Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

Co-funded by the European Union

Ready4Heat

From Plans to Practice

Building Local Heat Resilience

WEBINAR

11th February 2026 14:00 CET

Co-funded by the European Union

Why cooperation is central for increasing resilience to climate change

Ready4Heat - Transnational webinar

Online | 11 February 2026

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE | Joint Secretariat

Christophe Ebermann

Cooperation is central for taking forward Europe's transformation and strengthening its cohesion

Building Solidarity

Our projects connect regions and people to address shared challenges.

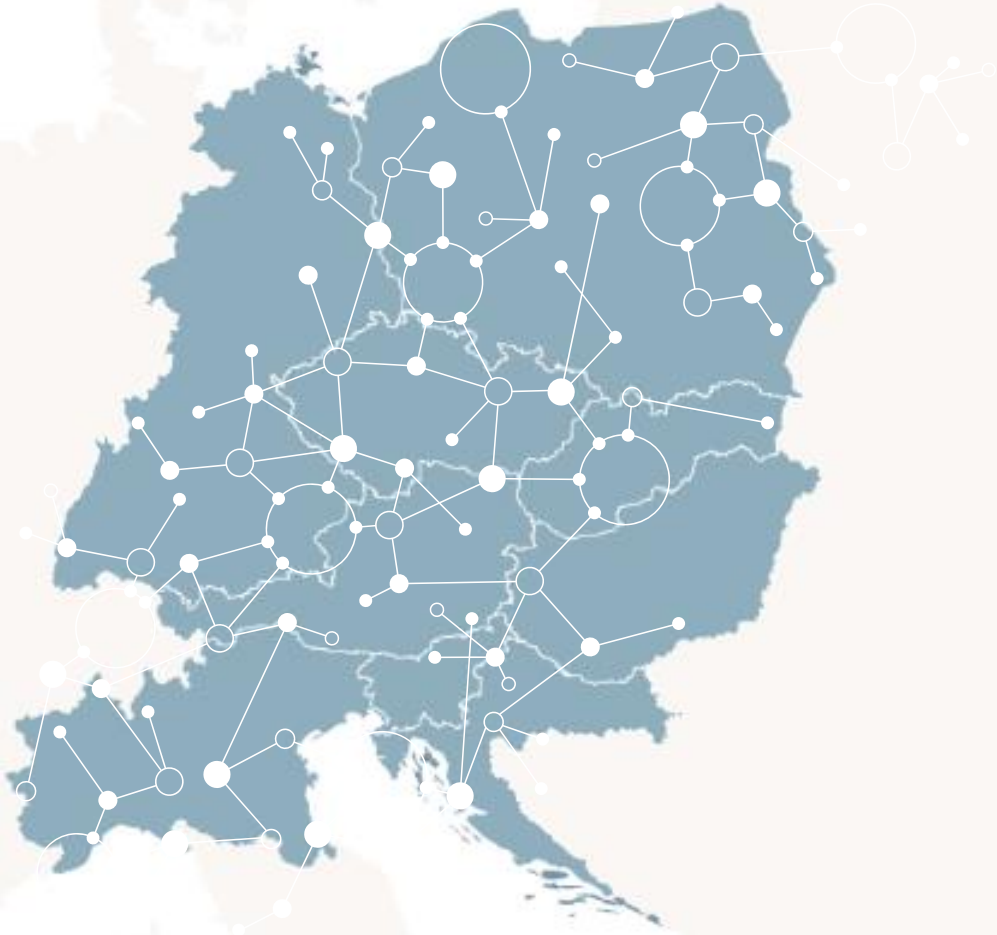
Delivering change

Our projects test innovative solutions in real-life settings to drive sustainable growth and support the twin transitions.

Achieving synergies

Our projects enable regions and cities to pool resources and knowledge for solutions with broader impact.

How does Ready4Heat fit into this bigger picture?




125
Projects Funded
1135
Partners
1218
Outputs
69
Investments
382
Pilots
190 m €
Funding Allocated

COOPERATING FOR A GREENER CENTRAL EUROPE

SO 2.2: Increasing the resilience to climate change risks in central Europe

PROJECTS

CICADA4CE | Clim4Cast | Climate_CRICES | CONE | INACO | GreenScape CE | LOCALIENCE | MAURICE | MISSION CE CLIMATE | Ready4Heat | RE-PUBLIC SPACES | SuPeRBE | UrbanBlueHealth | Wildfire CE

THEMATIC FIELDS COVERED AFTER THREE CALLS

- Climate change resilience and adaptation measures
- Climate-proof landscape and urban planning
- Resilience to weather extremes and related hazards (rainfall events, floods, etc.)
- Risk awareness, prevention and management

