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Call for Applications: Pathways2Resilience (P2R)

Call 1: **Amendment 2**

Launch: November 2023

Closing: ~~February 2024~~ **May 2024**

Document developed by Gilda Kemper, Ricardo Silva¹

¹EIT Climate-KIC, on behalf of the P2R consortium

This document covers applications for subgrant agreement funding under Horizon Europe (HE), grant number: 101093942.



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This call document strives to provide clear and accurate information; when necessary, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document will be updated. All updates will be communicated via the [P2R website](#) and other publication sites.

All inquiries must be sent to: pathways2resilience@climate-kic.org. Please do not contact P2R consortium members or EIT Climate-KIC staff outside of this designated contact.

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Document History

Changes to this document have been made in red.

Date	Changes	Version
22 February 2024	Extended deadline until Tuesday 27 February 2024 12:00 CET.	Amendment 1
1 March 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Added an additional information session. 2. Updated call process timeline, including application deadline. 3. Updated eligibility to include United Kingdom. 	Amendment 2

1 Call Summary

The Pathways2Resilience (P2R) project aims to increase the resilience of European regions and communities in the face of climate change. While climate risks are growing and many regions/communities are struggling to cope, they are also key actors for mitigation and adaptation to its impacts. P2R's approach of transformative climate adaptation seeks to empower regions and communities through systems innovation and capacity building towards climate resilience.

P2R is a five-year project implemented by a consortium of 14 organizations, coordinated by EIT Climate-KIC. As part of its work, P2R will support at least 100 regions/communities within European Union (EU) Member States or Associated Countries¹ that are within Europe's biogeographical regions² with a total of 21M€, over the course of two calls, to co-design visions of a climate resilient future and corresponding transformative adaptation pathways and innovation agendas that ensure long-term impact.

Particular attention is needed for less developed regions/communities that are vulnerable to climate impacts and have low adaptive capacity. As such, in this first call, the selection process will prioritise regions/communities with heightened vulnerability³. This call aims to put together a diverse and inclusive portfolio of regions, ensuring a comprehensive validation of the P2R framework. Ultimately, this strategy will bolster the project's commitment to assisting regions and communities in developing effective transformative adaptation plans.

This first call aims to provide 40 regions/communities with financial support through subgrant agreements, up to a maximum amount of 210,000€, along with supporting services and capacity building activities for subgrants lasting up to 18 months.

1.1 Adaptation to Climate Change Mission and Approach

In February 2021, the European Commission (EC) adopted an EU strategy on adaptation to climate change that sets out how the EU can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050. Pushing further on the belief that we must adjust now to tomorrow's climate, the EU launched a specific mission to foster the resilience of all, be it regions, cities, citizens, or companies, to climate change. The EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change⁴, enables Europe to prepare for the impacts of climate change and accelerate the transformation to a climate-resilient Europe. The implementation plan specifies the goal and objectives, as well as implementation details of the mission Adaptation to Climate Change⁴.

1.2 Funding Amounts and Form of Subgrant and Payments

Call 1 aims to award a total of 8,400,000€ to 40 subgrantees. Financial support will be provided through subgrant agreements based on and reimbursed against actual eligible incurred costs.

¹https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

²<https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/biogeographical-regions-in-europe-2>

³Vulnerability definition as of IPCC AR6: The propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements, including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt.

⁴https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research_and_innovation/funding/documents/clim_at_mission_implementation_plan_final_for_publication.pdf

Payments to subgrantees will be made in instalments to allow for monitoring of deliverables and risk mitigation, following the planned payment schedule below. Payments will be subject to satisfactory reporting and associated financial risk factors, as outlined in the subgrant agreements⁵. See Section 10 Awarded Subgrant Requirements for more detail.

Payment instalment	Description	Percent
1	Pre-payment made after subgrant agreement is signed.	30
2	Payment made within 6 months after approval of 1 st reporting period (month 1-9).	40
3	Payment made within 6 months after approval of 2 nd reporting (month 10-18).	30

1.3 Call 1 Timeline

Call Opens	Wednesday 22 November 2023 at 17:00 CET
Information Sessions	4 December 2023 13:00-14:00 CET Online 11 January 2024 13:00-14:00 CET Online 17 January 2024 13:00-14:00 CET Online 19 March 2024 13:00-14:00 CET Online Session information will be posted on the P2R website .
Final Frequently Asked Question version posted ⁶	Week of 22 January 2024
Application Deadline	Thursday 22 February 2024 17:00 CET Tuesday 27 February 2024 12:00 CET Monday 6 May 2024 12:00 CET
Review and Selection	March – May 2024 May – July 2024
Eligibility Notification	March 2024 May 2024
Award Status Notification	May 2024 July 2024
Subgrant Agreements Signed	June 2024 September 2024
Publication of Call Awards	July 2024 September 2024
End of Call 1 Subgrants	December 2025 February 2026

⁵ See the subgrant agreement template here: <https://www.climate-kic.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Financial-Support-Agreement-Template-P2R-Consolidated-For-Posting.pdf>.

