

## Task 2.1

# Ensure ownership and commitment

### Task 2.1.2 Foster engagement

#### What is this task about?

This task is about developing and implementing a comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy, defining the participation mechanisms available across the length of your journey. This gives clarity on the level of involvement for each stakeholder group in each of the planned activities in the Regional Resilience Journey. It defines which stakeholders you should engage in co-creation activities, which should be consulted, which should validate certain choices, and which should be informed. It also outlines the channels, methods and timing for engaging with the various stakeholders, and defines their potential roles in efforts to build regional resilience. The engagement strategy should serve to direct your communications with stakeholders to satisfy their relative levels of influence and interest. The task also encourages you to review your internal governance structures to incorporate the desired level of stakeholder participation.



**Insight:** As with Task 2.1.1, this task resembles elements of the key enabling condition on governance and engagement. As such it embodies two different aspects, first the development of an engagement strategy and a roll-out plan for decisions to be made, and after that the implementation of these across time.

#### Why is it important?

Meaningful and active involvement of relevant actors in the process of developing the Climate Resilience Strategy is critical to building ownership and commitment. Developing a detailed and comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy defines the involvement of all relevant stakeholders within the activities of the Regional Resilience Journey and subsequent Climate Resilience Strategy implementation. It helps to manage stakeholder expectations, by facilitating their understanding of their potential roles, the timing of their involvement, and as well as their influence over the process.

Establishing safe spaces for stakeholders to convene and exchange ideas cultivates trust, fosters new partnerships, and creates opportunities for collaboration. Integrating stakeholders into the decision-making process brings diverse perspectives, expertise, and interests to the table. This leads to more informed, inclusive, and effective decisions that better serve the entire community.

Task  
2.1

## Ensure ownership and commitment

### ◦ Task 2.1.2 Foster engagement

#### How can you complete it?

- **Co-develop a comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy** together with key actors, utilising the findings from the stakeholder mapping and analysis exercises in Task 1.2.2. This document should be co-developed with the key stakeholder groups to play major roles in the Regional Resilience Journey. Find inspiration in the many resources available in the Pathways2Resilience toolkit, such as this manual for stakeholder engagement. This strategy should include:
    - **Who:** to be involved (individuals, organisations and stakeholder groups), their potential roles and collaboration objectives.
    - **How:**
      - For each output (e.g.: planning objectives, vision, action plan), define the role of stakeholders and the participation process to be used (including preliminary agendas and required time commitment);
      - Include which channels and tools will be used (e.g.: on-site workshop sessions, online surveys, participation platform, official website/email);
      - Clarify logistical arrangements and support available (e.g.: day-care, compensation to participants for attendance or travel).
    - **When:** clarify the timeline when stakeholders will be approached, and when specific contributions will be most valuable.
    - **Define:** principles for effective and equitable participation, including conflict resolution practices and institutional accountability.
  - **Communications:** develop a broad awareness raising strategy towards ensuring the public (particularly those stakeholder groups that are critical to be informed but don't have a defined active role) is aware of the Regional Resilience Journey and attracting a significant amount of participation to each of the participatory processes.
- Start to implement this stakeholder engagement strategy through:**
- **Establishing 'safe spaces' for discussion, collaboration, and knowledge exchange** among formal government institutions, the private sector, academia and research, and civil society. These spaces, whether physical or online, should be founded on principles of trust, equality, and inclusiveness. Typically, a neutral facilitator is needed to effectively manage interactions between participating stakeholders. Take inspiration on how to develop in person co-creation exchanges, by reading the AGORA Guidance on design and implementation of the in-person agora.
  - **Establishing participatory mechanisms** such as community hubs, climate action hubs, citizen assemblies, advisory committees, urban labs, or community workshops as dedicated spaces for community engagement and coordination for any projects impacting climate change adaptation (see resources in the toolkit for more details into each of these). These processes help ensure that local resilience development and policy-making are more inclusive, transparent, and responsive to the needs and preferences of the community.

## Task 2.1

# Ensure ownership and commitment

### Task 2.1.2 Foster engagement

- **Raising awareness about the regional resilience context with relevant stakeholders.** Create communication materials and organise information sessions and workshops to enhance stakeholders' understanding of regional climate challenges and potential adaptations. Ensure Regional Resilience Journey outputs, particularly insights and strategic decisions, are shared widely.
- **Involving regional stakeholders in regional decision-making, development processes and adaptation efforts.** Identify ambassadors among these stakeholders with whom to collaborate, thereby helping to engage more actors in your region's resilience journey. Establishing structures of continuous participation for these stakeholders.

### What are key inputs for the task?

- Stakeholder mapping and analysis (from 1.2.2 and 2.1.1)

### What are the expected outputs?

- A comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy
- Physical and/or online platforms for stakeholders to meet, exchange and collaborate on adaptation efforts.
- Participatory governance processes in place to meaningfully involve local stakeholders in the decision-making processes related to regional resilience.



### Before moving on, have you...



Co-created a stakeholder engagement strategy with key stakeholders?



Established platforms for local and regional stakeholders to meet, exchange ideas and build partnerships?



Implemented frameworks to ensure local and regional stakeholders can effectively participate in regional decision-making processes?