a moment when REGILIENCE project is around half a way of its lifespan. The Long-term sustainability and exploitation strategy is built taking into consideration the activities already implemented to date and those under development, as indicated by the Grant Agreement. These include services, knowledge products, tools, programmes and platforms. In addition, the Strategy also considers the preliminary exploitation guidelines developed in the proposal stage (already included in the Grant Agreement). The identification of exploitable assets is validated after internal discussions with the other consortium partners. The Exploitation Strategy will be periodically reviewed after its publication, with the goal to incorporate smaller adjustments where needed.

The current document is structured in three main parts. The first one presents an overview of the EU context associated to the Mission on Adaptation and opportunities for exploitation. The second part identifies the main assets and exploitable results of REGILIENCE, as well as the exploitation route for each of these. Lastly, the third part identifies key external stakeholders, potential synergies and the long-term exploitation by the individual partners of REGILIENCE.



2 Exploitation within the EU context and the Mission on Adaptation

The EU Mission on Adaptation has set the ambitious goal to support at least 150 European regions and communities in becoming climate resilient by 2030. In order to accelerate transformation, increase preparedness and support testing of solutions, the Mission aims to provide adequate coordination among the broad range of activities and actors, as well as effective dissemination to foster replication and upscaling. In this regard, a Mission Implementation Platform will be established to fulfil a series of functions. These include general coordination and management, support and development, monitoring and evaluation, as well as broader citizen engagement, communication, dissemination and exploitation. In this regard, the Mission Implementation Platform will aim to boost scientific, societal and economic impacts by creating synergies and adding value to communication, dissemination and exploitation activities of individual projects. Moreover, the Mission implementation plan indicates close collaboration with strategic entities such as the European Environment Agency (EEA), and European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)'s Climate-Knowledge and Innovation Community (Climate-KIC).

Within this context, REGILIENCE is aligned with the Mission, leveraging the solutions available from Innovation Actions and other sources. In particular, REGILIENCE collaborates directly with the LC-GD-1-3-2020 subtopic 1 Innovation Action (IA) projects (ARSINOE, IMPETUS and TransformAr), disseminating and fostering replication of their results in other European regions. Nevertheless, REGILIENCE is by definition a "Coordination and support action", therefore its primary scope is to accompany "measures such as standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies" (European Commission, 2019). In fact, REGILIENCE leads the effort to coordinate with the other projects on any mutually beneficial and synergistic efforts that can achieve maximum visibility and impact. The overarching, long-term goal is to leverage the innovations from IAs, maintaining and extending the cooperation across projects and regions under the Mission in the years to come.

2.1 The centrality of Climate-ADAPT

Climate-ADAPT is the platform established by the European Commission and the European Environment Agency (EEA) to support Europe in adaptation to climate change impacts. It constitutes a key platform for the exploitation of REGILIENCE's progresses and advancements.

In fact, Climate-Adapt represents a key resource for the EU adaptation policy framework, supporting climate change adaptation across all policy levels and in all relevant policy areas in Europe. Based on its mission, "it provides access to the necessary adaptation data and information, turns it into reliable knowledge, catalyses the uptake and adaptation solutions, and mobilizes people and organizations to make adaptation happen" (Climate-ADAPT, 2021). Users can access shared knowledge, as well as navigate an updated database with case studies, tools and resources. Some of these features are particularly relevant for REGILIENCE's long-term exploitation strategy, such as the catalogue of potential adaptation options (which can be explored by selecting a specific climate impact and sector of interest), and the case studies database



(which provides illustrative and inspiring examples of adaptation options implemented in Europe). In this regard, case studies from IAs regions and REGILIENCE Focus Regions could be added to the database, enriching it with lessons learned and experiences collected in the application of tools within climate-vulnerable regions.

Furthermore, Climate-ADAPT is currently moving from a key reference tool to become the 'authoritative European platform for Adaptation', as indicated in the Climate-ADAPT Strategy for 2022-2024. Within this framework, Climate-ADAPT is reaching a new dimension by taking the role of supporting the EU Mission on Adaptation and serving as the 'mission knowledge hub'. This is also reflected in the two new objectives added to its strategy: driving regional and community resilience and supporting international adaptation actions and exchanges. Both objectives are particularly relevant for REGILIENCE, and the activities implemented in the project.

Consistently with this evolution, Climate-ADAPT hosts the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change Portal, which was launched in April 2023 to provide information about the Mission and its latest development, and soon it will host the Mission Implementation Platform.

The Mission Portal includes information about the Charter Signatories, the ongoing Mission Projects and the EU Mission Adaptation Community of Practice. In addition, it includes the Regional Adaptation Support Tool (currently under development) and offers direct access to a repository of knowledge and data. The Adaptation Dashboard is also a relevant tool, informing regions on climate risks and impacts as well as adaptation policies and measures. REGILIENCE is one of the 8 projects showcased as directly funded by the Mission on Adaptation. These projects are managed by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). In terms of exploitation and long-term sustainability, CINEA platform showcases information about the projects supported by the various programme, therefore it will remain an important reference for REGILIENCE.

At the same time, Climate-ADAPT will also host the Mission Implementation Platform (MIP4Adapt) which aims to support EU regions and local authorities in planning and preparing for their adaptation pathways to climate resilience. MIP4Adapt will also provide technical assistance to regions and facilitate the Community of Practice. REGILIENCE partners will continue support the work of the Platform and selected representatives of the project will actively participate in the community of practice and follow its evolution.

2.2 European Commission exploitation tools

Consistently with its approach, REGILIENCE will make use of the available tools provided by the European Commission to maximize dissemination and exploitation in Europe. The list provided by the Commission includes the following tools:

- <u>CORDIS</u>: the Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) is the primary source of results from the projects funded by the EU's framework programmes, including Horizon Europe. It brings research results to professionals in the field, fostering innovation in products and services, as well as promoting open science.
- Horizon Dashboard: an interactive platform to facilitate data sharing, providing public access to the ongoing Horizon proposals, projects and participants.
- Horizon Results Booster: initiative launched by the European Commission to bring continual stream of innovation to the market and maximize the impact of public funded research in Europe.



- Horizon Results Platform: a platform designed to allow policy makers, investors, entrepreneurs, citizens to discover the results of EU-funded research results and reach out to creators.
- <u>Innovation Radar:</u> initiative launched to identify potential innovations and innovators in the EU-funded research and innovation projects, allowing citizens, public officials, professionals and business to discover the outputs of EU innovation funding.
- Research and Innovation success stories: a database of projects and success stories of EU-funded Research and Innovation.

Considering its coordinating and support role, REGILIENCE will aim to make use of the tools which provide more visibility and opportunities for synergies. To date, the application for the Horizon Result Booster has already been submitted and accepted (Module A will finish in July 2023, while Moule B will start on September 2023, supporting the dissemination of the portfolio or project results). In terms of further exploitation, CORDIS platform and the Research and Innovation success stories seem to be the most appropriate tools. Moreover, REGILIENCE will also encourage IAs regions and case studies to share relevant innovations and experiences in the development of climate-resilient pathways.

For what concerns specifically scientific publications, the consortium is committed to publish the overall project results without charging intellectual property rights, in particular through OpenAIRE platform via Green Open Access, and ResearchGate. The consortium has foreseen appropriate resources to ensure open access to research data and peer-reviewed publication. Nevertheless, consortium partners (in particular academic and research partners) are encouraged to use inmind contributions from their institutions when this is possible and necessary.

In addition, the consortium will create a community on Zenodo, an integrated general-purpose open repository which collects research submissions and provides persistent digital object identifier (DOI); this repository will allow the consortium to share and maintain also non-scientific reports, including project deliverables. REGILIENCE will set up the online community by the end of the project, and will explore opportunities to include relevant resources from the other IAs projects. This activity will be coordinated by IEECP and supported by Resilient Cities Network and F6S.

