

# NEWSLETTER



## Word of the editor

Dear readers,

Welcome to the ninth edition of our the HARMONMISSIONS project Newsletter!

In the summer of 2025, Europe faced record-breaking heatwaves, wildfires, and severe droughts, highlighting the urgent need for coordinated climate action. Horizon Europe Missions 1 and 4 provide crucial support for climate adaptation and sustainable urban transformation. Drawing on our experience with Romania's M100 Mirror Mission Hub, we see how cross-sector collaboration and knowledge sharing can turn strategies into real, positive impacts for communities.

In this issue, we explore efforts to build resilient communities identified by our partners. You will find updates on Serbia's climate adaptation policies and the key actors driving change, inspiring examples from the ENUTC Grande Finale in Romania, the progress of the RESIST Horizon Europe project in enhancing regional climate resilience, and a detailed presentation of EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change which supports a better understanding of this policy. We also invite you to join **EURegionsWeek 2025** in Brussels to explore innovative solutions and connect with leading actors shaping sustainable futures.

We hope you find inspiration and insights in this edition, and we wish you a productive and enjoyable autumn ahead!

**UEFISCDI's team**

## ● Announcements

Join EURegionsWeek 2025!

From Oct 13–15 in Brussels, the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change will host a stand at the European Week of Regions and Cities. Explore 200+ events, policy sessions, and workshops, discover nature-based solutions, and connect with innovators shaping resilient futures. Meet the Mission team and take home tools to power your region's transformation. Register here:

<https://regions-and-cities.europa.eu/>

## Report: ENUTC Grande Finale & BTC Final Event 17–18 September 2025, Bucharest, Romania

On 17–18 September 2025, the ERA-NET Cofund Urban Transformation Capacities (ENUTC) programme celebrated its Grande Finale and BTC Final Event in Bucharest, Romania. Hosted at the creative venue NOD Makerspace and offered in a hybrid format, the two-day gathering brought together more than 40 onsite participants and a number of online attendees, including project coordinators, city representatives, funding agencies, researchers, and European policy officers.

The event marked a milestone for ENUTC, which has supported cutting-edge projects exploring how art, design, culture, and participatory approaches can strengthen Europe's capacity for sustainable urban transformation. It also connected directly to the ambitions of the EU Missions, particularly the Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, by showcasing how local experimentation and cross-sectoral collaboration can accelerate transitions towards greener, more inclusive cities.

The programme began on Wednesday, 17 September, with the ENUTC Consortium meeting, followed by a guided tour of the venue and lunch. The afternoon was dedicated to the BTC Final Event, where five projects – Envision Change, Ipa, Turf, Sound Up, and Unloc – presented their research questions, methods, and preliminary findings. Expert commentators provided valuable reflections, linking the results to broader urban challenges. Discussions emphasized the role of imagination, creativity, and citizen engagement in advancing climate goals, while underlining the need for stronger synergies between cultural initiatives, municipal strategies, and policy frameworks. The day concluded with networking and dinner, offering space for informal exchange and new connections.

On Thursday, 18 September, the Capacity Building Meeting focused on “The Green Transformation's Change Agents: Urban Living Labs and the Role of Art, Design, Culture, Municipalities, and Local Ecosystems.” Keynote speakers from the European Commission, national agencies, and innovation programmes contextualized the projects within EU policy priorities. A dynamic panel discussion highlighted lessons learned from the final presentations and explored how cultural and creative practices can unlock new pathways for urban transformation.

In the afternoon, participants engaged in two workshops. The first addressed how art, design, and culture can inspire alternative futures and foster inclusive participation, while the second turned to municipalities and local ecosystems as central drivers of change. These sessions produced rich insights on building transformation capacity and identified opportunities for follow-up activities, funding, and partnerships.

By bringing together diverse actors and showcasing innovative approaches, the ENUTC Grande Finale underlined the programme's contribution to the EU Missions. The event demonstrated how research-through-design, urban living labs, and participatory methods can translate European ambitions into tangible local practices. As participants reflected in the closing session, the legacy of ENUTC lies not only in its completed projects, but also in the networks, capacities, and shared visions it has fostered – laying the groundwork for continued collaboration across Europe's urban transition landscape.

