



Shaping tomorrow, together with the European Climate Pact – Event series overview

This consolidated document brings together the national summaries prepared under the *Shaping Tomorrow* event series of European Cities and Regions Week 2025.

The Shaping Tomorrow series saw the European Climate Pact joining forces with the Committee of the Regions and its dedicated Climate Pact Ambassadors to create awareness of the Clean Industrial Deal. It highlighted the importance of individual action and of citizens' role in the green transition. The event series was part of the EURegionsWeek *close to you* programme, where cities and regions took part in the campaign through locally hosted events. This collaboration aimed to boost attention and strengthen collaboration between the Climate Pact and the local and regional political representatives.

The individual country reports – covering Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Poland, Romania and Slovenia – offer a glimpse, yet an insightful overview, of the events Climate Ambassadors from the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) hosted. By compiling these summaries into a single document, we aim to highlight both the diversity of national approaches and the shared aspirations that unite them under the topic: **Climate action and resilience at citizen's level**.

The event series builds on the need to strengthen and highlight cooperation on climate action between the Climate Pact and local governments, represented by CoR members in their roles as locally elected politicians.

The purpose of this compilation is not only to provide a coherent, accessible record of national engagements, but also to support cross-country learning by presenting common themes, successes and challenges among the co-hosts, showing different approaches to the shared challenges involved in advancing local climate action. While each country context is unique, many of the reports point to similar opportunities: strengthening climate literacy, empowering youth voices, enhancing local-level cooperation and advancing inclusive participation in sustainability transitions.

The document begins with a brief summary of each event, followed by an overview of the media highlights pertaining to it.

The six events at a glance

Shaping tomorrow, together with the European Climate Pact – *Kick-off City Climate Summit: Future-proof?*

2 October 2025 | Łódź, Poland

The ‘**Shaping tomorrow, together with the European Climate Pact – Kick-off City Climate Summit: Future-proof?**’ event brought together 80 participants at Biblioteka MEMO Moniuszki in Łódź to explore how cities can adapt to climate change through innovation, community engagement and sustainable production practices.

THE EVENT AT A GLANCE

80 in-person participants
3 European Climate Pact Ambassadors
1 CoR member: **Hanna Zdanowska**,
ENVE Committee Member

The meeting served as a catalyst for local climate ambition and strengthened cooperation between municipal authorities, national bodies and climate-focused organisations.

Event summary

The summit opened a wider dialogue on how Łódź and similar urban centres can become ‘future-proof’ by **integrating circular solutions, innovative production methods and business-city cooperation into climate adaptation strategies**. Speakers highlighted the importance of inclusive urban transformation and the role of systemic change in responding to climate impacts.

Participants engaged in discussions on sustainable manufacturing, the circular economy and opportunities to embed climate resilience into local policy and business practices. The event also strengthened the **identity and visibility of Climate Pact Ambassadors in Łódź**, reinforcing their link with both municipal leadership and the local climate community.

The event successfully unified city representatives, national ministries, academia and private innovators around shared climate goals. **A key achievement was the strong sense of Climate Pact ambassadorship fostered by Hanna Zdanowska, helping bring Climate Pact priorities into the mainstream of city-level action.**

Local industry and community members demonstrated strong interest in sustainable transformation, especially regarding shifts in production practices to support climate adaptation.

Who was involved

Three Climate Pact Ambassadors played key roles:

- Hanna Zdanowska, Mayor of Łódź and main organiser and host of the event;
- Aleksandra Włodarczyk, who contributed to shaping the programme;
- Agnieszka Oleksyn-Wajda, who delivered one of the expert speeches.

The City Hall of Łódź co-developed the agenda together with national institutions, including the **Ministry of Climate and Environment** and the **Ministry of Development and Technology**. Additional expert input came from the Commission for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE) and a broad spectrum of innovation-driven organisations, such as Climate-KIC, Łazarski University, Łódź University of Technology, and sustainability-oriented companies (e.g. VIVE Group, Tatuum, Kombinat Konopny, Caruma, INTU Circular, Wearfits).

Media highlights

Poland: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#)

Shaping tomorrow, together with the European Climate Pact – *Urban Resilience and Preparedness*

22 October 2025 | Athens, Greece

The ‘**Shaping tomorrow, together with the European Climate Pact – Urban Resilience and Preparedness**’ event gathered some **420 participants** at the Amalia Hotel in Athens. The conference focused on how cities and regions can strengthen preparedness for climate impacts, highlighting the importance of coordinated governance, local leadership and proactive resilience strategies.