2.3 Networking activities and additional opportunities

As part of the project activities, REGILIENCE is coordinating and organizing a series of events which will take place throughout the duration of the project. These include different workshop typologies, webinars, capacity-building activities and open seminars. One specific task in REGILIENCE focuses on network exchange activities. The objective of this task is to foster knowledge management cooperation amongst existing relevant networks and strengthen the European Community of Practice on regional resilience pathways. The task is coordinated by ICLEI and sees the implementation of a series of large-scale workshops with a focus on regional resilience during the time frame of the project. In 2022, three workshops took place in events (3rd EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week, 9th European Urban Resilience Forum, 20th European Week of Regions and Cities).

The successful implementation of these activities will allow to disseminate, discuss and upgrade existing knowledge on policies, regulatory frameworks, and governance structures in the field of resilience and climate adaptation. Furthermore, it represents an opportunity to establish and



maintain relations with other relevant European organizations and networks. Boosting these relations and establishing collaboration is crucial to ensure visibility of the project and increase the opportunities of successful exploitation. In this regard, the consortium is committed to present REGILIENCE project in external events and taking advantage of opportunities for further collaboration and knowledge sharing.

As leading partner for networking activities, ICLEI has already mapped conferences and events, including European Climate Change Adaptation Conference (ECCA), Adaptation Futures, the European Urban Resilience Forum, the UN Climate Change Conference and Conference for Sustainable Cities and Towns. More details about events and network activities are included in Deliverable 1.3 "Networking activities, including their description and evaluation", submitted in April 2023. At the same time, the project's Communication and Dissemination plan has also preliminary identified relevant stakeholder associations and portals that can support REGILIENCE in maximizing its impact. In addition, a series of online platforms were reviewed and assessed under Work Package 2 and could contribute to showcase the tools and solutions for implementing innovation packages in regions. The list of platform in accessible in Deliverable 2.1 "Performance and impact review of online platforms", submitted in October 2022.

All network activities will be monitored and evaluated during the projects and the most promising opportunities for further exploitation of REGILIENCE results will be prioritized.



3 The development of REGILIENCE long-term sustainability and exploitation strategy

3.1 Objectives of REGILIENCE exploitation

The development of the long-term sustainability and exploitation strategy aims to ensure the success and legacy of REGILIENCE project. The strategy is built taking into account the nature of REGILIENCE as Coordination and Support Action (CSA) and its objectives. While other project typologies, such as the Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) and the Innovation Actions (IAs), aim to produce new knowledge, solutions, products and services, REGILIENCE plays primarily a coordinating and supporting role. In fact, the project develops, compiles, shares and promotes tools and scientific knowledge to support European regions in identifying and addressing local climate-related risks.

For this reason, the successful legacy of REGILIENCE should be measured by considering the replication of solutions developed within regions, the level of support provided to regional authorities and agencies, and the collaboration and synergies developed. In particular, a key success factor is to ensure that the solutions and processes developed through the Innovation Actions are utilized by the relevant institutions and stakeholders, facilitating not only the uptake of these solutions but their further adaptation and evolution.

Starting from the objectives set by REGILIENCE in the work plan 2021-2025, the strategy identifies the following long-term objectives to achieve a successful exploitation of the project:

Table 1. REGILIENCE objectives

REGILIENCE's objectives during the project REGILIENCE's long-term objectives for time frame exploitation Replication of the solutions developed Understanding and addressing local by the IAs projects in other EU and regional needs Connecting people and ideas Further development, evolution and Building local and regional capacity uptake of the solutions developed in Strengthening resilience in 7 focus IAs regions regions Uptake of REGILIENCE tools and Engaging with citizens and fostering results to support the wide adoption their awareness of regional climate-resilient Collaborating with other projects development pathways Support the consolidation of the CoP on climate adaptation and further international collaboration.



The long-term objectives are built upon the work initiated in 2021 by REGILIENCE consortium and will mostly depend on the successful implementation of the activities during the project timeframe. Nevertheless, REGILIENCE's results need to receive the right exposure and be accessible for other regions potentially interested in the replication of solutions and tools. For this reason, the long-term sustainability and exploitation strategy identifies as a priority the integration with Climate-ADAPT and the resources offered by the Mission on Adaptation. In fact, these platforms offer technical assistance, case-studies, lessons learned, tools, and represent a privileged entrypoint for regional authorities, agencies, professionals and other stakeholders engaged in accompanying regions and communities towards climate adaptation and resilience. Therefore, the inclusion of REGILIENCE learnings and tools, together with the solutions developed in the IAs regions, constitutes a critical aspect to ensure replication and long-term sustainability of the results achieved. The consortium partners will ensure that some of REGILIENCE assets can already be included on Climate-ADAPT before the conclusion of the project. In this regard, the selfassessment maladaptation tool has been already successfully integrated. The consortium partners will keep an active role and regular contact with Climate-Adapt, as well as MIP4Adapt, to foster and promote the integration of REGILIENCE in the project. Furthermore, the consortium will also screen additional opportunities to integrate tools and results in other online platforms. These can include dedicated platforms for exploitation in Europe (such as Zenodo), as well as international platforms open for submission (such as the <u>UNFCCC Adaptation Knowledge portal</u>).

3.2 Process and methodology

The long-term sustainability and exploitation strategy is built following a 4-step process. First of all, the preliminary key principles and directions of the exploitation strategy were identified in the proposal phase and included in the Grant Agreement. The structure of the current strategy is elaborated after reviewing other exploitation strategies from previous EU projects as reference and examining opportunities for exploitation in the EU context. Furthermore, a round of consultations with project partners was completed in order to define the key exploitable assets and the commitments from REGILIENCE partners after the conclusion of the project.

The 4-step development process of the strategy is the following:

- Preliminary strategy (2021): early identification of key principles, components and directions for the exploitation strategy in the proposal phase; the draft guidelines for exploitation were already identified by the consortium and included in the Grant Agreement.
- 2. Review and analysis (Jan-Mar 2023): review of former exploitation strategies from previous Horizon projects, and analysis of opportunities for exploration in the EU context. This phase was useful to define the general structure of the strategy, the classification of assets and key stakeholders.
- 3. Internal consultation (May-June 2023): consultation sessions with REGILIENCE partners to identify the key exploitable assets and the commitments from partners after the conclusion of the process. A dedicated session to this scope took place during REGILIENCE Management Board Meeting in May 2023.
- 4. **Monitoring and update (2024-2025):** periodic revision and update of the strategy based on project development and upcoming opportunities for exploitation. Moreover, the collaboration with the three sister projects could further align the list of exploitable assets, as well as create further opportunities for exploitation (i.e., Climate innovation Window for ARSINOE). In parallel, a round of consultations with external stakeholders



interested in REGILIENCE will be explored and will be carried on by Resilient Cities Network with additional support from consortium partners.

The long-term sustainability and exploitation strategy will be submitted in M20, but it will be regularly reviewed during the implementation of the project to incorporate any necessary adjustments and ensure its effectiveness. The development and coordination of the strategy is done by Resilient Cities Network and supported by the other consortium partners. The final version of the strategy will be included in the final report at the conclusion of REGILIENCE in October 2025.

3.3 Monitoring

The long-term sustainability and exploitation strategy will be periodically reviewed and updated, until the submission of the final report of REGILIENCE at the conclusion of the project. In the period between July 2023 and October 2025, the list of exploitable assets will be periodically revised, based on the activities delivered by the consortium, and considering any further synergies developed among the IAs projects. Despite the revision on the strategy does not require the submission of a new deliverable, Resilient Cities Network will lead the monitoring process and maintain the strategy updated.

To measure the success of the exploitation of REGILIENCE, a preliminary list of indicators has been defined to monitor the results. The consortium will try to achieve these targets already by the end of the project. In any case, project partners are committed to continue the exploitation of REGILIENCE assets beyond the timeframe of the project. These indicators will be used as reference to support exploitation initiatives beyond 2025.

