



# ClimateGO

## *Pathways to climate-smart governance*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter

Published: 3/2025

#### Climate change is already affecting Europe in various

**ways.** Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, more frequent extreme weather events such as heatwaves, droughts, floods and storms pose significant risks to the environment, infrastructure, and human well-being across the continent. Thus, there is a need to better adapt to the situation. National, regional and local level governance that leads to actions play a crucial role here. Therefore, it is important that climate actions to increase resilience must be understood better by administration and decisionmakers, so that they can be implemented in practice, at local level in cities and regions.

**ClimateGO** addresses the urgent need for regions and cities to take proactive action against climate change. It emphasizes the importance of implementing laws and strategies to achieve climate targets while considering implications for society and nature. Beyond the evident focus on mitigation efforts, there is a need to emphasize the urgency of climate change adaptation and preparedness. Proactive adaptation enables larger benefits than reactive action, as both the avoidance of losses and the exploitation of opportunities are more effective. The ClimateGO project partners share a joint aim to ensure that anticipatory understanding of climate change is a central part of future decision-making.

# Project Partners

## Lead partner:

LAB University of Applied Sciences (Finland)

## Collaborating with:

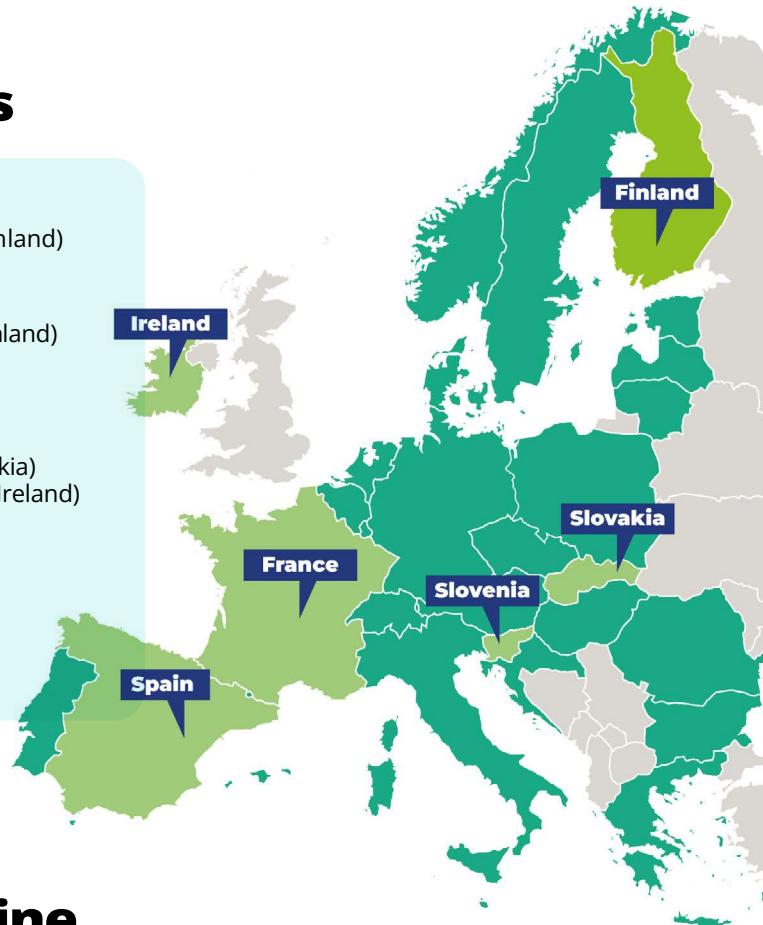
- Regional Council of Päijät-Häme (Finland)
- Alzira City Council (Spain)
- City of Grenoble (France)
- Regional development agency for Podravje - Maribor (Slovenia)
- Košice Self-Governing Region (Slovakia)
- Waterford City and County Council (Ireland)



