

D1.8 Networking activities, including their description and evaluation v2

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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

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



Executive Summary

This report aims to provide an overview of the already implemented activities of the REGILIENCE project within large-scale events. More specifically, it is an updated version of the Deliverable 1.3, which offered an outline of three sessions organised in the framework of the 3rd Macro-Regional Strategies Week, the 9th European Urban Resilience Forum and the 10th EU Week of Regions and Cities. In this deliverable, other three sessions, organised in the framework of the 10th and 11th European Urban Resilience Fora and the high-level event of the Mission Implementation Platform for Adaptation to Climate Change for Greek Cities and Regions, are presented to shed light on the role of different regional approaches to climate change adaptation through resilient transformational pathways.

The sessions offered opportunities for knowledge exchange, allowing both project partners and attendees to discuss emerging resilience challenges, best practices, and adaptation strategies. By participating in these events, REGILIENCE and its sister innovation action projects (ARSINOE, IMPETUS, and TransformAr), in collaboration with other projects and partners have played a significant role in disseminating adaptive solutions, from technical measures to funding schemes and policy approaches. These activities have demonstrated strong potential for replication across Europe, enhancing the visibility of the project and its outcomes.

In addition to promoting the exchange of knowledge, this report highlights how these events have fostered co-development and co-creation processes, enabling project stakeholders to adjust and refine their plans in response to evolving needs and priorities. This iterative approach ensures alignment with ongoing climate adaptation initiatives at regional level while avoiding duplication of efforts, ultimately accelerating the adaptation process.

This deliverable further emphasizes the critical role of dissemination, outreach, and peer-to-peer exchange in accelerating climate change adaptation across Europe and contributing to the European Strategy of Adaptation to Climate Change. The next and final report (D1.9 “Networking activities, including their description and evaluation_v.3” due by M47) will contribute to giving a comprehensive overview of the whole dissemination activities of the REGILIENCE project.



1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the report

REGILIENCE, as a Coordination & Support Action (CSA) project – funded by the European Commission under the subtopic (2) “Support the design, testing and upscale of Innovation Packages” of the topic LC-GD-1-3-2020 “Climate-resilient Innovation Packages for EU regions” – aims to foster the adoption and wide dissemination of regional climate resilience pathways and has among its tasks to support the 3 Innovation Actions – Innovation Package projects (from now on referred as ‘Innovation Packages’), funded under the subtopic (1) “Innovation Packages for transformational adaptation of European regions and communities” of the same topic: ARSINOE, IMPETUS and TransformAr¹.

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

Led by ICLEI Europe, this task aims to foster knowledge management cooperation amongst the existing networks, strengthen the knowledge of the EU Community of Practice (established within the EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change¹) on regional resilience pathways, and to benefit from its knowledge for the implementation of the Innovation Packages and the development of pathways in the REGILIENCE 7 focus regions. It will also foster shared and cooperative learning and coordination amongst regions and communities where common needs, priorities or interests were identified. Within Task 1.3, REGILIENCE will disseminate, discuss, and upgrade existing knowledge on policies, the regulatory framework and governance structures regarding resilience and climate adaptation, considering the national, regional, and local level for all regions included in the Innovation Packages and those prioritised under this project.

This report, **D1.8 Networking activities, including their description and evaluation v2**, describes the preparation, development, and main outcomes of the large-scale workshops (in total 6/8), organised in the first 36 months of the project duration, within other established events with sub-focus on regional resilience, such as the European Week for Regions and Cities and the Macro-regional Strategies Week. The ICLEI-led European Urban Resilience Forum host the first annual event gathering regional stakeholders from the Innovation Packages. In addition to the above, a regular exchange between the Innovation Packages has been established, in the form of a bi-monthly update open to regions and their stakeholders (see more details in D5.3).

The related impact targets are listed below:

- 50 institutions, projects or initiatives are actively coordinating or cooperating during the project period. See Deliverable 5.5 for more information.

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

¹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/adaptation-climate-change_en



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

1.2 Structure of the report

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

The report is divided into 4 main sections and corresponding chapters:

- This introduction (**Chapter 1**), provides background on the relevance of these knowledge exchange activities, under the broader scope of the European Community of Practice established within EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change and further initiatives;
- **Chapter 2** illustrates the overall objectives of the large-scale workshops that happened in 2021 and 2022, meaning the first 2 years of the project, including a detailed description of the program development and methodology used for each session, as well as key highlights and main takeaways from the discussions;
- **Chapter 3** showcases the overall objectives of the large-scale workshops that happened in 2023 and 2024 including a detailed description of the program development and methodology used for each session, as well as key highlights and main takeaways from the discussions;
- **Chapter 4** reflects on the learning from this second round of events, improvement from the first round and further knowledge exchange opportunities, to pave the way for the final activities and workshops to be planned by the end of the project.

1.3 Gender statement

The need for gender mainstreaming arises from persistent inequalities in power distribution and access to services and opportunities between people of different sex and/or gender identities. As demonstrated by literature² and advocated in the European and international arena³, this influences the understanding and perception of climate change dynamics and effects. Women and men, but also people in the LGBTQI+ community, are differently affected by the accelerated change of climate. Only by taking into consideration their diverse visions can scientific research reach meaningful and universal conclusions that properly inform climate action.

