

# LIFE Platform meeting Climate Strategic Integrated Projects

21-23 April 2026, Bilbao

## Adaptation Hubs

Miljenko Sedlar  
REGEA

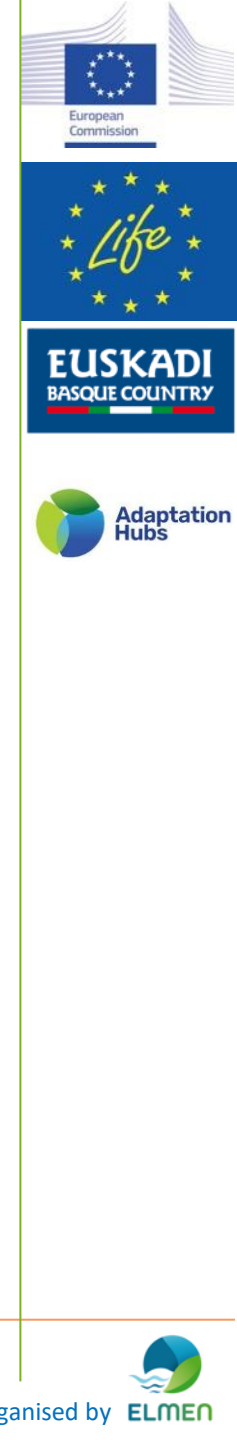


## Why national engagement is critical for Mission success – strengthening - national adaptation governance?

- The success of the EU Mission on Adaptation ultimately depends on uptake and delivery within Member States
- Adaptation policies and measures are primarily designed, coordinated, and implemented through national governance systems
- Without strong national engagement, Mission priorities risk remaining unevenly embedded and inconsistently delivered
- AdaptationHubs respond to this need by reinforcing national governance structures and Mission–Member State connectivity

**The success of the Mission is shaped at the national level, from European ambition to national delivery**

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## The current governance gap

- Adaptation responsibilities are often fragmented across ministries, agencies, and levels of government
- Many Member States lack permanent, structured coordination mechanisms for adaptation governance
- Links between EU Mission priorities and national governance processes are often ad hoc or incomplete

**Strong European ambition, but uneven national embedding and capacity to deliver**

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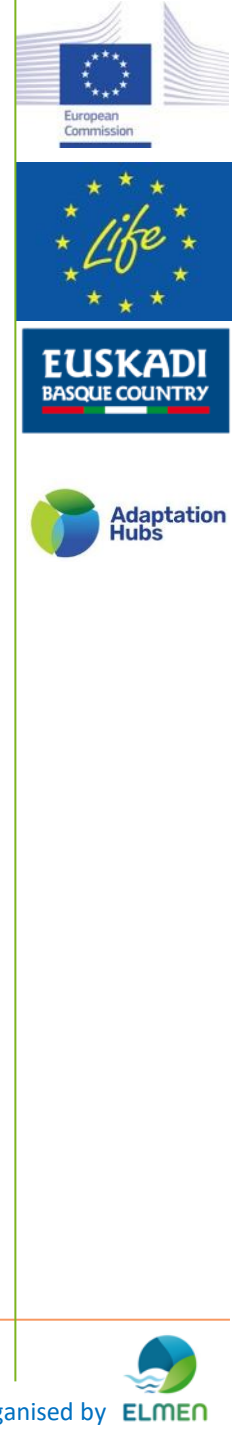


### What is the AdaptationHubs project designed to do?

- Strengthen national adaptation governance across all 27 Member States
- Support National Adaptation Hubs as flexible, light coordination mechanisms
- Provide a structured and continuous interface between Mission priorities and national governance systems

### Governance enablement and alignment, not policy substitution

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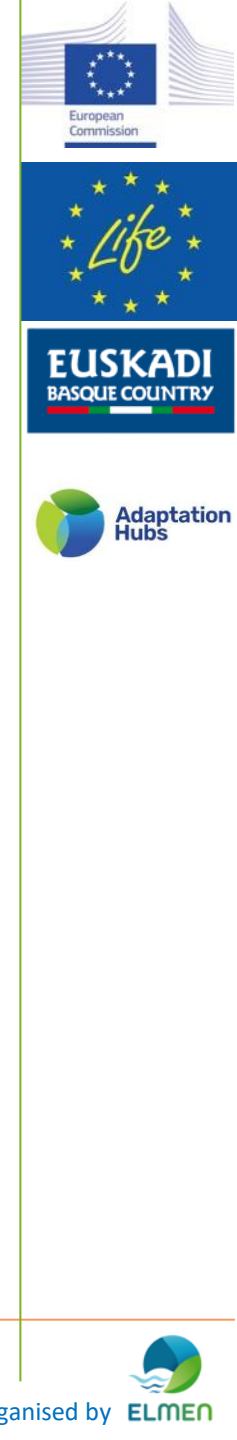


