

CLIMATE-RESILIENT REGIONS THROUGH SYSTEMIC SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS - ARSINOE



Press release #1

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New HORIZON 2020 project aims to build an ecosystem for innovative climate change adaptation solutions

A brand-new Horizon 2020 project entitled Climate Resilient Regions Through Systemic Solutions and Innovations—ARSINOE, kicks off on October 1, 2021. ARSINOE is financed by the European Commission with a total budget of 15 million euros and is coordinated by the University of Thessaly. It brings together 41 partners from 15 countries and intends to be a game-changer for shaping pathways to resilience by delivering regional innovation packages that build an ecosystem to develop and implement innovative climate change adaptation measures and solutions across Europe.

Acknowledging that climate change is complex and strongly connected to other global challenges, such as food security, water scarcity, biodiversity depletion and environmental degradation, it is insufficient to use traditional approaches to innovation that focus on one aspect of the problem.

Systems Innovation Approach (SIA) addresses the developing complexity, interdependencies and interconnectedness of contemporary societies and economies, covering the functions of the cross-sectoral system as a whole and the respective variety of stakeholders. The [Climate Innovation Window](#) (CIW) refers to the European Union's innovations marketplace for climate adaptation technologies.

Towards this direction, the ARSINOE project, starting from 1 October 2021 and for the next four years will develop a methodological framework for the combination of SIA with the CIW to create an ecosystem under a three-tier approach: (a) integration of multi-faceted technological, digital, business, governance and environmental aspects with social innovation for the development of adaptation pathways to climate change, so as to meet EU Green Deal targets for specific regions; (b) linkage with CIW to form innovation packages by matching innovators with end-users/regions; (c) fostering the ecosystem sustainability and growth with cross-fertilization and replication across scales, at European level and beyond, using appropriate business models and exploitation-outreach actions.

Nine widely varied regions across Europe will demonstrate the ARSINOE three-tier approach as a proof-of-concept with regards to its applicability, replicability, potential and efficacy. These are: (i) *Athens metropolitan area (EL)*, (ii) *Mediterranean ports including Port of Piraeus (EL), Limassol (CY) and Valencia (ES)*, (iii) *Main river in Germany (DE)*, (iv) *transboundary Ochrid/Prespa lakes (MK, AL, EL)*, (v) *Canary Islands (ES)*, (vi) *transboundary Black Sea including Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey (RO, BG and TR)*, (vii) *Southern Denmark (DK)*, (viii) *Torbay and Devon county (UK)* and (ix) *the Mediterranean island Sardinia (IT)*.

Check out the ARSINOE [YouTube video](#) to find out more about our concept!

For further information about the project, please contact:

Project Coordinator

Prof. Chrysi Laspidou

Department of Civil Engineering

University of Thessaly

Volos, Greece

Email: laspidou@uth.gr



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