Author: Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information

## EU Mission: Adaptation to Climate Change – Main goals

By 2030, the EU's research and innovation mission on Adaptation to Climate Change will have the following objectives:

1. Prepare Europe to effectively respond to climate change crises and assist citizens, communities, and regions in preparing for and managing climate risks, such as heatwaves, wildfires, droughts, floods, storms, and diseases.
2. Accelerate the societal transformation towards a desired future and support Europe's 150 communities and regions in developing their visions and strategies for innovation, sustainable development, and adaptation.
3. Provide support for large-scale social transformation projects at both regional and local levels.

**Goal 1:** By 2030, all Europeans should have access to information on current and future climate risks in their region. Local governments should be able to address these risks and prepare plans to manage and prepare for climate change. The Mission's efforts towards citizens, communities and regions will:

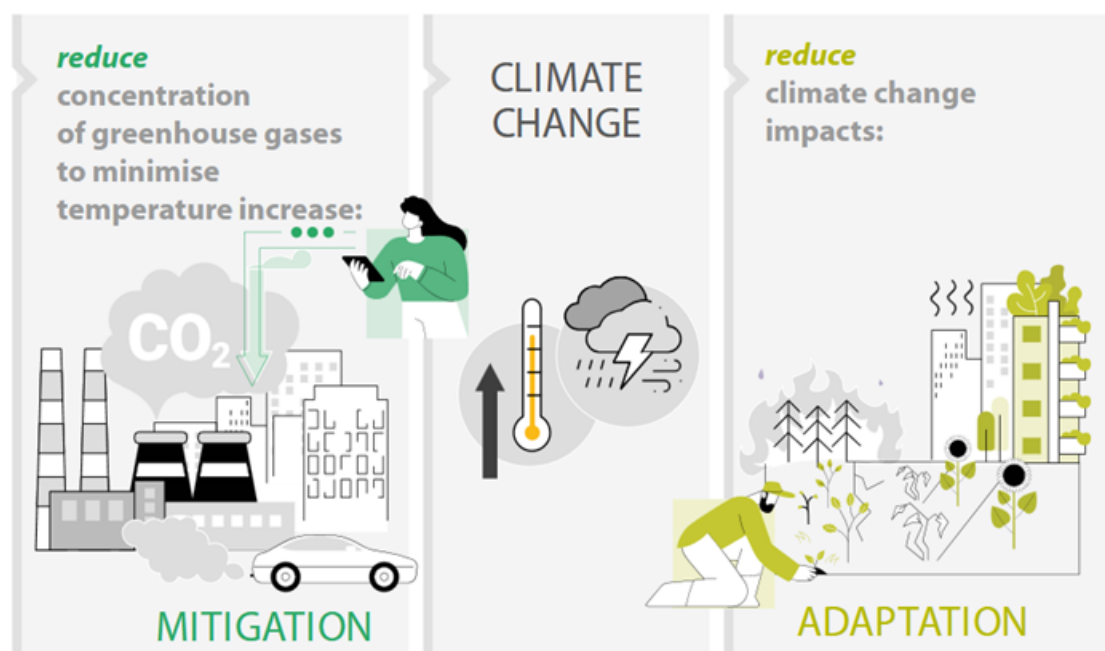
- Enhance the understanding of climate risks, facilitate access to climate risk information and assessments, and update early warning systems.
- Support the formulation of climate risk management and emergency plans at the local level.
- Ensure that community infrastructure remains safe and essential services are operational during critical conditions.

**Goal 2:** By 2030, 150 communities and regions should design transformative goals and programmes, not only to reduce climate risks but also to ensure a transition to a life of health and prosperity. The Mission will therefore support citizens, communities and regions to:

- Outline a vision and goals and build consensus on the transformative social change embodied in the social resilience compact,
- Co-design adaptation programmes and define possible means and innovations to achieve the vision as well as a portfolio of actions,
- Design and test solutions and create favourable conditions for societal transformation.

**Goal 3:** By 2030, 75 pilot innovative solutions should be in place to make regions and communities more resilient to climate change. The mission will financially support 75 demonstration projects focused on large-scale and concrete results of community systems transformation.

Figure 1 – Complementarity between mitigation and adaptation



Source: ECA.

[https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/SR-2024-15/SR-2024-15\\_EN.pdf](https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/SR-2024-15/SR-2024-15_EN.pdf)

Sources:

[https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/adaptation-climate-change\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/adaptation-climate-change_en)

[https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/SR-2024-15/SR-2024-15\\_EN.pdf](https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/SR-2024-15/SR-2024-15_EN.pdf)

Author: Regional Agency for Socio - Economic Development - Banat Ltd

## Key Actors and Their Role in Climate Change Adaptation in Serbia

Climate change became a global phenomenon which can no longer be ignored by any. Its consequences are more visible day by day. Governments worldwide try to find the most appropriate ways how to face climate challenges that are more obvious day by day.