### What the AdaptationHubs project is not?

- Not a provider of technical adaptation solutions or measures
- Not a knowledge, data, or digital platform
- Not a new or parallel national institution

**AdaptationHubs reinforce existing national choices and governance arrangements**

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### AdaptationHubs as the Mission–Member State interface

- AdaptationHubs operate at the national governance layer of the Mission reinforcing the ”missing link”
- They complement initiatives focused on:
  - adaptation solutions and tools for regions and cities
  - Mission-level knowledge alignment and infrastructure
- Clear role separation ensures complementarity, avoids overlap, and strengthens overall Mission delivery
- AdaptationHubs provide the missing governance link between Mission ambition and Member State implementation

### Governance, solutions, and infrastructure function as one coherent system

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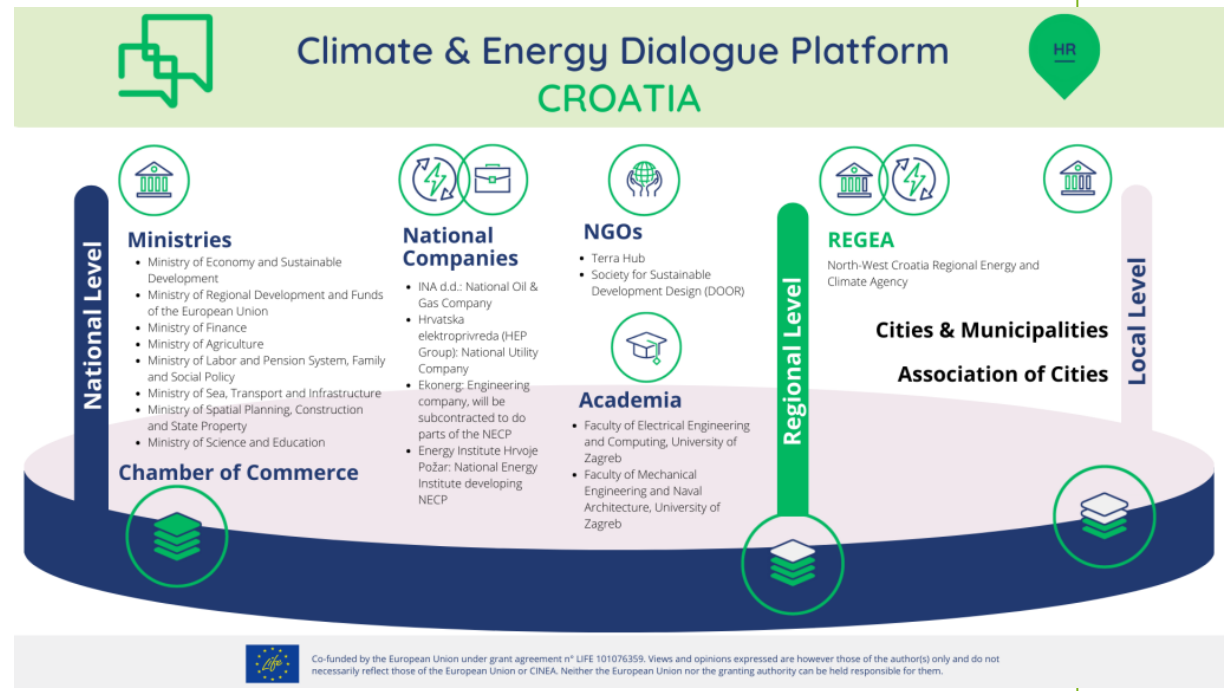


## Who participates in National Adaptation Hubs?

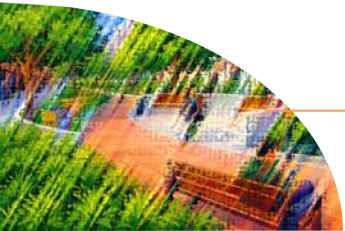
Depending on national context, Hubs may bring together:

- Relevant line ministries (e.g. environment, climate, health, agriculture, infrastructure, finance)
- National agencies and expert bodies
- Regional and local authorities and their associations
- Research and knowledge institutions
- NGOs

**Governance principle:**  
Composition is defined in dialogue with national authorities and reflects national governance arrangements



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## How the AdaptationHubs project operates in practice?

