



ClimateGO

Pathways to climate-smart governance

3rd Newsletter

Published: 9/2025

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:

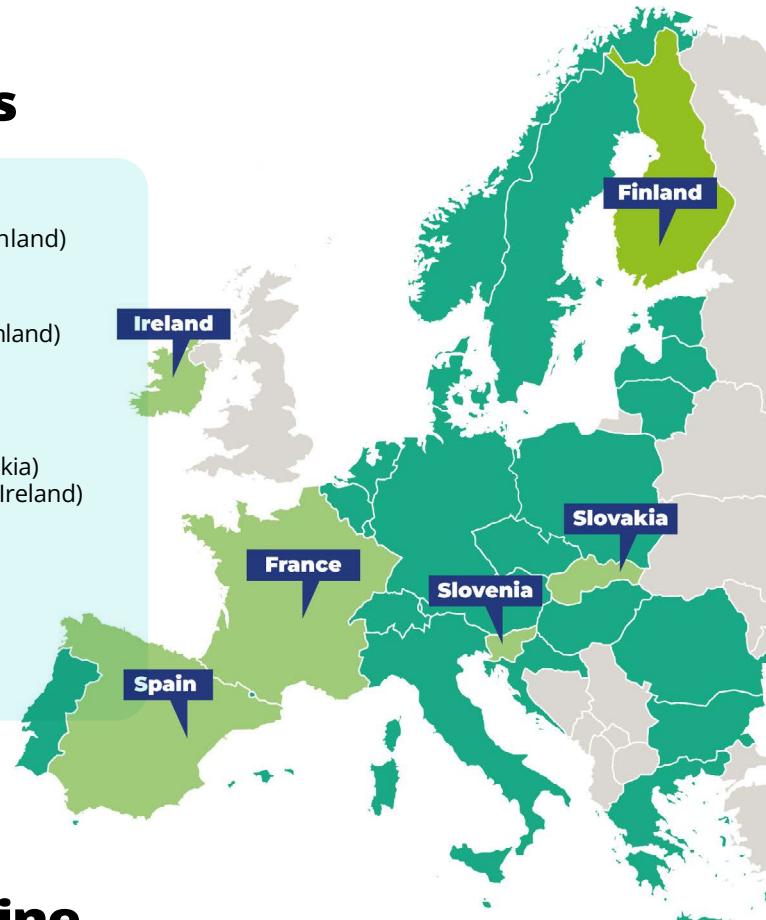
- Regional Council of Päijät-Häme (Finland)
- Alzira City Council (Spain)
- City of Grenoble (France)
- Regional development agency for Podravje - Maribor (Slovenia)
- Košice Self-Governing Region (Slovakia)
- Waterford City and County Council (Ireland)



