

Policy recommendations for climate adaptation in the

ATTICA AREA

Why climate adaptation matters

Europe is already facing the cost of climate inaction. Between 1980 and 2023, climate-related economic losses totalled €738 billion – and that figure could rise to 4% of EU GDP annually by the end of the century without effective adaptation.

The IMPETUS project

IMPETUS is an EU-funded project active across seven biogeographical regions – arctic, atlantic, boreal, coastal, continental, mediterranean and mountain. It aims to turn adaptation commitments into real-world actions that protect people, ecosystems, and infrastructure.

The project develops and tests tailored climate adaptation solutions, combining:

- technological and nature-based innovations,
- financing mechanisms,
- strong stakeholder and policy engagement.

About the region

The Attica region, encompassing Athens and home to approximately 3.7 million people, faces increasing climate pressures. Rapid urbanisation, particularly in traditionally agricultural areas like East Attica, is straining landscapes and water resources. Inadequate water infrastructure and fragmented planning systems, coupled with threats to biodiversity, pose significant challenges for sustainable development.

Tackling these challenges requires strategic planning, stronger multi-level coordination, and sustained investment in climate adaptation solutions.



Key recommendations for Attica

Ensure long-term funding for climate adaptation technologies

Issue: Many adaptation initiatives lack sustained funding, limiting technology optimisation and long-term resilience.

Actions:

- Establish funding mechanisms that support continued development beyond pilot phases.
- Link financial instruments to ecosystem services valuation to demonstrate broader benefits.

Outcome: More mature and scalable climate adaptation solutions.

Enhance access to rural development funds

Issue: Farmers and rural stakeholders are often unaware of or unable to access available funding under the Rural Development Programme (RDP).

Actions:

- Set up advisory services and digital platforms to support RDP applications.
- Collaborate with agricultural cooperatives and regional authorities to improve outreach.

Outcome: Greater uptake of funding, enabling more resilient rural practices.

Improve coordination for permitting climate adaptation solutions

Issue: Bureaucratic inefficiencies and poor coordination between national and regional authorities delay approval and implementation of innovative adaptation solutions.

Actions:

- Introduce a fast-track permitting process for adaptation and mitigation technologies.
- Establish a centralised coordination body to facilitate inter-agency collaboration.

Outcome: Faster deployment of innovative solutions, enhancing regional climate adaptation efforts.

Leverage pilot project outcomes to inform policy and legislation

Issue: Results from pilot projects are not systematically integrated into policy or legislative updates.

Actions:

- Create structured mechanisms to collect, analyse, and apply pilot project findings in policymaking.

Outcome: Stronger evidence-based policymaking and accelerated policy learning.

Improve coordination in regional climate planning

Issue: Fragmented implementation of flood and river basin management plans reduces efficiency and impact.

Actions:

- Develop an integrated governance framework for regional climate planning.
- Promote cross-regional collaboration, data-sharing, and participatory approaches that include marginalised communities.

Outcome: More harmonised, inclusive, and effective climate adaptation strategies.

Develop clear roadmaps for implementing the Greek Climate Law

Issue: Local and regional authorities lack clear guidance for implementing national climate legislation, resulting in inconsistent application and delays in adaptation measures.

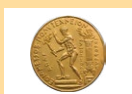
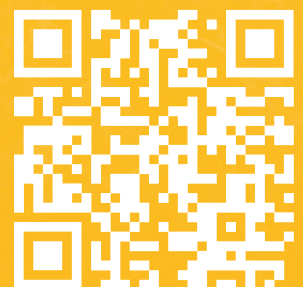
Actions:

- Provide step-by-step implementation roadmaps, including compliance guidance, monitoring mechanisms.
- Include and consider vulnerable groups.

Outcome: More consistent and effective application of climate legislation across governance levels.



DISCOVER MORE



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101037084.