

## Priority 1. Climate and environment.

### Specific Objective 2.4 - **Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account ecosystem-based approaches.**

NB: This factsheet presents a **summary** of Specific Objective (SO) 2.4 of the Interreg North-West Europe Programme (NWE IP). The comprehensive description of SO 2.4, which contains detailed explanations and further examples **should be consulted for a full understanding of the SO in Chapter 2.1 of the NWE IP.**

#### Territorial challenges and opportunities

Rising temperatures resulting from climate change tend to aggravate natural disaster risks and water management challenges, exposing the North-West Europe (NWE) region to greater local climate variability, negatively affecting human health and safety. Large territories within the NWE Programme area are affected by natural disaster risks and water management concerns. The Programme seeks to promote climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention, and resilience considering ecosystem-based approaches.

#### Objectives

Within this Specific Objective, the Programme aims to support projects that:

- Implement climate and environmental resilience, adaptation, and mitigation measures to address natural risk management, disaster response and sustainable water management challenges.
- Embed adaptation and mitigation measures into territorial strategies and local initiatives to reduce or prevent severe negative effects of weather phenomena (e.g., floods, drought, or heavy rain).
- Implement climate and environmental resilience, adaptation, and mitigation measures, and disaster response through integrated place-based solutions and multimodal mobility and / or spatial planning processes.

#### Target groups

- **Local/regional/national authorities, EGTCs, governmental agencies, public equivalent organisations** (including agencies or para-public organisations) with responsibilities relating to rivers, environment, natural protection, public green infrastructure, etc. that have capacity to steer processes for the adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change, and drive change in certain policy fields.

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- **Universities, public research centres, private research units, schools and higher education, training centres** are highly relevant as innovation drivers and are centres of knowledge on climate change risk. They provide scientific insight and evidence to regional challenges.
- **SMEs and business support organisations** are a driving and innovative force of the economy. They can help drive behavioural change at business and industry level to address climate change risks.
- **Sectoral associations, NGOs, lobby organisations, citizens groups** can act as multipliers to their networks. They can help to coordinate communication and collaboration within the field of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

### Activities

Projects should implement a combination of activities, such as:

- **Elaboration and implementation of joint strategies and/or action plans**, for example, implementing adaptation and mitigation measures at local or regional level with the aim to manage natural risks, and/or improve the water quality/availability in surface and groundwater bodies across the NWE region.
- **Pilot actions for testing tools and/or solutions**, for example demonstration and joint implementation of solutions of integrated monitoring systems to facilitate evidence-based decisions in the field of climate change adaptation.
- **Capacity building and awareness raising activities**, for example training schemes related to climate change resilience, adaptation, and mitigation, and for water management, prevention against drought or heavy rain, etc.

### Results

The **combination of these activities** may lead to results such as:

- Climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation measures better embedded into territorial strategies and local initiatives with specific attention to natural risk management and resilience, and to the reduction or prevention of the severe negative effects of weather phenomena.
- Innovative technologies, solutions, products, and services that benefit regional climate change adaptation are taken up aiming to improve natural risk management and resilience, water management as well as address severe negative effects of weather phenomena.
- Increased knowledge and capacity of stakeholders to translate climate change resilience, adaptation and mitigation into policies and actions. Citizens have better knowledge and capacity in climate and natural risks resilience.

*Outputs and results of projects must contribute to the NWE Programme indicator framework (see the NWE IP).*