

Technical Summary on the Climate Resilience Maturity Assessment for Regions

Online Tool – Regions4Climate

resiliencematurity.eu

Target audience: This technical summary is intended for regional authorities, policymakers, and practitioners working on climate resilience and adaptation, as well as research organisations, project partners, and EU initiatives supporting regional climate resilience planning.

In a nutshell

The Climate Resilience Maturity Assessment for Regions tool is an online self-assessment tool developed as part of the EU project, Regions4Climate. It is a qualitative tool for guidance and reflection: it aims at supporting regions to evaluate their level of climate resilience maturity, identify potential gaps, and inform the prioritisation of suitable policies to advance climate resilience and to justify funding of specific measures.

The tool recognizes the crucial role of regions in climate adaptation and resilience-building, in alignment with the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change. In fact, the Mission emphasises the importance of regions as key agents of change, to design pathways of transformation addressing regional and local needs in the face of increasing challenges, including climate change. At the same time, there is a lack of tools specifically targeting the regional level to help navigate resilience-building processes, taking in consideration the diversity of regional administrative structures and governance contexts. This tool aims at addressing this gap, to better support regional governments in climate resilient development.

1. What is the RRMM approach underpinning the tool?

The Climate Resilience Maturity Assessment for Regions is based on the Regional Resilience Maturity Model (RRMM), developed within the EU project “Regions4Climate” to provide a common understanding of climate resilience-building process at regional level. It offers a **qualitative framework** that helps regional authorities understand their current level of preparedness across key governance, technical, financial and social dimensions. Rather than producing quantitative risk scores, the **RRMM approach emphasises reflection, dialogue and shared understanding among institutional actors.**

The framework is built around seven interconnected dimensions that describe essential components of regional resilience from governance and stakeholder engagement to data availability and financial capacity. By examining these dimensions collectively, regions gain a holistic view of their strengths and areas in need of improvement. The approach is intentionally **collaborative, encouraging participation across departments and promoting regional ownership of the assessment process.** Its maturity scale also supports repeated

assessments over time, helping authorities track progress and align resilience planning with evolving needs, policies and strategies.

The RRMM development was based on the recognition that a set of regional functions, processes, and characteristics can be developed to better equip a region to face evolving and multiple climate risks in the short and long term. These characteristics can be strengthened through targeted policy and action. Therefore, the tool aims to evaluate regional characteristics that contribute to climate resilience-building regardless of the specific sector or hazard.

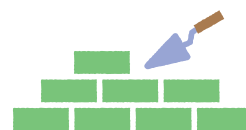
2. Why the RRMM tool?

The Climate Resilience Maturity Assessment tool was created to address a clear gap faced by regional authorities: the absence of a shared, accessible, and non-technical mechanism for reflecting on regional resilience. **While many climate tools focus on quantitative risk metrics, there was no framework designed specifically to help regions qualitatively assess their institutional readiness, governance structures and capacity to act.**

What it offers: The RRMM tool responds to this need by offering a flexible, user-friendly and participatory instrument that regions can use regardless of their size, administrative structure, or technical resources. It brings clarity to the role regions play in driving climate resilience and supports cross-departmental dialogue by providing a common reference point. Its qualitative scoring scale and emphasis on narrative context allow users to describe barriers, strengths, and existing institutional realities in a structured way. The tool ultimately supports more informed decision-making, encourages coherence across regional strategies and fosters a shared understanding of resilience needs among local and regional actors.

Main objectives of the tool

Guided self-assessment for regions to:



1.

Gain a better understanding of the resilience-building process



2.

Understanding their scope of action for climate resilience-building based on their specific regional (governance) characteristics

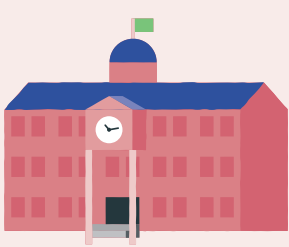


3.

Identify their level of climate resilience maturity and recognise potential gaps to inform policy prioritisation and justify funding of resilience measures

3. Who Can Use the Climate Resilience Assessment Tool?

The assessment is led by regional actors operating at regional level



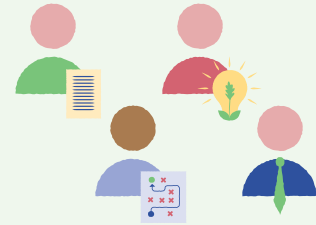
Regional Authorities

- Regional governments
- Regional administrations
- Public agencies responsible for planning or climate policy



Authoritative Bodies

- Regional institutions
- Public organisations managing infrastructure, environment, or risk management
- Agencies supporting regional development



Regional Practitioners

- Policy officers
- Climate adaptation experts
- Regional planners
- Project managers working on resilience initiatives

To be used collaboratively with input from all relevant departments and stakeholders



Environment departments



Infrastructure & transport departments



Disaster risk management teams



Energy & land-use planners



Other regional stakeholders

A collaborative approach decreases bias or subjectivity and increases the reliability of the assessment. Seek input from colleagues in relevant departments, especially when information is limited.



