

# Policy recommendations for climate adaptation in the **VALLE DEI LAGHI 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

Valle dei Laghi, located in the Province of Trento in the Italian Alps, is a mountainous region with abundant water resources and a dispersed population living in small municipalities. The local economy relies on agriculture, hydropower, forestry, and slow tourism. The Alps – and mountains in general – are recognised hotspots for climate change, with temperatures rising significantly above the national average.

This growing vulnerability makes it essential to strengthen local governance, secure long-term funding, and embed nature-based solutions into regional adaptation planning.



## Key recommendations for the Valle Dei Laghi Area

### Establish integrated communication and governance channels

**Issue:** Fragmented responsibilities between local, provincial, and national authorities hinder coordinated climate action.

**Actions:**

- Create inter-institutional working groups with representatives from all governance levels.
- Define clear roles and responsibilities to reduce overlap and improve decision-making.

**Outcome:** More coherent governance and streamlined climate adaptation actions.

### Empower local authorities with mandates and technical support

**Issue:** Local governments often lack the authority and capacity to lead climate adaptation.

**Actions:**

- Define specific climate adaptation responsibilities for municipalities.
- Provide technical assistance, capacity-building, and knowledge-sharing platforms to help local governments design and implement adaptation strategies effectively.

**Outcome:** Greater local ownership and capacity to deliver targeted adaptation measures.

 **Governance**

 **Funding**

 **Policy**

## Strengthen long-term financial frameworks for climate adaptation

**Issue:** Short-term funding cycles limit sustained investment in adaptation.

**Actions:**

- Develop multi-annual funding plans aligned with regional and national priorities.
- Earmark climate adaptation funds in public budgets.
- Leverage national (PNRR) and EU programmes (e.g. LIFE, Just Transition Fund, Horizon Europe) to secure long-term adaptation funding.
- Ensure alignment between regional adaptation plans and EU financing priorities.

**Outcome:** Stable, long-term financing to support lasting climate resilience.

---

## Improve strategic planning and standardised adaptation methodologies

**Issue:** Adaptation planning remains inactive, and methodologies vary across climate hazards.

**Actions:**

- Integrate climate adaptation into land use, infrastructure, and economic planning.
- Develop scalable, flexible methodologies suited to regional climate risks (e.g. drought, floods, heatwaves).

**Outcome:** More consistent and effective adaptation strategies.

## Embed ecosystem-based approaches into climate adaptation strategies

**Issue:** Nature-based solutions are not yet fully integrated into adaptation plans, hindering ecosystem resilience and biodiversity.

**Actions:**

- Align regional strategies with the EU Nature Restoration Law and green/blue infrastructure goals.
- Incorporate ecosystem services valuation into cost-benefit analyses and funding decisions.

**Outcome:** Stronger natural defences against climate impacts, improving biodiversity and delivering long-term environmental and societal benefits.



**DISCOVER MORE**



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