

NEWSLETTER



Word of the editor

Dear readers,

Climate change is already shaping how our cities, regions, and communities plan their future. This 15th edition of the HARMONMISSIONS Newsletter focuses on the EU Mission “Adaptation to Climate Change”, highlighting initiatives that strengthen resilience, improve cooperation, and support practical solutions. From innovative water retention projects and new EU knowledge portals to regional coordination through the EMO Platform, the articles in this issue demonstrate how collaboration, knowledge exchange, and capacity building are helping Europe move toward a more climate-resilient future. We hope you find this edition informative and inspiring.

Regional Agency for Socio-Economic
Development – Banat

● Announcements

TWO-DAY TRAINING IN NOVI SAD, SERBIA: BUILDING SKILLS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR IMPACTFUL FUNDED PROJECTS ON HORIZON EUROPE AND EU MISSIONS

Training Building skills and partnerships for impactful funded projects on HORIZON Europe and EU Missions will be held on 26th and 27th of March 2026, in the „Science and Technology park“, Fruškogorska 1, Novi Sad. The two-day training is organized within the HARMONMISSIONS project, by the Regional Development Agency BANAT and is focused on EU Missions 1 and 4, aims strengthening capacities and partnerships in the preparation of project proposals under the HORIZON Europe Programme.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Institute of Modern Technologies of Montenegro will organize the workshop at national level named “**EU Missions in Montenegro: Climate Adaptation, Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, and Cross-Sector Cooperation**”, on **18 March 2026 in Podgorica**. The event will highlight Montenegro’s national progress in EU Missions and foster collaboration among institutions and stakeholders to further develop and implement the Missions in Montenegro.

Author: Digital Innovation Hub Slovenia

EU Mission on Adaptation Launches New Portal to Support a Climate-Resilient Europe

The **EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change** has launched a new online Mission Portal, designed to support regions, cities, and local communities in strengthening their resilience to climate change. The portal serves as a central hub providing practical information, tools, and resources that help stakeholders better understand climate risks, develop adaptation strategies, and implement innovative solutions.

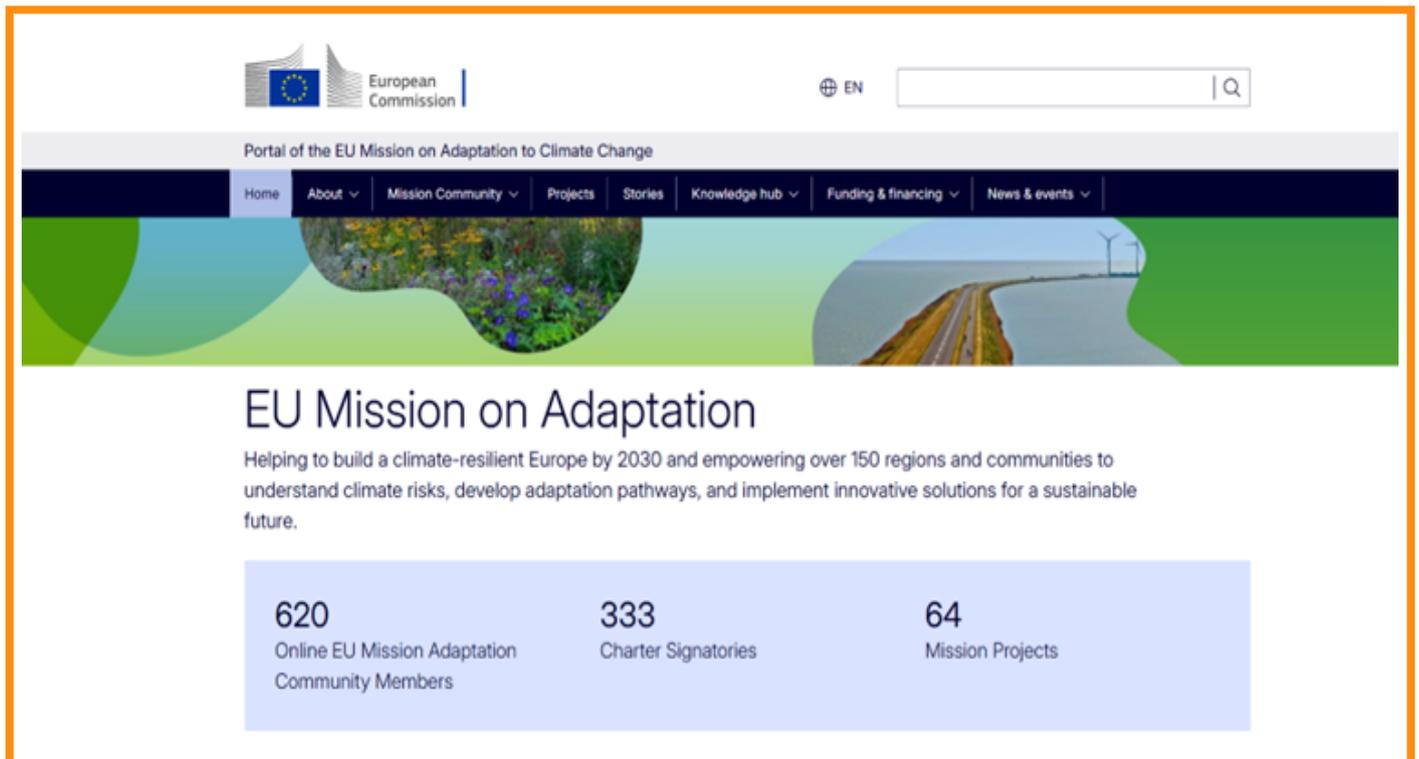
As climate change continues to increase the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as floods, heatwaves, droughts, and wildfires, the need for effective adaptation measures has become more urgent. The new portal aims to facilitate knowledge sharing and cooperation across Europe, helping decision-makers and practitioners take informed action toward a more climate-resilient future.