THE EVENT AT A GLANCE

~ **420** in-person participants
17 European Climate Pact Ambassadors
1 CoR Member: **Kostas Bakoyannis**,
Chair of the ENVE Committee
1 Climate Pact Partner: **We4All**

Event summary:

The agenda explored how municipalities can enhance climate preparedness through innovation, collaboration and long-term planning. Regional and local leaders presented insights on resilience governance, urban regeneration, nature-based solutions, climate neutrality pathways and infrastructure adaptation.



Discussions also benefited from the participation of expert Climate Pact Ambassadors and practitioners, covering topics such as risk assessment, scientific evidence and practical strategies for improving resilience mechanisms at city level.

One of the event's key highlights was a statement by Kostas Bakoyannis, Director of ENVE and EU Climate Pact Ambassador, who remarked: *"Resilience is the new form of freedom. It gives us the power to choose how we live, not to passively accept the consequences of crisis. It's not just about withstanding pressure; it's about regaining control of our future. Some may say 'there's no money', but we know well: resilience doesn't cost, lack of resilience does".*

The event was co-organised by the Regional Union of Municipalities of Attica (PEDA) and Kostas Bakoyannis, whose strong coordination helped secure high-profile speakers and mobilise representatives from across the Attica region and beyond. This ensured:

- exceptionally high turnout, showcasing strong interest among local and regional authorities;
- the active presence of 17 Climate Pact Ambassadors, representing 24% of the entire Greek Ambassador community;
- a high-profile lineup of speakers and experts who trusted and supported the event;
- effective collaboration with co-organisers, which proved essential to the event's success;
- strong mobilisation of actors within the Attica Region (where 40% of local Climate Pact Ambassadors and Partners attended), which demonstrated the growing momentum around climate resilience at the local level.

Who was involved

A remarkable 17 Climate Pact Ambassadors took part in the event, reflecting exceptionally strong engagement from the Greek Ambassador community. Key roles included:

- Kostas Bakoyannis, CoR Member and event co-organiser;
- Dimitris Kollias and Angelos Chasiotis, session moderators;
- Dr Phoebe Koundouri, Dr Panagiotis Vourellis and Yiannis Anastasakis, panellists;
- 11 additional Climate Pact Ambassadors who actively participated in discussions.

One Climate Pact Partner, We4all, also contributed as a participant.

High-level speakers included:

- Dr Haris Kountouros, European Commission Representation in Greece;
- Nikos Hardalias, Governor of the Attica Region;
- Georgios Markopoulos, President of PEDA;
- Kostas Bakoyannis, Chair of ENVE and CoR Member.

The event attracted a large number of high-level regional and municipal leaders, including numerous Deputy Regional Governors, city mayors (Piraeus, Nea Smyrni, Kifissia, Agrinio and others) and representatives of the Regional Union of Municipalities of Attica. Their presence demonstrated deep institutional commitment to building climate-resilient communities.

Media highlights

Greece: [protothema.gr](https://www.protothema.gr), [newsit.gr](https://www.newsit.gr), [iefimerida.gr](https://www.iefimerida.gr), [in.gr](https://www.in.gr), [mononews.gr](https://www.mononews.gr), [newsbreak.gr](https://www.newsbreak.gr)

Shaping tomorrow, together with the European Climate Pact – *Preparation of local (municipality level) action plans for adaptation*

4 November 2025 | Maribor, Slovenia

The ‘**Shaping tomorrow, together with the European Climate Pact – Preparation of local (municipality level) action plans for adaptation**’ event gathered 37 high-level participants at Hotel Habakuk in Maribor to discuss local climate action and municipal cooperation. The event was organised by Climate Pact Ambassador Vlasta Krmelj, who also took part as a speaker.

THE EVENT AT A GLANCE

37 in-person participants

1 European Climate Pact Ambassador

4 CoR Members: **Vlasta Krmelj**, ECON and ENVE Committee Member, **Gregor Macedoni**, COTER and CIVEX Committee Member, **Nuška Gajšek**, COTER and SEDEC Committee Member, **Ivan Žagar**, COTER and ENVE Committee Member

Event summary

The programme focused on municipal perspectives on climate action and the value of regional cooperation. It featured a roundtable with several Slovenian mayors and national representatives, providing space to share practical experiences, highlight common challenges and discuss opportunities for closer collaboration. The event ran smoothly and drew solid participation, enabling an active and constructive exchange between local leaders.