14 PROJECTS

142 PARTNERS

23 Mio. Euro TOTAL BUDGET

ERDF CO-FINANCING 80%

56 SOLUTIONS

49 PILOT ACTIONS

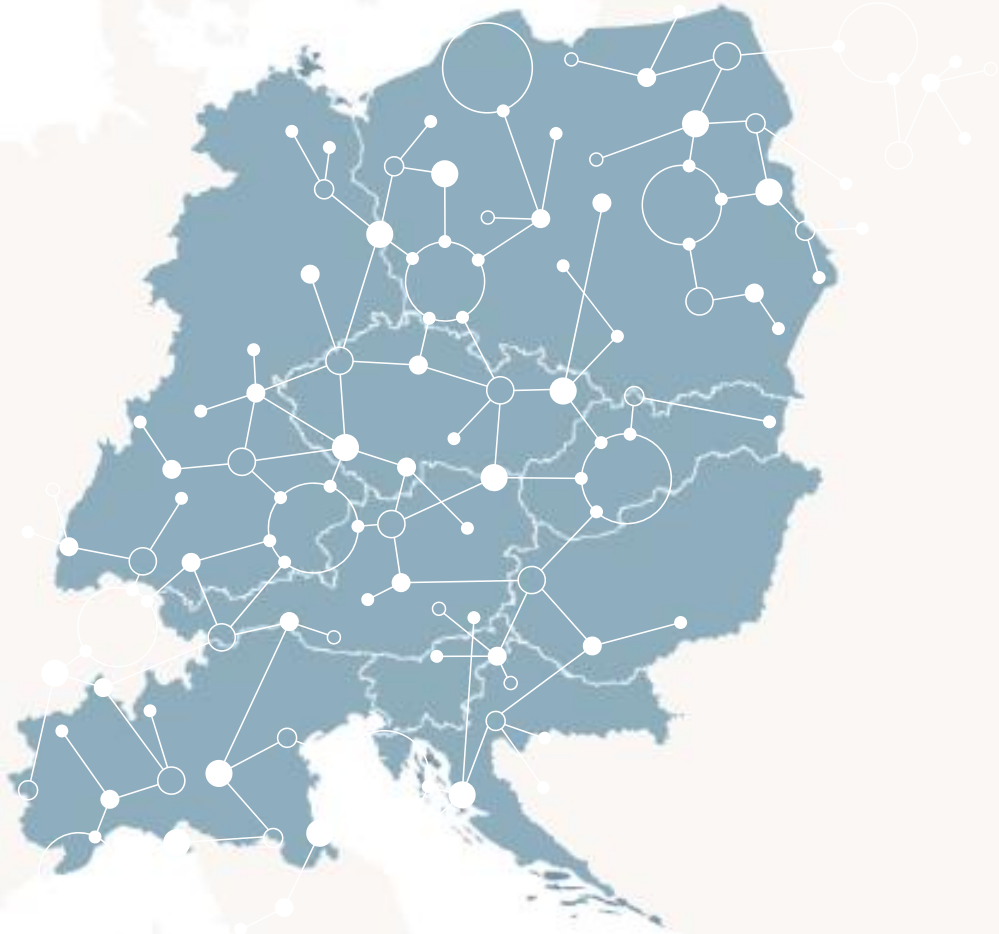
59 STRATEGIES

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

Co-funded by the European Union

www.interreg-central.eu

How we are taking cooperation forward in central Europe



WHAT'S AHEAD IN 2026

Since January 2026

25 projects are starting their activities for peripheral and lagging areas since January

February 2026

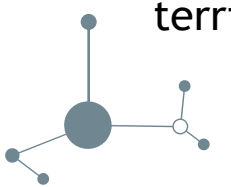
The **programming of Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2028-34 kicks off** with a first meeting of our Member States

May 2026

We will select **new capitalisation projects** in May and they will kick-off in autumn

Summer 2026

Our **partner involvement measures for the new programme will launch** – Share your territorial challenges and needs with us



Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

Co-funded by the European Union

Christophe Ebermann
Joint Secretariat
Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme

www.interreg-central.eu
ebermann@interreg-central.eu
+43 1 8908088-2422

Facebook.com/InterregCE
Linkedin.com/company/interregce
Youtube.com/c/interregcentraleurope
Instagram.com/interregce

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

Co-funded by the European Union

Ready4Heat

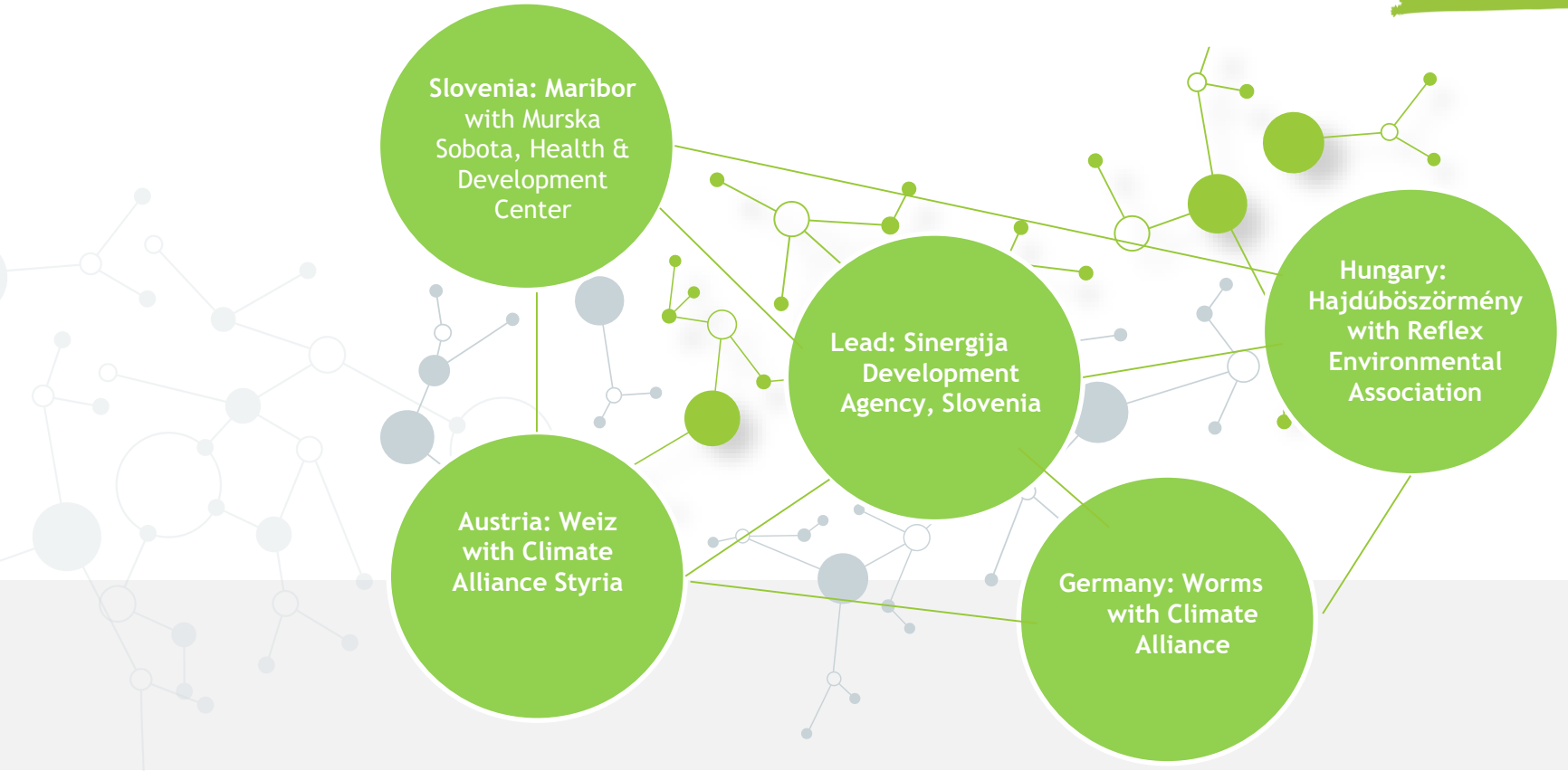
Context: About the Ready4Heat Activities