Table 2. Indicators to monitor the successful exploitation of REGILIENCE

Indicators for exploitation	
A. Number of REGILIENCE assets showcased on Climate-ADAPT	At least 3 assets linked to Climate- ADAPT
B. Number of REGILIENCE assets showcased on the EU Mission portal and platform	At least 5 assets linked to the EU Mission platform
C. Number of other EU platforms and institutions showcasing REGILIENCE assets	At least 5 online platforms showcasing REGILIENCE assets
D. Number of EU regions part of the Mission which replicated solutions originally developed within REGILIENCE and the IAs regions	At least 10 Mission signatories regions



replicating solutions

After the conclusion of REGILIENCE, the consortium partners will continue the exploitation of the project individually, based on their priority areas, targets and upcoming activities. REGILIENCE partners are committed to make use of the assets generated and connect these to new solutions and processes under development beyond the timeframe of project.

4 Key Exploitable assets

4.1 Overview of key exploitable assets

The following section provides an overview of REGILIENCE's main exploitable assets and outcomes. According to the Communication and Dissemination Strategy (D1.2), there are three categories of content:

- Citizens and region engagement outputs (educational and training activities across relevant sectors for citizens, target regions and communities).
- Monitoring and assessment results (set of indicators to expand knowledge and enabling monitoring and assessment)
- Portfolio of solutions (developed in guiding regions to develop climate-resilient pathways and to prepare portfolios of solutions

In regards of the long-term sustainability and exploitation, this strategy identifies the following categorization of assets:

- **Projects results and outcomes**: this category includes the main projects outcomes and results achieved by the project during its lifespan. Despite their relevance, these assets will not be updated anymore for what concerns the content. They will remain available as reference to be used by stakeholders for further projects and research.
- Assets to be further exploited (internally and externally): it refers to the key thematic
 assets, such as specific tools, which can be further exploited and developed beyond the
 timespan of REGILIENCE project. It includes both assets which will be updated or
 maintained by consortium partners in the upcoming years and those which can
 potentially be taken over by external partners, not directly involved in REGILIENCE.
 These assets will become sustainable once a partner has taken over the activity.

This differentiation is useful to better guide in the strategic use of the assets and results developed. The strategy identifies opportunities for maintenance and exploitation for both typologies.



4.1.1 Project outcomes and results

The assets considered under this category are:

- Citizens survey findings
- Lesson learned by Focus Regions
- List of solutions from REGILIENCE and IAs regions
- Map of regions of the projects cluster
- Newsletters
- Policy papers and scientific articles
- Recommendations and opinion articles
- Needs assessment of regional authorities and stakeholders
- Social media

4.1.2 Assets to be further exploited

The assets in this category can be exploited in future, either internally or externally. Internal exploitation means that REGILIENCE partners will continue to make use of the assets developed or used during the project; external exploitation means that external partners or stakeholders (not part of the consortium) will decide to make use of the assets developed in REGILIENCE. In case of the external exploitation, the assets are considered sustainable in the long-term.

This category includes the following assets:

- Capacity-building of regions
- Decision support matrix
- Funding factsheets and opportunities
- Innovative PPPs
- Performance and impact review of current platforms
- Prioritization Strategy
- Resilience scan tool
- Self-assessment tool for maladaptation
- Website

Table 3. Overview of Key Exploitable Assets

Asset	Description	Owner/ Responsible partner	Target customer and external stakeholders	Commitment
	Project out	comes and results		
Citizen survey	Surveys to assess citizens' perspective and collect information on citizens engagement and awareness	FS6	Research and academia, citizens and communities	The results of the survey will be used for further dissemination across the Mission's projects and regions
Lesson learned by regions	Collect learning from regions (on transformational pathways, recommendations, M&E methods)	FRESH TOUGHTS, REGEA, ADELPHI	Regions and local authorities	Fresh Thoughts and Adelphi will share case studies with Climate- ADAPT



List of solutions developed by REGILIENCE and the IAs regions	List of solutions developed by REGILIENCE and in the IAs regions under the other projects (TransformAr, IMPETUS, ARISNOE)	FRESH THOUGHTS, FEDARENE	Regions and local authorities	Explore the possibility to include the list of solutions as part of Climate-ADAPT resources
Map of regions of the project cluster	Interactive map showcasing the regions covered by ARSINOE, IMPETUS and TransformAr, with information about SDGs targeted and Key Community Systems addressed	FS6	General audience	The map will be used for further dissemination of REGILIENCE
Newsletter	Regularly distributed publication that contains news, updates, and information about the Climate Resilience Cluster	FS6	General audience	Published newsletters will remain available on the website, as well as on Zenodo. Explore the opportunity to share the list of subscribers with other projects (upon consent)
Policy papers and scientific articles	Policy papers, opinion articles and scientific publications produced during the lifespan of REGILIENCE	FC.ID/FT/ADELP HI	Research and academia	Publications and relevant other project results will be uploaded on Zenodo and further disseminated to support further research
Recommendations and opinion articles	Recommendations and scientific produced during the lifespan of REGILIENCE	FC.ID/FT/ADELP HI	Research and academia	Project results/outcomes to be disseminated. Use of data and methods for further research
Needs assessment of regional authorities and stakeholders	Overview of the needs of European regions to adapt to climate changes	ICLEI	Regions and local authorities, research and academia	Project results to be used as reference and disseminated to other Mission's projects and regions
Social media	REGILIENCE social media channels, such as LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook pages.	F6S	General audience	Explore the opportunity to share and transfer the credentials to other partners/projects after the conclusion of REGILIENCE
	Assets to b	e further exploited		
Capacity-building of regions	Capacity building activities to inform interested European regions and regional actors about available support (e.g., opportunities on the European level, tools and solutions, indicators, maladaptation, funding), and technical solutions for adaptation (sectoral solutions and good practice implementations)	FEDARENE	Regions and local authorities, researchers/acad emia, citizens	The recordings of the open training sessions and webinars will remain available on YouTube as well as on FEDARENE website. Additional resources used in the capacity-building program will become available through the project website or Zenodo.
Decision support matrix	Tool to support decision making at regional level, matching needs associated to climate risk with available solutions, and is supported by monitoring indicators	FC.ID, ADELPHI	Regions and local authorities, research and academia	The set of indicators could be used to complement and integrate the ESPON platform.
Funding opportunities factsheet	Information on European and national funding opportunities and guidance on the identification of potential funding sources.	FEDARENE	Regions, researchers, NGOs, etc.	The Mission Platform will have the opportunity to use it.
Innovative Public Private Partnerships	Learning about PPPs for climate resilience and exploration of innovative approaches	R-CITIES	Regions, regional/local authorities, and private sector	R-Cities can promote further testing at the city level in other regions



Performance and impact review of current platforms	Online platform solutions and assessment of existing platforms	REGEA, F6S	Climate-ADAPT	Factsheet is probably the best way to present the results; prepare the list of the projects which offer platforms.
Prioritization Strategy	Prioritization strategy for resilience pathways in regions	REGEA	Regions and local authorities	The strategy will support REGILIENCE Focus Regions and IAs regions in developing climateresilient pathways. The Strategy will remain publicly available on project website and Zenodo.
Resilience Scan Tool	Online tool for citizens to quickly assess the resilience of their actions, with suggested recommendations on how to increase the multi-benefit and multi-hazard value of initiatives	R-CITIES	Regions and local authorities	R-Cities can further promote the use of the tool in other cities and regions
Self-assessment maladaptation tool	A checklist for users to self-assess the maladaptation potential of their planned adaptation actions, based on selected risk factors, and spot those factors where further action to avoid maladaptation is needed	FRESH THOUGHTS	Region and local authorities	All partners should make use or promote the tools and solutions.
Website	The website is specifically created to showcase and provide information about REGILIENCE. It serves as a platform, showing project's goals, progresses and outcomes with stakeholders, team members, and the public.	F6S	General audience	The project website will remain alive until 2030. Explore the opportunity to share the credential after the conclusion of REGILIENCE with other partners/stakeholders.