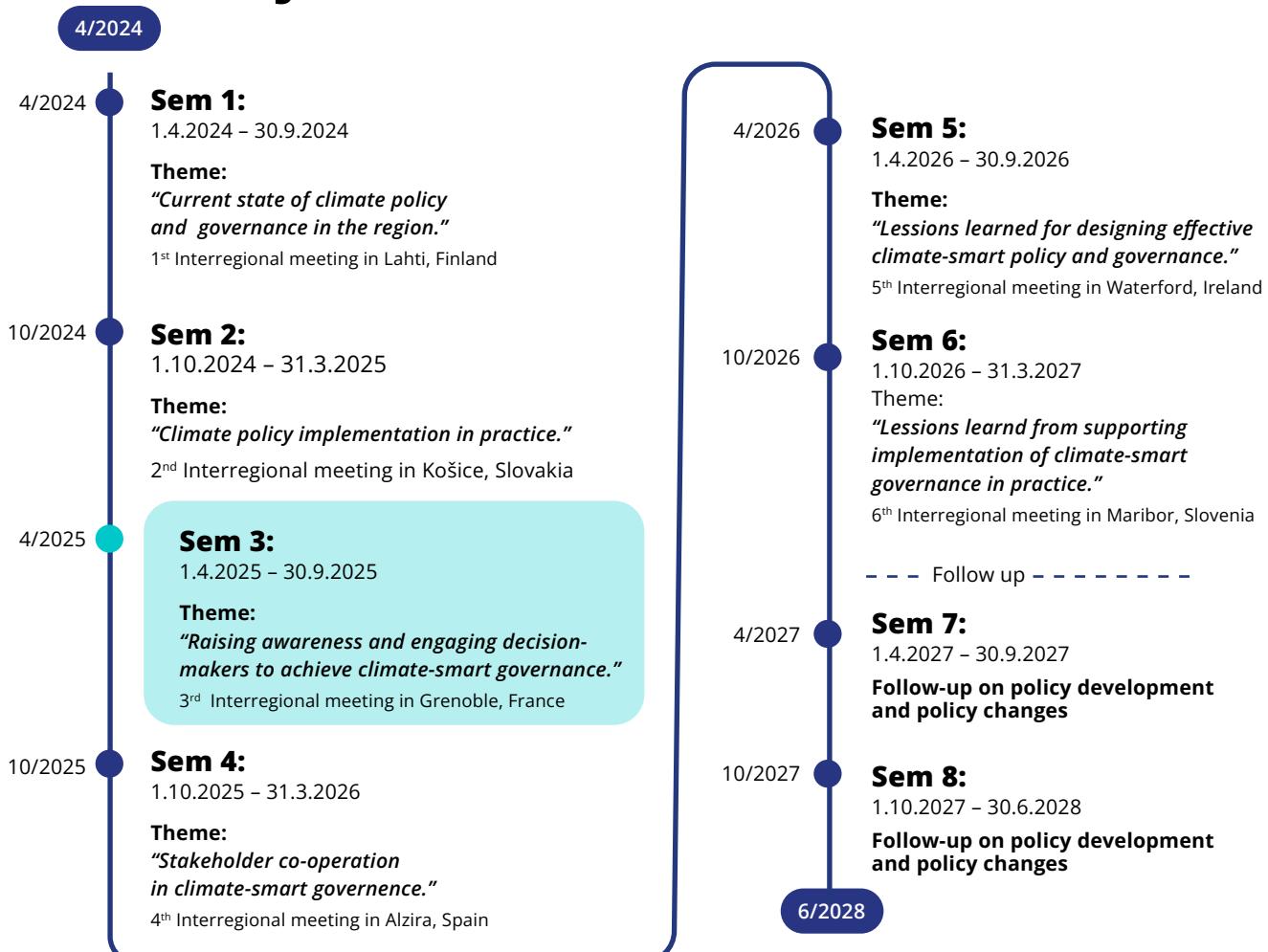
Budget
1,491,245 €



Duration
1st Apr 2024 – 30th Jun 2028



Project Timeline



INVITE

We are delighted to invite you to the webinar:

Raising awareness and engaging decision-makers to achieve climate-smart governance

Date & Time: Tuesday 7 October 14.00 – 15.30 CET

This event will bring together local leaders, researchers, and experts to share insights on strengthening climate-smart governance through awareness, engagement, and collaboration.

Speakers

- **Vincent Fristot** – Deputy Mayor of Grenoble, in charge of Finance, Ecological Accounting, Legal Affairs, and Energy Transition
- **Marion Burre Espagnou** – Project Manager, Climate, Air, and Energy
- **Sandrine Anquetin** – Research Director at CNRS, presenting the TRACCS project (Transforming Climate Modeling for Climate Services)

Why join?

- **Discover** innovative approaches to climate governance
- **Learn** from practical experiences and scientific expertise
- **Explore** how collaboration can accelerate ecological transition

Register

Register to receive your connection link.