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

Co-funded by the European Union

Ready4Heat

4 Cities, 5 Supporters, 4 Countries



Heat hotspot analysis

- Available data vary, needed to be open access and no cost data
- Satellite analysis of earth-observing satellites Landsat 8/9 Operated by NASA and USGS
- Allow for the monitoring of the land surface temperature
- Show the relative heat differences in a city
- Analysis via Copernicus, the European Data Center

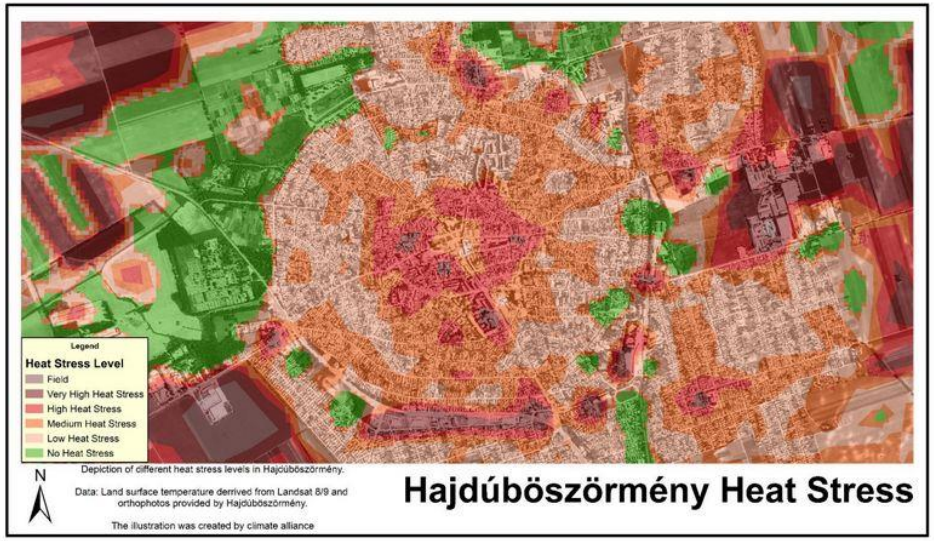


Figure 9: Heat stress map of Hajdúböszörmény

Image: City of Hajdúböszörmény

Citizen engagement for meaningful actions

- Series of Workshops/events
- All stakeholders dealing with vulnerable groups invited:

  Elderly, health care, pregnant women und young kids, outdoor workers, homeless care
- Collecting ideas for the HHAPs catalogue of short-term, mid-term and long-term measures
- Find the stakeholders interested in forming a sustainable HHAP network

Image: City of Weiz

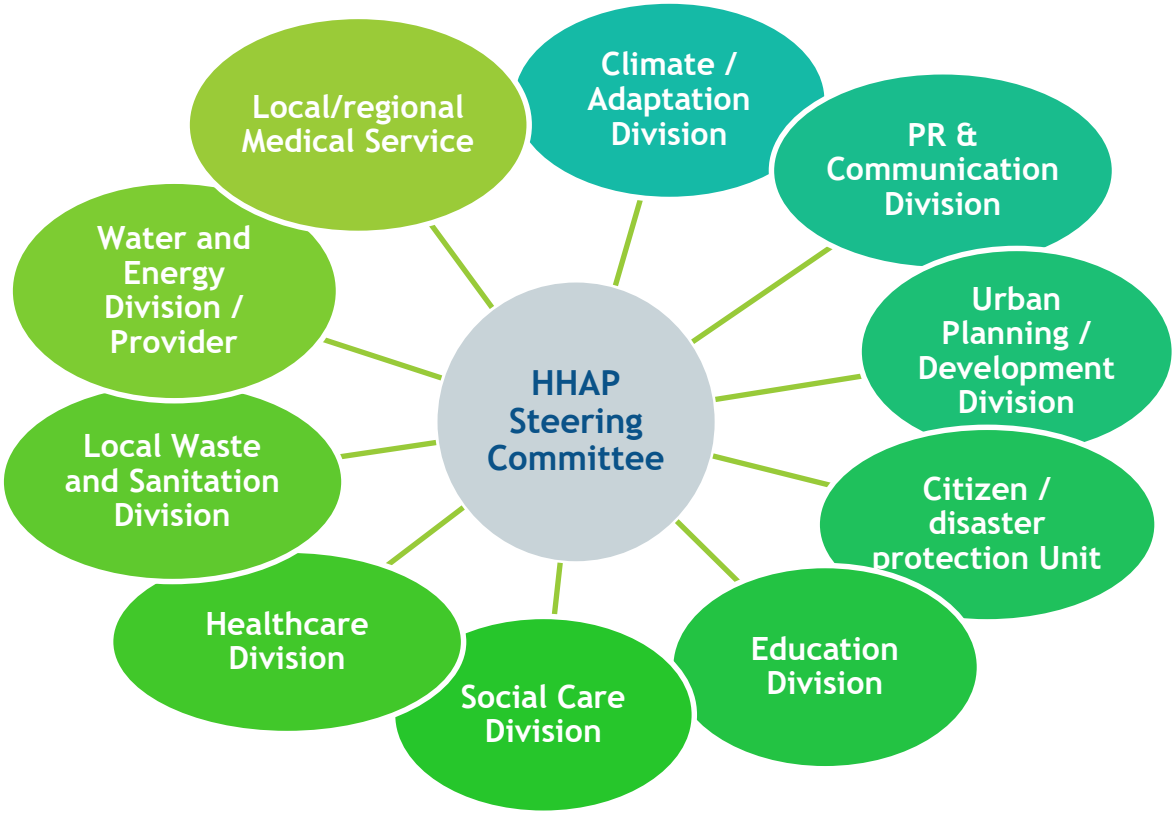
Sustainable Heat and Health Action Plans (HHAPs)

HHAPs diffusion: within the city **administration**, With the **mayor** and political party **representatives**, With **departments** like the city planning, In municipal **committees** like environment and financing.

WHY?