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



strategies that maximise the inclusion of more and more intersectional perspectives in their activities.

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

- Widely communicating and extending the invitation for attending the events to all people, regardless of their gender.
- Ensuring an equal number of women and men as speakers.
- Providing equal space and power to all genders when moderating a discussion.

2 Large scale workshops (2021-2022)

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

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

Through joint meetings, the consortia of the four projects have periodically reviewed and discussed opportunities to engage and participate in different events. While REGILIENCE and the IAs representatives have attended many activities both online and in-person, independently as a project or in a multi-project collaboration, this chapter focuses and provides detailed information on three large-scale events happened in 2021 and 2022: the 3rd EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week, the 9th European Urban Resilience Forum and the 20th European Week of Regions and Cities. These events have been selected for a few main reasons:

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

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



2.1 3rd EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week

2.1.1 About the event

The EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week (EU MRS WEEK) is the biggest Brussels-based event dedicated to connecting key stakeholders from line Ministries of the four Macro-regional Strategies - MRS (EUSBSR, EUSDR, EUSAIR, EUSALP²) and beyond, representatives of EU institutions, research and academia, various sectors, civil society organisation and citizens. The EU MRS Week helps improve public understanding of the benefit of MRS, it features debates about their future development, it coordinates exchanges and best practises among the four MRS, and it improves the overall understanding of the broad impact of Cohesion Policy on the Commission priorities (e.g. European Green Deal, A Stronger Europe in the World).

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

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

2.1.2 Session description

Format: Panel Discussion – Online

Title: Transformative Action for Climate Resilient and Adaptive Regions

Date: 9 March 2022

Duration: 90 min

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

Concept and objectives:

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

² EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, EU Strategy for the Danube Region, EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region, EU Strategy for the Alpine Region



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

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

Methodology:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Facilitated by: Vasileios Latinos and Jole Lutz, ICLEI Europe

The moderators ensured that the session could work well in digital format by moving directly into the panel discussion, without having initial statements from the speakers; tailored questions have been addressed to each speaker, while the speakers had also been advised to challenge each other and direct questions to fellow speakers. All panellists were properly briefed (including an



internal preparatory session several days before the event) and had proven to have high quality skills and experience in participating in online/digital events.

Guiding questions provided to the speakers prior to the event:

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

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

2.1.3 Main outcomes

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

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



2.2 9th European Urban Resilience Forum

2.2.1 About the event

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

The forum has been co-organised by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the European Environment Agency. Based on a “PowerPoint free” format, EURESFO kept its informative, open, and interactive character. Through different formats of sessions and workshops, participants had the opportunity to exchange on the number of challenges faced by European cities and regions as well as the measures in place to address them.

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

2.2.2 Session description

Format: Workshop – In person

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

Date: 15 September 2022

Duration: 120 min

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

Concept and objectives:

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

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



Methodology:

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

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

World Café

Participants clustered into three tables to discuss the following topics:

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

Table hosts:

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

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

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

Proposed structure

- The moderator introduced the World Café process to the participants, setting the context, sharing the Cafe Etiquette, and putting participants at ease.
- Small group discussion – Round 1: The “table host”/moderator from each group set the scene. Each round was prefaced with a question specially crafted for the specific context and desired purpose of the breakout.



- Participants move to a different table: The appointed lead and “table host” stayed in the same table and welcomed the next group, by briefly filling them in on what had happened in the previous round.
- Small group discussion – Round 2: The same question previously used was kept for the following round as well, or in some case built upon a following one to focus the conversation or guide its direction.
- To close the world café, table hosts were invited to share insights or other results from their discussions.



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

Panel discussion

Speakers:

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

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

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

- Q to Harriët Tiemens: From the Green metropolitan region of Arnhem-Nijmegen, we could look at a number of examples of successful cooperation and coordination among different institutional bodies and stakeholders - and how the regional strategies can align to national plans, to guide and support the local scale in up taking and implementing specific actions on the ground. We know the region includes 18 cooperating municipalities, effectively coordinates, and has intensive partnerships with representatives of the knowledge institutions and enterprises. How does this work?
- Q to Ana-Maria Mitroi-Ciobica: With the need to adapt becoming more urgent and the increase in financial flows towards this goal, it is key to be able to demonstrate the



progress achieved. Which are the main aspects EIB is looking at, in terms of monitoring and indicators from the projects you are working on?

- Q to Konstantina Karydi: Based on your previous experience supporting city to city relations and peer exchange, you have quite a horizontal overview of the local priorities and challenges faced when transposing key urban policies required from the European union level. Would you like to share with us your perspective on how to make sure replication and up-scaling of successful interventions across different context could support in this sense? What kind of mechanisms have you experienced along the way and what would be the learnings you may bring to this audience, to support them moving forward?

