



LIFE20 CCA/HU/001604

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LIFE LOGOS 4 WATERS „In cooperation for climate-conscious river basin management” project III. international networking

Travel report

2024. October 9-11. (Wednesday-Friday)

Cascais, Portugal

The third and final international networking meeting undertaken within the framework of the project took place between 9–11 October 2024 in Cascais, Portugal. The meeting was attended by three representatives of the Coordinating Beneficiary, as well as one representative each from three Partner Organisations (the Municipality of Bátya, the Municipality of Püspökszilágy, and the General Directorate of Water Management). On this occasion, the project partnership did not visit a specific LIFE project implemented in the field of climate adaptation and water retention. Instead, the partners participated in the Climate Alliance International Conference (CAIC24), organised by the Climate Alliance and its member city, Cascais.



Forrás: https://managenergy.ec.europa.eu/managenergy-discover/managenergy-events/caic24-climate-alliance-international-conference-2024-10-09_en?prefLang=hu

The Climate Alliance International Conference is the annual conference of the Climate Alliance. This year, the three-day event was organised under the title “Boosting the resilience in our regions, cities and towns.” In addition to addressing the reduction of municipalities’ vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, the programme placed strong emphasis on nature-based solutions, citizen engagement, and sustainable municipal planning, all of which are closely linked to the objectives and thematic focus of the project.

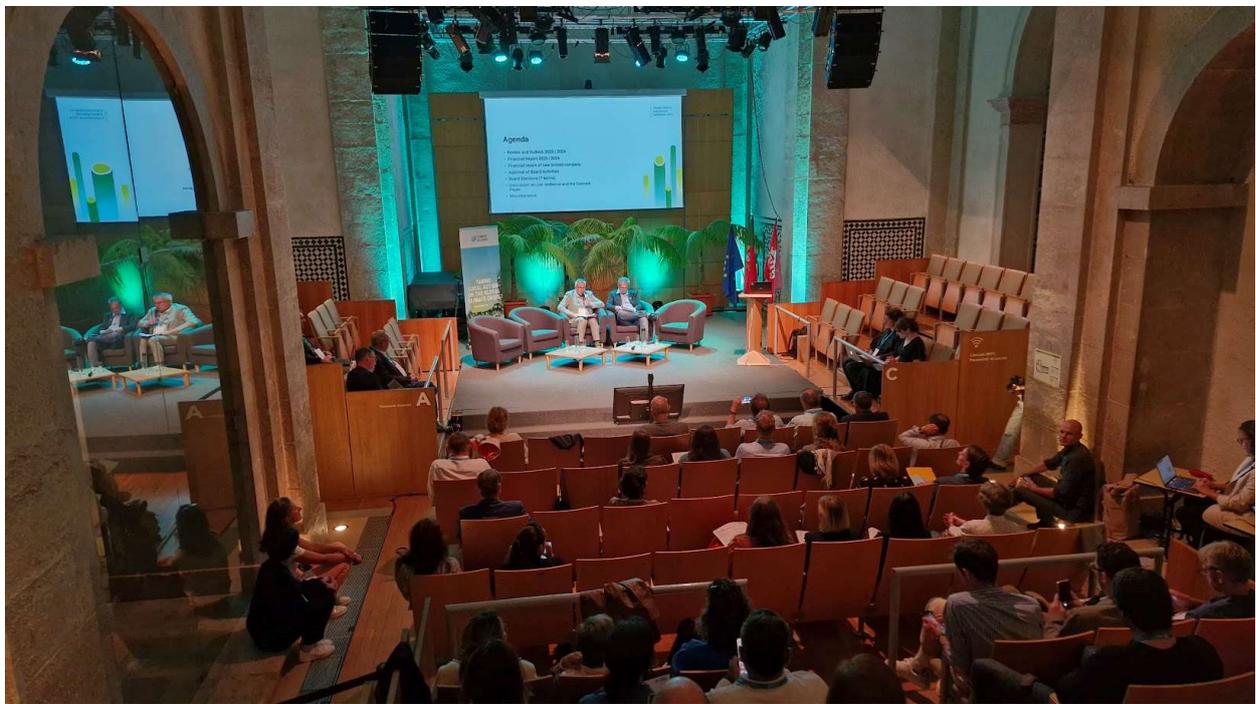
Based on the preliminary programme, the event appeared to be an excellent opportunity to expand the project partnership’s knowledge with new insights, experiences, and good practices. The adaptation of these approaches to the Hungarian context can contribute not only to the achievement of the project objectives, but also to strengthening local sustainability and climate resilience. Furthermore, the conference primarily consisted of workshop-based sessions, complemented by dedicated





networking activities and a Learn & Share Area. For this reason, participation in the conference was considered to offer broader learning and international networking opportunities than a visit to a single project site. This expectation was met, as the event enabled the partnership to become familiar with a wide range of good practices representing different approaches and contexts.