[Register here](#)

<https://forms.office.com/r/TMDTR0nMMF>



Good Practices

Inspiring and tested policy solutions identified by Interreg Europe cooperation projects

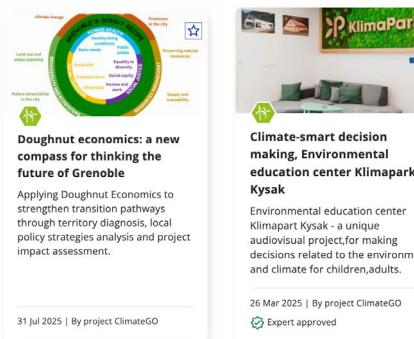
During the project implementation time all ClimateGO project partners will identify and publish tested policy solutions from their own regions and cities.

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

Examples



26 Mar 2025 | By project ClimateGO

Expert approved

15 Jul 2025 | By project ClimateGO



ClimateGO articles

Grenoble offered a holistic vision for a sustainable future

Grenoble's holistic approach to sustainability supported by Kate Raworth's Doughnut model convinced project partners and the Finnish stakeholders.

Read more

<https://blogit.lab.fi/labfocus/en/grenoble-offered-a-holistic-vision-for-a-sustainable-future/>

To survive companies must identify risks and opportunities related to climate change

Adapting business to a changing climate is essential for the success of companies.

Read more

<https://blogit.lab.fi/labfocus/en/to-survive-companies-must-identify-risks-and-opportunities-related-to-climate-change/>

The Current State of Climate Policy in Grenoble



Raising awareness and engaging decision-makers to achieve climate-smart governance in Grenoble

The Biennial of Cities in Transition

The Biennial of Cities in Transition is organised in Grenoble every two years and took place from 10 to 17 May 2025. This festive event, organised by the City of Grenoble, aims to encourage reflection, learning, understanding and imagination with regard to the transition towards tomorrow. With a village of association booths offering workshops, exhibitions, conferences, shows, concerts and screenings, as well as training sessions for professionals and activities for children, the Biennial offered a glimpse into the future of Grenoble.

Visit of the ClimateGO Delegation to Grenoble – May 2025

The Biennial of Cities in Transition provided an opportunity for the City of Grenoble to host the third interregional meeting of the ClimateGO partners.

This meeting brought together technical experts and elected officials from each of the partners' local authorities to discuss governance in the context of climate change, and to share best practice in terms of both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

On the agenda:

- **Presentations of best practices implemented by the City of Grenoble:** environmental assessment framework, economic doughnut model, sustainable development initiatives, Grenoble 2040, resilience strategy
- **Site visits** to the Coquelicours and Place aux Enfants projects, focused on greening schoolyards and public spaces around public institutions
- **Excursion** along the banks of the Isère River with Symbhi, addressing flood management under the theme "Giving the Isère more space to better protect against floods"
- **Workshop session:** "Raising awareness and mobilizing decision-makers for climate-adapted governance"
- **ICLEI roundtable:** "Resilient, livable, and sustainable cities: discussion on challenges and best practices"

City of Grenoble staff will soon travel to Alzira, Spain, to learn about the measures implemented by this partner city and the challenges it faces.

Organization of the Semester 3 Webinar

The city of Grenoble is currently organizing this the semester 3 webinar, which will provide an opportunity to discuss the issue of raising awareness and engaging decision-makers in climate-smart governance with technical agents and elected officials.

The Current State of Climate Policy in Päijät-Häme Region

Picture: Promedia 2025



Picture 1. Regional Strategy 2050+ has been prepared in numerous workshops, which have also included representatives of local government. (Picture: Promedia 2025)

Raising awareness and engaging decisionmakers to achieve climate-smart governance in Päijät-Häme region

When it comes to the climate and sustainability work at Päijät-Häme region, a lot has happened during the past six months.

Climate Plans prepared in Päijät-Häme's seven municipalities with the funding from the Finland's Ministry of the Environment have now been approved by the municipal councils and their implementation has begun. The Plans have been prepared with the idea to engage municipalities and local decision-makers in persistent climate work. Municipalities' Climate Plans include various aspects of climate and sustainability work in seven different themes, one of which is climate management.