HHAPs shall be voted on in the cities parliament for long-term sustainability

The HHAP Steering Committee



- Guides the HHAP implementation
- Adjusts and further develops HHAP
- Decides on the budget
- Prioritises measures
- Evaluates the measures and the warning system

Short-Mid-Long-term Measures

Short-term

- Early warning system, A communication chain
- Acute immediate actions @ heat event,
- stakeholders mobilization,
- immediate notification to the public
- Cool spaces
- Water management

Mid-term

- Actions before and during the summer
- Awareness-raising and education
- Running stakeholder networks
- Trainings for the relevant stakeholders
  - Example: yearly heat campaigns, training series,

Long-term

- Strategies and measures like repetition of campaigns
- Increase heat resilience of the city
- Construction and urban planning
- Rethinking public spaces to reduce heat islands
- Nature-based solutions
- Water retention and sustainable drainage (combine with other extreme weather events)

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

Co-funded by the European Union

Ready4Heat

CoolCities: Reducing heat stress by creating cool and comfortable outdoor spots and routes

Thijn de Voogd, City of Arnhem, Project Coordinator of CoolCities

Welcome!

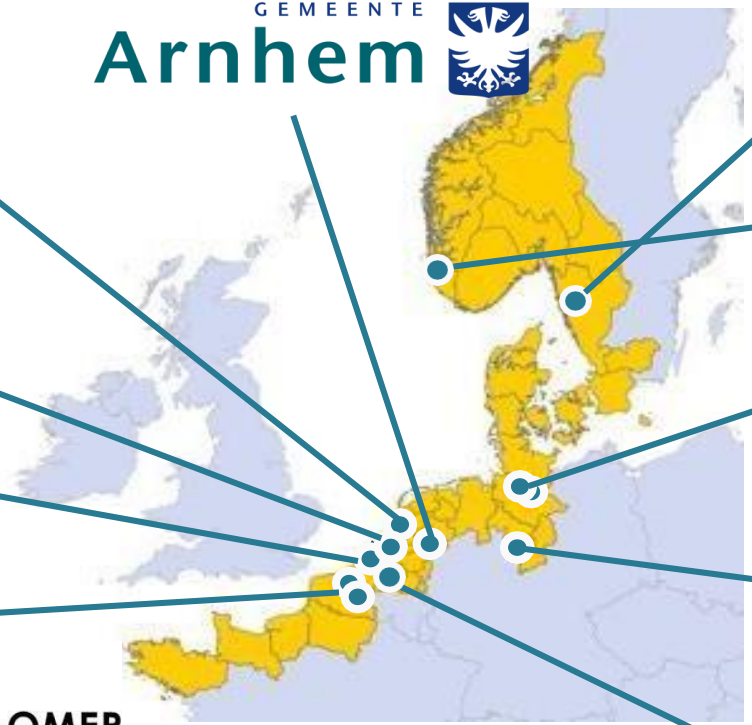
CLIMATE RESILIENCE,
BIODIVERSITY AND
POLLUTION

Interreg North Sea
Co-funded by the European Union

COOL CITIES

GEMEENTE Arnhem

COOL CITIES – Cool networks: reducing heat stress



Hogeschool van Amsterdam

GEMEENTE Arnhem

City of Gothenburg

City of Rotterdam

Universitetet i Stavanger

ZEBAU

MIDDELBURG

hcu HafenCity Universität Hamburg

GÖTTINGEN STADT, DIE WISSEN SCHAFFT

CAPSO COMMUNAUTÉ D'AGGLOMÉRATION DU PAYS DE SAINT-OMER

VILLE DE SAINT-OMER

Sint-Niklaas Oh zo verrassend

Challenges due to Climate Change and increasing Heat Stress

Rising Temperatures in Cities

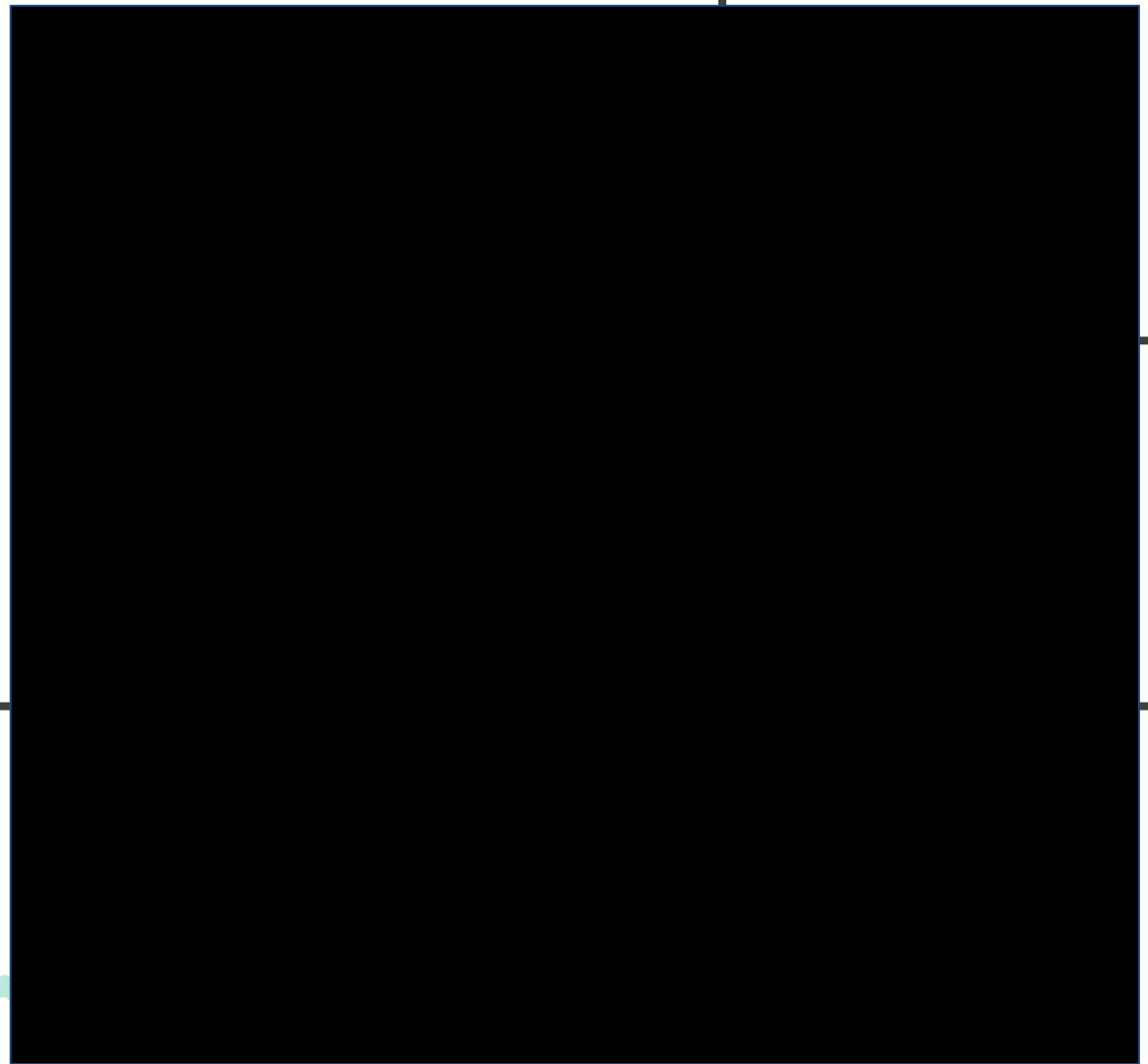
- Heat Islands: Cities can be 4 to 8 degrees warmer than the surrounding countryside.
- Increase in Heat Waves (number and intensity) and Tropical Days/Nights.
- Extreme heat is becoming the norm more frequently.

