

Mediterranean Climate Change-Adaptation Metropolitan Initiatives Workshop

Barcelona, 18 - 19 September 2024

Event hosted and organised with the support of:



A workshop to discuss the shared challenges faced by Mediterranean cities and the innovative solutions implemented to achieve metropolitan adaptation by creating a space for the debate between Mediterranean metropolises.

The workshop is co-financed by the "Make a move for adaptation to climate change project"



Bu proje, Avrupa Birliği ve Türkiye Cumhuriyeti tarafından ortaklaşa finanse edilmektedir.
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Context

Urban areas are especially vulnerable and face numerous challenges in addressing and adapting to climate change due to their dense populations, infrastructure and economic activities. According to the United Nations, cities are estimated to account for around 70% of global energy-related CO2 emissions, which are a major component of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In addition, the Mediterranean region is particularly vulnerable to climate change due to its unique geographical and climatic characteristics. Climate change impacts in this region are multifaceted and profound, affecting ecosystems, water resources, agriculture and human health and its impacts are even more evident in urban and metropolitan areas. Addressing these challenges requires a holistic metropolitan perspective that integrates climate adaptation and mitigation strategies into urban planning, infrastructure development, public health initiatives and social equity policies. Such strategies rely upon an improved coordination between metropolitan public and private stakeholders in order to optimise land use, plan multimodal transport systems to reduce car use, and promote green and blue infrastructure.

The European Union (EU) encourages its member states, regions and local governments to develop climate change adaptation action plans (CCAAP) as part of its broader efforts to address climate change impacts. CCAAP are strategic documents outlining specific actions and measures aimed at reducing vulnerability, enhancing resilience, and adapting to the changing climate conditions with a long-term vision and through multilevel governance with public and private stakeholders.

The objective of the “Mediterranean Climate Change-Adaptation Metropolitan Initiatives Workshop”, co-organised with the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB), is to share experiences between MedCities members on planning climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and articulating territorial stakeholders around them. Focusing on the implementation of such plans, the workshop will discuss the shared challenges faced by Mediterranean cities and the innovative solutions implemented to achieve metropolitan adaptation by creating a space for the debate between Mediterranean metropolises in this regard. The workshop is part of the “Make a move for adaptation to climate change project”, in the frame of which the Mersin Metropolitan Municipality is currently developing its CCAAP with the financial support provided by the EU.

The first day of the seminar will include round table discussions on the challenges faced by Mediterranean Metropolises and the adaptation strategies implemented in their territories, as well as a detailed discussion on good practices. The second day of the conference will feature a technical study visit to showcase good practices in the Barcelona Metropolitan Area.





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Programme

Wednesday 18th of September

Interpretation: English – Turkish – Catalan

If you want to follow the session online, please register through this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6Qm_D5qq2WpjTXbVJQM7_f4liYi7srs_ssg-FWERO5wYzxdw/viewform

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome remarks:

- Mrs. Elisenda Alamany, Vice-President of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (tbc)
- Mr. Josep Canals, Secretary General of MedCities
- Dr. Bülent Halisdemir, Head of the Department of Environmental Protection and Control of Mersin Metropolitan Municipality

9:30 – 10:00 Keynote speech on EU mission on climate neutral and smart cities, Thomas Osdoba, Coordinator of NetZero Cities project, EIT Climate-KIC

10:00 – 10:30 Adaptation to Climate Change as part of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area strategy and action, Mr. Ramon Torra, General Manager, Barcelona Metropolitan Area (tbc)

10:30 – 11:30 Round table 1: Enhancing coastal resilience to climate change and ecosystem restoration

This round table will discuss the vulnerability of coastal ecosystems because of climate change and man-made activities in metropolitan areas. It will present concrete solutions to promote adaptation to climate change and enhance coastal resilience in different Mediterranean countries.

- Reconstruction of dunes on the Barcelona metropolitan coast, Mr. Daniel Palacios, Head of the Beach Department, AMB
- Initiatives of the city on coastal resilience, Representative of Marseille municipality (tbc)
- The "Urban forestry contract" in Adriatic coastal cities and the depollution of marinas, Mr. Fabio Vallarola, Architect, Municipality of Ancona

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 – 13:00 Round table 2: Promoting sustainable metropolitan urban planning and mobility

This round table will discuss the governance schemes and planning processes at metropolitan scale proving sustainable urban mobility solutions. It will present concrete solutions to promote sustainable metropolitan urban planning and mobility cases in different Mediterranean cities.





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- Active and E-Mobility strategies at the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Mr. Joan M. Bigas, Director for Sustainable Mobility and Transport, AMB
- Implementing the free public transport strategy, Representative of Montpellier Metropole (tbc)
- Towards sustainable urban living with the first Mobility Island in Sarajevo, Mrs Nejra Selimović, Head of Cabinet of the Chairman, Municipality of Sarajevo

13:00 – 14:00 Round table 3: Promoting climate resilient built environment

This round table will discuss measures that can diminish damage from continual or gradual climate impacts. It will present concrete solutions to promote adaptation to climate change, which can significantly reduce a building's energy consumption and carbon footprint in different Mediterranean countries, like integrating nature-based solutions or using durable and low-carbon materials.

- Sustainability protocol: Environmental criteria for the projects and works, Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Mr. Albert Gassull, Director for Public Space, AMB
- Initiatives on climate resilient built environment, Ms. Julinda Dhame, Director General of Environment and Sustainable Development, Municipality of Tirana
- Irbid initiatives for cleaner energy saving in multi-use public buildings, Ms. Leila Adel Youssef, Director of the Directorate of International Programs and Development, Municipality of Irbid

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch break

15:00 – 16:00 Round table 4: Green and Blue infrastructure for resilient cities

This round table will discuss green and blue measures that can limit damage from continual or gradual climate impacts. It will present concrete green, which includes vegetation-based (trees, grass, agriculture, etc.), and blue, which includes water-based (seas, lakes, rivers, pools, etc.) solutions to mitigate climate change in different Mediterranean cities.

- Targeting climate vulnerability by promoting green infrastructure and climate shelters, Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Mr. Frederic Ximeno, Director for Climate Action, AMB
- The case of Valencia: climate solutions in the framework of a green capital, Mr. Andreu Escrivà, Environmental Projects Officer, Municipality of Valencia
- Rome Climate Adaptation strategy: nature and water to reduce the heat island effect, Mr. Edoardo Zanchini, Chief of Rome's Climate Office, Municipality of Rome

16:00 – 16:30 Concluding remarks





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Thursday 19th of September

Study visit displaying good practice cases in Barcelona Metropolitan Area.

Interpretation: English - Turkish

9:30 – 11:00 Visit to Llobregat river

- Environmental recovery project of the Llobregat river, Mr. Álvaro Sainz, AMB

11:30 – 13:00 Visit to a Waste Water Regeneration Facility

- Presentation of the integrated water cycle management and plan in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona. Presentation and technical visit of the water regeneration plant, Mr. Francisco Salguero, AMB