The platform includes several key sections that support adaptation efforts. The **Mission Projects** section showcases ongoing initiatives funded under the EU Mission, highlighting practical solutions and successful approaches developed across European regions. The **Knowledge Hub** provides guidance documents, tools, and tested methods that support evidence-based planning and decision-making for climate adaptation.

Users can also stay informed through the News section, which features updates on policy developments, projects, and events related to the Mission. Additionally, a dedicated Newsletter allows stakeholders to subscribe and receive the latest information directly in their inbox.

Beyond information sharing, the portal also hosts dedicated spaces for the EU Mission Adaptation Community and features inspiring Mission Stories, which present real examples of successful adaptation measures implemented in different European regions.

By bringing together knowledge, data, and collaboration opportunities in one place, the new Mission Portal represents an important step in accelerating climate adaptation efforts across Europe and supporting the EU's goal of creating climate-resilient regions by 2030.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Portal of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change'. At the top left is the European Commission logo. To the right is a search bar and a language selector set to 'EN'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Mission Community, Projects, Stories, Knowledge hub, Funding & financing, and News & events. The main content area features a banner with a landscape image and the title 'EU Mission on Adaptation'. Below the banner is a descriptive paragraph: 'Helping to build a climate-resilient Europe by 2030 and empowering over 150 regions and communities to understand climate risks, develop adaptation pathways, and implement innovative solutions for a sustainable future.' At the bottom, a light blue box contains three statistics: 620 Online EU Mission Adaptation Community Members, 333 Charter Signatories, and 64 Mission Projects.

European Commission

EN

Portal of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change

Home About Mission Community Projects Stories Knowledge hub Funding & financing News & events

EU Mission on Adaptation

Helping to build a climate-resilient Europe by 2030 and empowering over 150 regions and communities to understand climate risks, develop adaptation pathways, and implement innovative solutions for a sustainable future.

620	333	64
Online EU Mission Adaptation Community Members	Charter Signatories	Mission Projects

Source: 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#latest

Author: PI REDEA

Strengthening Climate Action through European Coordination Mechanisms: From EU Mission Platforms to the EMO Observatory



Climate change is no longer a distant environmental concern — it is a structural challenge requiring systemic transformation of our cities, regions, economies and governance models. The European Union has responded with an ambitious policy framework under the EU Missions. However, achieving climate resilience and climate neutrality cannot rely on isolated local initiatives. It requires strong coordination mechanisms, knowledge exchange, funding alignment and cross-border collaboration. This is particularly relevant for the Danube Region, where diverse governance systems, capacities and development levels must converge toward shared climate objectives.