2.2.3 Main outcomes

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

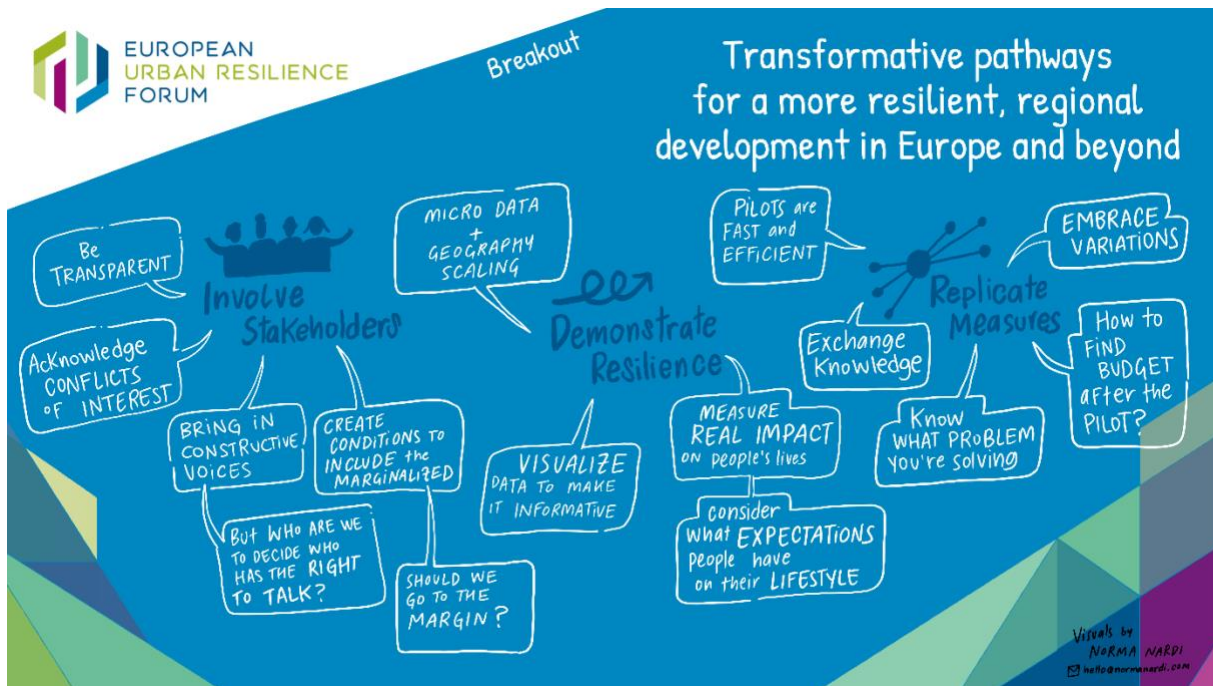


Figure 2. Graphic recording by Norma Nardi

2.3 20th European Week of Regions and Cities

2.3.1 About the event



Figure 3. EU Regions Week 22

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

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



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

2.3.2 Session description

Format: Participatory Lab - Online

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

Date: 11 October 2022

Duration: 90 min

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

Concept and objectives:

Regional pilot projects and innovation actions from four EU H2020 funded projects (ARSINOE, TransformAR, IMPETUS and REGILIENCE) have been presented at this interactive lab. By assessing and improving regional climate resilience, these projects will help them prepare for future crises and reduce their associated risks. In this framework, new tools and methodologies help regions and communities to better understand, plan and develop strategies tailored to their needs that will maximise their resilience to the impacts of climate change.

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

Methodology:

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

Speakers:

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

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

Following a short pitch presentation from each speaker, the panel provided an open discussion where participants from policy and practice reflected on what they see as novel activities for accelerating resilience and what the adaptation community should be taking away with them as



challenges and ideas that might lead to faster, more pervasive action for regional development towards climate resilience.

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

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

2.3.3 Main outcomes

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

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

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

In the ARSINOE project, Brigaid Connect developed the Climate Innovation Window platform, where climate adaptation innovators, end users and investors can connect and meet each other needs, supporting decision makers to face new challenges and leverage investments. Through this tool, innovators showcase their climate adaptation solutions, while end user and investors have relevant and easy to find information and can connect with innovation providers directly. The development process is based on a design thinking agile methodology. The draft interface with



functionalities was presented, including option to filter by climate hazards, thematic area and navigate the different innovations. The Climate Innovation Window is about connection, usability, and communication, i.e.: connection to create relations; usability to facilitate data accessibility; communication to engage stakeholders.

3 Large scale workshops (2023-2024)

This chapter provides a detailed overview of three major events held in 2023 and 2024: the 10th and 11th European Urban Resilience Fora, and the high-level event of the Mission for Adaptation to Climate Change for Greek Cities and Regions. These events were selected for their strategic relevance to the projects due to the following key factors:

- Topic of the event and opportunity for cross-project contributions
- Opportunity to learn from others and disseminate the projects' outcomes to a relevant audience
- Focus on specific countries and collaboration with national and regional authorities to ensure on-the-ground impact
- Relevance of the event in the European and international arena
- Availability of partners

This chapter showcases the exchanges held on how climate resilience is different for each regional context and which challenges are faced currently. Emphasis was placed on fostering effective multi-level governance and promoting a just transition. Additionally, a dedicated event for Greek cities and regions highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation to translate national strategies into locally adapted actions.

3.1 10th European Urban Resilience Forum (2023)

3.1.1 About the event

The 10th edition of the European Urban Resilience Forum (EURESFO) took place on 18, 19 and 20 October in Cascais, Portugal. This landmark edition marked a significant milestone, attracting the largest audience to date. With the participation of over 100 speakers and 350 attendees from 44 different countries, the event aimed to collectively discuss pathways for fostering resilience both in Europe and globally.