Health Risks

- Heat Stress primarily affects vulnerable groups such as the elderly, very young children, and people with health issues.
- More heat waves lead to more health problems and higher mortality rates.

Livability and Economy

- Warmer summers reduce the livability of urban areas.
- Economic Impact due to lower productivity, increased energy demands, and rising healthcare costs.
- For People like you and me: much more inconvenience and discomfort.



Cool Networks

- A network of cool spots where you can sit or stay in the shade, connected by shaded routes.
- For vulnerable people and those who have no cool house and working place.
- Cities often already have cool spots, such as parks with large trees or small sc trees.

GEMEENTE Arnhem

Project Overview

COOL CITIES | Interreg North Sea | Co-funded by the European Union

Analysis

- Methodology for Local Analysis
- Cool Network Plan

Pilots

- Implementation of 7 Pilots
- In 6 Partner Cities and Regions

Action Plan Cool Network

- Evaluation & Monitoring
- Transnational Learning

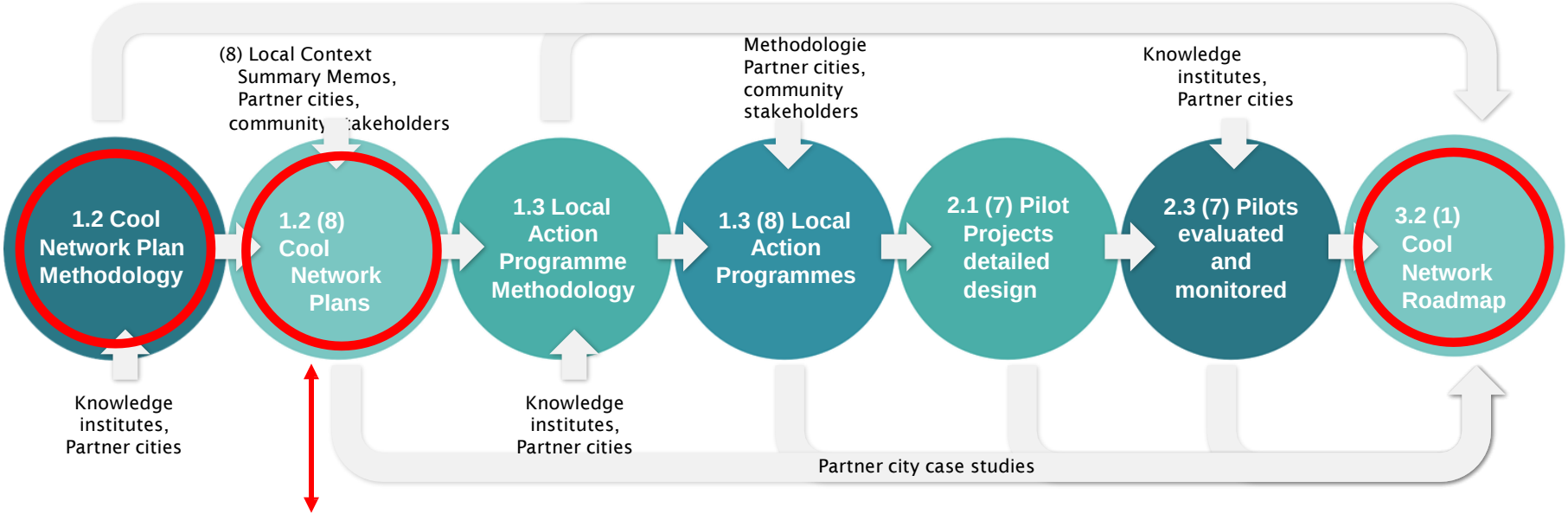
Cool Network Roadmap

- ✓ What is a Cool Network
- ✓ For whom do we realise it
- ✓ How to determine where to realise it
- ✓ Costs of implementation and maintenance
- ✓ Linking opportunities
- ✓ Good examples

FOLLOWER CITIES

Join us if you are interested in realising a Cool Network

The COOL CITIES Approach



Outlines the long-term, city-wide vision for a cool network through policies, strategies, and maps. It provides a spatial overview of the local context, highlighting existing and potential cool spots and routes.

GEMEENTE Arnhem

Who are the most vulnerable residents to heat stress?

- Older adults over 75 years of age (possibly already from 65+)
- People with chronic health conditions (e.g., COPD)
- Individuals who are overweight
- Very young children (under 3-5 years old)
- Pregnant woman
- People experiencing homelessness
- People living in social isolation or facing social difficulties
- …

Common symptoms include fatigue, headaches, and difficulty concentrating.

There is also an increased risk of more serious health issues such as dehydration and heatstroke.