### Step 1 - National anchoring

- One experienced, capable, and well-connected partner in each Member State
- Immediate access to national governance systems and key stakeholders

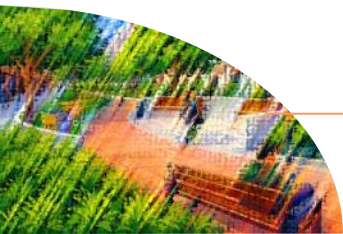
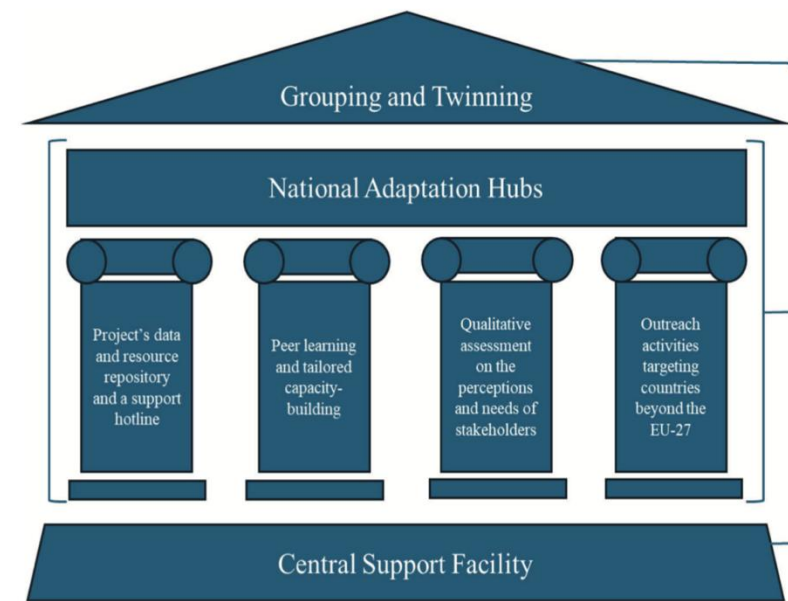
### Step 2 - Activation of National Adaptation Hubs

- Establishment or reinforcement of NAHs
- Definition of priorities, working formats, and coordination mechanisms

### Step 3 - Coordination and learning

- Regular meetings, task forces, and exchanges
- Grouping and twinning schemes to enable peer learning across Member States

**Approach: Light, scalable, and immediately operational**

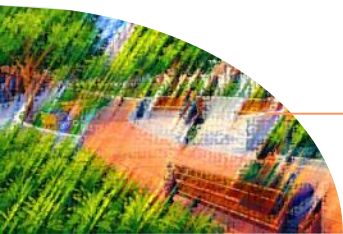
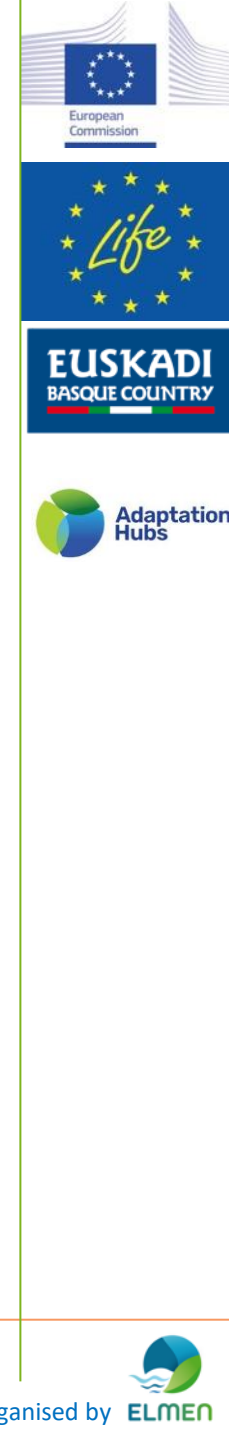