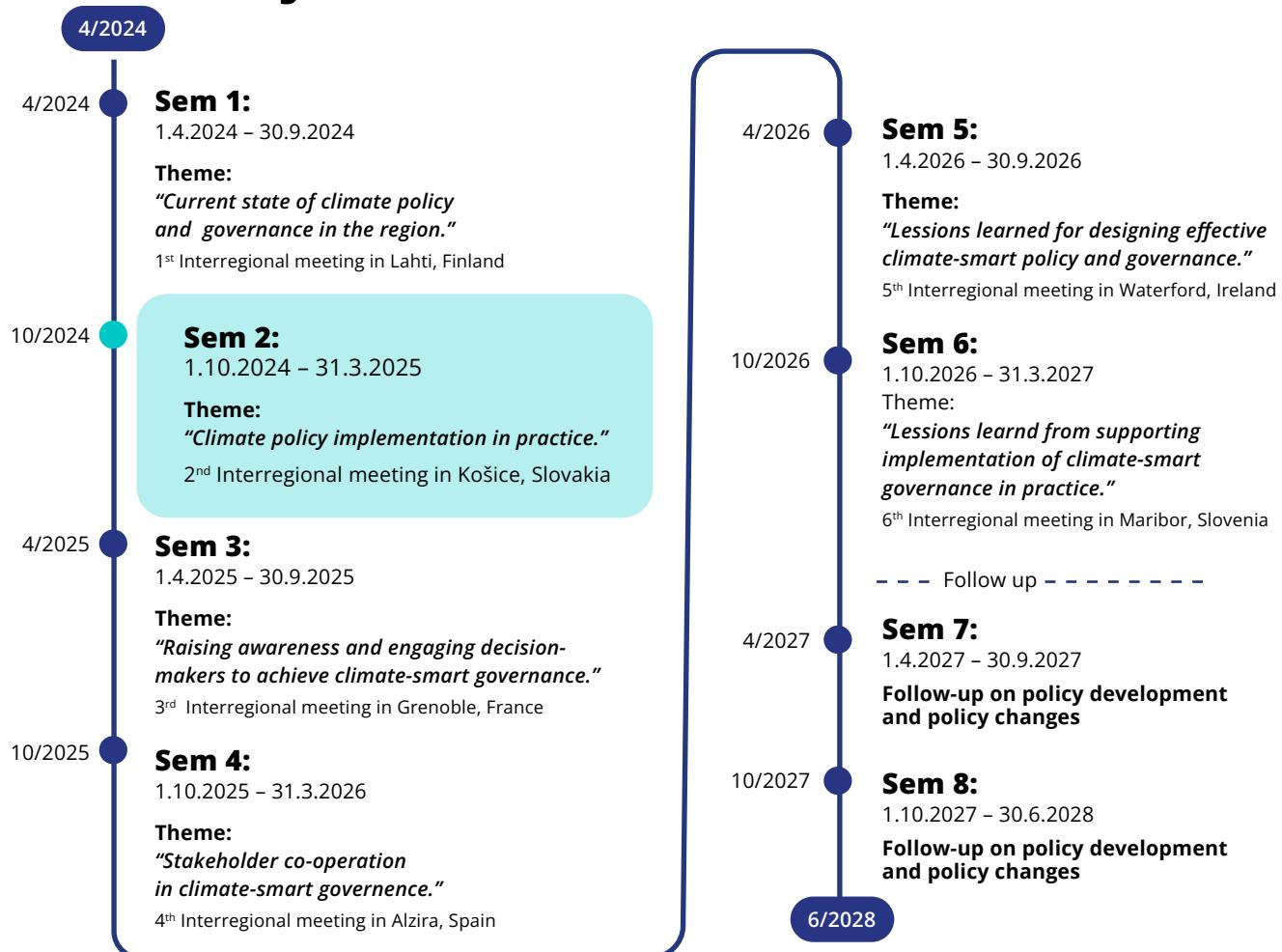
Budget  
1,491,245 €



Duration  
1<sup>st</sup> Apr 2024 – 30<sup>th</sup> Jun 2028



# Project Timeline



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Interregional Meeting

## Climate Policy implementation in practice

On 11-12. February 2025, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ClimateGo project meeting took place in Košice, aiming to strengthen cooperation among partners from Alzira (Spain), Pozdravje-Maribor (Slovenia), Grenoble (France), Waterfor (Ireland), Košice (Slovakia) and Päijät-Häme (Finland) and define the next steps for the successful implementation of our ClimateGO project.

### Climate Policy implementation in practice

The two-day meeting provided participants with the opportunity to exchange experiences, discuss progress, and propose solutions for upcoming challenges. The program included partner presentations, interactive workshops, and discussions focused on more effective coordination and implementation of planned activities.

During the meeting, participants were introduced through presentations to how the planning and implementation process of various measures was carried out. They also had the opportunity to see real-world examples of these measures through excursions to:

- **Spišská Nová Ves:** "Water Retention Measures at the Secondary Technical Industrial School"
- **Gelnica:** "Protection and Restoration of Biodiversity in the Forest Ecosystems of the Košice Region"



The second day was dedicated to presentations where project partners showcased measures implemented in their respective countries within the ClimateGo project. Following these presentations, partners were introduced to additional projects under the theme "Towards Sustainable Development in the KSR Region", followed by an excursion to the Environmental Education Centre of the Košice Selfgoverning Region (KSR), KlimaPark Kysak.

Apart from the professional part, attendees had the opportunity to explore the cultural beauty of Košice, strengthening both professional and personal relationships.

We thank all participants for contributing to the success of this meeting. We look forward to the next steps in our collaboration and believe that, together, we will achieve all set goals.

# Good Practices

***Inspiring and tested policy solutions identified by Interreg Europe cooperation projects***

During the project implementation time all ClimateGO project partners will identify and publish tested policy solutions from their own regions and cities.

