



Accelerating climate change adaptation in the Adriatic-Ionian Region

8-9 April 2025, Corfu (Greece)

EVENT DETAILS

- Venue:** Event Hall of the Region of Ionian Islands
K. Zavitsianou 1, Spilia, 49100 Corfu, Greece
- Language:** English
- Format:** Hybrid

AGENDA OVERVIEW

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 8 APRIL 2025	
09.00 - 09.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration
Morning Sessions 09.30 - 13.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and opening remarks The impacts of climate change in the Adriatic and Ionian Region <u>Session 1</u>: Climate change adaptation policies in the Adriatic and Ionian Region
Afternoon sessions 14.15 - 17.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Session 2</u>: Climate services and information for adaptation policy making <u>Session 3</u>: Finance tools to support climate change adaptation in the Adriatic and Ionian Region Wrap & Closing Remarks Day-1
Evening 18.00 - 20.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Guided tours</u>: Museum CASA PARLANTE & Museum of the Philharmonic Society of Corfu Rehearsal for the <u>Easter Concert</u> of the Philharmonic Society of Corfu



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DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 9 APRIL 2025

<p>Morning Sessions 09.30 - 12.45</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks • <u>Session 4</u>: Adapting infrastructure to future climate • <u>Session 5</u>: Climate change vulnerability and resilience of tourism
<p>Afternoon sessions 14.00 - 17.00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Session 6</u>: Adaptive cities and communities • <u>Panel Discussion</u>: Conclusion & Feedback to the Strategy and Action Plan for the Adriatic and Ionian Region • Wrap-up and closing remarks
<p>Evening 17.30 - 19.00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Study visit</u>: Climate Vulnerability & Resilience of cultural heritage in the Adriatic and Ionian Region – The case study of the Old Town of Corfu (UNESCO World Heritage Site)



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DAY 1: TUESDAY, 8 APRIL 2025

09.30 - 17.30 Eastern European Summer Time (EEST)

09.00 - 09.30	Registration
09.30 - 09.45	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Ioannis Trepeklis, Governor of the Region of Ionian Islands</p> <p>Dr. Petros Varelidis, Secretary General of Natural Environment and Waters, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic</p> <p>Prof. Christos Zerefos, Academy of Athens, Climate Envoy for Greece, Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the LIFE-IP AdaptInGR project</p>
09.45 - 09.50	Opening
Opening:	Spyridon Ioannou, Vice Governor of the Region of Ionian Islands for Environmental Planning and Climate Change
Event Facilitator:	Eva Alexopoulou, member of Thematic Steering Group Pillar 3 "Protection of the Environment" EUSAIR, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy
09.50 - 10.10	<p>The impacts of climate change in the Adriatic–Ionian Region</p> <p><i>Dr. Christos Giannakopoulos, Research Director, Institute for Environmental Research and Sustainable Development, National Observatory of Athens</i></p>
Session 1: Climate change adaptation policies in the Adriatic and Ionian Region	
Moderator:	Dr. Mitja Bricelj, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Republic of Slovenia, Co-coordinator of the Thematic Steering Group Pillar 3 "Protection of the Environment" EUSAIR
10.10 - 10.15	Introduction
10.15 - 10.30	<p>Climate change adaptation and resilience policies in EU</p> <p><i>Elina Bardram, Director for Adaptation & Resilience, Communication, and Civil Society Relations, Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission</i></p>