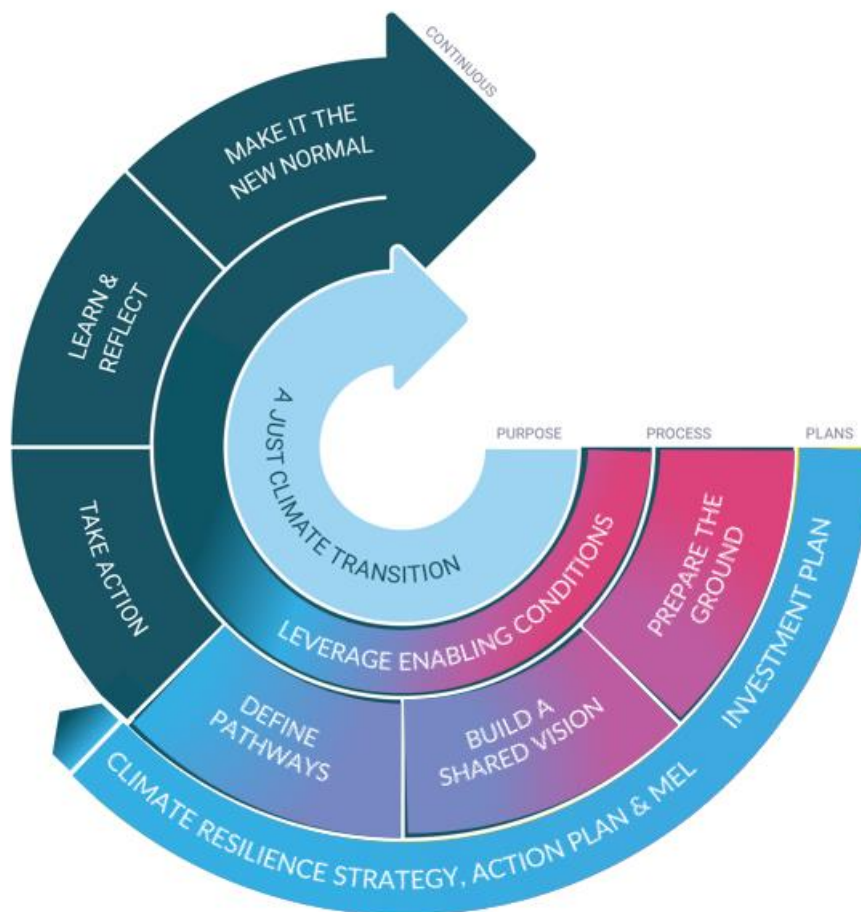
⁶ Frequently Asked Questions will be updated on an ongoing basis, with a final version posted on this date. Questions related to system registration, application submittal, and technical issues will be answered until the call deadline. Questions related to the content of the call will only be answered and reflected in the Frequently Asked Questions until 17:00 CET 19 January 2024.

2 P2R Methodology

2.1 P2R Framework: Regional Resilience Journey (RRJ)

P2R has developed a framework to support regions in their work to adapt and build resilience to climate change, the Regional Resilience Journey (RRJ). The RRJ consists of multiple steps, each containing different expected activities and outcomes, as well as pointing to different methodologies and tools that can be used.

The RRJ is part of a larger framework on transformative climate adaptation, concentrating on the planning phase. The image below places the RRJ within the larger framework.



The RRJ is a systemic approach to accelerating climate resilience, adjustable to different locals' needs and capacities. It is a non-linear, iterative process; each step may be revisited, and the process may be executed in a different order by each region/community. The RRJ is designed for regions/communities of varying maturity and capacity levels allowing them to set more ambitious or realistic goals for each phase according to their specific needs.

The RRJ will provide guidance for subgrantees on how to address the Key Community Systems (KCS) affected by climate change, as well as develop the needed Key Enabling Conditions (KEC) to support their transformative adaptation needs. More information on KCS, KEC, and the full RRJ methodology may be found on [P2R's website](#).

The text below presents a brief description of the main steps. The full version, once developed, may be found on [P2R's website](#).

2.1.1 Prepare the ground

This first phase of the RRJ is to ensure regions/communities situate their adaptation planning, within the wider policy, social, environmental, economic, and fiscal context for an initial framing of the scope, challenges and opportunities of the regions'/communities' journey to climate resilience.

More concretely, this phase is about reviewing available knowledge of climate impacts and existing political commitments, regional policy, plans, and strategies currently in place to address them; understanding who are the actors and stakeholders relevant in the climate adaptation context and their roles, vulnerabilities and capabilities; understanding the socio-economic context and dynamics, what key resources are available, important relationships and how they influence current developments, and challenging obstacles; and providing evidence for a reflection about regional priorities and opportunities for sustainable and climate resilient development.

Preparing the ground also means setting up and/or strengthening key enabling conditions that need to be leveraged for transformational change to happen. At this stage, this includes first and foremost those conditions that enable the development of the Climate Resilience Strategies themselves, such as relevant governance and stakeholder engagement mechanisms supporting decision making; and access to the needed resources and knowledge underpinning the planning process for such transformational climate resilience strategies to be developed. At the same time, regions should start thinking about how to strengthen the wider conditions that need to be in place to enable the transformations to climate resilience to unfold, for example the capacity to mobilise the financial needs to implement the strategy, mechanisms to ensure that a just climate transition such as conflict-resolution mechanisms and up-and re-skilling programmes.

By preparing the ground, regions will have the basic information on their climate vulnerabilities and risks, a first understanding on the enabling and hampering conditions to their resilience, as well as a knowledge on the ecosystem of actors to engage with for refining the diagnosis/evidence base. They will also have mobilised the necessary resources and knowledge and enabled a co-creative environment for the development of the Climate Resilience Strategies.

2.1.2 Build a shared vision

A critical step of the journey to climate resilience is co-developing a shared vision with stakeholders to work towards. Meaningful and active engagement of relevant actors in the process of building a shared vision is key to creating ownership of and commitment to the process and the vision itself. Exploring possible future scenarios generates positive narratives and leads to a shared understanding of what a just climate transition should entail for the region/community, while identifying specific potentials and levers of change. The co-created vision will serve both as a mobilizing tool and a reference to keep stakeholders accountable.

2.1.3 Define pathways

Pathways for climate adaptation and transitioning to resilience bring together interventions across multiple levers of change in a coherent portfolio of actions, outlining how each intervention contributes to progress towards the desired pathway. Pathways provide a structured and evidence-based decision-making framework to ensure efforts align with the

overarching shared vision and that activities, outputs, and outcomes are prioritized and sequenced over time.

Pathways need to be rooted in a theory of change that delineates how and why a desired transformation is anticipated to occur, while critically identifying underlying assumptions. Potential options and actions must be identified, covering a broad range of levers of change. Finally, pathways must be drawn to include sufficient options to achieve the desired vision and transformative adaptation goals in a timely innovation agenda and portfolio roadmap.

