

# LIFE Platform Meeting on Climate Action in Urban Areas

**Date: 21-22 June 2017**

**Venue: Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site, Barcelona, Spain**

## ***Introduction: Cities, Climate Change and the LIFE Programme***

Urban areas are already experiencing the effects of climate change and they also contribute to it. Increased temperatures, extreme weather events including floods, freshwater shortages, sea level rise, food insecurity, are directly affecting urban populations worldwide. Cities are highly exposed to all the above-mentioned impacts, in different ways and degrees according to their geographic location and morphological structure, infrastructure and preparedness.

Cities also contribute to climate change, through greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for heating, cooling, lighting and transport, as well as through the consumer choices of their inhabitants. Efforts to mitigate climate change by reducing GHG emissions have become a common feature across European cities and these efforts are now increasingly combined with measures focused on climate change adaptation and increased resilience.

The LIFE Programme of the European Union is an important financial instrument in this context, by funding relevant projects throughout the EU. Completed and ongoing LIFE projects with urban adaptation and/or mitigation focus are uniquely placed to explore innovative solutions, contribute good practices and help shape future policies at the regional/local level, national, European and global levels.

## ***Purpose and structure of the platform meeting***

The purpose of this platform meeting is to bring together LIFE project beneficiaries, competent local, national and European authorities, and other stakeholders to advance climate change adaptation (CCA) and mitigation (CCM) in urban areas.

The meeting is structured so as to allow participants to have a thorough understanding of the role of climate action in urban areas in the European and international context. Intense working group sessions dedicated to concrete case studies will allow for the presentation and exchange of good practices in specific sectors, in addition to the plenary sessions, where overall policies, support and coordination mechanisms will be discussed.

The meeting is hosted by the Provincial Council of Barcelona, the coordinating beneficiary of the LIFE Clinomics project located in Barcelona/Spain. It is organised in cooperation with the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) and the Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) of the European Commission. The NEEMO external monitoring team is providing the logistic support for this platform meeting.

## ***Specific themes covered***

The meeting will focus on planning for and implementation of urban adaptation and/or mitigation strategies and action plans, including those established under the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, which cover:

- i. Measures for adaptation/increased resilience through green infrastructure in cities, combating the urban heat island effect, controlling flood risks;
- ii. Measures for mitigation/low-emissions strategies in urban transport, energy efficiency of public and private buildings, low-emission city lighting, green roofs;
- iii. Support to local authorities for planning and implementation of increased resilience and/or low-emission strategies, including via civil society mobilisation, private sector engagement, technological innovation and green financing.

## **Preliminary Agenda**

*(a detailed agenda will be issued closer to the meeting date)*

<b>WEDNESDAY, 21 JUNE 2017</b>	
09.00-09.30	<b>Registration of participants and coffee</b>
09.30-10.00	<b>Official Welcome</b>
10.00-11.30	<b>Session 1. Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Urban Areas - International and European Context</b> <i>Plenary session / Roundtable discussion</i>
11.30-12.00	<b>Coffee-Break</b>
12.00-13.00	<b>Session 2.a Challenges and experiences in Urban Climate Action</b> <i>Plenary session</i> Introduction of the working group themes
13.00-14.00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
14.00-16.30	<b>Session 2.b Practical experiences from LIFE projects on climate action challenges and opportunities</b> <i>Working Group Session</i> LIFE projects discussing water management and flood risk; GHG emissions reduction through energy generation, energy efficiency and transport; support for local climate action plans and governance; built environment and green infrastructure; and other emerging climate action topics in urban areas.
16.30-17.00	<b>Coffee-Break</b>
17.00-18.00	<b>Session 2.c Transferability of lessons from LIFE projects and contribution to climate action policy</b> <i>Plenary Session with reporting back of Working Groups</i>
18.00-19.00	<b>Networking reception</b>

<b>THURSDAY, 22 JUNE 2017</b>	
09.00-10.30	<b>Session 3. Good Practices from outside LIFE</b> <i>Plenary Session</i> Case studies of cities' climate leadership and financing cities' resilience
10.30-11.00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11.00-12.30	<b>Session 4. Panel discussion on replicability and bankability of LIFE Urban Climate Action Projects</b> <i>Plenary Session</i> EU funding sources, private finance, industry associations, other stakeholders
12.30-13.00	<b>Closing of the meeting</b>
13.00-14.00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
14.30-17.30	<b>Site visit</b>

## Information on the venue

The meeting will take place at the [Sant Pau Recinte Modernista / Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site](#) that is located between the Guinardó District and Sagrada Família District.

The Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site occupies a privileged place in the heritage and culture of Barcelona. Its thorough renovation, begun in 2009, has allowed Sant Pau to regain all its former glory, and offer its unique renovated spaces to companies and institutions as an ideal setting for corporate events, professional meetings, courses, seminars and other functions.

The Administration Pavilion, the main building of the historic Sant Pau, has been transformed into a modern complex of multipurpose rooms and functional spaces that combine the artistic richness of Domènech i Montaner's architecture and design with state-of-the-art technical facilities. Modernism and modernity come together in an exceptional venue for social, cultural and business activities and events.



### ***About LIFE Climate Action***

LIFE Climate Action is dedicated to developing innovative responses to the challenges of climate change across the EU. It thus supports implementation of the strategic priorities of EU climate policy within the Union and constitutes an important element of the overall mainstreaming of climate action within the EU budget. The Climate Action sub-programme of the LIFE Programme has three priority areas:

- (a) Climate Change Mitigation;
- (b) Climate Change Adaptation;
- (c) Climate Governance and Information.

For more information visit the LIFE website at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/>

### ***About the host project: LIFE CLINOMICS***

LIFE CLINOMICS aims to increase climate change resilience of selected territories and economies within the Province of Barcelona. Proposed actions are in line with the Spanish climate change strategy. The project also aims to contribute to EU policies on biodiversity, natural catastrophes, agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure, tourism and forests. To promote knowledge and awareness about climate change adaptation, the project involves local administrations and people working in the agriculture, silviculture, fishery and/or tourism sectors. The main objective is to build the resilience of Mediterranean local authorities through interventions in the counties of Montseny, Alt Penedès and Terres del Ebro within the Province of Barcelona.

For more information go to <http://lifeclinomics.eu/en/about-us/>