The Climate Plans emphasize the continuity and traceability of climate actions. To promote successful implementation, ClimateGO project will present the Climate Change Adaptation Monitoring Tool for the municipalities this autumn. The tool helps municipalities to further monitor and assess the implementation of the plans. The tool is developed in the ERDF-funded project "Steps to prepare for climate change".

The region's municipalities received new councilors in the elections held in the spring. To familiarize these new councilors with the sustainability themes and the municipality-specific climate plans and roadmaps, ClimateGO project will organize orientation events in municipalities during next autumn.

A long-term regional strategy guides decision-making in the future

One significant aspect that guides the sustainability work of the entire region is the preparation of the Regional Strategy 2050+. The main targets of the strategy are to gain competitive advantage from internationality and sustainability, and to create a better life and space for nature, clean industry, and creativity in the region.

A wide range of stakeholders have been involved in the strategy work, including local decision-makers, such as municipal leaders and the municipals' chairman forum, as well as the region's climate and circular economy groups. The development work is facilitated by the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme. Regional Strategy 2050+ was presented to the Regional Board in June and then to the Regional Assembly for approval.

International cooperation bears fruit

Inspired by the doughnut of the City of Grenoble presented during the project's 3rd interregional meeting, a study has been started on the applicability of the model in the Päijät-Häme area. The first step was to benchmark the implementation of the model in different cities. The work was done by the students of Master in Urban Climate and Sustainability (MURCS) degree program provided by LAB University of Applied Sciences. Hopes are that the doughnut model can serve as a good tool for promoting climate-smart decision-making in the region in the future.

The current state of climate policy in Podravje region

From policy to preparedness: Slovenia's Climate Act and local climate-smart governance

On this year's World Environment Day, Slovenia has taken a decisive step in strengthening climate resilience with the adoption of the national Climate Act. As the country's first comprehensive climate governance act, it provides the legal and institutional backbone for long-term adaptation and mitigation efforts. The Act defines a national framework for reducing climate-related risks, ensuring social justice in the green transition, and aligning public investments with climate goals.

Key features of the Act include:

- a national adaptation strategy and long-term climate planning framework,
- the creation of a Climate Council to guide and evaluate policy implementation,
- dedicated financing via the Climate Fund and the Social Climate Fund,
- the integration of adaptation priorities into spatial planning, public health, infrastructure, and economic development,
- and the establishment of regional support structures to assist local authorities in climate-proofing their decisions.

The Act marks a shift toward systemic and climate-smart governance, with multilevel coordination at its core. It aims to move beyond reactive crisis management and build the institutional capacity for proactive, inclusive, and evidence-based climate action.

This national-level commitment is mirrored in emerging local responses. In Maribor, the second largest city in Slovenia and regional hub of Podravje, adaptation has become an integral part of city planning. The municipality recently adopted a heatwave management strategy - one of the first of its kind in the country.

The strategy includes:

- targeted measures to protect vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, and outdoor workers,
- expansion of green and shaded areas in urban zones,
- early warning systems and communication protocols,
- and awareness-raising activities aimed at both the general public and key service providers.

By embedding adaptation into health, mobility, urban design, and social care, Maribor is demonstrating how local governments can operationalise national climate policies in practical, people-centred ways.

The Climate Act and Maribor's local strategy represent an emerging model of integrated, multi-level climate governance. They also show that while national leadership is essential, local implementation is where resilience takes root.

With strong public support - 91% of Slovenians see adaptation as necessary, according to a 2024 survey - there is a clear mandate to accelerate the transition. The challenge now lies in ensuring that these frameworks translate into bold, coordinated action across all levels of government.



The current state of climate policy in Waterford City

Raising awareness and engaging decision makers to achieve climate smart governance

Carbon Neutral Waterford City Steering Group

On July 2nd, the second meeting of the year was held with the Carbon Neutral Waterford City Steering Group, which brings together key stakeholders committed to guiding Waterford towards a low-carbon, sustainable future.