A coherent portfolio includes visible early wins that mitigate risks, as well as contribute to long-term resilience goals and desired wider societal transformation. Portfolios must balance these with uncertainty, including experiments to test innovative options that create insights for future decisions. This process needs to be supported by an iterative and continuously improving monitoring, evaluation and learning framework.

2.2 P2R Support

P2R offers a range of support services and technical assistance with different levels of engagement expected from subgrantees, as outlined in the following.

2.2.1 P2R's capacity building

P2R offers a comprehensive capacity building program directly to subgrantees. Subgrantees are required to review the resources offered and participate in the training sessions, to ensure P2R's content is validated. Feedback collected via the required reporting is described in the Section 10 Awarded Subgrant Requirements.

The main objective of this capacity building is to support subgrantees in the implementation of the RRJ methodology described above. Content will include:

- Systems innovation fundamentals: Understanding systems innovation narratives and working in complexity theory.
- System Innovation labs: Application of systems innovation theories, exploration of problem spaces, creation of joint intent and formulation of transformative adaptation pathways and innovation agendas.
- Bridging the adaptation finance gap: Supporting the development of transformative adaptation finance strategies and resource mobilization plans.
- Monitoring and evaluation: Supporting the development of frameworks, with corresponding key performance indicators, to monitor and evaluate the progress of transformative adaptation planning, resilience pathways, and innovation agendas.
- Knowledge exchange: Methodologies to facilitate learning such as online dialogue and engagement processes or sensemaking for actionable insight and intelligence gathering.
- Mentor training: To onboard subgrantees into the peer-led mentoring program.
- Stakeholder engagement: Participatory approaches for effectively involving a broad range of society, considering the intersectional dimensions of climate justice.

P2R's transformative toolbox will include resources for each step of the RRJ methodology, either developed by P2R or identified as best practice.

2.2.2 P2R's direct support

P2R will provide some individual subgrantees with one-on-one support for specific components of the capacity building program based on their maturity level. This engagement is optional, delivered only with the subgrantee's consent. The objectives of these engagements are twofold:

1. To accelerate the subgrantee's resilience journey and 2. To increase the quality of the capacity building program through closer user testing and developing demonstration case studies.

These include feedback sessions to facilitate learning and knowledge exchange among subgrantees. P2R will organize workshops, webinars, and study visits to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing. Subgrantees will be able to learn from each other's experiences and make improvements.

2.2.3 Other P2R support initiatives

Additionally, P2R will organize additional support initiatives that are not directly targeted at subgrantees and extend beyond the purpose of this call. Subgrantees may be invited to participate or contribute but are not required to do so.

P2R's subgrantees may be invited to co-develop content for the Innovation Practice Groups or Adaptation Finance Innovation Lab. Further information about these initiatives may be found on [P2R's website](#).

2.2.4 Communication

Email will be used to keep subgrantees informed of the available support activities. Subgrantees will be required to submit progress reports, which will also inform the deployment of P2R's services.

A network of experts and practitioners will be available to offer guidance and resources to subgrantees. Subgrantees will be able to access specialized knowledge in various climate resilience and innovation areas.

3 Scope

The ideal P2R subgrantee is described in this section.

P2R subgrantee regions/communities will demonstrate high vulnerability to climate impacts and have limited resources and/or low adaptive capacity to address them. Subgrantees will have a deep understanding of their local climate risks and internal capacity needs.

P2R subgrantees will demonstrate a strong commitment to the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change⁴, either as mission charter signatories or by committing to become signatories. They will also show a strong political will to embark on a transformative resilience journey. Subgrantees will be interested in exploring P2R's approach of systems innovation, whole-of-government⁷ and to work across silos both within and beyond the local public authorities. Subgrantees will be committed to improving their resilience maturity, increasing their ambition for their future or existing transformative adaptation planning work through the RRJ methodology and increasing their literacy and access to innovative adaptation finance.

Subgrantees will mobilize the required internal and/or external competences to achieve the Mission's and P2R's objectives towards transformative adaptation planning. Subgrantees will seek to develop their capacities to develop effective planning processes and outputs; execute institutional multi-stakeholder coordination; develop suitable monitoring, evaluation and learning tools; interpret climate information to evaluate local KCS; determine gaps in the KEC

⁷https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/sustainable-development-goals/eu-whole-government-approach_en

and develop a capacity building plan; identify financial needs and develop a resource mobilization plan.

Subgrantees will map existing adaptation strategies, programmes, and projects, in addition to understanding the contribution of local and national adaptation plans (NAPs) and strategies towards regional visions.

Subgrantees will develop mechanisms to meaningfully involve and engage citizens and stakeholders in the transformation to climate resilience in the regions/communities participating in the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change⁴. Their participation strategy will ensure a breadth of stakeholders, including those in public and private sectors, as well as civil society, in their planned engagement approaches. As a result, they will collect, incorporate, and centre diverse voices to co-develop their transformative adaptation strategy.

Subgrantees will integrate climate justice principles into their transformative adaptation strategies. They will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the various climate justice dimensions, including but not limited to ethics, sustainability practices, gender disparities, migration patterns, the needs of marginalised communities, economic inequalities, physical accessibility challenges, open digital access, disparities in environmental impacts distribution, and accountability issues, such as environmental debt and reparations. Consequently, subgrantees will demonstrate how existing and future measures towards climate justice are integrated within the overall transformative adaptation strategy.

Subgrantees will establish knowledge sharing mechanisms beyond their target region and will look to increase cooperation with other public authorities across the continent. This includes participating, organizing and contributing to conferences, communities of practice of the Mission and other networks for state-of-the-art transformative adaptation know-how diffusion.

Finally, subgrantees will have thoughtful resource allocation across activity types, KCS, and other stakeholders.