Of the many important takeaways from the event, one was the words of Gregor Macedoni (CoR): *"The fight against climate change must bring together all stakeholders (councillors, municipalities, businesses and citizens) who are involved in activities from the outset [...] Alliances such as the Climate Pact are not just political declarations, but actual mechanisms for political support in adapting to climate change"*.



Who was involved

The roundtable featured mayors from across the Podravje region and beyond, including:

- Vlasta Krmelj, Mayor of Selnica ob Dravi;
- Gregor Macedoni, President of the Slovenian Association of Municipalities, CoR member, Mayor of Novo Mesto;
- Danijel Vrtnjak, President of the Podravje Regional Council, Mayor of Ormož;
- Nuška Gajšek, CoR member, Mayor of Ptuj;
- Ivan Žagar, Head of the Slovenian CoR delegation;
- Urška Repolusk, Mayor of Ruše;
- Miran Pušnik, Mayor of Podvelka;

- Marko Rakovnik, Mayor of Lovrenc na Pohorju.

Official institutions were represented by:

- **Andrej Gnezda**, Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy (MOPE), speaker at the roundtable.

Media highlights

Slovenia: [STA \(Slovenian National Press Agency\)](#), [Lokalec.si](#), [Si21.com](#)

Shaping tomorrow, together with the European Climate Pact – *Climate adaptation in cities in Estonia: Building the New European Climate Adaptation Plan*

10 November 2025 | Rakvere, Estonia

The 'Shaping tomorrow, together with the European Climate Pact – Climate adaptation in cities in Estonia: Building the New European Climate Adaptation Plan' event gathered 28 participants at Päts Kohvik in Rakvere. It was organised, moderated and hosted by Climate Pact Ambassador Andres Jaadla, who also contributed as a speaker.

THE EVENT AT A GLANCE

28 in-person participants
50 online participants
1 European Climate Pact Ambassador
3 CoR Members: **Andres Jaadla**, **Mihkel Juhkami** and **Jan Trei**

Event summary

The event addressed key issues relevant to the European Union, local governments and the citizens of Rakvere, with a particular focus on the need for a comprehensive European Climate Adaptation Plan. The discussions underscored that implementing such a plan requires innovative approaches to increasing investment and fully utilising existing European funding mechanisms. Beyond responding to extreme weather events, the EU, its local and regional authorities, and its citizens must adapt to long-term structural shifts in climate and weather patterns that are increasingly influencing local socio-economic conditions throughout the year.

The event brought together scientists, European Commission representatives, local stakeholders and local officials. The presentations and speeches from these different groups helped everyone see the bigger picture and better understand what is happening at various levels, including what documents and systems are being developed, how they connect and what gaps still exist. As a result, it produced a clearer understanding of the current state of play, and what still needs to be done to move forward more efficiently.



Who was involved

Climate Pact Ambassador:

- **Andres Jaadla** (CoR member) – organiser, moderator, speaker.

European Commission Representation:

- **Elis Paesalu** – speaker;
- **Rakvere municipality**, represented by **Mihkel Juhkami** – speaker;
- **Viimsi municipality**, represented by **Jan Trei** – presentation;
- additional municipalities were also invited, and many followed the broadcast.

Youth organisations:

- **Young Elected Politicians (YEPs)** – listeners.

Official institutions:

- Representatives from the **European Parliament**, **TalTech**, the **European Commission**, the **Ministry of Climate**, and the **Association of Cities and Municipalities** participated as speakers.

Media highlights

Estonia: [ELVL](#), [Rakvere vald](#), [Rakvere linn](#)

Shaping tomorrow, together with the European Climate Pact – *Water resilience in mountain areas under the impacts of climate change*

17 November 2025 | Miercurea Ciuc, Romania

The event '**Shaping tomorrow, together with the European Climate Pact – Water resilience in mountain areas under the impacts of climate change**' gathered 65 participants at the Research and Development Institute for Hunting and Mountain Resources in Miercurea Ciuc to address the growing challenges of water resilience in mountain regions.

Bringing together EU, national, regional and local actors, the event highlighted both the urgency and the opportunity for coordinated water management strategies in Harghita County and beyond.

THE EVENT AT A GLANCE

65 in-person participants
4 European Climate Pact Ambassadors
2 CoR Members: **Kata Tutto**, CoR President, and **Csaba Borboly**, ENVE Committee Member

Event summary

Discussions focused on the growing relevance of water resilience as a national priority in Romania, and the need for dedicated policy attention in response to the specific water management challenges faced in mountain areas – something not yet adequately reflected in national public policies.