### How the AdaptationHubs project operates in practice?

- Each National Adaptation Hub is expected to convene 3–5 structured meetings per year
- Meetings are flexible in format: coordination meetings, thematic working sessions, or targeted task forces
- Indicative discussion themes may include:
  - Alignment of national adaptation priorities with Mission objectives
  - Coordination of regional and local adaptation initiatives
  - Integration of adaptation into sectoral policies (health, infrastructure, agriculture, finance)
  - Identification of implementation bottlenecks and governance gaps
  - Feedback on Mission-supported tools, methodologies, and programmes

**Final agendas and focus areas are defined by each Hub, reflecting national governance structures and priorities**

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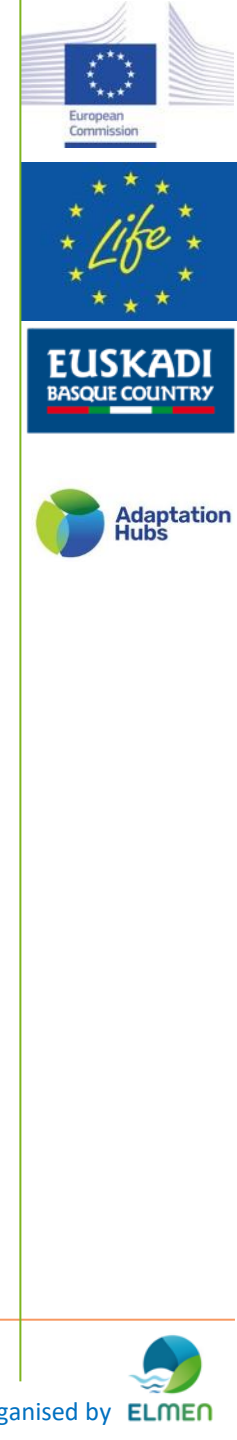


### How do the National adaptation hubs work?

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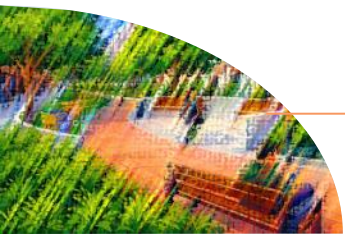
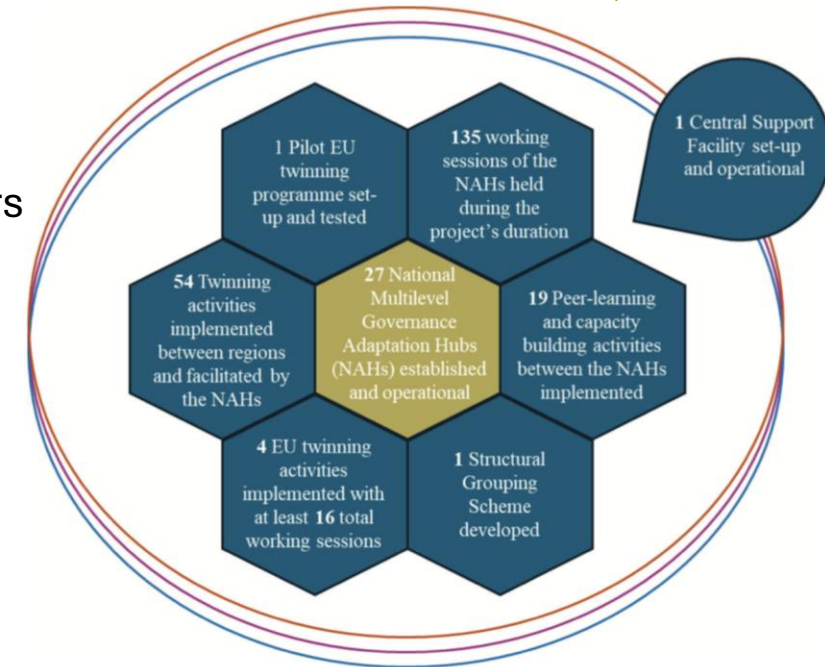
## Grouping and twinning schemes