3.1 Deliverables

Subgrantees will be expected to report their actions against the steps described in the RRJ (linked to payment installments 2 and 3). Particularly, they will have to submit the following deliverables:

- Baseline report
- Climate Resilience Strategy
- Climate Resilience Action Plan
- Climate Resilience Investment Plan

by the end of the program and before the final payment from the consortium side.

Detailed information and guidance to develop each deliverable will be provided within the RRJ capacity building.

3.2 Outcomes

The expected results of P2R subgrants are:

- Mobilising regional interest and progressively elevating the ambition and capability of regions;
- Development of climate resilience pathways and connected innovation agendas with the support of the regional resilience journey framework (and supporting services);

- Activating engagement of citizens and diverse stakeholders in the co-creation of the pathways;
- Increasing knowledge on transformative adaptation innovation across KCS and KEC;
- Boosting literacy and access to innovative adaptation finance; and
- Baseline and monitoring regional resilience capabilities through the Resilience Maturity Curve (RMC).

3.3 Eligible Activities

Subgrants may involve a combination of activities, including construction of RRJs and innovation agendas, capacity building, stakeholder engagement, project management, communication, and dissemination, including reporting.

Eligible subgrant activities will follow the provision for activities under Horizon Europe (HE) costs categories, and will be organized along the following:

- Activities to develop regional pathways, plans and innovation portfolios towards climate resilience building on existing assessments of trends and projections of future climate change risks.
- Activities supporting the process of developing the pathways as specified in the scope topic text including relevant stakeholder engagement and capacity building.
- Activities related to communication, dissemination and exploitation and project management activities.

Specifically, these activities may include:

1. Deliverable development (e.g. regional pathways, plans and innovation portfolios towards climate resilience building on existing assessments of trends and projections of future climate change risks);
2. Stakeholder engagement and involvement;
3. Capacity building, internal and external training related to resilience;
4. Communication, dissemination, and exploitation;
5. Exchanges with other subgrantees and other regions;
6. Monitoring and evaluation; and
7. Project management and local coordination.

Activities related to demonstration and deployment of climate adaptation solutions are not eligible for funding under this call.

4 Eligible Subgrant Costs

For subgrant budgets to be compliant under P2R, the EU Funding Programmes 2021-2027 must be followed. The P2R subgrants may cover direct costs: personnel; travel and subsistence; equipment; other goods and services; and subcontracting, following applicable HE rules. Please refer to the HE rules to determine eligible costs.

4.1 Indirect Costs

Per HE rules, indirect costs are based on a flat rate of 25 percent, calculated on the direct costs. Indirect costs cannot be calculated on subcontracting costs.

5 Admissibility and Eligibility

⁸https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf

The following section outlines the admissibility and eligibility requirements for a subgrant award. Applicants must meet all the following requirements to move on to the next stage in the process.

- 1.5.1. Applications must be complete, including any required uploaded documents and RMC assessment.
- 1.5.2. Applications must be submitted on time as specified in Section 1.3 Call 1 Timeline.
- 1.5.3. Applications must be in English.
- 1.5.4. Applicants must be regions/communities that are part of EU Member States or Associated Countries¹ that are within [Europe's biogeographical regions](#)^{2,9}.

United Kingdom (UK)

~~Note that while the EC and the UK government reached an agreement in principle on the association of the UK to HE as of 1 January 2024, the agreement provides that association would only apply for award procedures implementing 2024 budget and onwards. Given that this call is implementing 2021 budget appropriations, therefore, UK entities are ineligible to participate in any funded role for this call.~~

Restrictive Measures

Note that entities subject to EU restrictive measures (e.g.: sanctions¹⁰) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), as well as Article 75 TFEU¹⁰, are ineligible to participate as recipients of subgrants (e.g. financial support to third parties) or subcontractors. Specific conditions exist for: non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine, Russia, Belarus¹¹ and Hungary¹².

- 1.5.5. Applicants must also be legal entities defined as:
 - a. Public authorities at Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) 1, 2 and 3 level, and Local Administrative Units (LAU)¹³; or
 - b. Bodies governed by public law in compliance with Article 2.4 of the Directive 2014/24/EU¹⁴.

Examples of potential applicants are Regional Development Agencies, Research Centres, Community Associations.

- 1.5.6. Applicants must have registered for a Participant Identification Code (PIC) number¹⁵ at time of application, which will be validated at the subgrant agreement

⁹ Following the accession of the UK to the Horizon Europe Programme, UK regions (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales are eligible for funding).

¹⁰https://finance.ec.europa.eu/eu-and-world/sanctions-restrictive-measures/overview-sanctions-and-related-resources_en. See also <https://www.sanctionsmap.eu/#/main>.

¹¹ Given the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the involvement of Belarus, there is currently no appropriate context allowing the implementation of the actions foreseen in this programme with legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government controlled territories of Ukraine. Therefore, even where such entities are not subject to EU restrictive measures, such legal entities are ineligible to participate as recipients of financial support to third parties (subgrants) or subcontractors.

¹² Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16th December 2022, no legal commitments (i.e. financial support to third parties/subgrants) can be signed with Hungarian public interest trusts established under Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain. Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals. However, in case the Council measures are not lifted, such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (i.e. recipients of financial support to third parties, subgrants, or subcontractors).

¹³ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nuts/national-structures>

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/213256/ffc820d6-6238-4ccd-9294-bd9ce3c878e3.pdf#page=null>

¹⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register>

stage. All subgrant awards will be tentative pending successful validation of the PIC number.

Consortia applications, also referred to as multi-beneficiary applications, among regions/communities are encouraged and eligible to apply but **must have a single designated Coordinator**. Only those defined under 1.5.5.a and 1.5.5.b may be a consortium coordinator. Private non-profit bodies and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) following the EU definition by the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC and in the SME user guide¹⁶ may be part of a consortium as consortium partners.