Participants presented practical examples, local challenges and innovative approaches to water management from across Harghita County.



One of the main conclusions of the event was that the Ciuc area has the potential to become a regional centre of excellence for mountain water management. Harghita County Council announced its intention to build on this momentum by preparing a policy paper to be presented at EU level in December.

The event showcased strong cooperation across governance levels – EU (CoR and European Commission Representation), national, regional and local – and demonstrated significant community interest. Stakeholders valued the opportunity to exchange best practices and identify common challenges in a constructive, solution-oriented setting.

The audience expressed that the collaboration between the European Climate Pact and the CoR proved highly effective, setting a strong precedent as the first event in Romania organised jointly by both organisations. This cooperation strengthened community engagement and increased the visibility of local climate action.

Who was involved

Four European Climate Pact Ambassadors participated, including:

- Csaba Borboly, CoR Ambassador and co-organiser of the event;
- Matei Lostun, Cristina Baltoi and Szilvia Bencze, who contributed to a roundtable discussion sharing their practical experiences.

The event featured a welcoming online address from **Ms. Ramona Chiriac**, Head of the European Commission Representation in Romania, who emphasised the Commission's role in safeguarding water resources.

The CoR played a central role as co-organiser through Harghita County Council. Ms. Kata Tutto, President of the CoR, attended in person and delivered the introductory speech. CoR also supported full Romanian–Hungarian interpretation, ensuring inclusive participation.

A broad range of local and regional stakeholders participated, including:

- municipalities from Lunca de Jos, Cozmeni, Sândominic and Păuleni Ciuc;
- youth representatives from Extraordinary Youth and the Geography Faculty of Babeş-Bolyai University;
- numerous environmental, agricultural, meteorological, water management and development agencies.

Several non-governmental organisations, farmers' associations, cooperatives, media organisations and technical experts also shared challenges and best practices related to water resilience.

Media highlights

Romania: [Borboly Csaba](#), [Ziarul Pozitiv](#), [Romania Pozitiva](#)

Shaping tomorrow, together with the European Climate Pact – *Climate-Resilient Cities – The Path to a Sustainable Future*

25 November 2025 | Zagreb, Croatia

The '**Climate-Resilient Cities – The Path to a Sustainable Future**' event brought together 51 participants at the Office of the European Parliament in Croatia to discuss urban climate resilience, adaptation planning, and the role of local governance in shaping sustainable cities. Held shortly after COP30, the conference created an important platform for exchange between Climate Pact Ambassadors, CoR members, public institutions and regional energy experts.

THE EVENT AT A GLANCE

51 in-person participants
3 European Climate Pact Ambassadors
2 CoR Members: **Joško Klisović, CIVEX and ENVE Committee Member** and **Ante Bilić, COTER and SEDEC Committee Member**

Event summary

The programme focused on the challenges cities face in adapting to climate change, and on innovative models for building urban resilience.

Discussions highlighted practical approaches, such as climate-proofing processes, the Adaptation Hub project and the newly presented LEAP model for Croatia, which was incorporated into the agenda as added value for participants.

Speakers engaged in a forward-looking debate on governance, adaptation and regional collaboration, while participants explored opportunities for future partnerships. The event succeeded in raising questions that had not been sufficiently addressed in public dialogue and encouraged cities to accelerate their resilience planning.

The conference created a meaningful platform for networking and exchange. Participants valued the depth of the discussions and the opportunity to connect with national, regional and EU-level actors. The topic resonated strongly, sparking conversations that organisers believe should have started earlier – demonstrating the event's relevance and timeliness.



Who was involved

Three Climate Pact Ambassadors participated:

- Joško Klisović, host of the event, keynote speaker and member of the Zagreb City Assembly;
- Gordana Lalić, panel speaker and representative of the City of Poreč;
- Marina Nemčić, participating as an audience member.

The **European Commission Representation** provided organisational support and delivered an introductory speech. The Committee of the Regions contributed actively, with CoR members joining the panel and supporting preparations.

Co-organisers included the North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency (REGEA), which played a significant role in programme development and logistics. The European Parliament Office in Zagreb generously hosted the conference at short notice.

Municipal actors from Trogir and Poreč also participated through CoR member Ante Bilić and Ambassador Gordana Lalić.

Media highlights

Croatia: [Energreen](#), [Trogirski portal](#), [Gradonačelnik.hr](#), [Metro portal](#), [H-Alter](#)