4.2 Exploitation route per asset

4.2.1 Exploitation asset n.1: Citizen survey

Description: The citizen survey is part of the work performed under engagement, communication and dissemination activities. This survey aims to collect information to reflect citizen awareness and engagement and also geographic, economic, social and cultural differences before and after the implementation of the REGILIENCE project and their climate resilience actions/good practices. The results aim also to unveil the need for sustaining climate resilience actions/good practices lifetime at the end of the project.

Timeline/deliverable: The completion of two surveys, collecting a sample of 1,000 citizens will be completed by M47 (September 2025) and constitutes the milestone MS2 "Citizens Surveys".

Target groups: The citizen surveys target citizens and communities of the 7 REGILIENCE focus regions. The results can be of interest both for research and academy, as well as for regional governments, regions and projects that are part of the Mission on Adaptation.

Opportunities for exploitation and long-term sustainability: The results of the survey are set to unveil the needs for sustaining the climate resilience actions and good practices' lifetime at the end of the project. This asset represents an important result of REGILIENCE and it will be disseminated to reach other regions part of the Mission on Adaptation. The survey will not be updated or revised after the conclusion of REGILIENCE but the outcomes of the study are feed the project publication "Citizen Engagement Report", as well as infographics and briefings.



4.2.2 Exploitation asset n.2: Lessons learned by regions

Description: Summary report of the lesson learned by the IAs regions (part of ARSINOE, TransformAr, IMPETUS), and REGILIENCE Focus regions.

Target groups: The lesson learned by regions will be shared with decision makers, regional and local authorities involved in the Mission or actively interested in climate-resilient pathways.

Timeline/deliverable: the lesson learned by regions will be collected, developed and updated throughout the duration of the project until September 2025.

Opportunities for exploitation and long-term sustainability: the series of lesson learned by regions constitutes a reference of the achievements of the cluster projects and regions working on climate-resilient Innovation Packages. Exemplary case-studies could be selected and the inclusion on Climate-ADAPT platform will be considered.

4.2.3 Exploitation asset n.3: List of solutions developed by regions

Description: Comprehensive list of solutions developed in all the IAs regions and the Focus Regions of REGILIENCE. It provides an overview of possible interventions to increase climate adaptation and resilience, as well as support climate-resilient development pathways.

Target groups: The lesson learned by regions will be shared with decision makers, regional and local authorities involved in the Mission or actively interested in climate-resilient pathways.

Timeline/deliverable: the lesson learned by regions will be collected, developed and updated throughout the duration of the project until September 2025.

Opportunities for exploitation and long-term sustainability: the asset constitutes a reference of the achievements of the projects and regions working on climate-resilient Innovation Packages. Exemplary case-studies could be selected and the inclusion on Climate-ADAPT platform will be considered.

4.2.4 Exploitation asset n.4: Map of regions of the project cluster

Description: Interactive map showcasing the regions covered by REGILIENCE, ARSINOE, IMPETUS and TransformAr. Beside the geographical distribution of this cluster of projects, the map allows to visualize different information based on available filters, such as the SDG targeted and the Key Community Systems addressed, coming from the Mission on Adaptation to climate change.

Target groups: the joint map is part of the informative materials on the project website; therefore, it targets a general audience.

Timeline/deliverable: the joint map does not constitute a project deliverable, but it is an additional resource available on REGILIENCE <u>website</u>.

Opportunities for exploitation and long-term sustainability: the joint map provides an overview of the regions supported by REGILIENCE and will be part of the legacy of the project. It does not constitute a direct exploitable result, although it could be included in the EU platforms which



showcase the result of Horizon Europe projects. This could be done either associating the link to the joint map or extracting key information.

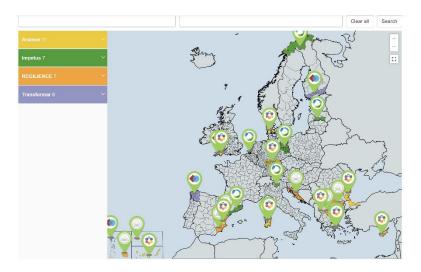


Figure 1. Joint map

4.2.5 Exploitation asset n.5: Newsletter

Description: Regular newsletters are prepared and sent out quarterly, including news form the Climate Resilient Cluster, composed by REGILIENCE, Arsinoe, Impetus and TransformAr, and for this reason, is called The Climate Resilience Post.

Target groups: The newsletter is sent to the list of subscribers which include a variety of stakeholders, who register to receive period update from the project. Nevertheless, all released newsletters will be accessible on the project website, targeting general audience.

Timeline/deliverable: recurring newsletters have been sent starting from November 2022, in a shared effort between the 4 Horizon 2020 projects supporting the EU Mission: REGILIENCE, ARSINOE, IMPETUS and TransformAr. The Climate Resilience Post is a joint activity to share their latest activities, interventions and opportunities related to climate change, adaptation and resilience. The Climate Resilience Post will be sent out at least 4 times a year until October 2025.

Opportunities for exploitation and long-term sustainability: All newsletter sent out during the duration of REGILIENCE will be publicly available and accessible on the project website. For this reason, the newsletters will remain accessible as long as the website will remain active. In terms of content, the newsletters represent a summary legacy of the various activities implemented during the 4 projects. Nevertheless, the audience of the newsletter might be invited to become part of newsletters of upcoming projects (upon informed consent by the subscribers and in accordance with GDPR). The ownership of the subscriber list could be given to the Mission Secretariat, a follow-up Horizon Europe projects, or specific partners interests in it. The newsletter will also be maintained in Zenodo.





Figure 2. Newsletter

4.2.6 Exploitation asset n.6: Policy papers and scientific articles

Description: This asset refers to the collection of scientific and policy papers that will be released and published throughout the duration of REGILIENCE.

Target groups: The publication of scientific articles will be of interest for academia and research centre. The release of policy papers could be useful also for decision makers, regional and local authorities.

Timeline/deliverable: Policy papers and scientific articles will be released and publish throughout the duration of REGILIENCE (until October 2025).

Opportunities for exploitation and long-term sustainability: These assets target the scientific communities and can be used as references for further studies and research in the sector. Besides being accessible as resources on the project website, these publications will be added both on Zenodo and OpenAIRE.

4.2.7 Exploitation asset n.7: Needs assessment of regional authorities and stakeholders

Description: Report aimed at providing an overview of the needs of European regions to adapt to a changing climate, by analysing and presenting the outcomes of an online survey and series of interviews with regional authorities.

Target groups: The report targeted regions, including supra-municipal, county, provincial or district stakeholders holding relevant competencies in key sectors and managing significant EU regional development funds. It is of interest to regional and local authorities, as well as research and academia.

Timeline/deliverable: The report is the results of the Deliverable 1.1 "Resilience planning & development needs of regional authorities and stakeholders", submitted in October 2022 and led by ICLEI.

Opportunities for exploitation and long-term sustainability: The report represents a key document for the development of upcoming activities in REGILIENCE, and within the broader series of



activities within the Mission for Adaptation to Climate Change. This asset represents a project result, and it constitutes a useful reference to assess the needs of regional authorities in climate adaptation.

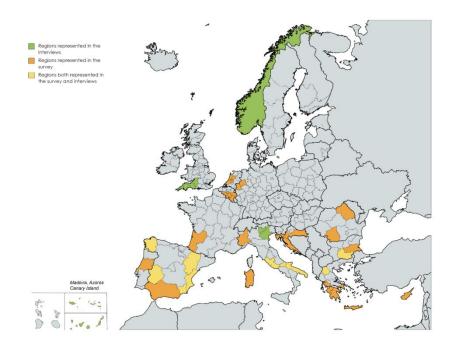


Figure 3. Map of the regions who participated in surveys and interviews (extract from Deliverable 1.1)

4.2.8 Exploitation asset n.8: Social media

Description: REGILIENCE social media have been developed in parallel with the website and are active since the end of 2021. All social media channels are curated by F6S.

