

APRIL 2025 | VOL. 2

# CLIMATE NEWSLETTER

ON THE PROGRESS &amp; UPCOMING ACTIVITIES OF THE CLIMATE PROJECT

## IMPROVING EU REGIONS' ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Dear readers,

We're excited to bring you the latest updates and accomplishments from the CLIMATE project. Our partnership has been hard at work, achieving key milestones, engaging stakeholders, and supporting policymakers in enhancing policy instruments. Together, we aim to strengthen the resilience to climate change and promote civic participation in climate planning.

In this issue, we'll highlight recent achievements and share a glimpse of the exciting plans ahead.

Stay tuned for more updates and thank you for being part of our journey!

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### CLIMATE Partners will:

- Enhance the cross-departmental collaboration towards a whole-of-government approach to climate hazards and civil protection.
- Improve territorial authorities' preparedness and adaptive capacities and guide the formulation of fit-for-purpose and socially just responses.
- Strengthen open discussion to promote civic participation and inclusiveness in climate planning.
- Mobilise public and private investments for preventive structural measures, climate-resilient infrastructure, and civil protection mechanisms.

ERDF  
1,571,458 €

DURATION  
1 Apr 2024 -  
30 Jun 2028

## Kick off meeting in Patras

**After a challenging year the CLIMATE consortium had the chance to meet in person**

Our physical Kick-off Meeting was successfully held in Patras from the 9th to the 10th of April at the premises of the University of Patras. This event marked a major milestone for the CLIMATE project, as the consortium came together in person for the first time since the project's launch.

During the meeting, the Advisory Lead Partner set the tone by presenting the first project results and providing an overview of the current situation regarding the work plan and financial progress. Partners were actively engaged, sharing insights into upcoming activities, with a strong focus on enhancing interregional cooperation. Discussions highlighted how collaboration and the exchange of experiences among partners can further strengthen the project's impact and contribute to achieving its objectives.



The meeting concluded with the formation of the Steering Group and a strong commitment from all partners to maintain their excellent efforts. The partners also agreed to set their next appointment for June 2025 in Helsinki, Finland, where they will continue advancing the project's objectives.



## Exchange of experience activities

**We are delighted to announce our first completed thematic study: i) on the root causes of Partners areas' vulnerability to current & projected climate hazards with the aim to develop future-proof adaptation responses and ii) on gaps, challenges, and inconsistencies in Partners territorial climate governance frameworks.**

The comparative analysis showed that the CLIMATE project regions face common challenges from a more extreme climate, including hotter temperatures, heavier rains, and water stress. Despite different local risks—like sea-level rise or wildfire threats—all partners must strengthen infrastructure, resource management, and governance. By sharing knowledge and aligned strategies, the regions can build greater climate resilience together.

**[Connect to our website to learn more!](#)**



## Study visit in Kalamaki beach and workshop on emergency response protocols

Our consortium, in collaboration with representatives from the Region of Western Greece, recently visited Kalamaki Beach, where a pilot technical intervention was implemented to combat coastal erosion. This important work was supported by the [ADAPTIN GR](#) project, an initiative aimed at enhancing climate resilience across Greek regions, with a strong focus on protecting vulnerable coastal areas from the impacts of climate change. During the visit, the consortium had the opportunity to witness innovative techniques for addressing coastal erosion, which not only focus on stabilizing the coastline but also take into consideration biodiversity conservation and ecosystem protection.

The day concluded with a technical workshop hosted at the University of Patras, where participants had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of emergency response protocols. The workshop featured insightful presentations from university professors on the latest meteorological models used to forecast extreme weather events, providing valuable tools for proactive disaster management. Additionally, the NGO [Dog's Voice](#), known for its crucial role in safeguarding and managing animals during environmental crises, shared best practices and experiences, highlighting the importance of integrating animal welfare into emergency planning. The workshop ended with roundtable discussions among partners and stakeholders exchanging information. **[Read more here!](#)**

## STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

All project partners organized their first stakeholder meetings with the objective of introducing the project to their local communities and initiating a dialogue on local challenges and development opportunities. During these sessions, discussions focused on the main characteristics of the Interreg Europe Programme, providing stakeholders with an overview of the CLIMATE project, including its implementation period, partnership structure, overall objectives, and the key activities planned throughout the project's lifetime. Partners also presented the timeline for upcoming actions, opportunities for stakeholder involvement, and roadmaps for future collaboration and networking. These initial meetings aimed to raise awareness, build trust, and encourage active participation from local and regional actors, setting a solid foundation for future engagement.



## Vidzeme Planning Region - Regional stakeholder meeting



**Vas County Government Office**  
**Regional stakeholder meeting**



**Lombardy Foundation for the Environment**  
**Regional stakeholder meeting**



City of Brussels  
Regional stakeholder meeting



# WHAT ELSE IS NEXT?

## Joint thematic analysis activities

- In the upcoming months, the CLIMATE project will conduct a comprehensive assessment to evaluate the **adaptive capacity** and operational needs of partners and relevant authorities at the structural level. This activity will focus on identifying strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in current systems for coping with climate events and impacts. Through targeted surveys and interviews partners will gather critical data to understand the level of preparedness across different regions.
- The consortium will also engage in a dynamic exchange of practices focusing on **disaster risk management** and reactive emergency measures in response to extreme weather events and climate hazards. Partners will share experiences, successful models, and lessons learned from past events, fostering mutual learning and collaboration.



## Site Visit to the Finnish Meteorological Institute and Workshop on Climate Information Technologies and Knowledge Management Practices:

HSY will organize an enriching two-part event in Helsinki, starting with a site visit to the Finnish Meteorological Institute, where partners will gain first-hand insight into advanced meteorological practices and technologies. Following the visit, an interregional workshop will be held focusing on climate information management, aiming to strengthen partners' capacity to systematize the use of weather and climate data in governance processes.



## 2nd Steering Group Meeting

The 2nd Steering Group meeting, which will serve as a platform to strengthen interregional cooperation and evaluate the outcomes of initial activities, will be organized by HSY and take place in June 2025. Partners will have the opportunity to meet in person for the second time in the project lifecycle, expanding their collaborative efforts and engaging with stakeholders to share experiences, and plan the next steps for successful implementation.

## CLIMATE CONSORTIUM



University of Patras  
**(Advisory Lead Partner) (EL)**



Helsinki Region Environmental  
Services Authority **(FI)**



City of Brussels **(BE)**



Lombardy Foundation for the  
Environment **(IT)**

*provincie* Drenthe

Province of Drenthe **(NL)**



Vidzeme Planning region **(LV)**



STARA ZAGORA  
MUNICIPALITY

Stara Zagora Municipality **(BG)**



Vas County Government Office **(HU)**



Saranda Municipality  
**(Discovery Partner) (AL)**



Region of Ionian Islands **(EL)**

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