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<p>10.30 - 10.45</p>	<p>Barcelona Convention: Climate Change adaptation policy and Regional Framework for the Mediterranean</p> <p><i>Patrizia Busolini, Socio-Economic and Sustainable Development Officer, Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan, United Nations Environment Programme, Barcelona Convention Secretariat</i></p>
<p>10.45 - 11.00</p>	<p>The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region – Addressing common climate challenges</p> <p><i>Iztok Škerlič, M.Sc., Project partner EUSAIR Facility Point, Implementing structure of the Municipality of Izola</i></p>
<p>11.00 - 11.30</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>11.30 - 12.30</p>	<p>Adaptation policies in the countries of the Adriatic -Ionian Region</p> <p><i><u>Bosnia and Herzegovina</u>: Dr. Senad Oprašić, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Co-coordinator of the TSG Pillar 3 "Protection of the Environment" EUSAIR</i></p> <p><i><u>Croatia</u>: Željko Šimek, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition</i></p> <p><i><u>Greece</u>: Ioanna Tsalakanidou, Directorate of Climate Change & Air Quality, Ministry of Environment and Energy</i></p> <p><i><u>Italy</u>: Fabiana Baffo, Directorate General for sustainable land and water management, Ministry of Environment and Energy Security</i></p> <p><i><u>Montenegro</u>: Radovan Sekulić, Head of Division for International Cooperation and EU Integration, Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development</i></p> <p><i><u>North Macedonia</u>: Ljupka Zajkov, Deputy Head of the Water department, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning</i></p> <p><i><u>San Marino</u>: Dr. Loris Casali, Office for Environmental and Agricultural Resources Management, Department of Territory and Environment</i></p> <p><i><u>Serbia</u>: Ana Repac, Head of Adaptation to Climate Change Unit, Ministry of Environmental Protection</i></p> <p><i><u>Slovenia</u>: Dr. Cécil Meulenberg, Mediterranean institute for environmental studies, Science and Research Centre Koper</i></p>
<p>12.30 - 12.40</p>	<p>Shaping a Climate-Resilient Adriatic-Ionian Region: The Role of Youth</p> <p><i>Milica Stankić, EUSAIR Youth Council Pillar 3 Group member from Serbia</i></p>



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12.40 - 13.10	Discussion and Conclusions
13.10 - 14.15	Lunch Break
Session 2: Climate services and information for adaptation policy making	
Moderator:	Kati Mattern, Expert – European Climate adaptation platform/Climate-ADAPT, European Environment Agency
14.15 - 14.20	Introduction
14.20 - 14.40	Sharing adaptation knowledge across Europe – The European Climate Adaptation Platform and other EU level knowledge resources <i>Kati Mattern, Expert – European Climate adaptation platform/Climate-ADAPT, European Environment Agency</i>
14.40 – 15.00	The Mission Implementation Platform for Adaptation - MIP4Adapt <i>Dr. Christina Papadaskalopoulou, DRAXIS Environmental S.A., Head of Climate Resilience Department, Responsible for the Technical Support of the Mission Implementation Platform in Greece and Cyprus</i>
15.00– 15.20	Coastal flooding risk and adaptation in view of climate change <i>Dr. Michalis Vousdoukas, Joint Research Centre, Unit C6</i>
15.20 – 15.50	Discussion and Conclusions
15.50 – 16.10	Coffee Break
Session 3: Finance tools to support climate change adaptation in the Adriatic and Ionian Region	
Moderator:	Mathilde Konstantopoulou, EUSAIR National Coordinator of Greece, General Secretariat of the National Strategic Reference Framework, Ministry of National Economy and Finance, Hellenic Republic
16.10 - 16.15	Introduction
16.15 - 16.30	The INTERREG IPA ADRION Programme 2021-2027 <i>Barbara Di Piazza, Head of Joint Secretariat, INTERREG IPA ADRION Programme</i>