Target groups: Social media target general audiences and citizens and are mostly used for communication and dissemination the project's results achieved so far, events, and other initiatives related to climate resilience and adaptation to climate change. Upcoming EU project consortiums focusing on climate-resilient pathways and adaptation could be interested in reviewing the content communicated through REGILIENCE social media and understanding the typologies of users who followed the project.

Timeline/deliverable: Social media accounts (including <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u>) have been created and activated by the end of 2021. The accounts will remain active and regularly updated until the conclusion of the project.

Opportunities for exploitation and long-term sustainability: FS6 is currently managing and updating the social media. After the completion of the projects, all accounts will remain accessible, although not updated anymore. F6S will explore the possibility to merge followers with upcoming projects focusing on resilience pathways and climate adaptation.



4.2.9 Exploitation asset n.9: Capacity building of regions

Description: Comprehensive capacity building programme, coordinated by FEDARENE to support Focus Regions in the co-design and development of climate-resilient pathways. The programme is made of various components, including a series of open training webinars and region-specific online events.

Target groups: The main target of this activity are policy makers, regional and local authorities. The content of some session and activities can also be relevant for professionals working on climate adaptation and resilience, academia and research. Some open training session could also be of interest for general audience and citizens.

Timeline/deliverable: the capacity building of regions in an ongoing task which will continue until September 2025, and it is led by FEDARENE. The capacity building activities are described in intermediate deliverables and will be periodically evaluated. Deliverable 1.11 "Capacity building activities, including their description & evaluation_v.3" contains the final version and will be completed in September 2025.

Exploitation: The description of the capacity building activities (including their outcomes and evaluation) will be included in public deliverables, scheduled for M17, M36 and M47. The recordings of the online training sessions are accessible online (and will remain available) both on REGILIENCE YouTube channel and on FEDARENE website.

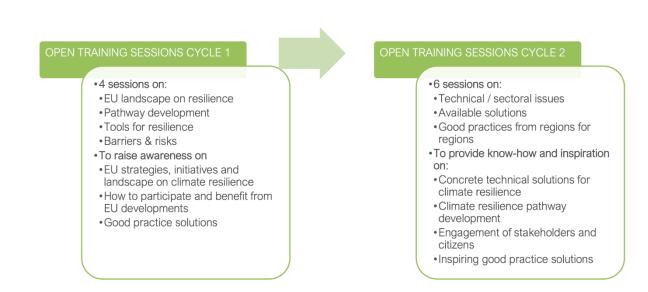


Figure 4. Cycle of open training sessions part of the capacity-building of regions

4.2.10 Exploitation asset n.10: Decision support matrix

Description: The decision support matrix aims to link and strengthen gaps between the needs and innovative solutions developed within adaptation and climate resilience. It matches the needs identified at the regional level with available solutions, funding opportunities and it includes a series of monitoring indicators.



Target groups: This assets targets specifically policy makers, regional and local authorities, as well as professionals working on climate adaptation and resilience. It can also be of interest for research and academia (for instance in regard of the monitoring indicators).

Timeline/deliverable: The matrix will be completed in 2023 and is part of the deliverable D4.2 "Decision support matrices". It aims to support regions in implementing local roadmaps and guide the input and outputs in the process.

Exploitation: The data used for the indicators set are taken from ESPON, therefore it could be used to integrate and complement ESPON Platform. In parallel, further connections might be explored with the resources developed in Climate-ADAPT.

4.2.11 Exploitation asset n.11: Funding opportunities factsheet

Description: The funding opportunity factsheets is a useful tool to identify available regional funding opportunities and potential funding sources. It provides a database of information for all different stages of implementation, for different sectors and for various type of organisations. The factsheet is accessible on REGILIENCE website and was developed by FEDARENE.

Target groups: The factsheets directly target decision makers, regional and local authorities in Europe.

Timeline/deliverable: The funding opportunity constitutes the D2.3 "Mapping of relevant funding and financing opportunities" and was submitted by FEDARENE in October 2022. The factsheet is available on the <u>project website</u>, under the section Resources.

Opportunities for exploitation and long-term sustainability: This tool is publicly available on REGILIENCE website and can be regularly updated or revised. In particular, the Mission Platform and the programme Pathways2Regilience (P2R) will have the opportunity to make use of it or integrate the information into larger databases of funding opportunities. External projects might also express interest in including the funding opportunities guide among the list of tools and solutions provided (i.e., <u>H2020 REACHOUT</u> on climate services).



Figure 5.. Guide to the Funding Opportunity factsheet



4.2.12 Exploitation asset n.12: Innovative Public Private Partnerships

Description: this activity has the ambition to raise awareness about Public Private Partnerships and explore innovative approaches within regions. The ultimate goal is to co-explore innovative approaches to PPPs and opportunities for innovation in existing and ongoing PPPs within Innovation Action regions and REGILIENCE Focus Regions.

Target groups: this activity targets business and the private sectors interested in taking concrete action towards climate adaptation and open to collaborate with the public sector. The activity is also relevant for regional and local authorities who are seeking the involvement of the private sector in the implementation of projects and initiatives.

Timeline/deliverable: this activity is part of the broader capacity-building programme of regions, and it does not include the formal submission of a deliverable. Nevertheless, a report summarizing the activities carried on during the project and the learnings will be prepared by Resilient Cities Network at the end of the project.

Opportunities for exploitation and long-term sustainability: the learning from this activity will be useful for other regions, especially for what concerns the collaboration with the private sector. Insights from specific case studies could feed into the lessons learned from regions. Moreover, Resilient Cities Network might promote further testing of these innovative approaches at the city-level within other European regions.

4.2.13 Exploitation asset n.13: Performance and impact review of current platforms

Description: Performance and impact review of existing online platforms, led by REGEA and carried on following a series of steps and multi-criteria framework. Approximately 100 platforms were included in the initial selection and assessed based on content, functionalities, web statistics and surveys, etc.

Target groups: The list of platforms reviewed could be useful for professionals working on climate resilience and adaptation, as well as in academia and research. Potentially, it could also target policy makers and regional authorities interested in accessing or sharing content.

Timeline/deliverable: The deliverable 2.1 "Performance and impact review of online platforms" includes the review of selected platforms to identify the suitable characteristics for the REGILIENCE online support tools. It was submitted by REGEA on the 1st of December 2022.

Exploitation: The outcomes of the platform assessment will be included in a factsheet, publicly available. Out of all the platform assessed,14 platforms were selected to sign an agreement but only 6 completed it. A possible exploitation pathway is to add the link of the selected platforms on the website and share the list of the selected platforms with the other IAs regions.

4.2.14 Prioritization Strategy

Description: The Prioritization Strategy provides necessary knowledge, expertise, and service to support regions in the formulation of their climate resilient future and of their place-based



transformative adaptation pathways, plans and innovation portfolios. The strategy highlights risk considerations to help ensure that planning and implementation of actions are successful and presents four enablers for strengthening climate resilience: adaptive policy pathways, adaptation pathways, adaptive policy making and real options analysis.

Target groups: The Prioritization Strategy targets primarily regions, including local authorities and policymakers.

Timeline/deliverable: The strategy is part of the deliverable 4.3 "Prioritization Strategy" to be submitted by REGA in 2023.

Exploitation: The prioritization strategy will support REGILIENCE Focus Regions and IAs regions in developing their climate-resilient pathways. The Strategy is public and will remain accessible on Zenodo for other regions and interested local authorities. REGEA will reference to the key insights and leanings from the strategy to support local authorities and regions in developing investment projects and in the preparation of strategic documents.