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4. How it was Created – Development Process

This section illustrates the methodological approach adopted in the development of the RRMM and related assessment framework. Methodological choices were informed by the intention to develop a tool that considers the unique challenges and context-specificity of the regional scale, for it to be suitable to assist regions in climate resilience-building,

An overview of the steps taken in the conceptual development of the model are stated below:

- Developed collaboratively with project partners.
- Iterative design - pilot testing - refinement. (Not just a “project tool” but a collective effort)
- Tested in 12 regions to ensure grounding in practice.



EURESFO23 Peer Learning Workshop



Consortium meeting in Sitia, 2024

Literature review: A review of literature on climate adaptive and resilience capacities, other existing maturity models and assessment frameworks for climate adaptation and resilience (often at community/local level) was conducted.



Content creation with project partners: The model was co-developed through an iterative process involving R4C partners and external initiatives. This included:

- **Collaboration with Pathways2Resilience** to explore shared concepts and ensure long-term alignment of regional resilience maturity approaches under the Mission of Adaptation.
- **Internal workshop series** (July–Sept 2023) with technical partners to validate dimensions, refine indicators, ensure alignment with other WPs and regional needs.
- **Expert feedback** received during the Adaptation Futures 2023 conference, highlighting the need for tools clarifying the regional role in multi-level resilience governance.
- **Engagement at EURESFO23**, where interactive workshops and a closed-door session with regions provided insights on clarity, regional relevance, assessment practicality, and data needs.
- **Feedback sessions with the 12 partner regions**, including a peer-learning workshop and sessions to finalise the model and inform the digital tool development.



Validation phase: After finalising the RRMM and before developing the web-based tool, a validation phase with the 12 partner regions was launched to confirm the model's relevance and identify necessary refinements. Feedback was gathered through:

- **a joint presentation** of the RRMM in December 2023,
- **a validation form** completed by each region with the support of Help Desks, and
- **a dedicated workshop** during the 2024 Consortium Meeting in Sitia.



Finalization based on the feedback received

5. How the Tool Works in Practice

The RRMM tool guides regional practitioners through a structured self-assessment across seven dimensions that together reflect the core elements of regional climate resilience. Each dimension includes a series of qualitative indicators, and users assign a maturity score from 0 to 4 based on the status of institutional processes and capacities. When an indicator does not apply to the region's context, it can be marked accordingly and is excluded from the weighted dimension score.

The assessment encourages users to add short explanations for each score, providing space to record relevant context, barriers and planned improvements. These narrative components are essential for understanding why a region has reached a particular level of maturity and how it might progress. Once all dimensions are completed, the tool generates a consolidated maturity score and visual outputs—such as a radar chart—summarising the region's strengths and gaps. The process enables regions to gain an internal snapshot of their resilience maturity and provides a repeatable structure that supports continuous reflection over multiple assessment cycles.

6. How is the assessment structured?

The assessment is structured around **50+ indicators** designed to evaluate various dimensions of regional climate resilience-building. Each of them is assessed based on a **scoring system**, assigning a score ranging from **0 (lowest maturity level) to 4 (highest maturity level)**. The indicators are divided into the following dimensions:

1. Regional Governance and Institutional capacity
2. Plans and policy instruments
3. Human resources and technical skills
4. Participatory governance and stakeholder engagement
5. Behavioural change and awareness
6. Finance and resources
7. Data and knowledge

The model recognizes that regions vary in competences and governance structures, and it aims to assess regional characteristics that support climate resilience-building across sectors and hazards. It therefore emphasizes the importance of understanding each region's specific context in order to evaluate its climate resilience maturity effectively.

Dimension 1 - Regional Governance and Institutional capacity

This dimension aims to assess the level of maturity of the region in terms of governance and institutional capacity. These indicators are focused on political support for a just transition to climate resilience, the effectiveness of regional governance structures for cross-sectoral and multi-level coordination, the engagement in networks, and the robustness of monitoring and evaluation systems.

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1.1 - Political support for a just transition to climate resilience

What level of political support for a just transition to climate resilience exists in your region?

