

Feedback opportunity for the work programme 2025

Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change

Draft expected impacts:

The goal of the EU Mission on adaptation to climate change is to support at least European 150 regions, cities and local authorities in their efforts to build resilience against the impacts of climate change. It aims to do so by helping regions better understand their current and future climate risks, develop their own tailored adaptation pathways, and test & deploy innovative solutions on the ground. 311 regions and local authorities - from 25 EU Member States and 4 countries associated to Horizon Europe - have signed the Mission Charter and have committed to work towards the Mission's objectives, showcasing the high relevance of the Mission and the strong commitment to prepare for the climate of the future.

Knowledge developed by the R&I community will be leveraged to produce actionable solutions that the regions and local authorities of the Mission can easily implement. Regions and local authorities will be supported in their efforts to reduce vulnerability to climate change by scientific yet usable knowledge on climate risk assessment and empowered to formulate a robust and complete analysis of the current and future risks in their territories. On the basis of a robust assessment, they will be enabled to develop or improve their plans to increase climate preparedness and implement them.

The overall expected impacts of the mission are to accelerate adaptation efforts across Europe, at the regional and local levels, based on best available knowledge, in a smart, systemic and inclusive way. It is expected that the regions and local authorities engaged with the Mission will continue to act as pioneers to progress towards climate resilience, thanks to the Mission tools and services.

Main expected outcomes:

As laid out in its implementation plan, the Mission has moved from its initial build-up phase, where it put in motion all its different streams of actions, and is now in full deployment. The first mission projects as well as the mission implementation platform of the mission all started their activities in early 2023.

The goal of Work Programme 2025 is therefore to consolidate the building blocks of the mission, address shortcomings identified (also by the evaluation of the mission conducted in 2023 and referred to in the Communication on Missions in July 2023) and increase concrete support to regions and local authorities, to match the oversubscription to the Mission by the Charter signatories and interested parties. To ensure that the mission is evidence-based, Work Programme 2025 will be informed by the findings of the first European-wide Climate Risk Assessment, released in March 2024 by the European Environment Agency.

The main expected outcomes are the following:

- Coordinated implementation of Mission actions is supported, building on the established support structure that is bringing together all the different streams of activities of the Mission by fostering exchange of best practices and peer learning, communication, monitoring and stakeholders annual gathering.
- Regions and local authorities understand better their Current and Future Climate Risks, thanks to direct hands-on support to regions and local authorities for conducting their climate risks

assessment, according to the framework already established by the mission through the Climaax project.

- Regions and local authorities have designed more robust adaptation plans, thanks to direct hands-on support to regions and local authorities to produce robust adaptation plans including their financing, according to the Regional Adaptation Support Tool developed by the European Environment Agency
- Remaining R&I gaps that are relevant for adaptation at the regional and local level are tackled by EU research activities, in coordination with the work taking place under the clusters of Horizon Europe's pillar II.
- New innovative climate adaptation solutions are made available for regions and local authorities, especially for those facing challenging conditions and expected to be most severely impacted by climate change. This enlarges the portfolio of solutions already made available by the previous Mission work programmes, and champions the mission's core value of inclusivity.
- Climate adaptation investments from private actors and the banking sector are unblocked for regions and local authorities, by addressing the enabling conditions for climate adaptation financing (both funds and resources). Faster uptake in the market of adaptation solutions across Europe and enhanced capabilities and tools for climate-proofing of adaptation investments are triggered, overcoming addressing a consistently emerging key limiting factor.