4.2.15 Exploitation asset n.14: Resilience scan tool

Description: The Resilience Scan Tool is a tool designed by Resilient Cities Network to help cities assess the resilience qualities of projects and their contribution to a city's overall resilience. It consists of a rapid, multidisciplinary, collaborative assessment designed for multiple stakeholders to explore the resilience qualities that an initiative exhibits, and additional co-benefits delivered. Within REGILIENCE, it will be tailored as online tool for citizens to quickly assess the resilience of their actions, with suggested recommendations on how to increase the multi-benefit and multi-hazard value of initiatives.

Target groups: The resilience scan tool has been originally used by resilience experts (such as the Chief Resilience Officers) and project experts involved in increasing the resilience value of the project. The application of the tool within REGILIENCE will make it accessible also for non-expert citizens and could be applied in communities.

Timeline/deliverable: the Resilience Scan Tool will be applied as part of training activities to promote the engagement of citizens and wider dissemination. These activities will take place mostly in 2024 and 2025.

Opportunities for exploitation and long-term sustainability: the use of the Resilience scan tool within the context of REGILIENCE represents an opportunity for a different application of the tool, with different stakeholders (in REGILIENCE it will target citizens, while previously it was designed for Chief Resilience Officers and cities' staff). Resilient Cities Network will continue using the tool in future and refine it after the testing in REGILIENCE.

4.2.16 Exploitation asset n.15: Self-assessment maladaptation tool

Description: The REGILIENCE self-maladaptation tool was developed by Fresh Thoughts to check the maladaptive potential of planned adaptation actions. It consists of a checklist of 17 questions, each one focusing on different risk factor for maladaptation.



Target groups: The self-assessment maladaptation tool targets primarily people and institutions in charge of planning and implementing regional adaptation actions, including regional authorities and professionals working on technical implementation. The tool could be applied at both at local and national level, by both private and public organisation. It can also be further tested at individual level.

Timeline/deliverable: A first version of the tool was completed in September 2022 and included in the deliverable 3.4 "Report/manual How to avoid maladaptation". The tool will be further tested and applied in specific workshops as part of REGILIENCE's activities.

Exploitation: The tool could be further improved in the upcoming years of REGILIENCE project and be further tested in some of the Focus Regions. The objective is to better connect this tool with other adaptation tools and interesting case studies to illustrate challenges and solutions. For what concerns the long-term exploitation, the tool will be integrated in Climate-ADAPT and become part of the resources offered on that platform.



Figure 6.. Extract from the checklist: identifying potential risks for maladaptation

4.2.17 Exploitation asset n.16: Website

Description: The project website has been released in the beginning of 2022 and is currently curated by F6S. It does not only work as website with informative content about the project, but also as platform providing access to resources and tools.

Target groups: the website is the most important channel for communication of REGILIENCE activities to general audience. Information and resources can be stored and accessed as long as the website remains active.



Timeline/deliverable: The project website was released by the beginning of M4, being the partner F6S in charge of its implementation, release and updates. From the beginning of the project, more than one hundred updates were made.

Opportunities for exploitation and long-term sustainability: FS6 is currently managing the content of the website and updating it regularly. F6S has secured to keep the website alive for 5 years after the completion of the project. Some of the tools and resources available on the website could be integrated into other platforms.



5 Stakeholders and target groups

The long-term sustainability and exploitation of REGILIENCE cannot only be guaranteed by the consortium partners. It requires an effective process of engagement with external partners, stakeholders, and institutions who should make effective use of REGILIENCE learnings and outcomes. In accordance with the stakeholder analysis (carried on in the proposal phase and, later, under WP1), REGILIENCE identifies the following stakeholder categories:

- Decision makers and political representatives
- Citizens communities, and NGOs, agencies
- Business and private sector
- Research centers, think tanks, universities

For each of these categories, the strategy highlights the benefits and indicators to measure the level of uptake from external stakeholders in future.

5.1.1 Decision makers and political representatives

The first group of stakeholders includes decision makers and political representatives. It is a crucial target group to ensure the successful exploitation of REGILIENCE results. This category also broadly refers to regional and local authorities, which are the main target of REGILIENCE activities. In this respect, a key indicator to assess the success of the project in the future is the level of uptake of REGILIENCE's tools and learnings by regional and local authorities. In addition, this category includes related regional agencies (such as regional agencies) directly involved in the implementation of climate adaptation policies and activities.

Benefits: The main benefit for this stakeholder group is to learn from the experience of other European regions which face specific climate-related challenges and have different levels of maturity. Based on the results generated from other IAs actions regions, this group could be able to exploit the learning from different case studies. The key assets which could be most valuable for this group include the list of solutions developed in IAs, the lesson learned from regions, the funding opportunity factsheet, the innovative PPPs, the self-maladaptation tool and risk indicators and monitoring set. Moreover, regional and local authorities might receive recommendations included in policy papers, the prioritization or explore the resources developed in the capacity-building activities for regions.

Indicators for exploitation: The work done by decision makers and policy representatives is inevitably influenced by different levels of governance, including the European context and the EU Mission on Adaptation. For this reason, it is difficult to isolate indicators which prove the exclusive added value of REGILIENCE. An attempt will be made to track which regions among the Mission signatories will design and implement climate-resilient pathways. More in details, F6S will monitor the solutions and tools on REGILIENCE website which receive more interest. At the same time, Climate-ADAPT could monitor which tools and solutions provided by REGILIENCE will be use by the Mission signatories in the upcoming years.



5.1.2 Citizens communities, and NGOs, agencies

This category includes a wide range of groups, including citizens communities, NGOs and agencies. They are mostly targeted by activities taking place in WP1 (specifically Task 1.5), aimed at achieving wider dissemination and the engagement of citizens. Involving citizens communities is necessary to enable co-creation, promote behavioral change and develop regional climate-resilient pathways in an inclusive way. NGOs can also play an important role on thematic priorities related to climate adaptation and resilience, contributing to advocacy and wider dissemination.

Benefits: Citizens communities are usually considered a general audience, who receive information through social media and through the projects' online communication means (website and newsletter). Effective dissemination activities targeting citizens communities could promote awareness raising, access to knowledge, as well as participation and engagement; however, it is difficult to capture and measure these benefits in a tangible way. These stakeholder groups could be interested in the citizens survey results and could maintain interests towards the website and social media. Furthermore, they could be interested in exploring online available platforms assessed by REGILIENCE.

Indicators for exploitation: the participation of citizens and NGOs representatives in regional events and initiatives could provide an indication of the successful dissemination within local communities and their interested in the topics covered by REGILIENCE beyond its lifespan. However, this monitoring activity could only be possible in some IAs regions where intense participatory activities took place and which received support by REGILIENCE.

5.1.3 Business and private sector

This category generally refers to the category of actors which are part of the private sector and could play an active role in supporting local and regional authorities in climate adaptation and resilience initiatives.

Benefits: this stakeholder groups might look with particularly interests at the findings from the innovative PPPs and, indirectly, in the funding opportunities factsheet which could give a direction to regional public investment and create additional opportunities for the private sector.

Indicators for exploitation: the implementation of new PPPs for climate adaptation and resilience within Focus Regions could provide an indication of the successful collaboration between the public and the private sector within the scope of REGILIENCE.

5.1.4 Universities and research centres

This category includes partners from research and academia, such as universities, research centers and think thanks.

Benefits: Research partners are interested in the innovative solutions which are going to be developed in the IAs regions. This does not cover specifically the implementation of policies and projects within the regions, but the application of tools, methodologies and indicators. In terms of exploitable assets, the most relevant for this group include scientific papers and articles, the risk indicators and monitoring set, the list of solutions implemented within the IAs regions



Indicators for exploitation: the reference and use of REGILIENCE scientific publications in the upcoming years could provide an indication of the interest and relevance of the scientific and academic output produced during the time frame of the project.



