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Three Years On: EU Mission on Adaptation Accelerates Europe's Climate Resilience

Key policies: *EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, European Green Deal, EU Climate Adaptation Strategy, European Climate Law, Mission Charter on Adaptation to Climate Change, Horizon Europe Missions framework, European Climate Adaptation Plan, EU Risk Assessment and Climate Resilience Policy Framework*

As Europe experiences **increasingly severe climate impacts**, the **EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change** has emerged as a central pillar of the Union's response, helping regions, cities and local authorities transform urgency into concrete action.

Turning commitment into action across Europe

Three years after its launch, the Mission has mobilised **over 400 regional and local authorities** across Europe. As signatories of the Mission Charter or partners in Mission-funded projects, these authorities are working collaboratively to embed **climate resilience into local and regional development strategies**.

This collective effort places adaptation at the heart of territorial transformation, ensuring that policies are translated into tangible, place-based solutions.

Delivering tangible results

The newly published **Activity Report of the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change** highlights concrete progress achieved through cooperation, innovation and shared commitment.

"As climate impacts intensify and alarming temperature records continue to be broken, the urgency of preparing for these challenges has never been more apparent," said **Elina Bardram**, Mission Manager. "Yet this year's activity report showcases remarkable progress—tangible results achieved through collective effort, innovation, and shared commitment."

Across Europe, regions are implementing diverse adaptation measures, including:

- Restoring **floodplains** to manage extreme rainfall
- Cooling **urban heat islands** through nature-based solutions
- Developing **early-warning systems**
- Strengthening **local and regional governance** for climate resilience

Strong implementation and financial support

The Mission's progress is underpinned by dedicated support mechanisms. The **Mission Implementation Platform for Adaptation** has provided **tailored technical assistance to 145 regions and local authorities**.

In parallel, more than **70 authorities** have accessed financial support to assess climate risks and design resilience pathways through Mission-supported initiatives such as **Pathways2Resilience** and **CLIMAAX**.

Demonstrating resilience in practice

More than **200 demonstration sites** across Europe are currently piloting innovative adaptation solutions under Mission projects. These range from **green infrastructure and nature-based solutions** to **advanced climate risk forecasting tools**.

Beyond showcasing what works, these projects are laying the foundation for **scalable and replicable solutions**, enabling broader systemic change across regions and sectors.

A growing Community of Practice

Through its **Community of Practice**, the Mission continues to foster **peer learning, knowledge exchange and innovation**, ensuring that adaptation is approached as a shared European endeavour rather than isolated local action.

Looking ahead: aligning policy and action

The forthcoming **European Climate Adaptation Plan**, announced by **Ursula von der Leyen**, represents a key opportunity to align **ambitious EU policy with on-the-ground implementation**.

The Plan is expected to further reinforce the Mission's objectives and help ensure that climate adaptation becomes a reality across **all EU countries, regions and cities**.

As **Philippe Tulkens**, Deputy Mission Manager, emphasised:

"Everyone has a role to play. Whether shaping policies, supporting regional initiatives, or making sustainable choices, collective action supported by adequate financing will determine the resilience of our future."

Building Europe's resilient future

The EU Mission on Adaptation demonstrates that **collaboration, local leadership and sustained investment** can deliver real progress on climate resilience. As climate risks continue to grow, the Mission stands as a powerful example of how Europe can **prepare, adapt and thrive in a changing climate**—together.

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