The group was pleased to welcome new representatives from Active Travel, Housing (Waterford City & County Council), and the Port of Waterford. Their diverse perspectives and expertise will enhance the group's ongoing efforts.

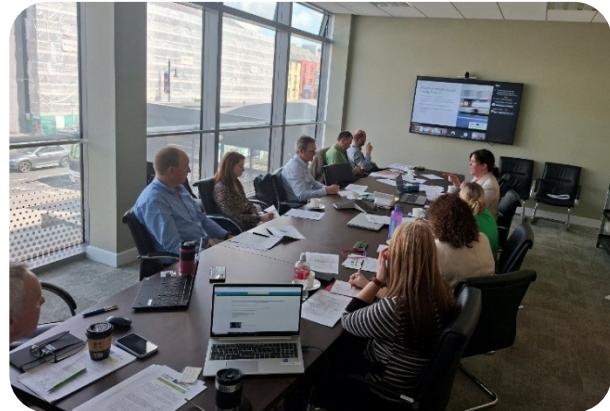
Focus of the Meeting: Sustainable Transport

The meeting focussed on Transport, one of the most critical sectors for reducing emissions and promoting sustainable urban development. Discussions included:

- **Carbon-Neutral Transport Goals:** the council shared what a carbon-neutral transport system could look like for Waterford City, including strategies for reducing dependency on fossil fuels and increasing uptake of greener alternatives.
- **Current Commuting Initiatives:** Each participating organisation shared updates on existing efforts to encourage low-carbon commuting—such as cycling infrastructure, electric vehicle support, and employee travel plans.
- **Future Opportunities:** The group looked ahead to potential opportunities for innovation in transport, especially around hydrogen fuel technology and the continued electrification of public and private transport fleets.

The Climate Action Team introduced the some of the upcoming projects and governance initiatives that will shape Waterford's transition to climate neutrality.

The group will continue to meet quarterly to monitor progress, align actions, and share best practices. Subgroups may also be formed around key themes, such as transport, energy, and community engagement, to accelerate targeted efforts.



Climate Action internal Steering Group meeting

The climate action internal steering group held a meeting on July 3rd. During the meeting, the topics discussed were:

- **Transitioning from grey to green:** Incorporating nature-based solutions into planning and the active travel department.
- **Progress on the energy policy and the current status of the internal Climate Action Plan.**
- **Updates on the ISO 50001 accreditation and the next steps in the process.**
- **Upcoming opportunities, including:**
 - The biodiversity action plan's pre-draft consultation phase.
 - The Climate Innovation Program in partnership with MTU and Trinity University. - Funding opportunities from LAWPRO.
 - The Pathways to Resilience application.

Additionally, the EU Project Officer presented good practices from the interregional meeting held in Grenoble, France, and outlined upcoming activities, such as a dissemination event with elected members and the next interregional meeting scheduled to Alzira, Spain.



ELEVATE Community Hall Programme

In June, the Climate Action Team launched the ELEVATE Community Hall Programme, which included a series of webinars and in-person visits to support local communities.

This programme helps participants to:

- Cut costs by saving energy and water, and by reducing waste
- Improve and enhance their local environment
- Apply for grants and engage in effective fundraising

The webinars shared valuable stories, practical advice, and expert insights focused on community centres, parish halls, clubhouses, youth dens, and other local facilities across Waterford.



Stunning artwork in windows of Central Library highlights steps to a Climate Neutral Waterford

A collaboration between Waterford's Central Library, the Climate Action Team of Waterford City and County Council, and local artist Kathi Burke has produced stunning artwork displayed in six windows of the Central Library on Lady Lane. The artwork aims to inspire residents to make small changes to address climate change and contribute to the creation of Ireland's first Carbon Neutral City, featuring messages like "Let's Get Wild" and "Fix Up—Look Sharp." At the launch, then Mayor Cllr. Joe Kelly emphasised the importance of community engagement with the Council's Climate Action Plan, stating that small environmental changes will aid Waterford's decarbonisation efforts. The artworks envision a city with repair cafés, swap shops, and biodiverse spaces, promoting sustainability and using locally sourced energy. Kathi's illustrations reflect examples from the Climate Action Plan, showing how the Council can lead communities towards a carbon-neutral future. The artworks will be on display for the public at Central Library for the next year.