The forum has been co-organised by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the European Environment Agency. Following a “PowerPoint-free” format, EURESFO maintained its informative, open, and interactive nature. This year, for the first time, site visits and workshops were combined in a mixed format aiming to dive into the 3 highlighted topics in a more interactive and experimental way. Additionally, the 2023 edition introduced a special feature: the Resilience Financing and Investment Forum. Here, participants discussed innovative governance models and funding schemes to deal with multi-hazard scenarios, more frequent climate extremes, and overlapping crises, exploring multi-level structures and opportunities for managing and funding adaptation projects and action.

Complementing these interactive sessions, a marketplace was established. Participants had the opportunity to listen to concise project pitches, engage in hands-on climate resilience



assessments, experiment with decision support tools presented by different exhibitors, and leverage the platform for networking and initiating valuable collaborations.

3.1.2 Session description

Format: Workshop – In person

Title: What is resilience in practice: the past and the future

Date: 18 October 2023

Duration: 70 min

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

Concept and objectives:

The impacts of climate change are increasing in frequency and intensity, resulting in economic losses, environmental degradation and affecting the health and well-being of people all around Europe. As the Mission on Adaptation aims to support EU regions and local communities in their efforts to build resilience against the impacts of climate change, it is pressing to understand how resilience has been defined and approached in varied contexts, and what resilience will mean in the future.

This session is co-organised by EU-funded projects that support regions in developing climate resilience pathways and will focus on two main questions: **How did European regions approach resilience in the past until today? And how does the future of resilience in regions look like?**

The participants will have the opportunity to exchange knowledge and ideas on the past and future of resilience with regions and institutions working in the field. The discussion will be focused on approximately 10 topics, addressing different sectors and systems based on the regions' context.

Methodology:

The session has been organised as a workshop format and divided in three parts. Following the World Café setup, in the first part of the session, the participants can choose a topic to exchange with regions, institutions and other participants in smaller groups. In the second part of the session, participants can move around topics and groups. A final part has been dedicated to the presentation of results. A detailed agenda can be found in the Annex I.

Small groups (around 8 people each) will converse together around tables. There will be around 10 tables, one for each topic. On the table, a flipchart paper will sign the topic to be discussed around that table, leaving enough space for participants to write remarks. Each table will have a host (project partner) to take notes and facilitate the discussion and a region to present the topic and support facilitation.

The conversation will take 70 minutes divided into three different moments:

Part 1 (20 min) - choose a table/topic to discuss: The participants choose a table/topic to discuss over 20 minutes. In the first 3 minutes, the region pitches the topic, and further time is used for discussion. The moderator will tell them when the time is up.



Part 2 (25 min) - move around tables/topics: After the first conversation, participants can move to a new table, taking their previous conversations with them and contributing to the notes of their new table. The regions will again pitch the topic (3 min) and the host will then briefly present to the group (3 min) the main ideas discussed previously. The group will have 19 minutes for exchanges. The moderator will tell them when the time is up.

Part 3 – presentation of ideas (25 min): During the final 20 minutes, the hosts of each of the 10 tables will have 2 minutes to present the main ideas discussed in their table. Other participants can complement, if necessary. The remaining 5 minutes are for final remarks.

Moderators: Jen Heemann (IEECP), Matthias Watzak (FEDARENE)

World Café

Participants clustered into 9 tables to discuss the following topics:

1. **Climate Shelters:** Effective coordination among various stakeholders is essential. Building a network of interconnected climate shelters within cities is a key concept, emphasizing the importance of considering the needs of the users.
2. **Public Irrigation Systems:** Drought was a prominent issue discussed, with a focus on solutions such as capturing stormwater in urban areas and ensuring water quality.
3. **Land Use and Forest Management:** Participants stressed the importance of coherent plans and data for risk management. Discussions also revolved around the cost of stakeholder engagement and the need to find appropriate incentives.
4. **Role of Databases in Decision-Making:** Databases design should be user focused so the right data to support decision making can be gathered.
5. **Green Spaces Management:** Recognizing both the merits & challenges of green spaces. Common issues across regions despite differences in climate. Balancing decisions among people and policy makers. Think locally for equitable solutions.
6. **Governance & Engagement Tools:** The main takeaway from this discussion was the recognition that there's no one-size-fits-all solution. Adapting to climate change and shifting populations is an ongoing, complex process that requires a holistic approach. The primary challenge lies in aligning policy with the needs of the community.
7. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Participants discussed systematic approaches for cities and regions and the challenges of creating a comprehensive monitoring system aligned with the SDGs. They explored how to measure impact and implement systematic approaches effectively.
8. **Increasing Health Resilience:** Participants delved into the complex interactions between Urban Heat Islands (UHI) and Urban Air Pollution (UAP). Key takeaways included the need for various indices related to UHI and the potential benefits of a metadata monitoring system combined with air pollution data. This approach could foster collaboration with research and scientific institutions, even if challenges differ, solutions might share common ground.
9. **Implementing Resilience using proven tools and techniques:** The discussion revolved around the challenges of implementing plans related to mobility, climate, energy, and spatial

organization. These plans must be harmonized, integrated, and connected to available funds and resources. Experience is crucial in modelling risks using complex GIS and simple models to adapt solutions and avoid maladaptation.