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16.30 - 16.45	<p>The contribution of the Environment & Climate Change Programme 2021-2027 in adapting Greece to climate change</p> <p><i>Nikolaos Mamaloungkas, Head of Managing Authority for Programmes "Environment and Climate Change" and "Civil Protection", Ministry of National Economy and Finance, Hellenic Republic</i></p> <p><i>Konstantina Kolokotroni, Head of Unit A1, Managing Authority for Programmes "Environment and Climate Change" and "Civil Protection", Ministry of National Economy and Finance, Hellenic Republic</i></p>
16.45 – 17.00	<p>Supporting acceleration of adaptation investments in Europe</p> <p><i>Stephen D. Hart, Finance Advisor Public & Infrastructure Finance Advisory, European Investment Bank</i></p>
17.00 – 17.15	<p>Funding opportunities for local and regional adaptation</p> <p><i>Letizia Monteleone, Senior Consultant - Climate Action Planning and Transparency, Ricardo Italia Srl, Mission Implementation Platform (MIP4Adapt)</i></p>
17.15 - 17.30	Q&As
17.30	End of Day-1
18.00 - 19.00	<p>Guided tours in the Museum CASA PARLANTE & the Museum of the Philharmonic Society of Corfu</p> <p>Nikiforou Theotoki str. 16</p>
19.00 - 20.00	<p>Rehearsal for the Easter Concert of the Philharmonic Society of Corfu</p> <p>Municipal Theatre of Corfu Samara str. 13</p>



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DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 9 APRIL 2025

09.30 - 17.00 Eastern European Summer Time (EEST)

09.30 - 09.35 **Opening remarks**

Session 4: Adapting infrastructure to future climate

Moderator: Dr. Ioanna Kourti, Senior Climate Change Specialist Mobility Department, EIB Advisory, European Investment Bank

09.35 - 09.40 **Introduction**

09.40 - 10.05 **Methodologies and tools for climate proofing infrastructure projects**

Dr. Ioanna Kourti, Senior Climate Change Specialist Mobility Department, EIB Advisory, European Investment Bank

10.05 - 10.25 **The Importance of Implementing the Strategic Project for Reducing Coastal Erosion on the Romanian Black Sea Shore**

Massimo Marra, Lead Advisor, Cross-sectoral and Capacity Building Coordinator - EIB Advisory Services Coordination, European Investment Bank

Miruna Poștaru, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Investments and European Projects - Managing Authority for the Sustainable Development Program 2021-2027

10.25- 10.45 **Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) for the Heraklion Port Authority**

Stephen D. Hart, Finance Advisor Public & Infrastructure Finance Advisory, European Investment Bank

Antonis M. Boutatis, Civil and Harbour Engineer (MSc) Managing Director Rogan Associates S.A.

10.45 - 11.05 **Discussion and Conclusions**

11.05 - 11.20 **Coffee Break**



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Session 5: Climate change vulnerability and resilience of tourism

Moderator:	Iva Čaleta Pleša, Senior Adviser, Department for European Affairs and Policies, Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Republic of Croatia, Vice Co-coordinator of the Thematic Steering Group Pillar 4 "Sustainable Tourism" EUSAIR
11.20 – 11.25	Introduction
11.25 - 11.45	Climate change impacts and adaptation solutions for tourism – The NaTour4CChange project <i>Dr.sc. Izidora Marković Vukadin, Senior Research Associate, Institute for Tourism of Croatia, Coordinator of NaTour4CChange project</i>
11.45 – 12.00	Promoting Energy Efficiency in the Hotel Industry <i>Ivana Bulatovic, Head of Department for Strategic Planning, Ministry of Tourism, Government of Montenegro</i>
12.00 – 12.15	Dalmatia Storytelling destination <i>Maja Radman, Director of the Tourist Board of the County of Šolta, Republic of Croatia</i>
12.15 – 12.30	The role of Indicators in Sustainable Tourism Development <i>Vicky Stroumpou, Head of Department of Monitoring E.U. Programmes, Directorate of Research, Ministry of Tourism, Hellenic Republic</i>
12.30 - 12.45	Discussion and Conclusions
12.45 - 14.00	Lunch Break

Session 6: Adaptive cities and communities

Moderator:	Meropi-Spyridoula Ydraiou, former Mayor of Central Corfu & Diapontia islands, Board Member of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece, Member of Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and spokesperson on Environment and Climate
14.00 - 14.10	Welcome Luigi Albore Mascia, President of the Forum of the Adriatic & Ionian Cities
14.10 - 14.15	Introduction