5.1 Consortium Roles:

5.1.1 Consortium Coordinator

The coordinator is the primary contact and represents the application and subgrant beneficiaries. Sole Applicants, also referred to as mono-beneficiary applicants, hold the coordinator role. At a minimum, the coordinator is responsible for:

- a. Submitting a single application, including all required attachments;
- b. The signature of the subgrant agreement (the other consortium members sign a consortium agreement);
- c. Leading the consortium agreement drafting and signature process;
- d. Distributing payments to any consortium partners; and
- e. Managing the delivery of and compliance to the subgrant ensuring high-quality and on-time reporting.

5.1.2 Consortium Partners

Consortium partners are responsible for:

- a. Collectively contributing to a smooth and successful implementation of the subgrant (i.e. implement their part of the action properly, comply with their own obligations under the subgrant and support the coordinator in their obligations); and
- b. Compliance with all the other provisions of the subgrant and all the applicable provisions of EU, international and national law, including general principles, such as fundamental rights, values, and ethical principles.

6 Application Submission

6.1 Submission Format

Go to <https://www.pathways2resilience.eu/first-open-call/> for information on how to register and apply. Please note that submissions outside of the system will not be accepted.

6.2 Application Language

Applications must be in English. Exceptions may be made for supporting documents, which may be written in one of the official languages spoken in the region/community for which the application is being submitted¹⁷.

¹⁶https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/sme-definition_en

¹⁷P2R reserves the right to request a translation at any time. P2R also reserves the right not to pass additional information to evaluators if not provided in English or supported by a translation.

6.3 Deadline

Applications must be submitted by the deadline, as specified in the Section 1.3 Call 1 Timeline. Late applications will not be accepted.

6.4 Data

The P2R call is implemented by the P2R consortium coordinator, EIT Climate-KIC, which means that application data will be received and stored by EIT Climate-KIC, through Plaza, its call and grant management system. As such, all registrants in the system are required to accept EIT Climate-KIC's General Terms and Conditions¹⁸, which also includes the Privacy Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, and Cookie Policy. Registrants warrant and represent that they have authority to agree and accept these on behalf of their named organisation.

The public sharing of data may include, but is not limited to, P2R making the outcome of this call available on its website in relation to statistics on number of applications per country; per topic; budget; and funding. Information on each activity selected for funding, including data on each applicant and abstracts of the activity applications, may also be made available for publication purposes.

Personal data provided may be processed and certain sensitive data elements may be visible to P2R consortium partners. The applicant warrants and represents that in providing personal data in connection with the application, the data subjects have consented to the provision of this personal data and the processing of it by P2R in the manner indicated in accordance with EIT Climate-KIC's Privacy Policy, and that the organisation provides the personal data in accordance with applicable law.

Applicants shall comply with applicable data protection legislation, including, but not limited to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and any national implementing laws, regulations, and secondary legislation, in each case as amended, supplemented, or replaced from time to time.

6.5 Confidentiality

Applications will be treated confidentially, and documents received in accordance with EIT Climate-KIC's Privacy Policy¹⁹, which has been adopted by the P2R project, or as otherwise indicated throughout the application form (i.e., city name, project title, summary description).

P2R consortium members, evaluators, and decision makers are prohibited from discussing or disclosing non-publicly available information or contributing to the development of applications. Violation of confidentiality may result in removal from the consortium and removal of the applicant's application.

7 Review Processes

All applications will be reviewed fairly and transparently. To protect against conflicts of interest, all evaluators and decision makers will abide by the EIT Climate-KIC's Conflicts of Interest & Gifts Policy and Anti-Fraud, Corruption & Bribery Policy^{19,20}. Violation of the policies may result in removal from the P2R consortium and removal of the applicant's application.

¹⁸EIT Climate-KIC, as the coordinator of the P2R project, is hosting the call on its call platform.

¹⁹EIT Climate-KIC, as the coordinator of the project, will follow its policies regarding privacy, confidentiality, conflict of interest and gifts, anti-fraud, corruption, and bribery for the P2R project.

²⁰<https://www.climate-kic.org/policies/privacy-policy/>

A total of 40 applications will receive funding in this call.

7.1 Admissibility and Eligibility Review

Each application will be reviewed on whether it meets the admissibility and eligibility criteria, as outlined in the Section 5 Admissibility and Eligibility. Applications must meet all requirements to move on to the next stage.

7.1.1 Pre-Screening

For applications deemed admissible and eligible, and **only** if the number of applications is twice or more the number of subgrants sought, a two-step top-down approach will be used to create a pool of 80 applications that will progress to the next stage.

Step 1: Country's Climate Change Risk Index Assessment

The 80 available slots will be distributed as equally as possible across all the countries from which applicants belong.

In this step, the Joint Research Centre's (JRC) INFORM Climate Change Risk Index will be employed to assess a country's impacts of climate change on the future risk of humanitarian crises and disasters (using the specific parameters: 2050, RCP 8.5, Constant Population)^{21,22}. Following this assessment, the maximum number of slots in the pool of 80 applications will be determined for each participating country. Priority in pool construction will be given to countries with the highest vulnerability, indicated by the highest INFORM Climate Change Risk Index values.

Example: Country A, with a higher vulnerability, would be allocated a larger number of slots in the pool compared to Country B.

Step 2: Region's Population size assessment

After completing Step 1, Step 2 will prioritize the allocation of available slots to specific regions within each country. This allocation will be based on three population size levels²³:

1. Over 3 million inhabitants: Slots will be allocated to regions with populations exceeding 3 million.
2. 3 million to 800,000 inhabitants: Slots will be distributed to regions within this population range.
3. Less than 800,000 inhabitants: Regions with populations less than 800,000 will receive their allocated slots.

The priority is given to regions with diverse populations, ensuring that at least one slot is allocated to regions from each population size level. Subsequently, if there are remaining slots, preference is extended to regions with the highest population. The allocation is conducted according to the specified criteria, fostering a balanced distribution that considers both diversity and population size.

