



CLIMATE ALLIANCE WORKING GROUP ON ADAPTATION

In order to stimulate broader engagement and encourage the exchange of views, knowledge and experiences on key issues around adaptation to climate change, Climate Alliance (CA) launched a **Working Group (WG) on adaptation** in spring 2015. This WG brings together climate experts and political leaders from CA member cities and municipalities across Europe to help generate an accurate picture of outstanding adaptation challenges and possible solutions at the local level.

Context:

Climate change requires good local governance with strong political leadership and commitment. Extreme weather events regularly show that climate change is already a serious challenge for local authorities, increasing their vulnerabilities, posing a threat to social cohesion and economic development.

Taking coherent and integrated action on both mitigation and adaptation offers significant benefits. Within the framework of the Covenant of Mayors initiative, and relying on its success, Mayors Adapt, the European initiative on climate change adaptation for cities was launched in 2014. It is now included in the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) for Climate and Energy. Being one of the organisations running the Covenant and Mayors Adapt Office, Climate Alliance- in cooperation with its members - has helped to design the initiative(s) for the European Commission and is committed to pursuing and reinforcing the dialogue with members through the Working Group. This will ensure that the initiative remains by the cities and for the cities.

To this end, the Working Group offers opportunities for collaboration with the Covenant of Mayors Group of Practitioners, including participation in its consultation meetings. Involvement in the European adaptation policy debates is also ensured thanks to cooperation with key players like the European Commission's Directorate General for Climate Action and the Committee of the Regions.



Main objectives:

- **Offer practical knowledge** to WG members, by bringing relevant experts to the discussion table to enable effective adaptation action at local level.
- **Build bridges** between adaptation practitioners and (political) decision-makers and debate together on the main adaptation challenges to increase awareness and understanding and implement an integrated approach;
- **Keep the discussion going** on the main needs and wishes of European cities towards the adaptation work of the Covenant of Mayors ;
- **Identify and promote** local adaptation solutions already implemented by frontrunner cities – and provide visibility to the actions of CA members;
- **Facilitate thinking** about ways to mobilise the necessary political and financial support and integrate adaptation principles into the municipal policy process;

... Find the keys to turn political commitment into concrete adaptation actions!...



Various topics and fields of expertise are addressed by the Working Group:

- **Methodology-related issues** → e.g. coordinating both climate mitigation and adaptation policies; integrating adaptation into the municipal climate agenda, plans and policies in a cross-sectoral way; collaborating with multiple stakeholders at different levels; identifying common tools & methods for vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning; monitoring progress through qualitative/quantitative indicators, communicating / promoting adaptation solutions etc.
- **Sector-related issues** → e.g. defining climate-resilient standards for both existing and new buildings as well as transport and energy infrastructures; promoting green and blue spaces in local spatial plans; reinforcing the flood and/or heat wave risk management plan etc.
- **Financing-related issues** → e.g. identifying and mobilising financial resources, understanding the economic risks of a non-adaptation or 'maladaptation', linking adaptation action to economic benefits etc..
- **Communication-related issues** → e.g. how to encourage civil society in taking preventive actions, how to use risk maps in public communication; how to talk about adaptation needs and measures without disregarding mitigation aspects.

Key activities:

- **(Bi)annual WG meetings** → e.g. within the framework of the CA international annual event and other events ;
- **Regular briefings** on various topics → e.g. EU context on adaptation, new adaptation solutions tested by peers, possible financing schemes etc., prepared by CA and sent to WG members through mailing list or similar ;
- **Assistance and support** in using already existing databases or platforms (such as ClimateAdapt and Klimalotse)
- **Joint actions** → e.g. preparation of joint project proposals, organisation of site visits or other peer-to-peer activities etc.
- **Position-taking** → e.g. preparation of political position papers to convey the key messages to (higher) decision-makers, preparation of a new CA resolution to present to the next CA general assembly
- **Representation** of the WG interests and messages → e.g. via participation to events
- Possible collaboration with the so-called Covenant of Mayors **Group of Practitioners** and participation to their consultation meetings

... And other activities that are defined together with WG members!...

More information:

For additional information on the WG, please contact us: adaptation@climatealliance.org | Tel. +32-2-400 1060.

Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy: www.eumayors.eu



List of Members (last update: 04/01/2017)

(Associated) members of Climate Alliance:

- ✓ Albert Kisling – Krems an der Donau (AT)
- ✓ Alessandro Tasinato – Venice (IT)
- ✓ Carme Melcion / Albert Vendrell – Barcelona Province (ES)
- ✓ Christof Voßeler – Bremen (DE)
- ✓ Cordine Lippert – Potsdam (DE)
- ✓ Erica Lemmens/Bright Adiyia – Hasselt (BE)
- ✓ Hannes Lauer- Filderstadt (DE)
- ✓ Hans Van Ammers – Arnhem (NL)
- ✓ Hans-Georg Dannert – Frankfurt/Main (DE)
- ✓ Harald Bieber - KEA (DE)
- ✓ Holger Fröhlich – Bad Homburg (DE)
- ✓ João Dinis – Cascais (PT)
- ✓ John Tanner – Oxford (UK)
- ✓ Lorenz Kummert – Berlin (DE)
- ✓ Maaïke Breugelmans – Ghent (BE)
- ✓ Madeleen Helmer / Annemieke Traag – Klimaatverbond (NL)

- ✓ Maria Vankann- Aachen (DE)
- ✓ Marianne Blaschek – Vienna (AT)
- ✓ Rainer Kapp – Stuttgart (DE)
- ✓ Reinhard Hahn- Regensburg (DE)
- ✓ Veronika Wirth – Munich (DE)

Other partners / non-members:

- ✓ Daniel Willeke – Uebigau-Wahrenbrück (DE)
- ✓ Piero Pelizzaro – Kyoto Club (IT)
- ✓ Rosalind Cook – E3G (EU)
- ✓ Sirpa Hertell – Espoo (FI), member of the Committee of the Regions
- ✓ Tomáš Růžička – Environmental Partnership Association (CZ)
- ✓ Zuzana Hudekova – Regional Ecological Centre Bratislava, Union of cities and towns of Slovakia (SK)

