

Task 2.1 Ensure ownership and commitment

Task 2.1.1 Secure high-level support

What is this task about?

This task is about ensuring there is high-level support for the development and implementation of your Regional Resilience Journey. This task establishes how you will receive the necessary endorsement and commitment from political leaders for your Climate Resilience Strategy and Investment Plan. It also outlines the way you will mainstream the Regional Resilience Journey into other policy areas: coordinating it with other (governmental) initiatives, integrating it into policy cycles, allocating sufficient resources to it and prioritising and harmonising its adaptation and resilience goals (social, ecological and economical) across public departments and agencies.

This task seeks opportunities for a whole-of-government approach. This involves engaging with colleagues in different departments and agencies in your local government. It also means moving beyond your region (e.g., to national or EU levels) to identify any obstacles to and opportunities for your Regional Resilience Journey, elaborating on the foundational analysis established in the baseline report of the relevant legal, institutional, and operational frameworks. It identifies common objectives and strengthens political buy-in and support from the other levels of government to coordinate actions, for example around policy alignment, investments, data collection and regulatory barriers.

Why is it important?

Local and regional political support is crucial for the implementation of your Climate Resilience Strategy. Your climate adaptation challenges will likely affect most sectors in your region and demand a coordinated long-term vision and ownership. Without high-level political endorsement and commitment, it will not be possible to achieve this. Multi-level collaboration will support the development of policies that promote and advance innovative actions to build resilience, as well as the refinement of policies and processes through innovation and experimentation. Moreover, it is essential to align policies, programmes and objectives, as well as to address policy and regulatory barriers, access funding, support capacity-building, and access data and knowledge.

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How can you complete it?

The following activities correspond to the development of your high-level engagement strategy and should ideally be started after Phase 1:

- **Understand your current policy mix:** by mapping out the relevance of various EU, national, regional and local policies, strategies and programmes to your region's Climate Resilience Strategy. This includes policies that currently address climate adaptation issues, but also policies that might need to be reformulated due to the climate risks identified in Phase 1. Use these risks and the vision that you develop in Task 2.3.1 to raise awareness of the relevance and urgency of this change in policy logic.
- **Identify points of entry to policy cycles:** Make note of the relevant points in each policy cycle to present the outputs of the Regional Resilience Journey; and in what formats. Identify the outputs from the Regional Resilience Journey that need to feed into the design of relevant sectoral policies, and at what levels (e.g., strategic or programmatic level).
- **Map the bureaucratic processes that need to be considered in the development and endorsement of your Climate Resilience Strategy and Investment Plan.** Identify those decision makers that would need to endorse your Climate Resilience Strategy at different points in time and clarify the sequential process to secure support across different institutions. Identify administrative processes at regional, national and EU level that would be required for your Climate Resilience Strategy to be recognised as a policy strategy by your local government. This analysis will help you to establish vital connections between your region's resilience efforts and existing policy structures.



Insight: This task resembles elements of the key enabling condition on governance and engagement. As such it embodies two different aspects, first the development of a high-level engagement strategy and a roll-out plan for decisions to be made, and after that the implementation of these across time.

- **Develop an initial 'policy roadmap' to mainstream your Climate Resilience Strategy:** Identify how to roll out your strategy implementation process given different levels of interest, resistance to change, and alignment between the policies influenced by the Climate Resilience Strategy.

To support the above process, we recommend consulting [principles behind participatory methodologies to structure multi-stakeholder policy-making processes](#).

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The following activities of disseminating and broadly mainstreaming your regional vision should take place perpetually along your journey:

- **Engage, communicate and collaborate with colleagues at the identified departments and/or agencies.** Foster these as ambassadors or internal champions for your Regional Resilience Journey. Use their multi-sector, multi-level knowledge to develop compelling arguments and materials about the urgency of accelerating the transition towards climate resilience tailored to political representatives at all levels of government (local, regional, national). Organise information sessions, workshops or webinars to inform the identified actors about regional climate challenges, and to engage them in decision-making, regional development processes and regional adaptation efforts.
- **Arrange meetings with political representatives** at local, regional and national levels to present your region's resilience context (using the baseline report) and discuss links with national and EU climate commitments. Highlight the bottlenecks hindering the acceleration of your region's climate resilience efforts and seek support and commitments from national ministries to address these challenges. Establish dialogues about the benefits of shared ownership of the journey as a policy strategy and objective.
- **Create or use existing forums for high-level, multi-level and multi-stakeholder collaboration.** Collaborate with other cities and regions aiming to accelerate their transition to climate resilience, along with national ministries and other relevant stakeholders, such as Research and Technology Organisations, national agencies, and universities. This will enable you to support your regional stakeholders to build high-level partnerships, exchange ideas and knowledge, and cultivate collaborations.

Gather explicit forms of support and commitment. Supporters can become signatories to the Regional Resilience Journey process or to specific outcomes, as well as provide letters of intent, be part of a list of official supporters hosted on your website, among other possibilities. Where possible, be explicit about the kind of support to be provided.

What are key inputs for the task?

- An understanding of existing EU, national, regional and local climate adaptation laws, strategies and policies
- The baseline report (output of phase 1), including planning objectives (Task 1.1.2), stakeholder mapping (Task 1.2.2) and climate risk assessment (Task 1.3.1)
- Set of alternative futures (Task 2.2.1) to persuade stakeholders of their vulnerability and/or potential contribution (as they become available)
- Co-created vision (Task 2.3.1) to demonstrate broad support for resilience objectives (as it becomes available)

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What are the expected outputs?

- A roll-out plan/map of bureaucratic processes to be considered in the development and endorsement of your Climate Resilience Strategy and Investment Plan.
- A strategy for ensuring political buy-in from the different levels of government and departments within the public authority (especially at the regional level).
- Established formal and informal collaborations with institutions, initiatives, programmes and strategies beyond your region.
- Integration of the Climate Resilience Strategy (e.g.: planning objectives, vision, documents) into policy processes at different levels.
- Increased awareness among key stakeholders of the regional resilience context
- A set of demonstrably committed stakeholders to engage in and support the journey.



Before moving on, have you...

- ☐ Developed a roll-out plan/map of the bureaucratic processes to be considered in the development and endorsement of your Climate Resilience Strategy and Investment Plan
- ☐ Developed a strategy for ensuring political buy-in and support from the different levels of government and departments within the public authority (especially at the regional level)
- ☐ Contacted local, regional and national political representatives to inform them about regional climate risks, climate impacts and the governance framework to request political support?
- ☐ Organised information sessions, workshops or other awareness-raising activities to inform key regional (and other) stakeholders of the regional climate context?
- ☐ Informed high-level stakeholders and actor groups on how to participate in decision-making processes and regional adaptation activities?