The main idea is that these tested solutions can be transferred to other European regions and cities. Learning from each other and making use of already tested methods and solutions will help different European regions to develop further and more efficient.

## **Definition of ClimateGO Good Practices:**

- proved to be successful
- transferable
- scope on city or region level
- sustainable (ecological, economic and social)
- related to climate change mitigation or adaptation
- systemic (changes in processes, structures and practices)
- increases regional resilience to climate change



Read more



## ClimateGO video published!

**Watch!**

<https://youtu.be/ACrTti20lsE?si=imFfCQJmHBcIn7e>

# The Current State of Climate Policy in Päijät-Häme Region

Picture: Maarit Virtanen, Regional Council of Päijät-Häme



Picture 1. Kärkölä is one of seven municipalities in Päijät-Häme that have prepared their climate plans under the coordination of the Regional Council. Development work has mostly been carried out in joint meetings in 2024-2025. (Picture: Maarit Virtanen)

In 2019, Päijät-Häme joined the Finnish national network of carbon-neutral municipalities and regions, committing to an 80% emissions reduction by 2030. To reach this goal, the region developed a climate roadmap, which was completed in 2020 and updated in 2022 and 2023. The Green Transition Program, established in 2024, consolidated sustainability efforts across the region.

From 2007 to 2023, overall emissions in Päijät-Häme decreased by 50 %. Significant reductions were observed in district heating production and other heating and electricity consumption sectors. Transportation and agriculture remain challenging sectors, requiring national-level interventions. Current measures are projected to reduce emissions by 61% by 2030, necessitating substantial changes across all sectors to achieve the target.

Achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 involves not only reducing emissions but also enhancing carbon sequestration. Efforts to increase carbon sinks and at the same time biodiversity are crucial, although more data on land use sector emissions is needed. The City of Lahti is committed to achieving nature positivity by 2030, which must be the direction for the whole region.