In the event of multiple regions with similar population sizes within the same country, priority is accorded to applications demonstrating high vulnerability and low adaptive capacity to climate change impacts. This assessment is objectively conducted using the Vulnerability Index

²¹<https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Climate-Change/INFORM-Climate-Change-Tool>

²²Countries where the data is not available (e.g.: Faroe Islands) will have their ranking assumed to be equivalent to the mean of the closest territories.

²³Population data will be sourced from national census data and/or statistical offices where available. Estimates will be used where necessary.

produced by the JRC Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC) at the relevant level for comparison (NUTS2 or NUTS3)²⁴.

NUTS1 values will be extrapolated by the average of the underlying NUTS2 regions, accessible through the Risk Data Hub. In cases where data is unavailable within the country, the corresponding national mean vulnerability value at that level will be utilized. If tie scores persist, the RMC self-assessment, as described in the Section 7.1.2 Resilience Maturity Curve (RMC), will be used.

Example 1:

Country A, with three available slots and five applications (3 A, 1 B, 1 C), will be allocated one slot to each population size category: A, B, and C to ensure the population size diversity criteria.

Example 2:

Country A, with four available slots and five applications (3 A, 1 B, 1 C), will be allocated one slot to each population size category by default: A, B, and C, ensuring the fulfilment of population size diversity criteria. Out of the three A-type regions, the two with the highest vulnerability (as determined by the Vulnerability Index) will be given priority into the two available slots. In instances of ties, the RMC self-assessment score for low adaptive capacity will be used as a deciding factor.

Example 3:

Country A, with four available slots and five applications (2 A, 1 B, 2 C), will be allocated one slot to each population size category: A, B, and C, ensuring compliance with the population size diversity criteria. An additional slot will be assigned to the A region type, fulfilling the condition of prioritizing regions with the highest population.

7.1.2 Resilience Maturity Curve (RMC)

The RMC is designed as a monitoring and evaluation tool to assess the maturity of regions/communities. For the purposes of this open call, the RMC will serve to assess regions/communities' **Adaptive capacity** (e.g., internal factors) through data provided by applicants in the RMC self-assessment portion of the application.

A "high RMC score" indicates a low adaptive capacity.

Adaptive capacity is determined through the RMC applicant's self-assessment using a set of indicators to measure a region/community's lack of readiness to prepare for and respond to climate change.

The RMC adaptive capacity is assessed on an ordinal scale from 0 to 10, where 0 represents "excellent capacities" and 10 represents "no capacities". The following capacities will be self-assessed by applicants:

- Adaptive planning and transformative climate governance mechanisms enabling inclusive decision-making, vertical and horizontal coordination;
- Institutional and financial capacities; and
- Use of data and knowledge systems, along with monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks for transformative adaptation.

7.2 Evaluation

Not more than two times the number of successful subgrantees (up to 80) will proceed to the evaluation stage.

²⁴See <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/risk-data-hub#/dashboardvulnerability>.

Applications that proceed to evaluation will be evaluated by at least three independent experts against the published evaluation criteria in Section 7.4 Instructions and Admissibility/Eligibility, Evaluation, and Selection Criteria.

The following will be used to score the evaluation criteria.

Score	Description
0	Application fails to address the criteria or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Poor. The criteria are inadequately addressed and/or there are serious weaknesses.
2	Fair. The application broadly addresses the criteria, but there are significant weaknesses.
3	Good. The application addresses the criteria well, but several shortcomings are present.
4	Very good. The application addresses the criteria very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5	Excellent. The application successfully addresses all aspects of the criteria. Any shortcomings are minor.

Applications in this phase that reach a threshold of 55 total points (out of 100) will proceed to Strategic Selection²⁵.

7.3 Strategic Selection

The goal of Strategic Selection is to obtain the highest performing portfolio, consisting of 40 tentative subgrantees. This stage involves a contextual assessment that considers and prioritises a portfolio of regions/communities based on adaptation priorities and areas of research and innovation in the mission (assessed via KCS and KEC prioritization); geographical coverage; climate risk type; impact; and diversity. The goal of this stage is to obtain a representative portfolio that reflects the diversity of eligible regions/communities. As such, individual applications will not be scored and/or ranked during Strategic Selection. A Strategic Selection Committee comprised of representatives from the P2R Consortium will use the following criteria to assess and determine the subgrant portfolio.

The following diversity criteria will be considered in determining the portfolio:

1. **Countries:** The portfolio will be diversified in terms of countries represented with the goal of containing the maximum number of countries.
2. **Bioregions:** The portfolio will contain representation of the maximum number of EU bioregions²⁶.
3. **Climate risk type:** The portfolio will have representation of as many climate risks^{27,28} (i.e., heat stress, coastal flooding, river flooding, flash flooding, wildfires, droughts) as possible.
4. **Scale:** The portfolio will have representation of as many different region/community scales (e.g., population thresholds of over 3 million; 3 million to 800,000; and less than 800,000) as possible.

²⁵P2R reserves the right to adjust the threshold depending on the overall quality and number of applications received.

²⁶As defined here:

https://portal.discomap.eea.europa.eu/arcgis/home/webmap/viewer.html?url=https://bio.discomap.eea.europa.eu/arcgis/rest/services/BioRegions/BiogeographicalRegions_WM/MapServer&source=sd

²⁷See <https://gis-portal.espon.eu/arcgis/apps/storymaps/stories/691e08159ed943ba8d36468e5df9e141>

²⁸In cases where data is not available, the applicant is considered neutral within this criterion, gaining neither advantage or disadvantage.

5. *Typology*: The portfolio will have representation of the maximum number of regional typologies (i.e., coastal; mountain; island; rural-urban remoteness²⁹; border). Typology data and rules will be obtained from NUTS2021 statistical data³⁰ and extrapolated where necessary (e.g., NUTS1 and NUTS2 regions will be averaged across NUTS3 values).
6. *KCS and KEC prioritization*: The portfolio will aim for a balanced prioritization of both KCS (water management; ecosystems and nature-based solutions; climate proofing of critical public infrastructure; land use and food systems; health and human wellbeing; local economic systems) and KEC (knowledge and data; governance and engagement; finances and resources; capabilities and skills; behavioural change; experimentation and reflective adjustment), as measured by the responses in the application form.