Pictures by Thijn de Voogd

GEMEENTE Arnhem

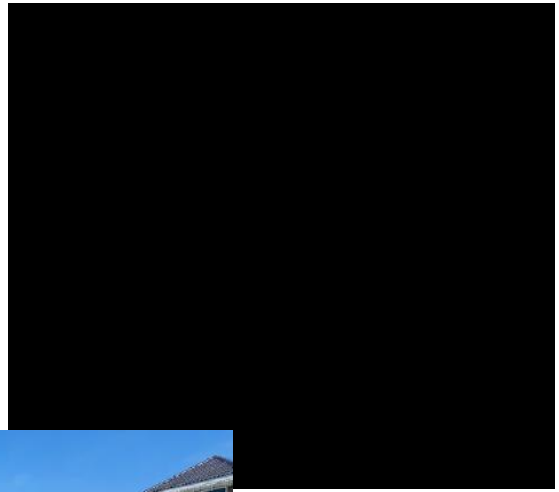
Possible Measures for a Cooling Network: Reducing PET

Big tree: 10 – 17 °

Single Row of Trees: 14 – 18 ° C

Other Measures?

Pergola: 2 – 13 ° C



Shade Cloth: 9 - 15 ° C

Pictures by Thijn de Voogd

GEMEENTE Arnhem

Interested in the project and want to stay updated?

Mail:
thijn.de.voogd@arnhem.nl
Phone: +31 (0) 6 27 43 22 34
LinkedIn: Cool Cities NSR

Thank you

Interreg North Sea
Co-funded by the European Union
COOL CITIES
GEMEENTE Arnhem

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

Co-funded by the European Union

Ready4Heat

From Local Challenge to Local Action: CITY OF HAJDÚBÖSZÖRMÉNY

Webinar: From Plans to Practice - Building Local Heat Resilience, 11.02.2026

Erzsébet Kovács, Municipality of Hajdúböszörmény

From Plans to Practice: Hajdúböszörmény Heat Resilience Pilot

City - 29,000 inhabitants, located on the Great Hungarian Plain, eastern part of the country

Future trends - Average temperature will rise more than the national average

Number of heatwave days is expected to increase by up to 90%

Challenges for the residents - Support from the local government

Vulnerable groups – young children, pregnant women, the elderly, chron. ill people, outdoor workers

Image: City of Hajdúböszörmény

Challenge and Objectives

Main challenges:

Little green spaces – Many hot areas - High building density = Heat stress

Pilot objective:

- Look for a solution - Reduce heat stress in public spaces with nature-based solution -> green shading islands in different parts of the city

- Help people get ready for heat waves

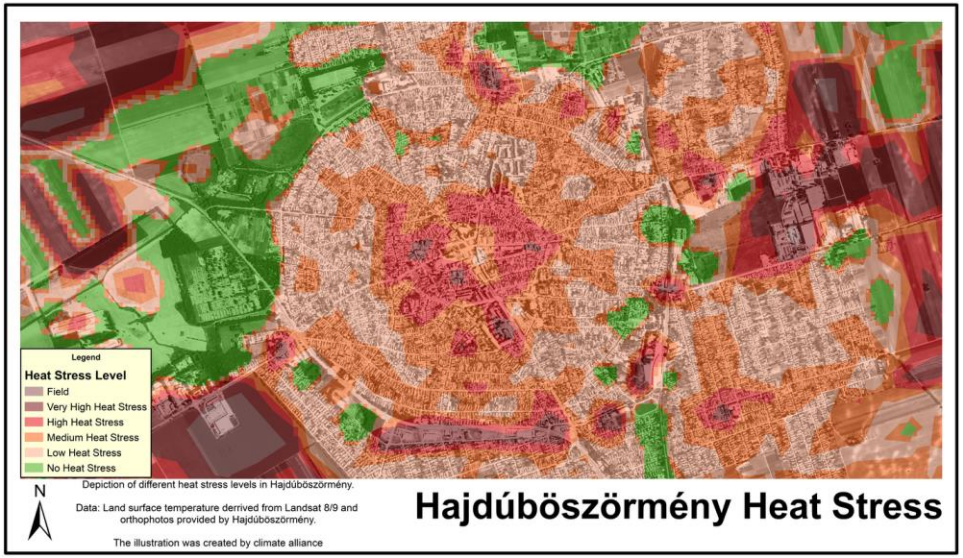


Image: City of Hajdúböszörmény

Pilot Solution: Turning Plans into Action

- Identify hot spots – install 47 green islands in 23 locations - in public spaces, institutional yards (pergola, benches, trees, perennial plants)
- Green blocks provide cooling shade and improve the local microclimate + increase urban biodiversity
- Involve stakeholders in the location selection process – adequate places
- Municipal departments, stakeholders of vulnerable groups, citizens, NGOs - cooperate

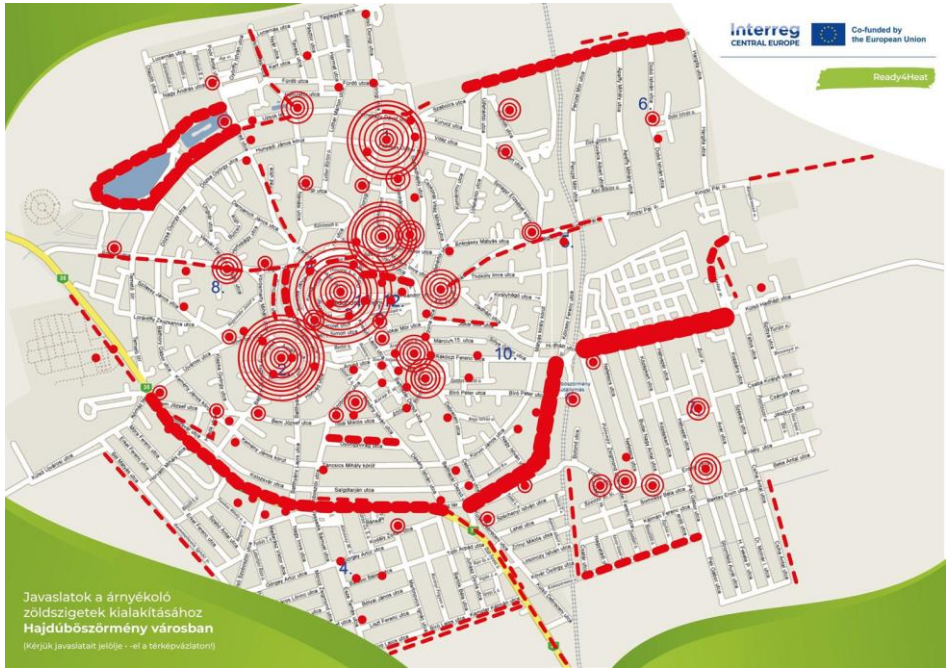


Image: City of Hajdúböszörmény

Soft part of R4H project

- Intensive awareness-raising campaign – soft part of R4H project
- Continuously inform the population about the dangers of heat waves and the possibilities for protection
- Application – notify residents about heat alerts and what to do

Other platforms:
- city website
- official FB site
- local newspaper

mage: City of Hajdúböszörmény

Results & Lessons: Impact & Key Takeaways

Results:

- Reduced heat stress
- Had lower surface temperature peaks
- Increased the number of cool places
- Improve air quality
- Use of public spaces more often
- prepare more carefully for the heat waves.