Municipalities play a pivotal role in mitigating and adapting to climate change through, for example, land use, infrastructure, and promoting sustainable lifestyles. In 2024-2025, seven municipalities have prepared their climate action plans coordinated by the Regional Council. After their approval, all municipalities in Päijät-Häme will have climate plans.

Päijät-Häme is a member of EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change. The Regional Council was approved for technical assistance from the Mission to update the Regional Adaptation Programme, and to involve and inform stakeholders about the key issues. The process will take place during the spring 2025. The actions include a workshop with key stakeholders and a public event.

The workshop and public event are organised as a part of the ClimateGO project. In addition, the project organises a series of three climate webinars during the spring 2025. As a part of the ClimateGO Thematic Study, key persons from the region are interviewed to get further insight into climate governance at municipalities and companies.

# The current state of climate policy in Podravje region

The region of Podravje strives to tackle climate change-related challenges through a comprehensive approach, with the assessment of climate-related risks, integrating adaptation into existing and new initiatives and engaging relevant stakeholders in the process.

Within the ClimateGO project, the Regional Development Agency for Podravje-Maribor has been dedicated to working on the policy instrument of the Strategy for the transition of the city of Maribor to the circular economy, taking into account its relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. The initial strategy was adopted in the year 2018, and Maribor was the first Slovenian city to prepare a strategic document on circularity. The document identified key areas for the introduction of the circularity principles into the city's structure and processes, the activities to make the city more circular, as well as the key stakeholders for their implementation.

Since the preparation of the initial document, Maribor has taken several steps towards becoming a more and more circular city and numerous measures and activities deriving from its strategy have been realised already. Having many of the initially identified circular solutions accomplished by this year, and to pursue even more ambitious goals in this decade, the city decided to upgrade the document to a novel strategy. At this opportunity, the RDA Podravje-Maribor as the responsible entity for the revision of the existing document and the preparation of a new one initiated a strong collaboration between all relevant stakeholders on the topic of circular solutions and climate change-related adaptation and mitigation activities to come together in the search for ideas and projects most relevant to the city becoming more circularly-efficient and at the same time more ready for climate change. In this process,

the agency collaborated with the Municipality of Maribor, the Public Holding Maribor (which is comprised of public companies, related to energy-, waste-, water- and environment management), the representatives of individual companies within the Holding, and - last but not least - the Energy and Climate Agency of Podravje as the key stakeholder for the climate-related area.

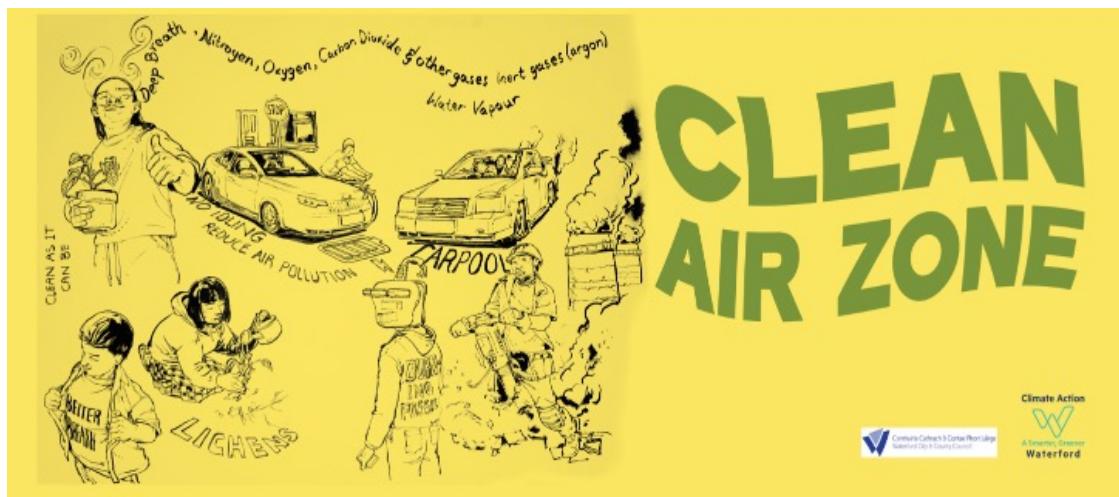
The new Strategy for the transition of the city of Maribor to the Circular Economy 2024-2030 was adopted by the City Council in autumn 2024, giving a foreground for the following Action plan to be prepared and serve as a guide for the future efforts to make the city of Maribor more circular and at the same time consider climate change adaptation and mitigation as an essential part of this process.