In the event of all other factors being equal when deciding which applications to include in the portfolio, priority will be given to those with the highest evaluation score (55-100). Where ties persist, priority will be given to those with the highest RMC self-assessment score (0-10).

²⁹Sub-typologies of urban-rural remoteness: predominantly urban; intermediate, close to a city; intermediate, remote; predominantly rural, close to a city; predominantly rural, remote

³⁰<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/345175/629341/NUTS2021.xlsx>

7.4 Instructions and Admissibility/Eligibility, Evaluation, and Selection Criteria

The following will be used to determine admissibility/eligibility, evaluation, and selection.

Section	Subsection	Instruction to Applicants	How Evaluated	Score/Weight
Admissibility and Eligibility		<p>Go to https://www.pathways2resilience.eu/first-open-call/ for information on how to register and apply. Complete the entire application, in English and submit on-time.</p> <p>The RMC Self-Assessment measures regional resilience by assessing its capacity to adapt to a changing climate, anticipate and absorb impacts and transform itself to stop its limits being exceeded. When completing the RMC Self-Assessment, respond to as many questions as possible.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the application complete and submitted on-time? 2. Were the application responses in English? 3. Is applicant a region/community of EU Member States or Associated Countries, within Europe's biogeographical regions as defined in the section 5 Admissibility and Eligibility? 4. Is applicant a public authority at NUTS or LAU or a body governed by public law as defined in 5 Admissibility and Eligibility? 5. Is applicant a local/regional/national organisation? 6. If applicant is not a local/regional/national organisation, is 	Pass/Fail

Section	Subsection	Instruction to Applicants	How Evaluated	Score/ Weight
			there a signed commitment letter from the specific region?	
	Pre-Screening	Applicant will have already provided the required data for the RMC as part of the application.	RMC score derived from self-assessment; country, and population scale level.	
Evaluation	1. Commitment	1.1.In the online call submission platform, describe the region/community's alignment with the EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change ⁴ and P2R's outcomes (see the Section 3.2 Outcomes)	1.1.How well did the applicant demonstrate/or will demonstrate the commitment (e.g., being a mission charter signatory, demonstrating existing aligned policies and initiatives, etc.)?	20
	2. Stakeholder Engagement	1.2.In the online call submission platform, describe the region/community's: a) Engaged stakeholder typology (e.g., public, private, civil society). b) Planned stakeholder engagement approach.	1.2.How well did the applicant demonstrate the reach and depth of stakeholder engagement activities, ideally being highly participatory and involving the least privileged/most affected by adaptation?	20
	3. Justice	1.3.In the online call submission platform, describe the region/community's approach to the various dimensions of climate justice, including but not limited to ethics, sustainability practices, gender, migration, marginalised groups, economic inequality, physical accessibility, digital open access, unevenly distributed environmental impacts, and accountability, including environmental debt and reparations.	1.3.How well did the applicant demonstrate awareness, capacity, and commitment to tackle multiple climate justice dimensions?	20
	4. Need for Support	1.4.In the online call submission platform, describe the region/community's vulnerability, limited resources, and/or low adaptive capacity to climate impacts.	1.4.How well did the applicant demonstrate local awareness of vulnerability and internal capacity needs?	20

Section	Subsection	Instruction to Applicants	How Evaluated	Score/Weight
	5. Knowledge Sharing	1.5. In the online call submission platform, describe the region/community's planned knowledge sharing activities (e.g.: participating in expert conferences, producing written content, organizing inter-regional working groups or communities of practice) beyond the target region/community.	1.5. How well did the applicant demonstrate the reach and depth of knowledge sharing activities, both participating, organizing and contributing?	10
	6. Resources	1.6. In the online call submission platform: a) Provide a budget, estimating budget usage across any consortium partners, activity type (e.g., training, engagement, awareness raising) and Cost Category for all applicant entities. b) Describe the region/community's resources mobilization plan beyond the subgrant budget.	1.6. How well did the applicant's budget match the resource mobilization plan and the rest of the application?	10
Evaluation Stage Total Points				100
Strategic Selection	Diversity considerations for countries; bioregions; climate risk type; impact; typology; KCS and KEC prioritization	In the call submission platform, determine the priority level for each of: a) KCS (water management; ecosystems and nature-based solutions; climate proofing of critical public infrastructure; land use and food systems; health and human wellbeing; local economic systems) b) KEC (knowledge and data; governance and engagement; finances and resources; capabilities and skills; behavioural change; experimentation and reflective adjustment) Applicant will have already provided all the other necessary information in the application that will be used in this stage of the process.	Diversity considerations. Ties are resolved through the evaluation score from Evaluation; and if still necessary, the RMC score.	

8 Notification

The notification dates are listed in the Section 1.3 Call 1 Timeline.

8.1 Admissibility/Eligibility

Applicants who do not meet the admissibility and/or eligibility criteria will receive a notification via email at the email address provided to P2R during the application submission.

8.2 Award/Unsuccessful Application

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will receive a notification, via email at the email address provided to P2R during the application submission.

Awards will be conditional upon approval, contingent on the successful validation of the PIC number and completion of a due diligence review process.

9 Complaints

9.1 Who May Submit Complaints

Complaints may be submitted by unsuccessful applicants.

9.2 When Should a Complaint be Made

Complaints must be submitted within five business days from the date of the notification.

9.3 What Should be in a Complaint

A complaint must be submitted in writing and must specify the detail and the grounds asserted for the complaint regarding a **law, rule, procedure, or competitive process provision**. The complaint must contain facts or evidence sufficient to investigate and determine the validity of the complaint.