Table hosts:

1. Tomislav Novosel (REGEA) and Miljenko Sedlar (REGEA)
2. Javier Marzo Muñoz (Generalitat Valenciana)
3. Cristina Loureiro Coelho (Municipality of Setúbal)
4. Chrysanthi Kiskini (Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia)
5. Antonio Franković (IRENA - Istrian Regional Energy Agency)
6. George Papastergios (City of Thessaloniki)
7. Beatriz Pereira (CIM-RC)
8. Catarina Pydzińska Azevedo (INOVA+)
9. Ana Ardelean (Tbilisi Municipality)
10. Ruben Figueira (AREAM)



Figure 4. Photo from the session "What is resilience in practice: the past and the future" at EURESFO 2023, Cascais

3.1.3 Main outcomes

The workshop successfully fostered a rich exchange of knowledge and ideas on the evolving concept of climate resilience in European regions. Participants acknowledged that resilience practices must adapt to regional contexts, with no single approach suitable for all areas. Key takeaways highlighted the need for integrated, cross-sectoral efforts, combining climate, energy, and spatial planning with practical tools to ensure resilience-building initiatives are effective and sustainable.

Discussions emphasized the critical role of stakeholder coordination in creating climate shelters, the importance of capturing stormwater to mitigate drought, and the value of databases tailored to decision-makers' needs. The alignment of policy with community needs and the challenge of



balancing governance tools with local engagement were central themes. Additionally, participants recognised the need for systematic monitoring systems aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and for addressing health resilience by understanding the interactions between Urban Heat Islands (UHI) and Urban Air Pollution (UAP).

The workshop's collaborative format enabled a deeper exploration of these challenges, reinforcing the importance of experience-sharing and flexible governance in shaping the future of resilience across Europe.



Figure 5. Graphic recording by Norma Nardi

3.2 11th European Urban Resilience Forum (2024)

3.2.1 About the event

Since its creation in 2013, the European Urban Resilience Forum (EURESFO) has established itself as a unique exchange platform for city representatives, experts, and stakeholders from local and regional institutions. It has been recognised as a valuable space to discuss challenges, solutions, initiatives and strategies in local and regional governments' efforts to adapt to a changing climate, manage disasters and multiple crises and build resilience.

The event is a European initiative driven by ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and the European Environment Agency (EEA), with the continuous support of former partners, such as the Resilient Cities Network, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Nordic Urban Resilience Institute, in the development of the Forum's programme. Building every year on a growing number of engaged participants, partners and activities, the event is now recognised as the most important event on climate adaptation and urban resilience in Europe.

The 2024 edition of the European Urban Resilience Forum took place between June 26th and June 28th, 2024, in the framework of the Valencia Cities Climate Week (including the Cities



Mission Conference, EURESFO and the Energy Cities Annual Forum), hosted by the city as part of the Valencia EU Green Capital 2024 celebrations. It was a unique opportunity to bring together representatives of cities and regions from across Europe to discuss challenges and opportunities for strengthening resilience in the wider context of sustainable urban development.

Building on the outcomes of its 2023 edition, EURESFO24 focused on the following thematic streams:

- Multilevel governance, cooperation and just transition: resilience leaves no one behind
- Water resilience and the Blue Economy in and beyond the Mediterranean region
- Enabling the transformation to resilient, adaptive, and climate-neutral cities and regions
- Special focus stream: Post-conflict Resilience and Recovery.

3.2.2 Session description

Format: Panel

Title: Multi-level governance: coordinating for climate adaptation

Date: 26 June 2024

Duration: 1h15min

Organising partners: REGILIENCE, Regions4Climate

Concept and objectives:

As highlighted in the latest European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA), most major climate risks impacting European countries are “co-owned” by the EU, its Member States or other government levels. To address and reduce climate risks in Europe, the EEA assessment stresses that the EU and its Member States need to work together and also involve regional and local levels, when urgent and coordinated action is required.

Addressing this call for action, this session follows a high-level panel on multi-level governance and a technical breakout session looking at the collaboration between national and local levels in the framework of the EU Mission for Smart and Climate Neutral Cities. In this context, this final panel discussion aims at analysing multi-level governance from a climate adaptation perspective. It provides an opportunity for reflections on the role of vertical cooperation, considering the peculiarities of adaptation vs mitigation action, and for presenting and reviewing current strategies for possible replication.

Involving a variety of speakers representing the different governance levels, this panel aims to explore their role in fostering vertical coordination for climate adaptation. In particular, acknowledging the centrality of regions as intermediaries between national and local level, as well as their diversity throughout the continent, the session will explore challenges and solutions with regard to coordination for financing, policy development, participation, communication and technical coordination between governance levels. Additionally, this session will look into multi-level approaches to enable a transformation of the local and regional economy in line with EU policy frameworks and regulations and climate adaptation objectives.

Methodology:

The session is organised as a panel discussion, structured into several segments to facilitate both expert input and audience engagement. It begins with an introductory framing by Jen Heemann,



focusing on the challenges and opportunities for multi-level governance (MLG) in climate adaptation, drawing on insights from key European initiatives and projects. The following section involves presentations from speakers representing different governance levels (national, regional, local), who will share examples of MLG strategies in their respective regions or cities. The session concludes with an interactive discussion, incorporating questions from the audience via SLIDO, to explore challenges, lessons learned, and potential solutions for enhancing MLG in climate adaptation. A detailed agenda can be found in the Annex I.