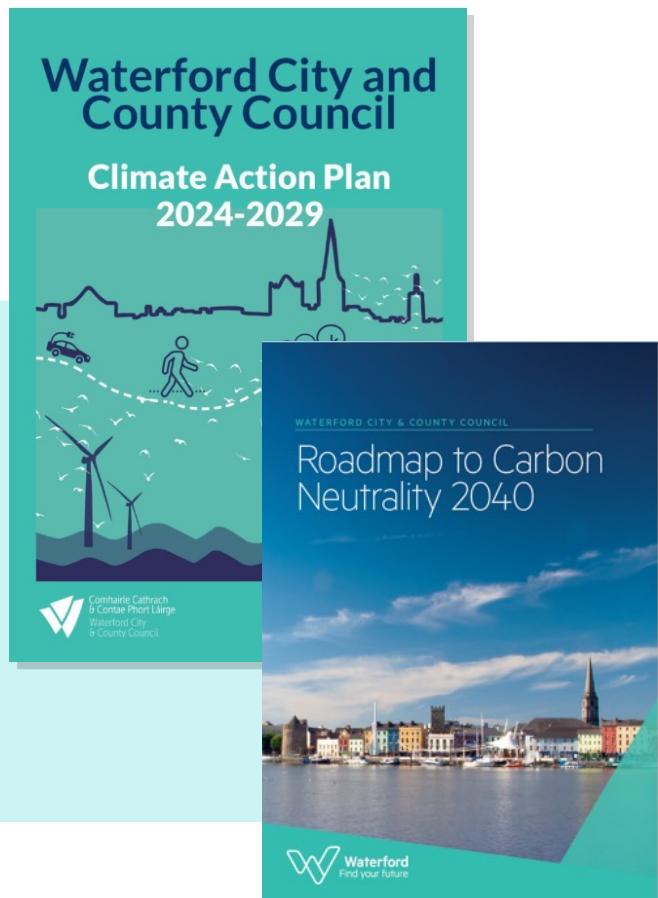
What is coming...

Dissemination Event

On September 24th, the Climate Action Team will host a Dissemination Event for elected members.

The main topics will include:

- **Climate Action Plan, Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality 2040:** benefits, challenges, opportunities and elected members role.
- **National and regional Cases studies**
- **Special Guests:** Elected members from Kilkenny and Tipperary
- **Climate Walk in Waterford City**



Climate Innovation Programme

From September to November 2025, Waterford County Council, Trinity College Dublin, and Munster Technological University will jointly deliver a Community Climate Innovation Programme. The aim of the program is to explore the systemic nature of climate change, identify key challenges facing the Waterford community, co-create solutions, and scale up those solutions.

Participants will receive training in systems innovation and its practical application to address local, regional, and sector-specific sustainability challenges related to climate change. The program will also provide participants with valuable climate action knowledge, networking opportunities within the Waterford community, and information on accessing climate action funding.

Participants will include individuals from businesses, community groups, and local residents.



The Commercial Rates Energy Discount program - "Business Pledges for a Greener Cleaner Waterford 2025," is coming soon.

Through this initiative, SME's and hospitality businesses could be eligible for a 9% discount on the rates.

This year from the opening day to the closing day, the climate action team will conduct a series of workshops, both online and in person, to assist businesses in the application process. These informative sessions will also help participants determine which pledges are most suitable for their types of business and what evidence is required.

With this initiative, the council aims to engage more businesses and simplify the application process. Additionally, support businesses on their sustainability journeys, recognising that not every business is the same.



