

“Integration of the Smart Specialization Strategy into Climate Change Adaptation Policy”

The project focuses on integrating the Smart Specialization Strategy (S3) with climate change adaptation policy to promote sustainable regional development and efficient adaptation to changing climatic conditions.

Project Objective: To integrate the Smart Specialization Strategy with climate change adaptation policy by identifying, analyzing, and improving policy instruments that promote sustainable development and efficient adaptation to changing climatic conditions.

Main goals of the project include:

1. Identifying new challenges related to climate change adaptation,
2. Adjusting business models to the changing availability of resources,
3. Identifying innovations to counteract the negative impacts of climate change,
4. Raising awareness and preparing regions for extreme climate events.

The project supports EU cohesion policy by promoting sustainable regional development, innovation, and the adaptation of regions to climate change. Using S3 as a tool to support the process of identifying and developing innovative, locally-adapted solutions aims to strengthen regional capacity to address challenges and stimulate growth.

Project Innovation:

The project creates synergies between existing climate change adaptation initiatives and new solutions derived from S3. It seeks to harness synergy potential across different sectors and accelerate the implementation of effective adaptation strategies.

Project Activities:

- 1) **Mapping and Diagnosis:** Analysis of existing climate change adaptation policies in partner regions and conducting climate resilience stress tests.
- 2) **Exchange of Experience:** Identification and development of best practices through field visits and practice assessment sessions. Key thematic areas for identifying best practices include:
 - **Innovative funding mechanisms** for adaptation actions and **public-private partnerships**, accounting for adaptation/new business models to changing conditions of material and human resources.
 - **Risk assessment and management related to climate change**, including tools and methods for assessing climate change impacts, aligned with the need to adapt business models to new environmental challenges.
 - **Cross-sectoral and multi-level collaboration** for effective climate change adaptation management, tailored to identifying new challenges and development opportunities.
- 3) **Strategic Thinking:** Forming stakeholder groups in partner regions, analyzing existing S3 priorities for climate change adaptation, and assessing the potential impact of climate change on these priorities.

- 4) **Learning by Doing:** Using knowledge gathered in previous stages to refine policy instruments and improve action effectiveness, including knowledge exchange and identification of best practices.

Project Approach:

The project is based on a learning process at regional and interregional levels through mapping/diagnosing existing policies, exchanging experiences, strategic thinking, and practical actions. Stakeholder involvement is key to the project's success and will be achieved through a participatory approach, various communication forms, and regular updates and information. Project activities aim to promote individual and organizational learning through analyzing the effects of public interventions, identifying best practices, and implementing new approaches in climate change adaptation.

Consortium:

1. **Mazovia Development Agency S.A. (MDA)** is a sectoral agency. It's mission is to create and support the business ecosystem and socio-economic development of the Mazovia Region. MDA implements activities aimed at supporting entrepreneurship and the development of SMEs and local government units. MDA has extensive experience in supporting SMEs and implementation of projects financed by EU funds. MDA's experts have wide knowledge on supporting the business ecosystem, establishment and functioning of startups, companies, risks, opportunities to obtain external funding sources. Within the Interreg Europe 2021-2027 program and Interreg Baltic Sea Region, the Agency implements projects such as BSR DeepTech Launch, PROACTsme, and OD4GROWTH.
2. **Mazovian Voivodeship/Marshal's Office of the Mazovian Voivodeship in Warsaw** is responsible for coordinating and implementing tasks related to regional development. Its activities include implementing socio-economic development strategies and programs, supporting entrepreneurship, environmental protection, and managing EU funds. The Office works for sustainable development of the voivodeship, ensuring effective cooperation across different sectors to meet the region's challenges. Within the Interreg Europe 2021-2027 program, Mazovia implements projects like SECON, SireNERGY, and IMPETUS. The voivodeship serves as the Managing Authority for a regional program funded by European resources and is also responsible for the regional Smart Specialization Strategy.