The work on the integration of climate change-related views into the city's mechanisms and processes is an ongoing and continuous activity. The RDA Podravje-Maribor acts as one of the important integrators in this field for the city of Maribor, as well as for the region of Podravje.

In December 2024, the RDA Podravje-Maribor joined efforts with the Energy and Climate Agency of Podravje in bringing together the stakeholders again, at the event 'The Green Mission for the Environment, vol. 2', following the first such gathering that took place at the beginning of the year. The event was an opportunity for the participants to exchange information about their related activities and efforts to tackle climate change, to search for synergies and to exchange best practices, for the benefit of the city, the region and their citizens. The initiative is growing, with many supporters, and the agency will further support it with the development of a common focal point platform to gather all regional efforts of the green and digital transition within a common platform for a more sustainable region in the future.



# The current state of climate policy in Waterford City



Waterford City and County Council in October engaged with the business community to put in place the Business Pledge for a Cleaner, Greener Waterford. Over 1000 businesses in Waterford made the Pledge and received a rates discount for measuring their carbon footprint. 2025's rates discount will be based on whether they achieve the actions that they have set out to reduce their environmental impact. This is the only scheme of its kind in Ireland, where the local authority is using Commercial Rates as a tool to encourage businesses to become more sustainable.

The second meeting of the Carbon Neutral Waterford (ClimateGo) Steering Group took place in November. Partners, all large employers in Waterford City, set out a way of working and collaborating together, working through our policy instrument the Roadmap to a Carbon Neutral Waterford.

An air quality campaign was started in two schools in the Metropolitan area. Primary school children had air quality meters installed at their schools the students analysed the air quality and asked questions like, why was there so many particulates in the air at a certain time and what could their school do to improve air quality. With a local artist, the students designed a banner for their school and ran an information campaign informing adults of impact of idling on creating air pollution and ultimately on

children's health. Students from two secondary schools also gathered air quality data and modelled its impact on young people's health. This campaign will be continued with schools across the city in 2025.

Finally, we have welcomed a Project Officer to our team, Diana Prieto. Diana comes from a Circular Economy background and we look forward to having her in our team to facilitate greater connection between stakeholders in our city and to develop Climate Governance in Waterford City.



# The current state of climate policy in Košice Self-Governing Region



Caring for the landscape is one of the key tasks for ensuring environmental, food, social and climate security, in any part of Slovakia, region or municipality. In accordance with the adopted Landscape Restoration Programme and the action plan of the programme, a conference was held in Košice in April 2024 entitled: "Systematic approach of regional self-government to adaptation to climate change". The aim of the conference was to explore strategic approaches and innovations in the field of climate change adaptation that help regions to cope with the challenges of a changing climate and work together to find sustainable solutions. All eight regions from Slovakia, the Moravian-Silesian Region from the Czech Republic and the city of Uzhhorod from Ukraine presented at the conference. Representatives of the regions, foreign partners presented their strategic documents, their implementation, territorial decision-making and existing and potential cooperation.

Environment is one of the priorities of the Košice Self-Governing Region and in this area it makes every effort to create partnerships, professional capacities within and outside the region. It also considers education to be important in this area. In KlimaPark Kysak, an environmental education centre, take place educational activities on climate change, adaptation to its negative consequences for students, as well as for members of water councils.