When possible, the complaint should be in English. When submitting a complaint in English poses a significant barrier to the applicant, it may be submitted in another official EU language. When a complaint is submitted in another language, the deadlines to respond and investigate may be extended to properly translate the complaint.

9.4 Where to Send a Complaint

The complaint must be sent to: pathways2resilience@climate-kic.org.

9.5 What Happens When a Complaint is Received

A written acknowledgement of the complaint will be sent upon receipt. If the complaint is received within the five business days, P2R will have fifteen business days to provide a written response. Additional time to investigate and conclude complaints will be granted in accordance with the level of complexity and availability of information before sending a decision letter.

This document covers applications for subgrant agreement funding under Horizon Europe (HE), grant number: 101093942.

10 Awarded Subgrant Requirements

Please see the draft [Subgrantee Agreement template](#) for details on the terms and conditions that subgrantees will agree to upon successful award. Please note that several items are non-negotiable, including, but not limited to: Conflict of Interest; Confidentiality and Security; Ethics; Visibility; Specific Rules for Carrying Out Action; Information; Record Keeping and Audits and Investigations.

10.1 Dissemination and Intellectual Property

As a general principle, P2R follows the requirements the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). As such, the management of knowledge and data should be “as open as possible and as closed as necessary,” “open” to foster reusability and to accelerate research, but at the same time should be “closed” to safeguard privacy and intellectual property. Therefore, our approach is open source by default. No foreground result, which can refer to data, concept, information, etc. generated via the implementation of the pilot activities, is in principle expected to be patented or subject to other protection measures.

Background (meaning know-how or information that is held by the subgrantees before they accede to any subsequent subgrant, and that is needed to implement the action or exploit results) can be protected when contracting with EIT Climate-KIC.

11 Community of Practice

Subgrantees awarded through this call are encouraged to establish operational links and collaboration with MIP4Adapt, the Mission Implementation Platform and its Community of Practice³¹.

12 EIT Climate-KIC Membership

Subgrantees will have the opportunity and are encouraged to become EIT Climate-KIC Community Members and their fees for the membership will be waived. EIT Climate-KIC is a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC), working to accelerate the transition to a zero carbon, climate-resilient society.

The Community consists of organisations and individuals who benefit from connecting and learning from each other, innovating and orchestrating transformation together, seeking funding together and influencing key climate and innovation policies. Find more information [here](#).

13 Glossary of Terms

This glossary should be complemented with the updated glossary on the P2R website.

Acronym/Term	Description
Applicant	For the purposes of this call, applicant is a region or community seeking funding under this call by submitting an application. An applicant may be a consortium/multi-beneficiary or a sole applicant/mono-beneficiary.

³¹ <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/>

	Note that in the online submission portal, Plaza, applicant is also referred to as Lead Partner.
Application	For the purposes of this call, application is the mechanism by which an applicant submits information to assess whether a subgrant award will be made.
Bioregion	A bioregion is a region defined by characteristics of the natural rather than man-made divisions.
Consortium Coordinator	<p>The coordinator is the primary contact and represents the application and subgrant beneficiaries. Sole Applicants, also referred to as mono-beneficiary applicants, hold the coordinator role.</p> <p>Note that in the online submission portal, Plaza, Consortium Coordinator is referred to as Project Leader. Applicants will be prompted to enter the consortium information. In the online submission portal, Plaza, this section is referred to as “Climate-KIC Partners & role”.</p>
ESPON	European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion
HE	Horizon Europe
Key Enabling Conditions (KEC)	Refer to the critical factors or prerequisites that need to be addressed and strengthened to enable the transformation of Key Community Systems (KCS) when designing climate resilience pathways and innovation agendas. KECs are the essential building blocks that support the successful implementation of transformative climate adaptation and resilience measures at regional and community levels. They encompass various factors that influence the effectiveness and feasibility of climate resilience actions and initiatives. These include finances and resources; knowledge and data; governance and engagement; behavioural change (skills and capabilities).
Key Community Systems (KCS)	<p>A system that meets important basic societal needs but that is increasingly impacted by climate change. A key community system is an area of innovation and transformation for the Mission, part of a larger interdependent system.</p> <p>They include critical infrastructure; health and wellbeing; ecosystems and nature-based solutions; water management; land use and food systems; local economic systems</p>
LAU ³²	Local Administrative Units are used to divide up the territory of the EU for the purpose of providing statistics at a local level. They are low level administrative divisions of a country below that of a province, region, or state. Not all countries classify their locally governed areas in the same way and LAUs may refer to a range of different administrative units, including municipalities, communes, parishes, or wards.
NUTS ³³	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics is a hierarchical system for dividing up the economic territory of the EU and the UK for the purpose of:

³²[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Local_administrative_unit_\(LAU\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Local_administrative_unit_(LAU))

³³<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nuts/background>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collection, development, and harmonisation of European regional statistics • Socio-economic analyses of the regions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NUTS 1: major socio-economic regions ○ NUTS 2: basic regions for the application of regional policies ○ NUTS 3: small regions for specific diagnoses
P2R	Pathways2Resilience
Pathway	Logical steps towards the achievement of the expected impacts of the project over time, in particular beyond the duration of a project. A pathway begins with the projects' results, to their dissemination, exploitation and communication, contributing to the expected outcomes in the work programme topic, and ultimately to the wider scientific, economic and societal impacts of the work programme destination.
Regional Resilience Journey (RRJ)	A framework and core of methodology used by P2R to guide and support communities/regions in their path toward climate resilience and transformation.
Resilience Maturity Curve (RMC)	Is the monitoring and evaluation framework used by P2R to assess and benchmark the resilience capacities within regions and communities. It provides a comprehensive picture of the current state of climate resilience, including the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in the region's or community's ability to cope with climate change impacts and disturbances.
Subgrants	Subgrants are the mechanism by which funding from the P2R grant flow to subgrantees. This is also known as financial support to third parties under Horizon Europe.
WP	Work Package