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



Water Councils in Action: Engaging Stakeholders for Nature-Based Solutions (April-June 2025)

Between April and June 2025, six meetings of regional Water Councils were held, focusing on stakeholder engagement in the development of water management measures and gathering input directly from the field. Several key themes emerged during these sessions:



1. Need for Technical Workshops and Sample Documentation

Stakeholders expressed strong interest in professional workshops presenting technical aspects of nature-based solutions (NBS), such as windbreak planting, oxbow lake revitalization, or dry retention basins. There was a clear call for the preparation of model project documentation and methodological materials that municipalities could use as templates.

2. Legislative and Permitting Processes

One of the most commonly cited issues was the lack of clarity regarding permits and approval procedures for implementing water retention measures. A proposal was made to create a "Legislative Compass" – a guide outlining the full process from project planning to long-term maintenance.

3. Funding and Grant Instruments

Several municipalities, organizations, and individuals highlighted the need for new financial tools – such as a dedicated grant scheme under the Košice Self-Governing Region (KSK) to support small-scale environmental projects. Participants also emphasized the importance of improving access to available funding and monitoring opportunities, even where environmental measures are only indirectly eligible.

4. Monitoring and Feedback

Participants underscored the importance of collecting data on water retention measures, their maintenance, impact on vegetation growth, and the amount of water retained. There was also a call for improved feedback mechanisms – such as updates on meeting outcomes and better access to information from state authorities and institutions (e.g., river maintenance schedules, reservoir water levels, etc.).

5. Communication, Prevention, and Collaboration

A recurring theme was the need for more systematic co-operation with state agencies and improved flood warning systems for forest owners, land cooperatives, and agricultural associations. Discussions also focused on the importance of flood prevention, regular maintenance of watercourses, and the restoration of neglected drainage canals.

The Current State of Climate Policy in Alzira

Alzira strengthens its commitment to climate governance

In recent months, Alzira has stepped up its institutional activities around climate change adaptation and territorial resilience. The City Council has taken part in various technical seminars and meetings at both national and international levels, within the framework of its involvement in the European ClimateGO project.

Efforts have focused on strengthening climate planning, improving intermunicipal coordination, and sharing best practices with other European cities.

Environmental education and citizen participation

Alzira en Verd and Biosfera 2.0 brought together more than 80 activities related to sustainability, environmental education, and responsible consumption. The program included workshops with schools, training sessions for citizens, and expert roundtables focused on climate management.

“There is no sustainability without participation.”

“There is no adaptation without collective awareness.”

These initiatives strengthen the link between the city's climate strategy and its residents — a key aspect for the effective implementation of adaptation policies.



Local action and regional cooperation

DANA Workshop in Riba-roja de Túria

Alzira took part in a meeting organized by the Innovation Program for Climate Resilience, promoted by the Ministry of Science and Innovation and the Innipulso Network. Municipal technicians and representatives participated in working groups focused on urban resilience and responses to extreme weather events, such as the heavy rains associated with DANA.

Wildfire Prevention in Barx

In a technical workshop organized by the Provincial Firefighters Consortium of Valencia, Alzira joined other municipalities to address wildfire prevention from a territorial cooperation perspective. These activities help advance adaptation measures and reduce climate risk at the local level.

International participation at the Grenoble Biennial

Biennale of Transitioning Cities 2025

The city also participated in the Biennale of Transitioning Cities (Grenoble, May 2025). In a panel with mayors from Europe and Africa, Mayor Alfons Domínguez advocated for a just and participatory ecological transition, highlighting territorial planning and citizen involvement as pillars of institutional trust.

During a workshop organized by ICLEI Europe, Alzira's technical team shared the city's citizen participation model, underscoring the value of citizen councils as a tool for inclusive and resilient governance.



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>



Watch ClimateGO video!

[Watch!](#)

<https://youtu.be/ACrTt120lsE?si=imFfCQJmHBcIn7e>

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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