In 2024, we organized an info day for mayors of municipalities on the topic of Climate Change and its impacts on the rural, cities. For farmers and foresters the info day was focused on water retention measures on agricultural land and in forests.



Another of the meetings was held thanks to the ClimateGO Project. At the end of the year, in cooperation with the Regional Development Agency Košice, n.o., we organized a workshop for members of water councils - representatives of municipalities, state administration, third sector, farmers, foresters and entrepreneurs, aimed at sharing knowledge and experience in the practical application of nature-based solutions. During the two meetings, specific challenges and solutions in the field of nature-based solution were discussed, practical experiences and examples of good practice were shared and a network of experts and collaborators in the region was built.

In the Košice Region, two river basins, the Roňava and the Torysa, have the highest incidence of floods in the whole of Slovakia. It is this area around the Roňava River that is currently the focus of our attention and planned measures.

# The Current State of Climate Policy in Alzira

## Alzira, Leading the Way Towards Sustainability with PACES

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and Alzira is taking decisive steps to address it. Through the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (PACES), developed in collaboration with the Diputación de Valencia, the City Council reaffirms its commitment to a more sustainable, resilient, and energy-efficient future. This plan aligns with the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, a European initiative that drives local climate action.

### What is PACES?

PACES serves as Alzira's roadmap to tackle climate change. This strategic tool aims to transform the municipality into a model of sustainability and climate resilience. It is structured around three essential pillars:

1. Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions: Promoting renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and fostering sustainable mobility.
2. Adapting to climate change: Implementing targeted measures to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events like floods, droughts, and heatwaves.
3. Raising awareness and encouraging citizen participation: Educating and involving the community in the transition towards a more sustainable model.

PACES is not just a declaration of intent; it is a practical tool built on rigorous analysis and clear objectives.

### How is PACES structured?

The plan includes key components that ensure its success:

- Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI): Analyzing Alzira's primary sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to measure the impact of future actions.
- Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment: Identifying the municipality's most pressing risks and strengthening its capacity to respond.
- Action Plan: Detailing concrete measures with defined timelines, resources, and responsibilities.

### Notable Achievements

Alzira has already made significant strides towards sustainability:

- Installation of solar photovoltaic systems on municipal buildings.
- Creation of urban green spaces.
- Promotion of sustainable mobility.

### Challenges and Next Steps

Despite these advances, Alzira faces important challenges:

- Achieving an inclusive energy transition that benefits all sectors of society.
- Enhancing the municipality's resilience to extreme climate events.
- Further raising citizen awareness, encouraging active participation in the necessary changes.

Looking ahead, the City Council will continue working closely with regional, national, and international institutions. Implementing smart technologies and forming new partnerships will be key to achieving the goals of PACES.

### A Resilient Future for Alzira

PACES not only symbolizes Alzira's commitment to climate action but also represents an opportunity to lead the way as a municipality prepared for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Together, we can turn the climate challenge into an opportunity to build a better future.



**Covenant of Mayors  
for Climate & Energy**

## Strategic objectives pursued by the Alzira Urban Agenda are:



1. Organize the territory and make rational use of the land, conserve and protect it
2. Avoid urban sprawl and revitalize the existing city.
3. Prevent and reduce the impacts of climate change and improve resilience.
4. Ensure sustainable management of resources and promote the circular economy.



5. Promote proximity and sustainable mobility.



6. Promote social cohesion and seek equity.



7. Promote and favor the Urban Economy.



8. Guarantee access to housing.



9. Lead and promote digital innovation.



10. Improve intervention instruments and governance.



## The Alzira Urban Agenda has been developed in four complementary phases through an open and shared participation process:

### Phase 1:

A diagnosis of the urban and regional reality.

### Phase 2:

A strategic framework structured in a Decalogue of Objectives with specific objectives and their possible lines of action.

