

RESIST: Collaboration and Scaling Innovative Climate Adaptation Solutions for Resilient Territories

15 October, 15.30 CET
Square Brussels, 311-312



15 October

15.30 - 15.35 **The RESIST Project and Its Approach Towards Collaboration and Knowledge Transfer Between Regions**

Catarina Azevedo

INOVA+ (Portugal)

15.35 - 15.45 **The RESIST Repository and User Interface: Documenting and Visualising Climate Adaptation Solutions**

Vida Farhadibansouleh

KU Leuven (Belgium)

15.45 - 15.55 **Climate Adaptation in the Tourism Sector: The RESIST Pilot Experience From Puglia**

Davide De Nicolò

Tecnopolis Science and Technology Park, University of Bari (Italy)

15.55 - 16.05 **Learning From RESIST: Normandy's Solutions to Enable Climate Change Adaptation**

Zoé Buyle-Bodin

Normandie Region (France)

16.05 - 16.15 **From Challenges to Innovation: The RESIST Journey of EMT**

Symeon Symeonidis

Democritus University of Thrace (Greece)

16.15 - 16.25 **Q&A**

16.25 - 16.30 **What's Next in RESIST?**

Vilija Balionyte-Merle

SINTEF (Norway)

About the speakers



Catarina Azevedo, Senior Project Manager, INOVA+ (Portugal)

Catarina Pydzińska Azevedo, as the Operational Coordinator of the RESIST project (on behalf of INOVA+), is currently working closely with 12 European regions on climate adaptation, to pilot innovative solutions and improve their resilience to climate change. But also, Catarina's other projects and roles have been related to climate resilience and sustainability, and in particular urban sustainability. She has a special interest in the area of citizen engagement and citizen science. Yet her experience is broader, as for over 20 years, Catarina was involved in numerous transnational projects and studies, especially ones funded by the European Commission and developed as services for its agencies. Some additional fields of her expertise include innovation policies and innovation and research support measures, promotion of science & research, entrepreneurship support, management of cross-national networks and research collaborations, public engagement, and stakeholder consultation.



Vida Farhadibansouleh, Spatial Applications Division Leuven (SADL), KU Leuven (Belgium)

Vida Farhadibansouleh is a Research Associate at the Spatial Applications Division Leuven (SADL), KU Leuven. She specializes in geospatial data analysis and is currently working on the RESIST project, where she is responsible for the RESIST repository—a structured collection of regional climate adaptation solutions. She has also developed a user interface to visualize these solutions, making the data accessible and useful for research, policy, and practice.



Davide De Nicolò, Project Manager, Tecnopolis Science and Technology Park, University of Bari (Italy)

Davide De Nicolò is the Chief Project Officer at Tecnopolis, the Science and Technology Park of the University of Bari. In this role, he coordinates project design and strategic partnerships, overseeing European and national initiatives focused on innovation, sustainability, entrepreneurship, and territorial development.

With over 20 years of experience, he has supported more than 100 startups, managed cooperation projects funded by Horizon, Interreg, Erasmus+, and other programmes, and designed training programmes for public and private stakeholders in sectors such as green and blue transition, agrifood, tourism, and the cultural and creative industries.

He teaches Project Management at the University of Bari and LUM University, combining academic teaching with hands-on experience in business incubation and territorial innovation. He is also the Coordinator for EIT Food Italian Hub, fostering innovation in the agri-food sector through stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and policy dialogue.



Zoé Buyle-Bodin, Research & Innovation, Energy and Climate Policy Officer, Normandie Region (France)

Zoé is Research & Innovation, Energy and Climate policy officer at the Normandy Region Brussels office. She is also one of the co-leaders of the Climate Adaptation Task Force of ERRIN/European Regions Research & Innovation network.



Symeon Symeonidis, Postdoctoral Researcher, Laboratory of Robotics and Automation, Department of Production and Management Engineering, Democritus University of Thrace (Greece)

Symeon Symeonidis is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Laboratory of Robotics and Automation, Department of Production and Management Engineering, in the Democritus University of Thrace. His work focuses on the design and implementation of European and national research projects, with an emphasis on data-driven innovation and the application of Artificial Intelligence. With over ten years of professional experience in data analysis and business intelligence in the private sector, and more than five years of experience in funded research initiatives, he bridges technical expertise with research and project management.

About the moderator



Vilija Balionyte-Merle, Senior Business Developer EU, SINTEF (Norway)

Vilija is a Programme Manager with a PhD in economics and with nearly 20 years of experience leading private and EU-funded digital transformation projects in climate change adaptation and energy. She has worked across public and private sectors, including six years at the European Commission, in Belgium, France, Lithuania, Norway, and the UK. Since May 2022, she has served as Senior Business Developer EU at SINTEF Digital, where she coordinates the €26.7M RESIST project under the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change and contributes to projects like ENFIELD, focused on trustworthy and green AI.