Panelists:

- Miljenko Sedlar, REGEA
- Toomas Toodu - Pärnu County Development Centre - Pärnumaa region (Estonia)
- Yann Francoise, city of Paris (Deputy Director and Head of Climate for the Ecological Transition and Climate Department)
- Emilia Botezan, Cluj Napoca, Romania (Head of International Affairs and Foreign Investment Department - Cluj Napoca is also part of the Cities Mission)
- Jordi Peris Blanes (Universitat Politècnica de València) - Spanish National Platform CitiES2030

Facilitated by:

Federico Aili, Associate, Programs & Grants (Europe and Middle East), Resilient Cities Network
Erica Manuelli, Junior Expert Resilience and Climate adaptation, ICLEI Europe



Figure 6. EURESFO 2024, Valencia - Photo by Stephan Kohler, ICLEI Europe



3.2.3 Main outcomes

The session delved into the importance of multi-level governance coordination to balance climate adaptation and mitigation, stressing that both approaches must be treated with equal importance. Through case studies from regions like Pärnumaa, Cluj Napoca, Zagreb, and Paris, participants highlighted the varying local challenges and innovations driving climate resilience. For instance, the Pärnumaa region demonstrated the significance of coordinating efforts across local governments, despite the lack of legislative power at the regional or county level. In Cluj Napoca, the emphasis was on the ecosystem approach, fostering citizen engagement through innovative civic spaces, serving as a sandbox for experimenting with climate solutions. The session also noted the role of Zagreb and Paris as frontrunners, showcasing green infrastructure initiatives that could be replicated across cities and regions at a national level.

The need for collaborative frameworks was repeatedly stressed, as involving government, private sector, and communities is essential for the success of climate actions. Instruments such as climate city contracts and local green deals were recognized for their ability to align policies and initiatives, fostering a coordinated response. A key insight was that “collaboration is not rocket science—it's more difficult”, highlighting the complexities of bringing diverse stakeholders together in meaningful ways.

Another major outcome of the session was the need to create and sustain spaces for collaboration, where stakeholders can meet both formally and informally. These spaces are vital for integrating both adaptation and mitigation concerns, enabling face-to-face interactions that build trust and foster joint problem-solving. A prominent theme was the human dimension of climate action, where it was emphasized that stakeholders must be engaged "on equal ground," ensuring that all voices are heard, particularly those of the most vulnerable or disadvantaged groups.

Visibility emerged as a crucial element in scaling successful local practices to regional and national levels. The discussion underscored the importance of making successful initiatives visible so they can be replicated elsewhere, ensuring that innovations don't remain isolated but are part of broader climate action strategies. Demanding citizens were also recognized as key drivers for accelerating progress, with governments needing to continuously engage with their evolving expectations.

Finally, the session reinforced the idea that innovation and collaboration are never finished. Continuous learning and adaptation are required to keep pace with the complexities of climate resilience, with the need for replicating successful projects across regions and sectors to maximize impact. The session concluded with a call to ensure effective collaboration spaces that are inclusive, adaptive, and capable of evolving alongside the pressing demands of climate change.



Figure 7. Graphic recording by Carlotta Cataldi

3.3 High-level event of the Mission for Adaptation Climate Change for Greek Cities and Regions

3.3.1 About the event

The event, organised by the Administrative Council of the European Mission for Climate Change Adaptation (EU Mission Adaptation) in collaboration with the ICLEI Europe and the General Secretariat of Spatial Planning and Urban Environment of the Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy, set as a first objective to inform, support, and mobilize municipalities and regions across Greece to address climate adaptation and extreme weather events.

Held on April 11th, 2024 at the Serafion complex of the Municipality of Athens, it was the first official gathering focused on adaptation to climate change for Greek cities, within the framework of the EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change. The event convened representatives from numerous municipalities and regions including Athens, Thessaloniki, Heraklion, and regions such as Crete, Central Macedonia, and the North Aegean. The event attracted key representatives from various European and Greek institutions: key organisations involved in the panels included the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE), Directorate-General for Climate Action of the European Commission, Climattica Network, the European Investment Bank, and the European Environment Agency, among others. The detailed event's agenda can be found in the Annex I.



Figure 8. Session at the high-level event of the Mission for Adaptation Climate Change for Greek Cities and Regions, Athens

3.3.2 Session description

The event featured several focused sessions, each aimed at enhancing the understanding of the various aspects of climate resilience and adaptation for Greek cities and regions.

The opening remarks were delivered by Eleni Myrivili, member of the EU Mission Board for Adaptation to Climate Change, who emphasized the urgency of multi-level governance coordination to address the challenges posed by climate change. This was followed by addresses from key officials including Elina Bardram, Director for Adaptation & Resilience, and Mission Manager for the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, DG Clima (European Commission), as well as Secretaries General Petros Varelidis (Ministry of Environment and Energy), Konstantinos Magoulas (Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport), and Fofo Kalyva (Ministry of Health).