Travel took place by air on Wednesday, 9 October 2024, from Budapest to Lisbon, followed by an airport transfer to Cascais, the venue of the conference. After registration, the first open programme accessible to all participants started at 14:00, namely the General Assembly of the Climate Alliance. This session provided an excellent opportunity for the project team to gain deeper insight into the operation, membership, activities and future plans of the Climate Alliance.



Annual General Assembly of the European Climate Alliance @ Hungarian Climate Protection Alliance

The Climate Alliance was founded in 1990 by cities, municipalities and regions committed to the protection of the Earth’s climate. Since then, its scope has expanded beyond local authorities to include civil society organisations and local communities actively engaged in climate protection. From its inception, the Alliance has also maintained close cooperation with Indigenous peoples of the Amazon rainforest, recognising their key role in advancing global climate protection.

Over the past three decades, the Climate Alliance has grown into a Europe-wide network covering all 27 Member States of the European Union, with a membership of more than 2,000 organisations. The European Climate Alliance is headquartered in Frankfurt, and also operates a central secretariat office in Brussels.





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The Hungarian Climate Protection Alliance is a national member organisation of the Climate Alliance. During the elections held as part of the General Assembly, the delegates unanimously elected György Laki, Mayor of Kajárpec and Vice President of the Hungarian Climate Protection Alliance, as a member of the Climate Alliance Executive Board.



Speech of Laki Györgyöt, Mayor of Kajárpec @Hugyeczz Bettina Lilla

As part of the General Assembly, Noelani Dubeta, EU Policy Coordination Officer of the Climate Alliance, presented the main strategic objectives of the European Commission to which the activities of the Alliance are aligned. In addition, the Climate Alliance's financial report for 2023–2024 was presented, and reference was made to the "Just Resilience" and Cascais Paper studies. The final agenda item of the General Assembly was the announcement of the venue of the next CAIC conference, which will take place in Cologne between 9–11 July 2025.





Announcement of CAIC25 meeting venues @ Hungarian Climate Protection Alliance

The General Assembly was followed by a networking session, which provided an opportunity to engage in discussions and exchange experiences with conference participants. During this session, we met Csaba Lajtmann, President, and György Laki, Vice President, representing the Hungarian Climate Protection Alliance, who shared with the partnership their key activities carried out within the framework of the Climate Alliance over the past year. In addition, we exchanged views on the openness and level of commitment of Hungarian local authorities with regard to climate change-related issues. Vice President György Laki also introduced the project team to Andreas Wolter, Mayor of Cologne and President of the Climate Alliance, as well as to Thomas Brose, Executive Director of the Climate Alliance.





The Hungarian delegation at the conference. From left to right:: Lajtmann Csaba, Hugyecz Bettina Lilla, dr. Szatzker Petra, Varga Dalma Erzsébet, Laki György, Pesel Márton, Vízne Virág Éva, Kutnyánszky Virág @ participant of the conference

The official opening of the conference took place on Thursday at 10:00 at the Casa das Histórias Paula Rêgo Conference Centre. The participants were first welcomed by Luís Almeida Capão, Director of the Municipality of Cascais, followed by an opening address by Andreas Wolter, President of the European Climate Alliance.



Greeting of Luís Almeida Capão @Hugyecz Bettina Lilla





The opening keynote of the conference was delivered by Dr. João Morais Mourato, a researcher at the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, who also addressed the topic of “Just Resilience” in his presentation.



Presentatin of Dr. João Morais Mourato @Hugyeczt Bettina Lilla

This was followed by a panel discussion with the participation of Vítor Aleixo (Mayor of Loulé and President of adapt.local), Nelson Lage (President of ADENE and National Coordinator of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy), Paula Uría Traba (Director for Renewable Energy and Climate Change of the Regional Government of Galicia), and Tina Zapf Rodriguez (Head of the Climate, Environment and Women’s Department of Frankfurt). In closing, Gianluca Spinaci, policy officer at the European Committee of the Regions and advisor on the European Green Deal, shared his reflections in connection with the panel discussion.





Panel discussion @ Hungarian Climate Protection Alliance

The afternoon programme continued with thematic workshops focusing on the situation and opportunities of local communities in relation to climate change from multiple perspectives. Participants were able to choose from three different topics in each afternoon workshop session. In the first workshop block, expert presentations addressed the use of geospatial data to accelerate climate action and resilience-building, citizen engagement for a liveable and sustainable future, and the psychological aspects of financing nature-based solutions.

The second workshop block focused on addressing local energy poverty through community-led solutions, strengthening local resilience using digital tools, and responding to weather extremes related to climate change. The workshop presentations were followed by interactive group exercises, including joint brainstorming sessions and working group discussions. These formats enabled participants to actively contribute by sharing their own experiences and practices, fostering in-depth exchange, mutual learning and broad professional dialogue among the participants.