A just transition to climate resilience entails the active transformation of the ways how we live, work, and govern our society to make it more capable to cope with and adapt to a changing climate and extreme climate events. Resilience is "just" when all societal groups have the possibility to participate actively and shape this transformative process. Also, the benefits, costs, rights, and responsibilities in this process should be distributed in a fair way, and nobody should be more vulnerable or marginalized because of the transition to climate resilience.

Depending on the specific regional context, political commitment can vary: if a region does not have legislative or formal political authority regarding climate resilience, it can be committed to supporting just transition to climate resilience at local level.

4 - Strong political regional commitment with comprehensive planning and support for all municipalities of the region to integrate just transition into climate resilience strategies.

3 - Political commitment to a just transition to climate resilience is shared among regional authorities, it's addressed in at least one key policy instrument and support is given to some municipalities to integrate just transition into climate resilience strategies.

2 - Commitment to a just transition to climate resilience is explicitly endorsed by some regional practitioners with internal discussions across departments to understand how this can be translated into planning and implementation. Partial support is given to some municipalities to integrate just transition into climate resilience strategies.

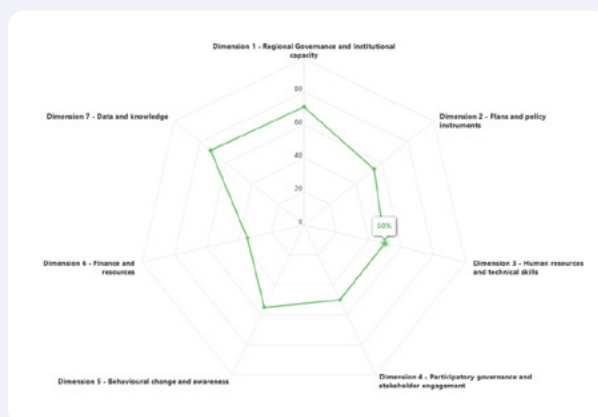
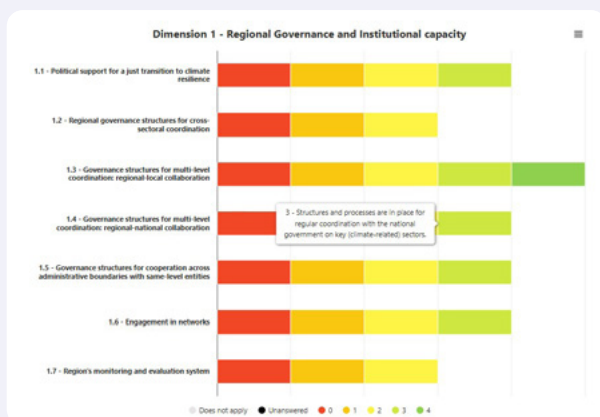
1 - Some regional practitioners are familiar with the concept of just transition to climate resilience and recognize its values, but this has not been translated in any political commitment nor policy documents. Municipalities are not supported to include just transition in their climate resilience strategies.

0 - Lack of familiarity or priority given to the just transition concept

Does not apply

If you have selected a score lower than 4, what barriers does your region encounter in achieving a higher score for this indicator?

Screenshot of the assessment page showing dimensions, highlighting score scale and highlighting the comment section



Total score: 109/192

Assessment: Resilience Assessment 2026

Region: South Aquitaine

Created by: a.bocquet-escourrou

Created on: 10/04/2026

Changed on: 30/04/2026

[Edit the assessment](#)

[Export to XLSX](#)