The sessions were structured into the following key panels:

The National Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change: This session explored national strategies and policies currently being implemented to build resilience against climate change, particularly in urban areas. Discussions focused on the ongoing challenges, particularly for municipalities and regions, and the measures necessary to strengthen their capacity to respond to extreme weather events.

The Climate Change Adaptation Mission and Support to Cities and Regions: This panel delved into the specific actions and initiatives being carried out under the European Adaptation Mission. Successful case studies from regions that had implemented innovative adaptation solutions were presented, providing valuable insights for replication in other municipalities.

Data and Financing of Greek Municipalities and Regions for Adaptation to Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events: This session addressed the economic aspects of climate adaptation, including the availability of data, funding resources, and opportunities from both national and European funds. Various financing mechanisms were discussed, and case studies of projects aimed at improving community resilience were presented.

3.3.3 Main outcomes

The high-level event on Adaptation to Climate Change for Greek Cities and Regions highlights the importance of fostering cooperation between national, regional, and local authorities in addressing climate challenges. A key outcome of the event was indeed the recognition that a coordinated



approach across different levels of governance is essential to effectively implement climate adaptation measures. National representatives and local leaders alike emphasized that collaboration is critical for cities and regions to better respond to extreme weather events and rising climate risks. Strengthening this cooperation is crucial in translating national climate strategies into concrete local actions.

Another significant outcome was the exchange of knowledge and best practices on adaptation initiatives. Cities like Athens and Thessaloniki shared their experiences with innovative resilience projects, offering insights for other municipalities looking to enhance their own adaptive capacities. The event also highlighted the essential role that technical and financial support from both the national government and European bodies plays in empowering local authorities to take meaningful action on climate resilience.

The discussions further highlighted the critical need for better access to data and funding mechanisms to support adaptation projects. Municipalities often struggle to access relevant climate data and secure funding, presenting barriers to implementing necessary resilience measures. The event brought attention to the importance of improving data availability and enhancing municipalities' ability to tap into national and European financial resources, such as those offered by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Green Fund.

Concluding the event was a call to integrate climate adaptation more deeply into urban planning and governance frameworks. Participants stressed the urgency of adopting a holistic approach that combines both climate mitigation and adaptation, reinforcing the need for systemic changes at all levels of government. The event reaffirmed that a more integrated and accelerated response is necessary to safeguard Greek cities and regions against the growing threats of climate change and the presented case studies provided a roadmap for Greek cities and regions to implement successful climate adaptation strategies.

4 The way forward

This document is the second report on the REGILIENCE networking activities at large-scale events. This presents and analyses 6 sessions within important European events, out of a total of 8 large events that the project will engage in. Indeed, it is foreseen that ICLEI Europe will lead the development of another and last public report, the Deliverable 1.9 in November 2025, which represent the updated version of this document with further activities to be developed in the following months. This iterative process establishes a monitoring framework to periodically review the achievements and limitations of the REGILIENCE approach to networking activities, dissemination and exploitation sessions and events. In particular, it allows maximising innovative formats and a deepen unexplored topics but also to fulfil needs identified in previous experiences.

Several core lessons emerged from the described recent events, emphasizing the need for strong multi-level governance, cross-sectoral collaboration, and adaptive resilience strategies that reflect regional diversity. Effective climate resilience depends on coordinated efforts across governance levels—national, regional, and local—to align strategies and translate them into actionable local measures. The events highlighted the importance of sustained spaces for collaboration, where stakeholders from government, private sectors, and communities can jointly explore solutions.

Innovation in climate resilience relies also on raising awareness of successful practices and enabling their replication across regions. By showcasing local success stories, other cities and



regions are empowered to adopt and adapt similar strategies, broadening the reach of effective resilience practices across Europe. Furthermore, the sessions reaffirmed that both adaptation and mitigation need to be prioritized in parallel, facilitated by tools like climate city contracts and local green deals, to unify efforts across regions.

Finally, continuous learning is essential. Adaptive governance and flexible approaches remain crucial as new challenges and opportunities arise.

The consortium, and particularly ICLEI as leading partner, is committed also in this final year of the project to take advantage of upcoming and future relevant large-scale events for accelerating knowledge sharing and contribute to a successful development of the project expected outcomes. A mapping of the conferences and interest is still in continuing development and will be carry out until the end of the project. The main upcoming events that the REGILIENCE consortium is interested in, have been applied or intends to apply for participation are:

- UN Climate Change Conference (COP29), 11-22 November 2024, Baku (Azerbaijan)
- European Climate Change Adaptation Conference 2025, 16-18 June 2025, Rimini (Italy)
- 12th European Urban Resilience Forum, 25-27 June 2025, Rotterdam (the Netherlands)
- 11th Conference for Sustainable Cities and Towns, TBD, Aalborg (Denmark)
- 4th Forum of the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, TBD
- 8th International Adaptation Futures Conference (AF2025), 13-16 October 2025, Ōtautahi Christchurch (New Zealand)
- European Week of Regions and Cities 2025, TBD