Image: City of Hajdúböszörmény

Lessons Learned:

- Nature-based shading is cost-effective and feasible for municipalities.
- Success depends on early and continuous stakeholder involvement. (increase acceptance and care for green islands)
- Long-term maintenance determines long-term impact - take care of the islands (watering, plant care and replenishment)

Image: Zöld Kör

Scaling & Next Steps: Building a Heat-Resilient Future

Solution for both cities and smaller settlements

Useful - Include nature-based solutions in your strategies and action plans

Ensure adequate funding for the measures (use EU or national funds)

Our goal is to create similar solutions in the future.

mage: City of Hajdúböszörmény

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

Co-funded by the European Union

Ready4Heat

From Local Challenge to Local Action: CITY OF MARIBOR

Webinar: Building Local Heat Resilience

11th February 2026

Gordana Kolesarič

Municipality of Maribor, Slovenia

From Plans to Practice: Maribor Heat Resilience Pilot

City of Maribor:

- 110.000 inhabitants;
- Situated in a temperate warm zone with continental climate;
- Heat stress is increasing, significant climate change observations;
- Climate in Slovenia is warming faster than in other EU member states;
- Forecast: number of hot days will double, and tropical nights will become more frequent causing risk for heat stress, especially for vulnerable groups.

Slovenia

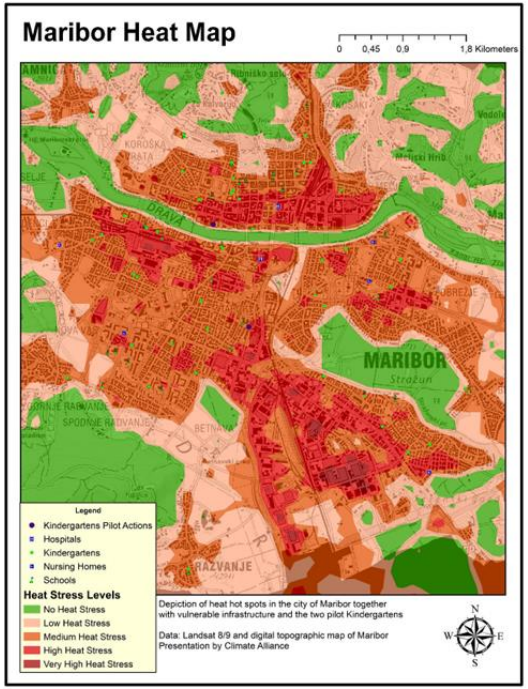
Maribor

Main square, photo Municipality of Maribor

Challenge and Objectives

Maribor Challenge and Objective of planning measures to reduce heat stress in urban areas

- Majority of city population is the middle-aged generation;
- Number of older inhabitants gradually increasing;
- The increase of vulnerable groups has important implications for the planning of urban services and infrastructure;
- Elaboration of Maribor Strategy and Heat Action Plan with Heat Map indicating vulnerable infrastructure – kindergartens, schools, elderly homes, health care centres;
- Areas of heat islands showing where greening is needed to reduce heat stress.



Pilot Solution: Turning Plans into Action

Pilot green cooling solutions in kindergartens

- **Pilot project** carried out in kindergartens by shadowing playgrounds with kiwi and grapevine seedlings in 2024 (NBS);
- Added educational value: children enjoying grape harvest and juice production.

Implementing Heat Action plan measures in 2024 and 2025

- **Municipal Steering committee** identifying stakeholders to cooperate: associations of pensioners, associations of people with chronical diseases, associations of disabled;

- **Education** of vulnerable groups to raise awareness through workshops, leaflets, brochures in health care centres, associations of pensioners, kindergartens and schools, elderly homes, companies with outdoors workers.

Kindergarten before pilot action
photo Municipality of Maribor

Grape harvest in kindergarten
photo Municipality of Maribor

Results & Lessons

- Improved community awareness and engagement;
- List of future resilient tree species (2050 – 2100) for the area of Maribor;
- Recommendations for tree selection based on planting locations (adequate planting pit volumes, traffic areas, sealed surfaces, …);
- Inventory of trees planted in the last 10 years,
- Municipal working group for urban greening;
- Heat warning system for vulnerable groups (Heat warning SMS with health recommendations.

Lessons for good cooperation:

- Beneficiaries of green pilot solutions to be involved at the planning phase;
- Departments to be involved responsible for: green spaces, education and social affaires, spatial planning, investment office, Mayor's office, PR;

Photos: Municipality of Maribor

Scaling & Next Steps: Building a Heat-Resilient Future

- Municipal Spatial Plan (2025) with new green corridors for connecting city districts;
- Departments and political leaders are paying more attention to greening;
- Planning new Nature Based Solutions in overheated areas;
- Increased budget for greening since 2025;
- Cooperation with companies for fundraising for green infrastructure.

