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EU regions will test adaptation solutions to key climate challenges

Within the framework of the EU-funded project RESIST, four regions including Southwest Finland, Central Denmark, Catalonia and Central Portugal, will test adaptation solutions to five key climate challenges: floods, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, and soil erosion.

Barcelona, 5 January - Citizens and local authorities are facing first-hand the impacts of climate change. Global initiatives such as the loss and damage fund, established at COP27, highlight the need to move towards effective resilience and adaptation measures whilst keeping local communities at the centre. The European Commission (EC) is supporting this shift – in accordance with the [EU Mission: Adaptation to Climate Change](#) – by funding large-scale research and innovation projects such as RESIST. The project has a total budget of 26.6 million € and involves 56 committed partners from the EU, Norway and Ukraine.

“RESIST is built on the real challenges and needs of 12 climate vulnerable regions in Europe”, explains Vilija Balionyte-Merle – Senior Business Developer at SINTEF and Project Coordinator–. The RESIST Project is a five-year EU-funded project coordinated by SINTEF in collaboration with INOVA+, which will support twelve regions across the EU in their efforts to build resilience against the impacts of climate change. Southwest Finland, Central Denmark, Catalonia and Central Portugal will be the frontrunner regions testing adaptation solutions to key climate related challenges in their area.

Each of these four regions will be twinned with two other regions (one low-income and one high-income) with similar biophysical characteristics. Southwest Finland will work with Normandy (France) and Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (Greece); Central Denmark with Blekinge (Sweden) and Zemgale (Latvia); Catalonia with Puglia (Italy) and Baixo Alentejo (Portugal), and Central Portugal with Vesteralen (Norway) and Extremadura (Spain).

Climate change is affecting these regions in different ways. Whilst the Northern European regions are facing water-related challenges such as floods and rising sea levels, the two Southern European regions on the other hand, are experiencing multi-hazard realities including floods, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires and soil erosion. Despite their set of challenges being different however, all regions will work together to test and finetune adaptation measures with the hope that “mutual learning and collaboration activities will help them to become better in adapting to climate change”, as was reiterated by Eurico Neves – Chairman at INOVA+ –.

The pilot sites will lead the way to a successful transition to adaptation and will strengthen the cooperation with academia, private & public partners, and citizens. RESIST will support the development of governance structures and scale-up of participatory approaches, such as co-creation methods and practices in both rural and urban areas, which are needed to ensure a successful transition.