Dimension 1

20/28

71%

0 unanswered questions

0 does not apply

Dimension 2

15/28

54%

0 unanswered questions

0 does not apply

Dimension 3

16/32

50%

0 unanswered questions

0 does not apply

Dimension 4

14/28

50%

0 unanswered questions

0 does not apply

Dimension 5

11/20

55%

0 unanswered questions

0 does not apply

Dimension 6

7/20

35%

0 unanswered questions

0 does not apply

Dimension 7

26/36

72%

0 unanswered questions

0 does not apply



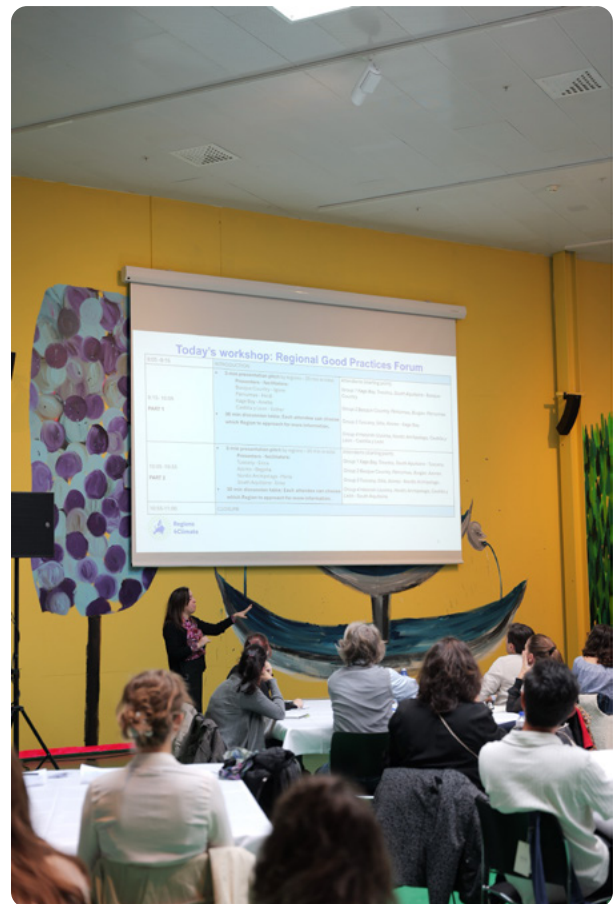
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7. How it has been Used So Far

The first assessment using the digital Climate Resilience Maturity Assessment Tool was launched in October 2024, when the tool was introduced to all partner regions through a dedicated webinar. Following this launch, regions began their assessments with continuous support from ZABALA and ICLEI. A dedicated assistance and helpdesk mechanism was put in place, including regular check-in meetings with each region and on-demand guidance to address questions, resolve doubts and clarify indicator interpretations. This support structure helped ensure a smooth and consistent assessment process across all regions.

By April 2025, all 12 regions completed their self-assessments using the digital tool. The results provided each region with a structured snapshot of their institutional strengths and areas requiring further attention and helped establish a shared baseline for comparing progress in future assessment rounds.

The consolidated outcomes of these assessments were then analysed in preparation for a peer-learning workshop held during the Consortium Meeting in May 2025. This workshop brought together representatives from all regions to reflect on good practices, explore similarities and differences in maturity levels, and identify shared challenges. Through this process, the RRMM tool became not only an assessment mechanism but also a foundation for exchange, learning and collaboration across regional contexts.



Consortium Meeting in Copenhagen, 2025

8. Benefits and Added Value

The RRMM tool provides regions with an accessible and practical way to organise their thinking around climate resilience. Its value lies in its ability to generate structured, comparable insights without requiring technical modelling or extensive datasets. Regions benefit from a clear picture of where they stand, where gaps exist and which institutional areas require greater investment or coordination.

Beyond its internal assessment function, the tool facilitates peer learning by establishing a shared framework that regions can use to exchange practices and reflect on their different resilience pathways. Because the assessment is repeatable, regions can also monitor improvements over time, supporting continuous learning and adaptive planning. In addition, the tool complements existing policy processes and can be aligned with wider European resilience initiatives, and can serve as an evidence base for shaping innovation roadmaps and guiding future regional adaptation strategies. Overall, it strengthens institutional capacity, enhances collaboration across departments and contributes to more informed and coherent resilience strategies at the regional scale.

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9. Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, the RRMM tool has strong potential to evolve into an even more accessible and widely used reference for regional resilience planning. Currently the tool is only internally available, meaning that just R4C Regions can assess their regional climate resilience through the tool. Among the next steps, R4C is planning to open it to external users to increase the support to European regions.

Indeed, as regions continue to work with the framework, future assessment cycles will generate richer insights into how institutional capacities develop over time and how governance structures adapt in response to climate challenges. The tool is well positioned to support continuous improvement, offering a consistent basis for reflection as regions update their strategies, strengthen cross-departmental cooperation and refine their adaptation priorities.

There is also scope for enhancing the visibility and usability of the tool through more intuitive visual outputs and expanded guidance materials that help users interpret results and link them to concrete planning steps. As more regions engage with the approach, the tool can contribute to stronger peer learning networks, enabling authorities to compare experiences, exchange good practices and collectively identify emerging trends. Moreover the tool could be embedded into dissemination and knowledge platforms such as [CLIMATE ADAPT](#) and the [P2R Toolbox](#).

Over time, the RRMM can serve not only as an internal assessment mechanism but also as a shared language for discussing resilience maturity across regional contexts in Europe. Its continued use will support regions in aligning their institutional development with evolving policy frameworks and in taking more informed, strategic steps toward long-term climate resilience.

For more technical information:

R4C, D4.1: Regional Resilience Maturity Model and Framework

Climate resilience maturity assessment tool:
resiliencematurity.eu