

## Adaptation Solutions to Reduce Climate Change Impact on Health in the Mountain Area (MOUNTADAPT)

### Project description

MOUNTADAPT is a [Horizon Europe project](#) funded by the European Commission. The project consortium is made up of 27 partners across Europe. As part of the EU Mission [Adaptation to Climate Change](#), MOUNTADAPT will enhance health system resilience to the adverse effects of climate change, focusing on [European Alpine biogeographical regions](#).

The project will leverage past initiatives – such as the [LIFE RESYSTAL](#), [MonuntResilience](#), and [BRACE](#) projects – to boost the community-driven resilient transformation of the health system in mountain areas and therefore limit the impact on health and wellbeing of direct or indirect effects of climate change.

This will be achieved by improving climate change health effect predictions, and strengthening health professionals' capacities to prevent, prepare, detect, and respond to climate change threats to health.

Pioneering solutions will be tested in identified healthcare facilities in Austria, Slovenia, Romania, and France. Replication studies will be conducted in Hamburg (Germany), Timis (Romania), and Andorra to prepare the replication of some solutions on replicator health systems at the end of the project.

### Key messages

- Global carbon emissions continue to rise steadily, and climate change is causing floods, droughts, storms, and temperature anomalies.
- Such events impact health systems, which in turn harms human and public health. The loss of lives from climate change is measured in the hundreds of thousands, the potential economic costs are measured in the trillions, and the broader consequences are expected to continue for years to come.
- Health systems need to undergo a resilient transformation to adapt to climate change and limit its direct and indirect impact on health and climate change.

- Communities in mountain areas in Europe are particularly impacted by climate change and it is necessary to improve the health system's resilience to the adverse effects of climate change.
- Measures need to be taken to address this public health crisis, including climate and health models, monitoring and emergency tools and systems, and adaptation guidance and recommendations.
- A wide range of audiences, including healthcare professionals, researchers, public authorities, local citizens, and innovators, will be involved to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing and promote healthcare climate resilience across and beyond mountain biogeographical areas.

## **Project objectives and results**

The project's goal is to improve the resilience of the health systems to the adverse effects of climate change [European Alpine biogeographical regions](#). These areas are particularly directly or indirectly impacted by the effects of climate change, including decreased air quality, temperature rise larger than European average, and increasing risk from rock falls and landslides caused by floods.

This transformation to adapt to climate change will be achieved through five specific objectives:

1. Improve the prediction of short- and long-term health effects of climate change
2. Boost the responsiveness of the health system in the context of climate change
3. Improve health professionals' capacity to prevent, prepare, detect, and respond to climate change threats to health and increase the awareness and preparedness of the general public
4. Design, test, and evaluate innovative win-win adaptation solutions to feed health system planning
5. Largely upscale adaptation measures and best practices from demonstration sites to other institutions inside and outside the mountain biogeographical area.

MOUNTADAPT will produce key resources to support the achievement of these objectives:

- climate and health models
- monitoring and emergency management tools
- integrated systems
- adaptation guidance and recommendations
- trainings
- impact assessment applications.

A Full Guide for Adaptation Solutions will be disseminated widely post-project, providing comprehensive guidance for replicating MOUNTADAPT solutions.

## Key target audiences of the project

- **Healthcare Actors**  
Including healthcare staff, sustainability managers, and students and focussing on scientific knowledge, training, and awareness campaigns to foster a community of practice.
- **Scientific Community and Initiatives**  
Targeting climate and health researchers, promoting open science through publications and joint activities.
- **Public Authorities and Decision-Makers**  
Engaging with EU, national, regional, and local authorities to share lessons learned and promote transformative solutions.
- **Local Citizens**  
Involving individuals and vulnerable groups, promoting engagement and co-creation for local climate resilience.
- **Innovators and Investors**  
Attracting research entities, private solution providers, and investors to advance innovative solutions tested in MOUNTADAPT.