6 Individual exploitation by REGILIENCE partners

REGILIENCE's partners have the obligation to exploit project results up to four years after the formal conclusion of the project. The Grant Agreement already provided a draft exploitation strategy, defining the role in exploitation according to the following typologies of partners:

- 1. Research/Academy (adelphi, IEECP, FC.ID): partners are expected to make use of data and methods for further research and scientific exploitation. Suggested topic included climate vulnerabilities, resilience, and maladaptation.
- 2. Associations and networks (FEDARENE, FS6, ICLEI Europe, Resilient Cities Network): these partners are expected to promote the rollout of results within the respective networks, in particular through advocacy, policy papers and recommendations.
- 3. Regional Agencies (REGEA): regional agencies are expected to make use of results in the local context (particularly local and regional governments), focusing on adapting the developed solutions to the local needs.
- 4. **Private entities (Fresh Thoughts):** private entities can further develop the results and use data and methods in commercial capacities.

6.1 Research/Academy

6.1.1 Adelphi

adelphi research is a non-profit and independent institution for applied environmental research and policy analysis, focusing on environmental, energy and climate policy and carrying out research projects on environmental, development and social issues. In the context of REGILIENCE, adelphi provides in-depth expertise on designing and applying indicators sets related to adaptation and resilience; it aims to continue use and further develop assets and tools for monitoring and evaluation of regional resilience. Despite not having direct contact with REGILIENCE's Focus Regions, adelphi has extensive experience in communication and dissemination of climate change related information, targeting scientists, policymakers and practitioners. The spectrum of adelphi's future research will continue to range from basic research through action and accompanying research, comparative policy research, case studies, research, market research, to legal opinions.

6.1.2 FC.ID

The REGILIENCE project offers various exploitation opportunities for research/academy institutions partners. These opportunities include utilizing project results, data, and methods for further research and scientific exploitation, with a specific focus on climate risk, resilience, and maladaptation. The main assets of REGILIENCE for future use encompass the data collected during the project, including climate indicators and risk assessments that are focused on the creation of regional profiles. Additionally, the project's valuable resources include research findings and methodologies developed throughout its duration. Tools and frameworks such as the



Decision Support Matrix, Resilience Scan Tool, Self-Maladaptation Tool, and the list of solutions developed considering the region's needs are also significant assets that can be utilized.

The key target groups of FC.ID include practitioners and researchers focusing on climate change, risk, resilience, and maladaptation. Policymakers and governmental bodies engaged in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies are also important stakeholders. Additionally, regional, and local authorities responsible for managing and implementing climate resilience measures, as well as stakeholders and communities directly affected by climate change, are crucial groups to consider. In the coming years, FC.ID will be involved in various areas of research and activities, particularly focusing on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. This includes conducting further research on incorporating risk into financing decisions, supporting decisions to enhance resilience, and assessing maladaptation under the implementation of measures, utilizing the project's data and methods. FC.ID will also search for innovative solutions to enhance resilience in different regions and sectors. The evaluation of the effectiveness of solutions implemented by regions, with a specific focus on identifying improvement areas and sectors, will also be a key area of focus. Furthermore, the project will analyse the socio-ecological profiles of regions to determine how solutions developed across the EU can be adapted and applied to different contexts.

FC.ID actively seeks collaborations with other research institutions, universities, and projects working on similar topics, aiming to exchange knowledge and share best practices. Additionally, the project engages with regional authorities and organizations involved in climate change adaptation and resilience fields. Establishing partnerships with international projects or initiatives focused on resilience is also a priority, fostering cross-regional learning.

Moreover, direct links are established by FC.ID with focus regions, particularly with the participating regions, such as Madeira Islands, to understand their specific needs, challenges, and socio-ecological contexts. Research activities on resilience should be conducted in the regions to identify gaps and prioritize options. These direct links enable tailored and effective efforts to address the unique circumstances of each region.

Within this context, FC.ID will focus the exploitation activities on the development of policy papers and scientific articles. These publications will disseminate research findings, highlight best practices, and provide recommendations for policymakers and practitioners in the field of climate resilience and climate change adaptation.

6.1.3 IEECP

IEECP plans to use the list of adaptation tools especially the maladaptation tool and the funding opportunities for future reference and further search for fundings related to climate adaptation and resilience. The results of REGILIENCE findings have been so far disseminated to IEECP network where academics and researchers are highly interested in the topic. IEECP experience as the financial and legal project coordinator in the Coordination and Support Action (CSA) type will be shared and used in other projects. IEECP key target groups include researchers/ academics, local and regional authorities, policymakers, experts, SMEs, energy communities and NGOs.

Regarding the areas of research and activities in the next years, IEECP covers various topics and one of them is the local action for energy and climate as the umbrella for 1) Energy planning and mitigation; 2) Climate planning adaptation and resilience; 3) Implementing energy and climate measures at local level; 4) Capacity building. REGILIENCE's objective in *developing*, *compiling*,



sharing, and promoting tools and scientific knowledge to support European regions in identifying and addressing their climate-related risks will be the main areas where the relevant team will take into account in implementing activities in the future.

The engagement within REGILIENCE across various partners has been very supportive and cooperative towards each other which makes working quite pleasant, therefore, future collaborations and partnerships are expected in writing papers related to REGILIENCE, conferences, webinars, many more or in case we come across a similar project/ topic.

6.2 Associations and networks

6.2.1 FEDARENE

FEDARENE as the premier European network of regional and local organisations which implement, coordinate and facilitate energy, climate and environment policies will commit to disseminating, promoting, and supporting the usage of developed results within its members and beyond with a focus on regions. The FEDARENE network is already closely engaged within the REGILIENCE project and some members like REGEA as a project partner, IRENA, SPL Horizon Reunion, AREAM, and EAP as focus region partners are already involved. The FEDARENE office will keep on supporting these regions and together as a team, we will ensure that the developed tools and best practices will be well disseminated within the FEDARENE network for example during internal events and within newsletters. We will ensure that the funding tool and maladaptation tool as well as relevant tools for regions developed by the sister projects (ARSINOE, IMPETUS, TransformAr), will be recognised and used or replicated by other European regions.

We will raise awareness of solutions developed within the sister projects, especially in members regions, for example, the region of Canary Island is a partner in the ARSINOE project and the local agency is a member of FEDARENE which puts us in a primary position to support the promotion of ARSINOE results.

FEDARENE will promote and support the uptake of the developed tools and solutions within other projects and initiatives we are participating like the MIP4Adapt and beyond that for example within P2R.

6.2.2 ICLEI

As an international network, ICLEI represents local and regional governments in European and global policy processes. The close work carried out with European institutions and other networks allows to influence and shape the debate on climate policies and legislation and ensure that project financing is formulated to address climate resilience planning and implementation challenges (among these specifically the ones identified through the citizen and stakeholder engagement and needs assessment of relevant local stakeholders involved in the project), and is accessible to a larger group of cities, regions, communities and public authorities (in particular within the network's members, but also in a wider pool of regions and cities that are working in projects were ICLEI acts as coordinator, partner or engaged in co-design and co-creation processes).

Building on the results and achievements of REGILIENCE project activities, and within the largescale workshops organised to foster knowledge sharing, the organisation will further explore topics that resulted of particular interest for the audience, such as funding and financing for regional



resilience (through new collaborations with other EU projects within the Mission for Climate Adaptation, but also the Cities Mission), integration between topics such as disaster risk reduction and nature-based solutions or circular development and just transition.

ICLEI is committed to increase cooperation with EU bodies, projects, and international organisations, through networking and capacity building activities at online and face-to-face events in order to collaboratively communicate innovations, tools, resources developed within the project (and the project cluster that includes the Innovation Actions), and further opportunities to accelerate climate resilience. ICLEI Europe supports local governments in implementing the European Green Deal, the overarching EU strategy for climate neutrality, to build more resilient and equitable communities, through 5 interconnected pathways (low-carbon, equitable and people-centred, circular, nature-based and resilient), therefore the work done in the REGILIENCE project stands in the heart of the organisation's mission and vision.