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



Annex

Annex I - Sessions' detailed agendas

3rd EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week

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



9th European Urban Resilience Forum

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

20th European Week for Regions and Cities

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

10th European Urban Resilience Forum

| Timing | Activity | Speaker |
|--------|---|---|
| 15 min | Welcome and introduction | Moderators: Jen Heermann (IEECP), Matthias Watzak (FEDARENE) |
| 40 min | World Café-style setup: participants rotate through different topics chosen by the hosts (cities and regions) | All |
| 20 min | Conclusions: each World Café group share key insights from their thematic discussions | All |

11th European Urban Resilience Forum

| Timing | Activity | Speaker |
|--------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 5 min | Welcome, warm-up, SLIDO engagement, speaker introduction | Moderators |
| 10 min | Initial input to frame the session | Jen Heermann (IEECP) |
| 10 min | Setting the scene: Governance role in adaptation | All speakers (2 mins each) |
| 10 min | Examples of MLG strategies for adaptation Challenges & lessons learned | All speakers (2 mins each) |
| 25 min | Final discussion, SLIDO questions, key takeaways | Moderator, Speakers, Audience |
| 5 min | Closing remarks | Moderators |

High-level event of the Mission for Adaptation Climate Change for Greek Cities and Regions



| Timing | Activity | Speaker |
|---------|---|--|
| 15 min | Opening and Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elina Bardram, Director, Adaptation, Resilience, Communication and Civil Society Relations, DG CLIMA, European Commission (online) Lenio Myrivili, Board Member of the EU Climate Change Adaptation Mission, and Global Chief Heat Officer at the United Nations and the Atlantic Council Vasileios Latinos, Head of Resilience and Climate Adaptation, ICLEI Europe | |
| 30 min | Greetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Akis Skertsos, Minister, Internal State Affairs Alexandra Sdoukou, State Secretary for Environment and Energy Petros Varelidis, Secretary General for Natural Environment and Water, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Konstantinos Magoulas, Secretary General for Infrastructure, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Fofa Kalyva, Secretary General for Public Health, Ministry of Health | |
| 30 min | Panel #1: The National Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petros Varelidis, Secretary General for Natural Environment and Water, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Dora Antonakaki, Director, Climate Change and Sustainability Centre, Bank of Greece Argyro Paraskevopoulou, Climattica Network of Municipalities and Regions on Climate Change, Climate Change Director, Region of Attica | Moderator: Maria Logotheti, Expert Ambassador Counsellor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, President of the Climate Change Hub (CCHUB) |
| 15 min | 10:30 Interactive Session: What are the most important challenges and needs of cities and regions in Greece regarding Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events? Introduction and Commentary by Grigoris Konstantellos, Mayor of Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni, Vice President of Hellenic Association of Municipalities | Moderator: Elena Petsani, ICLEI /Pathways2Resilience |
| 30 min | Coffee break | |
| 1h15min | Panel #2: What is the Climate Change Adaptation Mission and how does it support cities and regions in Greece? Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vasileios Latinos, ICLEI/REGILIENCE Leon Kapetas, Resilient Cities Network/REGILIENCE | Moderator: Konstantina Siountri, Consultant of the General Secretariat for Spatial Planning and Urban Environment, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources |



| | | |
|---------|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christina Papadaskalopoulou, MIP4Adapt <p>Four-minute speeches by representatives of local governments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stella Psarropoulou, Municipality of Thessaloniki, Dimitris Tzempelikos, Municipality of Egaleo Christos Polyzos, Municipality of Thermi | |
| 60 min | <p>Panel #3: Data and Financing related to adaptation to climate change and extreme events.</p> <p>Introduction and commentary by Efthimios Bakoyannis, Secretary General of Spatial Planning and Urban Environment, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terry Karabini, European Environment Agency Iphigenia Keramitsoglou, Athens National Observatory Eleni Gioti, European Investment Bank Yannis Androulakis, Greek Green Fund/Prasino Tameio | <p>Moderator: Vasileios Latinos, Head of Resilience and Climate Adaptation, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability/REGILIENCE</p> |
| 30 min | <p>Conclusions and commentary</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maria Vasilakou, EU Mission Cities Board Lenio Myrivili, EU Mission Adaptation Board | |
| 1h30min | Networking Lunch | |



Annex II - Dissemination materials (Social Media)

3rd EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week



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

9 MARCH AT 09:00 CET

JOIN US!

Presented by:

TransformAr ARSINOE REGILIENCE IMPETUS

European Union European Commission European Regional Development Fund

9th European Urban Resilience Forum



EUROPEAN URBAN RESILIENCE FORUM

15. September

9:00 - 11:00

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

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

Join this workshop & more at #EURESFO22

Source: Pixabay



20th European Week for Regions and Cities

20th
EUROPEAN WEEK OF
REGIONS & CITIES
2003 - 2022

**New Challenges for
Europe's Cohesion**

PARTICIPATORY LAB

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

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

SESSION PARTNER

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for Sustainability
EUROPE

#EURregionsWeek



10th European Urban Resilience Forum



11th European Urban Resilience Forum





High-level event of the Mission for Adaptation Climate Change for Greek Cities and Regions

HIGH-LEVEL EVENT OF THE MISSION FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE FOR GREEK CITIES AND REGIONS -THE PAST AND THE FUTURE -



April 11, 2024



Athens, Greece

More information and application on: <https://shorturl.at/hv115>



A Mission activity



Organised by



REGILIENCE
Regional Pathways to Climate Resilience



Local Governments
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EUROPE



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