The Republic of Serbia puts some efforts to adjust its climate change policies with international community, particularly with European Union. This is the most obvious in legislative area where the country adjusted the most of its legislation. When it comes to climate change mitigation national targets have been set as:

- Reducing the GHGs emissions by 40.3% in 2030 compared to 1990 including agriculture, waste and LULUCF (land use, land use change and forestry), has been set as a central target.
- Cumulative final energy savings of 506 ktoe that should be achieved by the implementation of energy efficiency measures over the period 2024-2030.
- The increased penetration of renewables (33.6% share in the gross final energy consumption and share reaching 45% in electricity production).

However, these targets should be achieved by some actors, from various social sectors. In Serbia, other Danube region and across EU countries, there are some key actors from four society sectors. Each of them has its responsibilities as well as roles in mitigating climate change challenges.

### 1. Governmental actors

**The Government** with its **relevant ministries** at national level are responsible for legislation, financial support and information dissemination. They are leading institutions relating EU Mission 1 (Adaptation to Climate Change) and EU Mission 4 (100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030), perform as National contact point role for UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)/PA (Paris Agreement) as well as Horizon Europe. Beside these they issue GHG permits and keeping GHG inventory as well as works in field of MRV (Measurement, Reporting and Verification). Furthermore, they verify the status of PPOEEs (Privileged producers of electrical energy) and keep their register as well as report on energy consumption and their generation. But generally speaking, in spite of their high enabling power they perform at low level of impact on climate change mitigation. (Good practice: Climate Change Adaptation Programme for the period 2023-2030 [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/NAP\\_Serbia\\_2024.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/NAP_Serbia_2024.pdf)).

**Local governments** are responsible for local regulative, financial support and information dissemination as well. Their relations to EU missions are in increasing energy efficiency of buildings as well as in private-public partnerships in mitigating climate change risks. However, major Serbian cities like Belgrade, Novi Sad and Niš have launched local climate strategies - focusing on energy efficiency, renewable energy, urban green space, transport emissions, and heat-island resilience - but these have not yet coalesced into a formal Climate City Contract under EU Mission governance. So, unlike national, local governments' enabling power could be assessed as medium, and they also have medium level of impact on climate change mitigation (**Good practices:** 1. A few local governments converted their public heating system from crude oil into using biomass as a fuel (<https://balkangreenenergynews.com/priboj-gets-new-1-8-mw-biomass-heating-plant>) 2. Solar Thermal Plant in Novi Sad. (<https://www.ebrd.com/home/work-with-us/projects/psd/54524.html#>)). With the regional one for Ivano-Frankivsk region (developed earlier). Other Ukrainian communities from the Danube region are also implementing their action plans with varying degree of success due to limiting factors.

## 2.Business sector:

The most important actors from this sector are PPOEE, large manufacturers and media. Businesses in this term, at first place electricity producers from renewables as well as those who implement other green engineering technologies, are on the source of facing climate challenges. Depending of their level of adjustment to the legislative as well as on the level of implementation of green technologies and decreasing GHGs emissions, their enabling power could be assessed as medium/high but their level of impact on climate change mitigation remains low/medium, mostly because of their low share in Serbian economy in total. (**Good practices:** Numerous PPOEE in agricultural area based on bio-gas plants they established. Serbian Biogas association: <https://biogas.org.rs> ).

When it comes to **media** role in facing climate challenges it is still not an attractive topic for them despite they are crucial in raising awareness in society. (**Good practice:** Serbia and Climate Change web portal

<https://www.klimatskepromene.rs/en/homepage-climate-changes>).

## 3.Academia

There are academia entities dealing with environmental issue and green engineering such as: Technical faculties, Faculties of Agriculture, Faculty of Forestry. Their scope of work is education and R&D as well as innovation in technologies and products. Their relations to the EU Missions in Serbia are mostly in advocacy on green technologies as well as in changing youngsters' attitude towards environment. This way their enabling power is assessed as medium and their level of impact on climate change mitigation remains low/medium.

(**Good practice:** The University of Belgrade - Faculty of Forestry, <https://www.sfb.bg.ac.rs/en/faculty/about-faculty>).