6.2.3 F6S

F6S is the largest growth company community with 4.7 million members, increasing by thousands a day. It delivers billions in growth to the leading tech founders, top growth companies, global corporates and most of the technology ecosystem. As part of REGILIENCE, F6S is focused on communication and dissemination activities, and platforms uptake and sustainability on time, and this is the main area for further exploitation. All results gathered led by F6S may be used in new projects related to climate resilience and maladaptation.

The F6S community delivers company growth through funding, investment, pilot contracts, grants, partnerships, jobs & talent and company services. F6S' main key target groups are mainly entities from the private sector – SMEs and startups looking to accelerate their innovations, products, services or partnerships. F6S is currently running more than 70 EU funded projects. Every year F6S establishes new collaborations or expands existing ones. F6S activities will be focused on new EU funded projects where key competences and expertise such as communication, dissemination, exploitation, FSTP running etc. may be used. Except this, F6S would like to build on already gained experience under implementation of REGILIENCE project and look for synergies between REGILIENCE assets with new established collaboration to make use of those results in new funded projects.

Working under REGILIENCE project, F6S has established good working relationships with all partners engaged in the project. As many new opportunities may arise in the near future, F6S takes into consideration new projects implemented by with the same consortium or with selected partners. Partnerships with other cooperation projects, such as the Innovation Actions or partners involved (such as other projects and/or platforms) call are included.

6.2.4 Resilient Cities network

As network organization, Resilient Cities network will commit to disseminate and promote the lessons learned from REGILIENCE at the city level, and particularly in those regions where it counts member cities. R-Cities relies on a network of Chief Resilience Officers and will leverage their position to foster action at the local level. In particular, R-Cities will further promote the innovate approaches to PPPs, will continue to make use of the Resilience Scan Tool, and will



explore additional testing activities in selected cities. At the same, learnings from regions and content from the capacity-building activities might be used for additional training activities.

For what concerns the IAs regions and REGILIENCE Focus regions, R-Cities has presence in both Attica (Athens) and Northern Macedonia (Thessaloniki), where it will continue to support the municipalities in climate actions. Climate resilience is one of the thematic pillar of the organization and will remain a priority also in the future.

Lastly, R-Cities will maintain collaborations and synergies with other European networks and partners active in the Mission on Adaptation, participating in events and joining in other initiatives to promote climate-resilient pathways.

6.3 Regional agencies

6.3.1 RFGFA

As a Regional Energy and Climate Agency, REGEAs mission statement is to support the energy transition as well as the drive for climate change adaptation and resilience within a wide variety of local and regional governments and other local, regional and national stakeholders it cooperates with. To this end, REGEA will continue to exploit the REGILIENCE assets which work towards this goal such as for instance the Maladaptation tool, Decision support matrix and the Prioritization strategy. REGEA will additionally continue to exploit the climate adaptation platforms with which the REGILIENCE project is working with and will aim to cooperate with and contribute to the Climate-ADAPT platform.

The key target groups for REGEA can be defined in three categories. The first category are the counties (regions), cities and municipalities within the territory of North-West Croatia. The second are the local and regional governments outside this territory as well as national level decision makers. Finally, the third category includes other key stakeholders such as the private sector and academia as well as a variety of EU institutions and partners.

REGEA is actively building up its capacity in terms of climate actions and climate adaptation both in terms of personnel, knowledge and portfolio of projects. This is an activity which will continue and is one of the key strategic priorities of REGEA.

6.4 Private entities

6.4.1 Fresh Thoughts

Fresh Thoughts plans to use, disseminate and communicate the results of REGILIENCE in other projects related to adaptation, especially those already linked with the Mission Adaptation, and the Climate-ADAPT platform. By being directly engaged in various projects related to adaptation from the local to national level, FT understands in what ways private entities can and must play a role in adaptation. Raising awareness about the options and tools brought forward by REGILIENCE and supporting their implementation, also after the project is over is important.

As consultancy, our target groups are public (and private) clients for our services, especially European, national, regional or local authorities. Fresh Thoughts will continue to engage in supporting adaptation from the local to European level. The learnings, especially concerning



communication and stakeholder engagement around adaptation and maladaptation is something that FT sees as valuable. It is our goal to build up on the existing findings and applications and integrate them, rather than creating new tools or frameworks. Additionally, the networking through events like ECCA 2023, collaboration with sister projects etc. is something that will strengthen adaptation in Europe overall, and FT is committed to continue to be part of this network.



7 Conclusions

Exploitation is a key component of EU funded projects, together with communication and dissemination. The partners forming a project consortium are required to take measures aiming to ensure exploitation of results both during the project and in the upcoming years. The design of an exploitation strategy usually identifies the exploitable results and their added value, as well as the stakeholders and interested third parties who can benefit from their use. Exploitation can be commercial, societal, political, or aimed at improving public knowledge and action.

REGILIENCE is by definition a Coordinating and Supporting Action (CSA), therefore its primary scope is to promote collaboration and synergies with the other sister projects (TransformAr, IMPETUS, ARSINOE), maximizing visibility, impact and replication. In this context, the Long-term Sustainability and Exploitation Strategy defines the key assets and needed activities to ensure the success and the legacy of REGILIENCE. In particular, the document positions the project in the context of the Mission on Adaptation, it describes the main assets and their exploitation routes, the key external stakeholders, as well as the individual exploitation from REGILIENCE partners.

For what concerns the Mission on Adaption to Climate Change, the strategy indicates Climate-ADAPT as the key platform to ensure dissemination and replication for other EU regions. In fact, Climate-ADAPT is becoming the authoritative European platform for Adaptation, it hosts the EU Mission Portal and the Mission Implementation Platform. It also includes a database of case studies and offers specific tools to support regions and local authorities (such as the Regional Adaptation Support Tool). For this reason, it is crucial that REGILIENCE tools and learnings can be shared and be accessible on Climate-ADAPT, given its pivotal role in climate adaptation in Europe and its entry point for regions and local authorities. Nevertheless, the consortium will also explores opportunities for exploitation in other platforms and open-access databases (for instance Zenodo).

Moving to the list of exploitable assets, the strategy divides between "project outcomes and results" and "assets to be further exploited". The first category refers to those outcomes developed during the project which can be used as reference in future but will not be further updated or developed: these include publications, articles, needs assessment, findings and content promoted through dissemination channels. The second category refers to those assets which could be maintained, updated and further developed by consortium partners or interested third parties: it includes the self-maladaptation tool, the funding and opportunity factsheet and the decision support matrix. For each of the assets presented, the strategy defined the owner/responsible partner of the asset, the target customer and external stakeholder and the commitment for exploitation. Consistently with the first part, REGILIENCE aims to integrate the majority of the tools on Climate-ADAPT, but other synergies and connections will be explored. The target customer identified include decision makers and political representatives, citizens communities and NGOs, universities and research centers, as well as business and private sector.

The last part of the strategy defines the individual exploitation by REGILIENCE partners, based on the typologies. Research and academic partners (IEECP, FC.ID, adelphi) are expected to make use of data and methods for further research and scientific exploitation. Associations, network and regional agencies (REGEA, ICLEI, FEDARENE, F6S, Resilient Cities Network) will promote the dissemination of results within their network and will make use of these within local context. Private entities (Fresh Thoughts) will further develop and use data and methods in commercial capacities.



The Long-term sustainability and exploitation Strategy will be periodically reviewed and updated, under the lead of Resilient Cities Network. Additional changes and addition will be considered based on the implementation of REGILIENCE activities and emerging opportunities for collaboration with third parties. A final version of the strategy will be included in the final report of REGILIENCE at the conclusion of the project.



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