Why Coordination Mechanisms Matter

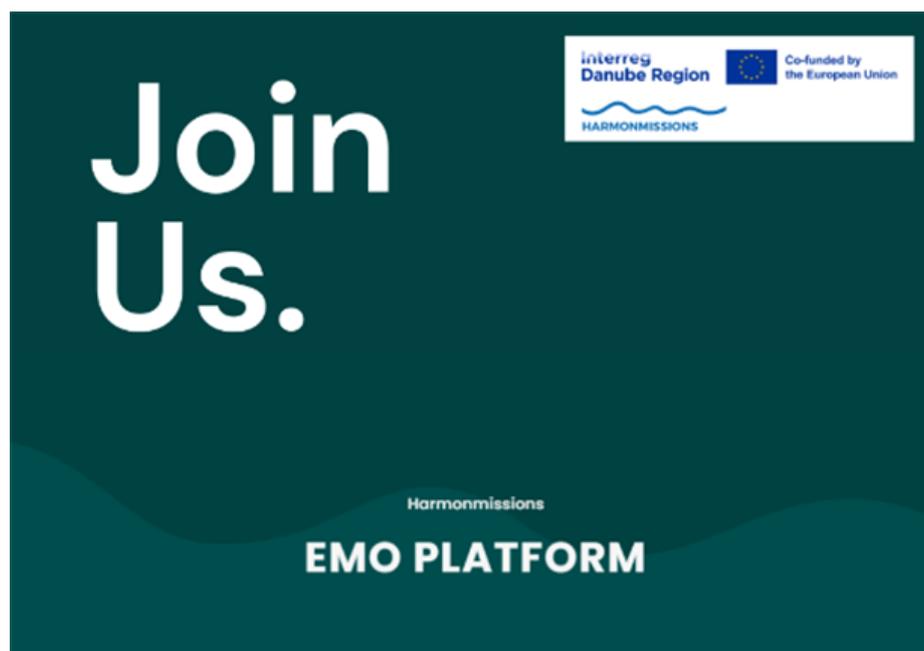
Coordination mechanisms act as bridges between local climate action and European strategic objectives by connecting cities, regions, academia, businesses and communities into structured Communities of Practice. Through this collaboration, they enable the alignment of local strategies with EU Mission goals, support the co-creation of adaptation pathways and Climate City Contracts, and facilitate access to funding opportunities and investment guidance. They also foster the development of innovative pilot projects while promoting mutual learning and the transferability of solutions across regions. Without such platforms, climate action risks fragmentation, duplication of efforts and missed funding opportunities. With them, local initiatives become scalable, coherent and strategically embedded within EU frameworks. Several European platforms play a key role in supporting this coordinated approach.

Key European Platforms Supporting EU Missions

- [Mission Implementation Platform \(MIP4Adapt\)](#)
- [European Urban Initiative \(EUI\)](#)
- [European Cluster Collaboration Platform \(ECCP\)](#)
- [EU Mission Portals](#)
- [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)
- [European Regions Research and Innovation Network \(ERRIN\)](#)

Together, these platforms form a comprehensive European support ecosystem for the implementation of the EU Missions. They connect cities, regions, research institutions, clusters and businesses with funding opportunities, technical guidance, policy updates and partnership networks. By facilitating knowledge exchange, matchmaking and access to financial instruments, they ensure that local and regional climate actions are aligned with EU strategic objectives, scalable across borders and embedded within long-term European climate and innovation frameworks.

From European Frameworks to Regional Action: The Role of the EMO Platform



While European-level mechanisms provide strategic direction and funding access, regional stakeholders often face challenges in navigating the complexity of tools, calls and partnerships. Recognising this need, the **HARMONMISSIONS project** developed a dedicated regional support instrument: **the European Mission Observatory (EMO) Platform**.

The EMO Platform serves as a central hub for organisations engaged in EU Missions across the Danube Region, as well as for stakeholders interested in becoming involved in EU Mission activities in the future. It strengthens transnational cooperation and supports the development of competitive project partnerships under Horizon Europe EU Missions and other EU programmes.

A Structured Environment for Collaboration

At its core, EMO integrates funding information, policy updates, knowledge resources and collaboration tools into a single, accessible interface. The platform is designed to support a wide range of stakeholders, including public authorities, research and academic institutions, enterprises and clusters, as well as NGOs and civil society actors. By consolidating essential information and networking functions in one place, EMO reduces fragmentation and improves efficiency in project development.

The Partner Search and Matching Tool: Building Strong Consortia

One of EMO's key features is its Partner Search and Matching Tool, directly linked to specific funding opportunities.

Through this tool, organisations can:

- Create and publish an organisational profile
- Present expertise and thematic interests
- Share project ideas and partnership needs
- Search for partners across the Danube Region
- Express interest in specific EU Mission calls
- Connect with emerging or existing consortia

This structured and transparent environment significantly enhances consortium-building processes, particularly for organisations from widening regions that may lack established European networks.

