

From Challenge to Action

RESIST Unveils Adaptation Breakthroughs

RESIST Media Briefing IV

Tuesday, 3 June 2025

10:00 – 11:30

Online via Zoom

The clear signs of human-induced climate change reached new heights in 2024, likely the first calendar year to exceed 1.5°C above the pre-industrial average, according to the *State of the Global Climate 2024 Report*. This is more than just a headline: it reflects a cascade of consequences including faster sea level rise, worsening coastal erosion, shrinking Arctic and Antarctic ice, and extreme weather events causing economic and social losses on an almost daily basis.

This media briefing will spotlight how the RESIST project is fostering the transfer of practical knowledge, experience, and tools among 12 climate-vulnerable regions across Europe. The solutions currently being shared and adapted within the RESIST Project include a focus on areas such as:

- **Decision-support tools** for policymakers to evaluate the economic costs, benefits, and efficiency of nature-based solutions, promoting their integration into public investments.
- **Early warning systems** for local and regional authorities, enhancing citizen awareness and preparedness for climate-related emergencies.
- **Landscape management strategies** to reduce wildfire risks while supporting rural economies.
- **Flood mitigation measures** to improve preparedness and minimise impacts.

These areas represent just part of a broader, evolving set of approaches being explored to strengthen climate resilience across diverse regional contexts.

Regional representatives will present real-world case studies from their territories, illustrating how these approaches are being tailored to local contexts. Preceding a showcase of final products, this event provides a window into the ongoing, collaborative learning process. A Q&A session will follow, giving journalists a chance to explore their role in highlighting the broader significance of the region's climate adaptation efforts.

Adaptation is not a choice—it is a necessity. And it's not just about the environment; it's about societal well-being and economic security. The RESIST Project, part of the European Commission's *Mission Adaptation to Climate Change*, is working closely with 12 climate-vulnerable regions to enhance adaptive capacity through tested, scalable solutions. These regions include Southwest Finland (Finland); Central Denmark (Denmark); Catalonia (Spain); Central Portugal (Portugal); Normandy (France); Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (Greece); Blekinge (Sweden); Zemgale (Latvia); Puglia (Italy); Baixo Alentejo (Portugal); Vesterålen (Norway); and Extremadura (Spain). Together, they are building a network of exchange—pooling knowledge to co-develop resilient pathways that protect both people and nature.



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Effective adaptation cannot rely solely on top-down government action. Long-term, impactful change requires engagement from all sectors of society, regional authorities, civil society, businesses, researchers, and entrepreneurs. Collaboration and knowledge-sharing between more and less experienced regions are essential to strengthening climate resilience—and the RESIST project is facilitating that exchange.

Broader context: the urgent need for adaptation

The scientific evidence is clear: Europe is facing rising temperatures, more frequent and intense heatwaves, prolonged droughts, heavier rainfall, lower average wind speeds, and reduced snowfall. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has long warned of these trends, but the broader picture often misses the complex interactions between climate hazards and the escalating risk of extreme impacts.

The economic consequences are significant. Weather- and climate-related extremes caused an estimated EUR 738 billion in asset losses between 1980 and 2023 in the European Union—over EUR 162 billion (22%) of that in just the last three years—according to the first *European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA)*.

Yet while projections of economic loss often dominate the headlines, the deeper risk lies in the destabilisation of the ecological and social systems we depend on. Ecosystem degradation, food and water insecurity, public health strain, and community displacement are becoming increasingly urgent concerns. **Building adaptive capacity is no longer just a matter of policy.** It demands the active participation of scientists, local governments, civil society, and community leaders. This media briefing offers a firsthand look at how the RESIST regions are learning from one another, building a collective, region-driven response to the shared challenge of climate adaptation.



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Event Agenda

10:00 - 10:05 AM – Welcome Remarks

Catarina Azevedo, RESIST Operational Coordinator

10:05 - 10:20 AM – RESIST Transfer Plans & Adaptation Solutions

Linda Hölscher, Senior Advisor, Adelphi

10:20 - 10:50 AM – Showcasing RESIST Knowledge-Transfer

Representatives from RESIST regions:

- **Christos Akratos**, Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering of Democritus University of Thrace (**Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Greece**)
- **Fernando Pulido**, Full Professor at the University of Extremadura (**Extremadura, Spain**)
- **Eija Pouta**, Research Profession at Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) (Southwest Finland)

10:50 – 11:20 – Open Q&A with the panellists

11:20 – 11:30 – Wrap up and closing

Media contacts

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