## 4.NGOs

There are developed NGO sector in Serbia but their impact on society is questionable. However, there are also NGO who perform in environmental challenges as well. Their role is mostly informative, while some conducts some researches as well. Their role relating to EU Missions are mostly in raising awareness on climate change risks and they could be also drivers of relevant local/national initiatives. However their enabling power is low/medium as well as their level of impact on climate change mitigation. (**Good practice:** Ash Foundation, <https://jasen.org.rs/en>).

## Towards the road ahead

According to ND – GAIN country index (Vulnerability rank) Serbia is a most vulnerable country in Europe as of 2025. This index summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience, presented in a very single number. Beside the all efforts put for years by every social actor in Serbia aren't sufficient to move forward. Obviously, great achievements in "paper work" relating legislative didn't result with more visible effects.

It is urgent to put additional efforts in coordinating and joint performance of all of social actors particularly in raising awareness as a first big challenge in Serbian society relating to climate challenges. This way media should put in focus climate adaptation instead of worthless gossip dissemination and variety show scandals.

Generally speaking, no doubt that various projects realized, papers published in scientific journals or in proceedings from scientific conferences as well as articles published in media remain without any visible change on local level.

The all efforts have put, so far remain at domestic planning and pilot levels. Once climate change became a real priority in Serbia, which would be best visible in the structure of the

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<https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings>



national budget, then could be expected that country will be on the right way to fulfil accepted international obligations related to climate change. On long term this will lead to improvements not just in environment, but also in economy as well as in everyday life of its citizens.



**Picture 1.**  
**Bio-mass heating plant**  
**in Priboj/SERBIA**

**Picture 2.**  
**Bio-gas plant's digester**  
**in Botos/SERBIA**



## RESIST Project Overview

### 1. Short Description

RESIST is a five-year Horizon Europe project designed to enhance climate adaptation by increasing the resilience of 12 climate-vulnerable EU regions. It is also a part of EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change. RESIST deploys large-scale pilot initiatives in 4 leading regions and transfers best-practice solutions to eight regions via immersive digital twinning and mutual learning networks.

### 2. Budget

Total Cost: €26.68 million

EU Contribution: €24.95 million

### 3. Duration

Start Date: 1 January 2023

End Date: 31 December 2027

### 4. Objectives

- Implement four demonstrator projects in vulnerable regions using a quintuple helix (business, policymakers, citizens, academia sharing knowledge and skills for natural environment) collaboration model.
- Transfer over 100 adaptation solutions to eight twinned regions using digital twins and structured mutual learning.
- Engage 22 million citizens, increase resilience by 10%, boost green investments by 20%, and reduce natural hazard losses.

### 5. Activities

RESIST develops technical frameworks within digitally twinned European regions, creating regional needs assessments and tools for monitoring and evaluating adaptation impacts. It also fosters collaboration and engagement between regional stakeholders by connecting regional governments, innovative businesses, and publics to share best practices, support startups, attract investment for climate solutions, involve communities in adaptation actions as well as strengthen communication and awareness. RESIST also aims for transferring and implementing tested solutions from leading regions to twinned regions. Lastly, the project ensures inclusive management by incorporation of ethical standards, gender balance, and scientific rigour into partnership coordination to achieve effective and scalable outcomes.



## 6. Project Partners

Lead Partner: SINTEF AS (Norway)

Consortium: 60 partners across 12 regions

## 7. Pilot & Twinning Regions

Leading Regions:

- Southwest Finland
- Central Denmark
- Catalonia
- Central Portugal

Twinning Regions:

- Southwest Finland ↔ Normandy (France), Eastern Macedonia & Thrace (Greece)
- Central Denmark ↔ Blekinge (Sweden), Zemgale (Latvia)
- Catalonia ↔ Puglia (Italy), Baixo Alentejo (Portugal)
- Central Portugal ↔ Vesteralen (Norway), Extremadura (Spain)

## 8. Main Achievements & Highlights

- Midway through its five-year run, the project proves that locally tailored climate solutions can be scaled and shared across Europe to strengthen climate resilience. It has developed and transferred tools and solutions to floods, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, and soil erosion such as early-warning systems and digital decision-support models. Most recent best practices show how Greek Eastern Macedonia & Thrace region uses nature-based solutions against floods and erosion, how Extremadura in Spain revitalizes landscapes to reduce wildfire risks while boosting rural economy, and how Southwest Finland applies cost-benefit analysis to green infrastructure with active citizen engagement.

More about the project: <https://resist-project.eu/>.