### Phase 3:

An Action Plan with concrete proposals.

### Phase 4:

A monitoring and evaluation system based on indicators that facilitate its implementation, also including an Urban Data Observatory.

By implementing these phases, Alzira is not only moving toward more sustainable and resilient urban development but also serving as an example of best practices for other cities and regions, in line with ClimateGO's approach to cooperation and shared learning.

# The Current State of Climate Policy in Grenoble

## Grenoble Gears Up for the 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial of Cities in transition.

Since 2015, every two years, the City of Grenoble have organized the Biennial of Cities in transition. Located in the Isère department, in the heart of the Alps, it is one of the key gatherings for stakeholders from various regions, showcasing local, European, and international initiatives in support of social and environmental transitions.

From May 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, the Biennial of Cities in transition will take place in Grenoble, at the Palais des Sports, Paul Mistral Park, and various other venues across the city to host events open to all audiences.

### Each day will feature a program centered around a specific theme:

- Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>: Climate and ecological challenges
- Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>: Solidarity
- Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>: Urban heritage and transformations
- Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>: Territorial resilience
- Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>: Childhood and youth, intergenerational day
- Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>: The living world
- Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>: Food and agriculture
- Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>: Closing day and celebration

## Joining Cities in Transition: Global Issues and Cross-cutting Challenges

Grenoble propose examining cities through their heritage, historical architecture, and geography to collaboratively develop new narratives and envision initiatives for socio-environmental transformations up to 2040 and beyond. This essential framework will

help in understanding evolving territories and facilitate a collective exercise in future-oriented thinking.

## At the Same Time: The ClimateGO Project and Key Meetings

Alongside the Biennial, Grenoble will host the 3rd interregional meeting of the ClimateGO project, making it the ideal occasion to gather around this important initiative. The meeting will focus on the theme: "Raising Awareness and Engaging Decision-Makers to Achieve Climate-Smart Governance." This topic emphasizes the importance of collaboration and proactive policymaking to tackle the pressing challenges posed by climate change. The city is excited to welcome its partners and foster meaningful exchanges that could shape future climate strategies.

Additionally, Grenoble is preparing to hold its first stakeholders' meeting of the project, which is expected to take place at City Hall in February. This gathering will mark an important step in consolidating local and regional efforts to address environmental and sustainability goals. Grenoble aims to strengthen its commitment to climate action and serve as a model for other cities in transition.

These meetings underscore Grenoble's dedication to fostering collaboration, innovation, and governance that prioritize sustainability and resilience in the face of global climate challenges. The Biennale and the ClimateGO project meetings exemplify the city's role as a hub for climate action, bringing together diverse perspectives to address the urgent need for sustainable urban transformation.



## ClimateGO organizes webinars

on themes related to  
climate change mitigation  
and adaptation from  
a governance perspective.

For more information,  
please visit our website

[Read more](#)

<https://interregeurope.eu/climatego>



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## Lead Partner



**LAB University of Applied Sciences**  
Finland – Etelä-Suomi

### Contact

**Marjut Villanen**  
RDI-specialist  
+358 44 708 5208  
marjut.villanen@lab.fi

**Susanna Vanhamäki**  
Chief Specialist  
+358 44 708 1516  
susanna.vanhamaki@lab.fi

**Hanna Suutari**  
RDI-Specialist  
+358 50 473 4754  
hanna.suutari@lab.fi

## Project Partners



**Regional Council of Päijät-Häme**  
Finland – Etelä-Suomi



**Alzira City Council**  
Spain – Comunitat Valenciana



**City of Grenoble**  
France – Rhône-Alpes



**Waterford City and County Council**  
Ireland – Southern



**Košice Self-Governing Region**  
Slovakia – Východné Slovensko



**Regional development agency for  
Podravje - Maribor (RDAPM)**  
Slovenia- Vzhodna Slovenija