

3rd EU MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES WEEK

Session: Transformative Action for Climate Resilient and Adaptive Regions

Wednesday 9th March, 2022, 09.00-10.30 CET

Detailed description:

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our times. The world has recently experienced extreme climate events and natural disasters, occurring simultaneously in various countries. As of 1 October 2021, over 2000 jurisdictions in more than 35 countries all over the world have declared a climate emergency. The recent wildfires in Greece, Sardegna and Portugal and the deadly floods in Germany, France and the Netherlands affected vulnerable populations. 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 has launched the [Mission for Adaptation to Climate Change and Societal Transformation](#) that fosters the development of innovative solutions and will engage with and empower regions, cities and communities to evolve and adapt to climate change. It helps maximize the impact of the EU's support for research and innovation and demonstrates its relevance for society and citizens. The Mission focuses on solutions and preparedness for the impacts of climate change to protect lives and assets. It addresses new communities beyond the usual stakeholders, including behavioral changes and social aspects, to guide and achieve societal transformation.

This session is co-organised by four Horizon 2020 projects in the Mission 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 the resilience of regions, 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 maximize their resilience to the impacts of climate change.

In light of the implementation of the Mission for Climate Adaptation and Societal Transformation, the session:

- will raise the relevance and necessity for integrated climate adaptation for regions;
- will 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 and
- will showcase the approach and already existing good practice from regions and the motivation of regional partners to step further regional climate action.

AGENDA

5' - Welcome and introduction to the session
10' - Keynote from the European Commission
10' - Testimonials from regions
60' - Panel discussion
5' - Closing remarks

Keynote: Mr. Johannes Klumpers DG Clima (Focus on Mission/EU Adaptation Strategy and its importance for regional development)

Video testimonials: We will project 3 short testimonials from regions on: why is work in such a project important for them; what are the main challenges for climate resilience that they face; and what are the main activities and how they intersect with regional challenges, focuses, needs and existing (project) activities. (**Note: if you have not shared your project's testimonial with us, please do so by Monday 7th March lunchtime!**)

Panel discussion

Ms. Chrysi Laspidou, University of Thessaly & ARSINOE project

Ms. Stefania Manca, Municipality of Genoa/EU Agenda Partnership for Climate Adaptation

Mr Alessio Satta – MEDSEA Foundation Sardinia, Italy and **Mr Laurence Couldrick** –West Country Rivers Trust, West Country Region, TransformAr project

Giovanni Luigi Brumat, Cantina Toblino viticulture cooperative, Trentino, Italy, IMPETUS project

Moderators: Mr. Vasileios Latinos, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability

Backend moderator: Ms. Jole Lutz, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability

The panel will provide an open discussion where participants from policy and practice reflect on what they see as novel activities for accelerating resilience work and what should the adaptation

community be taking away with them as challenges and ideas that might lead to faster, and more pervasive action for regional development towards climate resilience.

Following a quick introduction to the speakers, the moderator will address questions to each speaker in an iterative process.

Guiding questions:

1. What does the implementation of the new EU Adaptation Strategy mean for regional authorities and communities?
2. How does work done already in the four project cluster link to the Mission for Adaptation to Climate Change and Societal Transformation?
3. 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?
4. 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)?
5. How do we evolve towards resilient communities that are protected by engaged and empowered citizens?
6. What are those initiatives and programmes that will help towards this direction? What are those initiatives that regions (and projects working towards the Adaptation Mission) should connect with, collaborate and consult?

The moderator will ensure that the session will work well in digital format by moving directly into the panel discussion, **without** having initial statements from the speakers; tailored questions will be addressed to each speaker, while the speakers are advised to challenge each other and direct questions to fellow speakers.

Engaging with the broader audience:

Throughout the session, the audience will be encouraged to actively participate, by utilizing the chat box to share their name and location, as well as a series of polls (using sli.do or Mentimeter) to keep the attendees interested and connected. The Q/A section will also ensure interaction with the speakers.

Survey

Close to the end of the session, the moderator will invite the audience to participate in the **REGILIENCE 'Survey on regional needs assessment and stakeholder consultation'**. (The link will be shared in the **chat** box).

This survey aims to **gather experiences from vulnerable regions** in different parts of Europe, in order to understand common needs and challenges to adapt to climate change impacts. As a representative of a local or regional authority, the civil society, a scientific body or the business

sector, each participant can provide a unique perspective to be incorporated in the project activities.

The objective of the study is to **offer an overview of the vulnerable regions that should receive further support opportunities within the upcoming European projects** in the framework of the Mission for Climate Adaptation and Societal Transformation.

LINK TO CONNECT

Transformative Action for Climate Resilient and Adaptive Regions

Wednesday, 9 March 2022

from 9:00-10:30 CET

Connect by:

<https://zoom.us/j/96517891445?pwd=TVFoMG96QXk2dJJKdXNITWxycEVPdz09>

Meeting ID : 965 1789 1445

Password : 770739