

EXPECTED RESULTS

- A Mapping and review of planning and legislative tools
- B Establishment of a Stakeholder Board
- C Development of a Multilevel Governance Deal
- D Creation of a dedicated Adaptation Observatory
- E Development of a climate information and knowledge platform
- F Creation of a climate risk index at the sub-basin level
- G Implementation of a capacity building program on technical and financial aspects related to adaptation
- H Implementation of demonstrative adaptation projects targeting the risks and impacts foreseen by the NAS
- I Creation of a specialized task force for coordination and mobilization of additional funding
- J Formulation of policy recommendations at the European Union, national, and regional levels

# LIFE CLIMAX PO

PARTNERS INVOLVED

The project consortium, coordinated by the Po River Basin District Authority (AdBPo), involves a total of 25 partners, including 4 associated partners.

Interregional Agency for the Po River (AIPO) • Emilia-Romagna Regional Agency for Prevention, Environment and Energy (ARPAE) • Piedmont and Lombardia Regional Agency for Environmental Protection (ARPA) • University of Bologna • National Association of Land Reclamation, Irrigation and Land Improvement (ANBI) together with the regional offices of Emilia Romagna, Lombardy, Piedmont and Veneto • Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change Foundation (CMCC) • Metropolitan City of Bologna • Lombardy Regional Agency for Services to Agriculture and Forestry (ERSAF) • Legambiente and its regional branches in Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta, Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna and Veneto • Polytechnic University of Turin • Turin Metropolitan Water Company (SMAT) • Emilia-Romagna Region • Piedmont Region • Lombardy Region • SOGESCA

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#### THE PROJECT

The LIFE CLIMAX PO project, co-funded by the European Union's LIFE program, aims at a climate-smart management of water resources in the Po river basin. To achieve this goal, the involved partners focus on identifying, valorizing, and optimizing the best climate adaptation strategies to protect, conserve, and restore water resources and related ecosystems such as rivers, aquifers and lakes. Furthermore, through the implementation of pilot actions, the project commits to providing easily replicable solutions to address the challenges related to climate change.

#### THE LIFE PROGRAMME

The LIFE Programme is the European Union's funding instrument dedicated to the environment and climate action. The programme contributes to support biodiversity and nature conservation measures and projects, environmental policy, and raising awareness on environmental and climate issues.

## MAKE THE CHANGE

#### WHY

Climate change represents a major environmental challenge which requires urgent and significant actions, especially in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean Region. Italy has adopted the National Adaptation Strategy (NAS), which recognizes the Po river basin district as a pilot area for studying and experimenting with climate adaptation strategies, particularly regarding water resource management.

The Po river basin district covers approximately 87.000 km<sup>2</sup>, including eight regions (Liguria, Piedmont, Aosta Valley, Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany, Lombardy, Marche and Veneto), the Autonomous Province of Trento and parts of the French and Swiss territories. Almost one-third of the Italian population, around 20 million people, lives within the district's territory. The same territory accounts for over 40% of the gross domestic product (GDP), 55% of hydropower production, and includes over 3 million hectares of agricultural land. This complexity is also reflected in environmental terms, as the entire basin hosts 684 sites of community interest (Natura 2000) and 420 locally, regionally, and nationally protected natural areas. This extensive conservation network highlights the importance of the Po river ecosystem, which harbors a rich variety of species and habitats of extreme value.

Based on global and regional climate prediction models, it is observable that the Po river basin district lies in a climate transition zone between the Mediterranean and Northern Europe, thus characterized by greater uncertainty regarding future climate compared to other European areas. This situation makes the district highly vulnerable to climate change, necessitating timely action to mitigate impacts and adapt to new climatic conditions.



#### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

- 0 1 Improving climate adaptation governance at Po river basin district level:** promoting effective water resource management by addressing climate risk and encouraging policy, funding, and technical coordination.
- 0 2 Promoting shared production of climate knowledge:** improving the understanding of climate within the district and create a platform for harmonised, quality assured knowledge and services.
- 0 3 Building capacity and awareness:** accelerating climate adaptation through information, training, capacity building, and public awareness. The project aims to fill skill gaps, strengthen the capacity of policy makers and technical experts, and promote a culture of climate risk coping.
- 0 4 Improving water security and climate resilience:** building up the resilience to climate change and variability and improving water security. The project intends to promote nature-based solutions, adopting soil and agricultural conservation practices.
- 0 5 Institutionalisation of climate adaptation at Po river basin district level:** making climate adaptation a permanent part of the river basin district governance, by establishing a multilevel governance platform, creating dedicated technical tools, and actively participating in national and international working groups to exchange knowledge and experiences.