

PRESS RELEASE

69 European regions share tools to assess climate risk at regional and local levels

In a context of climate change, how will areas at risk of wildfires evolve? What about projections for extreme rainfall, or the frequency and intensity of heatwaves? A total of 69 regions and municipalities from 23 European countries have received support and funding from the EU to design adaptation and emergency response plans at the regional and local levels.

More than 150 representatives from these regions and municipalities will gather on June 11 in Barcelona for the CLIMAAX Project conference, co-coordinated by the Research Center for Applied Hydrometeorology (CRAHI) at UPC.

Barcelona, 10 June 2025 – The CLIMAAX Project workshop taking place on June 11 will be an opportunity to discuss challenges, learn about success stories in climate risk assessment, and share knowledge.

CLIMAt risk and vulnerability Assessment framework and toolboX (CLIMAAX) is a four-year project funded by the Horizon Europe programme, aimed at providing technical and financial support to improve climate risk assessment and the management of weather-related emergencies worsened by climate change at a regional level.

Catalonia is one of five European pilot regions for the project, alongside Latvia, Setúbal (Portugal), Žilina (Slovakia), and Finland, selected to develop and implement the support tools for climate risk assessments provided by the CLIMAAX project.

Over the past two years, CLIMAAX has gathered and developed data, methodologies, and tools to carry out climate risk assessments - including risks like floods, heatwaves, wildfires, and heavy rainfall. Currently, 69 regions and municipalities across Europe have received funding to implement these tools in their territories to adapt to various hazards.

The workshop, held at the CosmoCaixa Science Museum in Barcelona, will be the first in-person meeting of the 69 regions and municipalities selected by the project. These territories, which have already begun conducting their own climate risk assessments, will collectively receive over 12 million euros under the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change. The Center of Applied Research in Hydrometeorology (CRAHI) at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC) coordinates the implementation process at the European level and leads the third-party financial support mechanism used by the European Commission to transfer funds to non-consortium entities.

Catalonia, a pilot region

The five pilot regions, including Catalonia—with diverse climate conditions representing different risk profiles—have shared their needs and challenges in risk management and climate change adaptation to develop a theoretical framework and toolbox. This toolkit is designed to facilitate the creation and implementation of regional climate risk assessment plans to respond more effectively to climate emergencies.

The Directorate General for Civil Protection of the Ministry of the Interior of the Government of Catalonia (DGPC) and CRAHI at UPC have worked to analyze how wildfires, flash floods, and heatwaves will develop in terms of duration, frequency, and intensity under climate change scenarios. The goal of the DGPC is to gather regional evidence to inform policy and invest resources in climate adaptation. The results of the study are expected to be applied to civil protection plans to improve prevention and response to extraordinary emergencies.

A day for sharing experiences

The CLIMAAX workshop in Barcelona will bring together over 200 representatives from the 69 regions and municipalities, as well as project consortium members and other institutions and organizations working on risk management. The event will begin on June 11 at 9:00 am, featuring welcoming remarks from: Marta Cassany Virgili, Director General of Civil Protection of the Government of Catalonia; Jordi Berenguer, Vice-Rector for Knowledge Transfer, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UPC; Sophie Berger, representing the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change; Frederiek Sperna Weiland, Senior Advisor at Deltares and CLIMAAX project coordinator; and Daniel Sempere-Torres, Director of CRAHI at UPC and CLIMAAX co-coordinator.

The workshop will be an opportunity for networking and sharing among partners and communities involved in CLIMAAX.

ABOUT CLIMAAX

*CLIMAt*e risk and vulnerability Assessment framework and toolboX (CLIMAAX) is a 4-year Horizon Europe project (2023-2026) that will provide financial, analytical, and practical support to improve regional climate and emergency risk management plans. The consortium consists of a combination of climate risk assessment and emergency response experts, regional authorities responsible for risk management, regional and national Civil Protection Agencies, and small and medium-sized enterprises.

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