### Purpose

- The grouping and twinning programme is the Mission’s primary structured peer-learning mechanism on adaptation governance
- It enables exchange between regions and national actors facing similar adaptation challenges
- It fills the peer-learning gap following the redesign of MIP4Adapt, also making connection with REG+

### Two levels of twinning

- Within Member States:
  - a.) Grouping of regions and national actors within the same MS (or with neighbours)
  - b.) Focus on internal coordination, scaling good practice, and vertical integration
- EU-level:
  - a.) Twinning between regions and national hubs across different Member States
  - b.) Focus on shared challenges (e.g. heat, floods, droughts, coastal risks etc.)

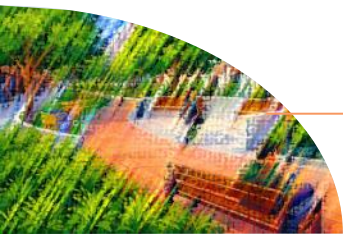


## Timeline

Nov 2025



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## PART IV — The importance for the Mission

### Why does it matter for the mission?

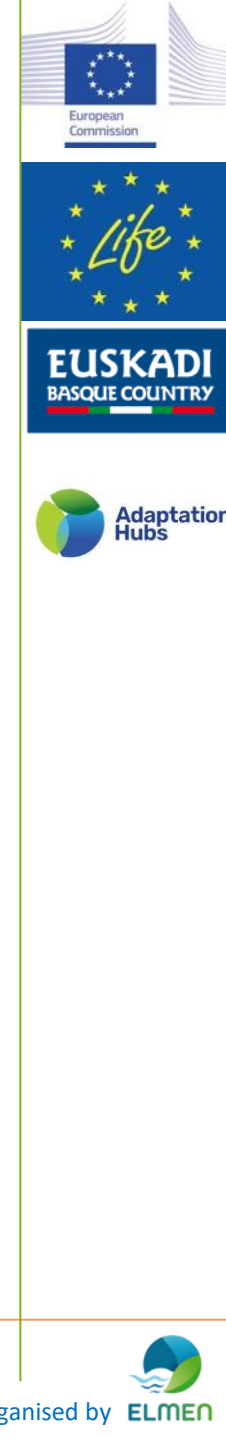
- Reduce fragmentation and uneven interpretation of Mission priorities across Member States
- Anchor Mission ambition in real governance and implementation contexts
- Improve the Mission's capacity for strategic learning and adjustment over time

### What Adaptation hubs enable?

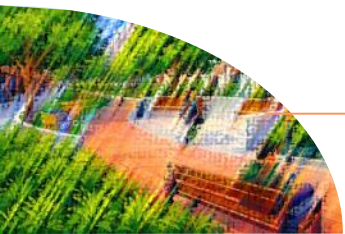
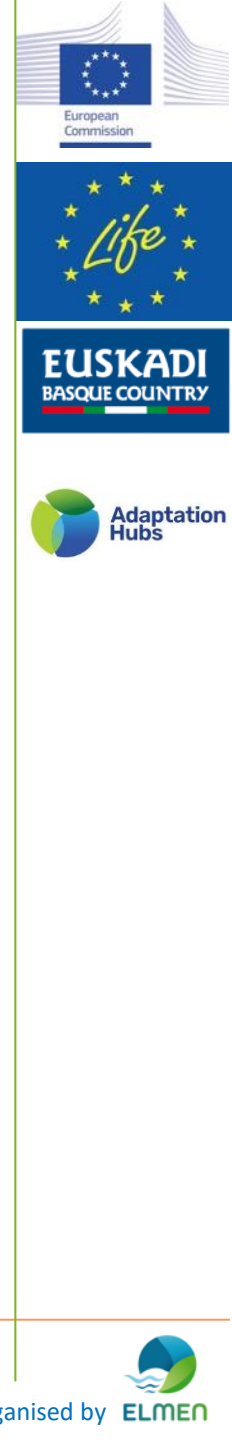
- Stronger national ownership of Mission priorities
- Wider and more consistent uptake across all Member States
- A stable governance backbone for Mission delivery

### Outcome: Stronger steering without additional bureaucracy

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# The consortium



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LIFE Platform meeting on Climate Strategic Integrated Projects

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This meeting is organised by  ELMEN