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14.15 - 14.30	<p>Nature based solutions as green agents of change</p> <p><i>Iva Bedenko, M. Arch. Senior Advisor for Preparation, Implementation and Presentation of Development Projects, City Office for Economy, Environmental Sustainability and Strategic Planning</i></p>
14.30 - 14.45	<p>The Resilience of Thessaloniki to Climate Crisis – RIA examples for addressing the climate crisis and its impacts in Thessaloniki</p> <p><i>Dr. Georgios Papastergios, Head of the Department of Operational Planning and Development Programmes Monitoring (Resilience Office), Municipality of Thessaloniki</i></p>
14.45 - 15.00	<p>Adapting the Region of Western Greece to climate change</p> <p><i>Dr. Maria Makri, Head of Department of Technical Resource, Directorate of Industry, Energy and Natural Resources, Region of Western Greece</i></p>
15.00 - 15.30	Discussion and Conclusions
15.30 - 16.50	Panel Discussion: Conclusions & Feedback to the Strategy and Action Plan for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
15.30 - 16.00	<p>Panel 1: Reporting from session moderators</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Dr. Mitja Bricelj, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Republic of Slovenia, Co-coordinator of the Thematic Steering Group Pillar 3 "Protection of the Environment" EUSAIR</p>
16.00 - 16.50	<p>Panel 2: Feedback to the Strategy and Action Plan for the Adriatic and Ionian Region</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Helena Sundblad Schäfer, Policy Officer in South-East Europe and EUSAIR Team, Directorate General REGIO, European Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Spolc, Head of the Adaptation and Resilience Unit, Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission • Dr. Mitja Bricelj, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Republic of Slovenia, Co-coordinator of the Thematic Steering Group Pillar 3 "Protection of the Environment" EUSAIR • Iva Čaleta Pleša, Senior Adviser, Department for European Affairs and Policies, Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Republic of Croatia, Vice Co-coordinator of the TSG Pillar 4 "Sustainable Tourism" EUSAIR • Gerasimos Avgerinos, EUSAIR Youth Council Pillar 3 Group member from Greece
16.50 - 17.00	Wrap-up and closing remarks



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17.30 - 19.00	Climate Vulnerability & Resilience of cultural heritage in the Adriatic and Ionian Region
17.30 - 18.00	Venue: San Giacomo Theatre and Town Hall Assessing climate change vulnerability of cultural heritage – The case study of the Old Town of Corfu” (UNESCO World Heritage Site) <i>Eleni Maistrou, Architect, Emeritus Professor NTUA President of the Council of Architectural Heritage of ELLINIKI ETAIREIA –Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage</i> <i>Pagona Maravelaki, PhD Chemist, Full Professor, School of Architecture, Technical University of Crete, Head of Lab Materials for Cultural Heritage & Modern Buildings</i>
18.00 - 19.00	Guiding tour in the Old Town of Corfu



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The LIFE-IP AdaptInGR project

The Event is initiated by the integrated project «LIFE-IP AdaptInGR - Boosting the implementation of adaptation policy across Greece». The project is coordinated by the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy and implemented together with 18 key adaptation stakeholders, including the Region of Ionian Islands. The project is funded by the LIFE Programme of the European Union and the Green Fund of Greece.

The project aims to accelerate the implementation of the national adaptation strategy and regional adaptation action plans. It develops openly accessible and reliable climate services to inform policymaking, supports government departments to mainstream adaptation across sectoral policies, and guides regional and local governments to plan for adaptation. It also builds capacities of decision makers and other key stakeholders to design for adaptation, while enables adaptation solutions and creates a pool of replicable “good practices” to ramp up adaptation in the priority sectors of water resources, cities, coastal areas, floods, forest fires, cultural heritage and landscape. It also identifies and leverages suitable EU, national and private funding to upscale successful adaptation solutions.

The project supports adaptation at the Adriatic and Ionian Region through pilot applications to prevent coastal erosion, manage flood and forest fire risks, and protect culture heritage and landscape in the Regions of Ionian Islands and Western Greece. It engages regional key stakeholders in adaptation planning and implementation through capacity building and awareness raising activities, while guides the preparation of the next cycle of regional adaptation action plans.

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