Group exercise during the workshop “The psychological approach to financing nature-based solutions” @ Hungarian Climate Protection Alliance



Working group discussion during the workshop “Responding to climate change-related weather extremes” @ Hungarian Climate Protection Alliance

An illustrative and informative presentation on extreme weather events and the impacts of climate change on water resources in Hungary was delivered by Mayor György Laki. Through the example of the municipality of Kajárpec, he demonstrated the changes experienced in recent years, highlighting the increasing frequency and intensity of hydrological extremes and their local-level consequences. The presentation provided concrete insights into how climate change is already affecting water management challenges in Hungarian municipalities.



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Presentation by Mayor György Laki on extreme weather events in @ Hungarian Climate Protection Alliance

The second day concluded with a gala dinner combined with a networking event, providing participants with the opportunity to discuss the topics raised during the day in a more informal setting.

The final day of the conference, Friday, was structured around two main segments. In the morning, the programme continued with the Learn & Share Area session, which offered an interactive space for exchanging experiences, good practices and practical solutions among participants.





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Learn & Share Area programme@ Hungarian Climate Protection Alliance

The Learn & Share Area programme functioned as a professional exhibition, where registered international and national organisations and projects were able to present, at individual stands, their forward-looking activities aimed at mitigating the negative impacts of climate change. The LIFE LOGOS 4 WATERS project team also participated in the programme as an exhibitor, showcasing the project's objectives, pilot activities and results to the conference audience.



The LIFE LOGOS 4 WATERS took part as an exhibitor at the conference @Laki György

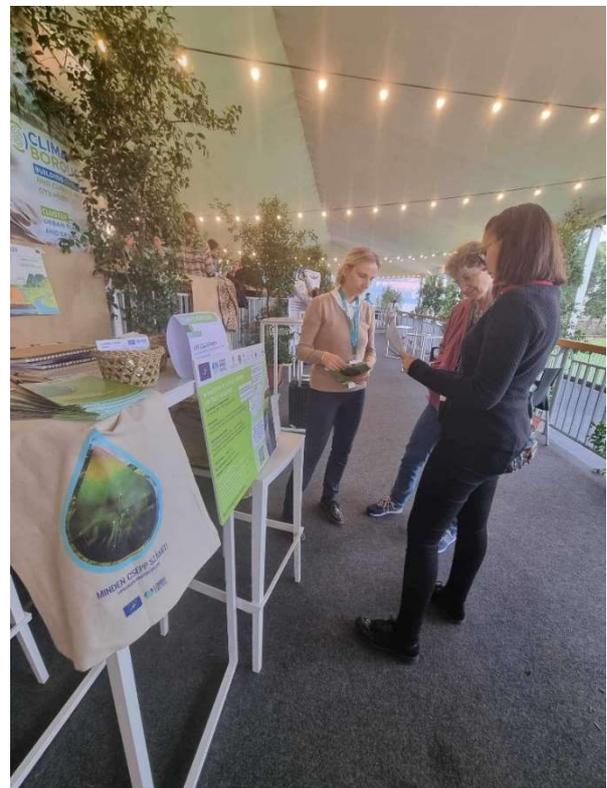




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The project stand attracted a high level of interest, which can largely be attributed to the fact that, among the projects presented, our initiative stood out for its strong focus on the practical implementation of nature-based solutions carried out through cooperation between local governments and local communities. In addition, during the conference presentations and workshop sessions, the challenges of both excess water and water scarcity repeatedly emerged as key topics. The popularity of our project was therefore also due to the fact that we were able to present concrete good practices aimed at mitigating climate-related water extremes.



Visitors at the project stand @Varga Dalma Erzsébet





The project stand attracted considerable interest, which can be attributed to the fact that, among the projects presented, our initiative stood out as unique in its strong focus on the implementation of nature-based solutions through cooperation between local governments and communities. In addition, throughout the conference presentations and workshop sessions, the challenges of too much water and too little water repeatedly emerged as key themes. As a result, the popularity of our project was also driven by the fact that it offers concrete good practices for mitigating climate-related water extremes, making it highly relevant to the issues discussed during the event.



Group photo @Laki György





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The following partner organisations and their representatives participated in the 1st and 2nd networking meetings of the LIFE LOGOS 4 WATERS project:

Ministry of Public Administration and Regional Development

Dr. Szatzker Petra, project manager

Hugyecz Bettina Lilla, project coordinator

Varga Dalma Erzsébet, regional coordinator

Municipality of Bátya

Vízné Virág Éva, climate adaptation officer

Municipality of Püspökszilágy

Kutnyánszky Virág, expert

General Directorate of Water Management

Pesl Márton, head of unit

Made by: Hugyecz Bettina Lilla, dr. Szatzker Petra
2024. October 29.