Comprehensive Support Beyond Partner Search

In addition to matchmaking, EMO offers:

- A Funding Opportunities database
- A Best Practices database
- A Knowledge Library with relevant documents and materials
- Up-to-date policy and regulatory information
- Event announcements related to EU Missions
- A feedback mechanism to support continuous improvement

By integrating these components, EMO functions not only as an information portal but as a dynamic coordination mechanism tailored to the Danube macro-region.

Strengthening the Danube Region's Role in EU Missions

The Danube Region has significant potential to contribute to Europe's green and climate-resilient transformation. Unlocking this potential requires strengthening cross-border cooperation, improving access to funding opportunities, increasing the visibility of regional expertise, and ensuring clear alignment with EU Mission priorities.

The EMO Platform directly addresses these needs. By connecting local and regional actors with European frameworks, it helps translate policy ambition into concrete project pipelines. In a landscape where climate challenges are increasingly complex and interdependent, coordination is not optional — it is essential. European platforms such as MIP4Adapt, EUI, ECCP, ERRIN and the EU Funding & Tenders Portal provide the macro-level architecture. The EMO Platform complements them by anchoring cooperation within the Danube Region and facilitating practical, project-based collaboration.

Organisations with project ideas, those seeking partners, or those wishing to join existing consortia are encouraged to create a profile and explore collaboration opportunities via the EMO Platform. By strengthening partnerships today, we lay the foundation for a climate-resilient and climate-neutral tomorrow.

Innovative Water Retention Solutions for Improved Quality of Life in Cities of Košice and Nyíregyháza

#AQUAURBAN



Interreg
Maďarsko – Slovensko



Spolufinancovaný
Európskou úniou

PROGRAM NAME: Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia Cooperation Program 2021-2027

FUNDING: The project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and the state budget of the Slovak Republic under the Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia Cooperation Program in an 80 % / 12 % ratio.

PROJECT START: July 2024

PROJECT END: October 2026

PROJECT PARTNERS: Lead Partner: Municipality of Nyíregyháza (Hungary), Partner 1: City of Košice

TOTAL COSTS: €1,203,633.50 (including partners)

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The main goal of the AquaUrban project is to support sustainable rainwater management, water retention and enhance biodiversity in the urban environment to adapt to climate change.

This cross-border project between Košice and Nyíregyháza focuses on capturing, processing, and using rainfall that can occur suddenly and in large amounts in the Košice suburbs and in central Nyíregyháza. During the project preparation phase, the need for flood-protection measures in both locations was identified, and solutions were developed jointly by experts from both partner cities.

In Košice, the city plans to build the Ťahanovce Water Garden in cooperation with the local government in the Ťahanovce district. A rain garden will be created in the green strip of the square between the church and the village well on Ťahanovská Street. The aim is to slow down and retain the runoff of rainwater falling naturally and water flowing by gravity from roads and paved surfaces, allowing gradual infiltration into the upper “green” layer and subsoil.

In Nyíregyháza, the municipality will use EU funds for flood protection and drainage measures, modernizing the existing stormwater sewer system and adding a buffer storage system to capture and divert water. By installing these tanks, overflowing water during heavy rains can be prevented.

The project ensures a common cross-border solution to a shared flood-protection challenge and fosters long-term collaboration between both cities. It includes participation and exchange of views among Slovak and Hungarian experts at joint events. As part of the cross-border effect, a workshop and specialist conference on flood protection will be organized, featuring experts from both partner countries to exchange experiences and best practices.

A model titled “Simulation of the Effect of Measures for Flash Flood Protection” will be created, showing 2D and 3D animated visualizations of the current flood-protection measures and proposed interventions, helping to identify optimal revitalization strategies, including a model of a flood event.

After implementation, the achieved results and future impacts will be evaluated through joint work, ensuring continued cooperation between the two cities.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES – CITY OF KOŠICE

1. Construction of a rain garden in the Ťahanovce district
2. Workshop
3. Networking and Expert Days
4. Communication and Promotion

EXPECTED OUTPUTS – CITY OF KOŠICE

- Completed rain garden
- Underground 33 m³ stormwater retention tank
- Amenities such as benches, garden elements, cooling zones (mist sprayers, fountain)
- Landscaping with three irrigation intensity zones
- One workshop organized in Košice
- Joint exchange activity “Networking and Expert Days”
- Visit to a water-management facility
- Flood event simulation model (3D)



References:

- <https://www.kosice.sk/clanok/projekt-aquaurban-inovativne-riesenia-zadrziavania-vody-pre-zlepsenie-kvality-zivota-v-mestach-kosice-a-nyiregyhaza>
- <https://interreghusk.eu/projects/aquaurban-2/>
- Project documentation