Image: Municipality of Maribor

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

Co-funded by the European Union

Ready4Heat

From Local Challenge to Local Action: CITY OF WORMS

Webinar:

Marco Elischer

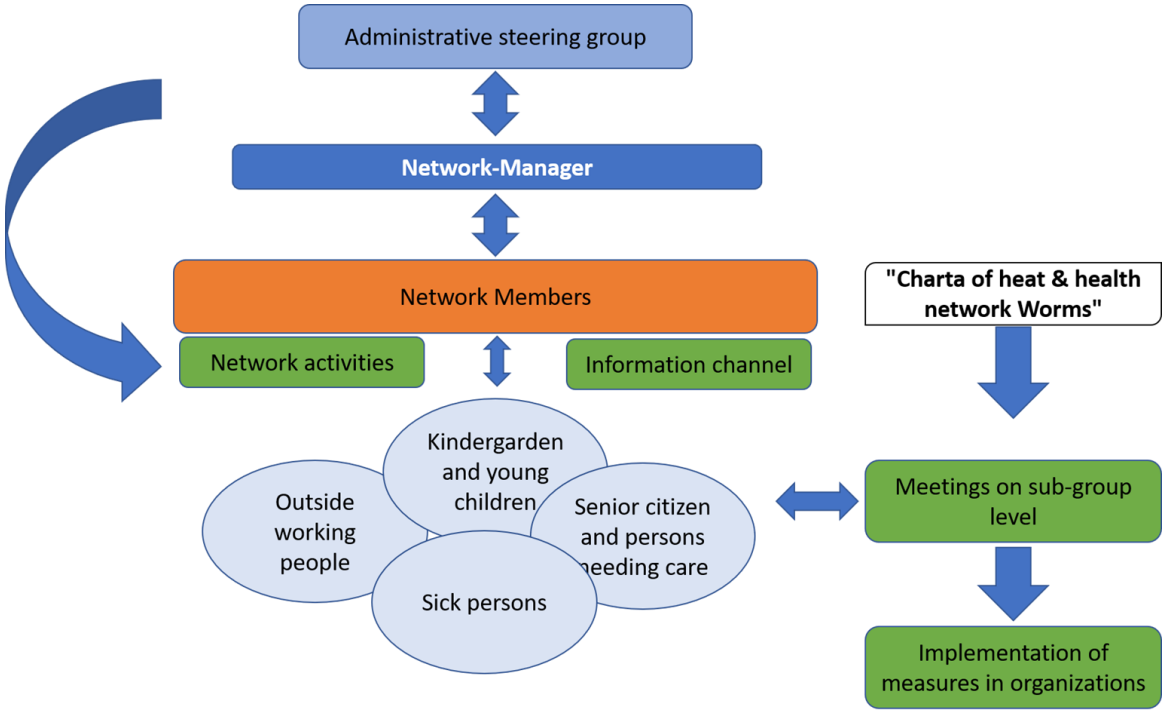
Worms Heat Protection Network

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE
Co-funded by the European Union

Ready4Heat

Worms tested a *governance-based solution*: a **Municipal Heat Protection Network** bringing together care institutions, kindergartens, outdoor-work sectors and municipal services.

Core idea: Strengthen *social* rather than *technical* infrastructure by coordinating actors who already protect vulnerable people.



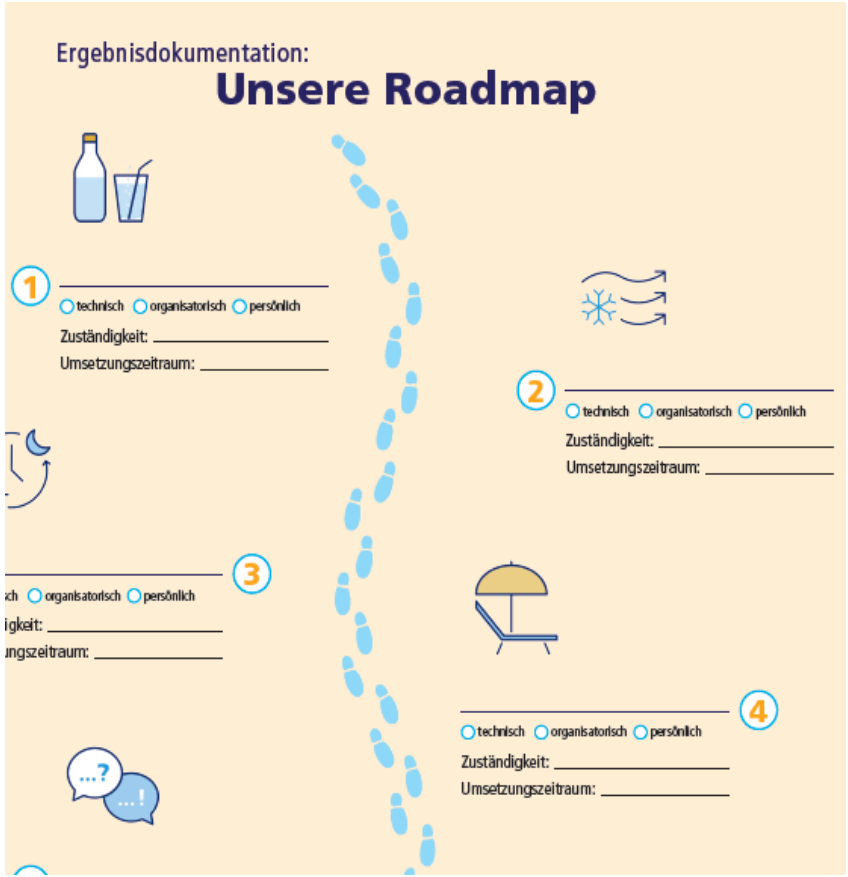
Multiplier focused engagement strategy

Key Measures

- Charter of cooperation & self-assessment tool.
- Cross-sector working groups (care, education, urban green).
- Benefit development for each stakeholder group.
  - Support in grant applications.
  - Advanced trainings for professionals.
  - Communication and workshop material material.
- Summer campaign + hotline + “map of cool places”.

Image: City of Worms

Pilot Solution: Turning Plans into Action



Images: City of Worms

Pilot Solution: Turning Plans into Action

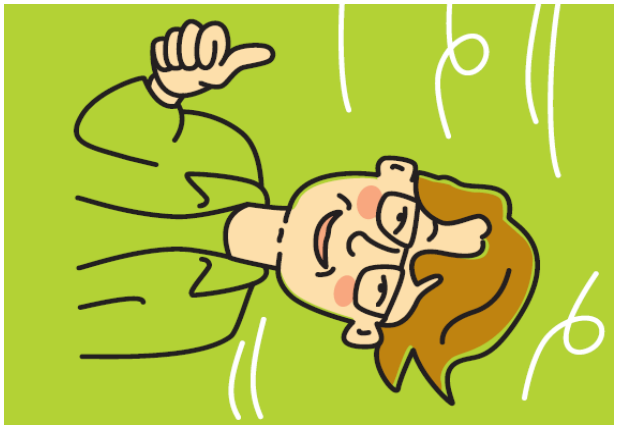


Image: City of Worms

Results & Lessons: Key Takeaways

- Focusing on *people who protect others* yields quicker, more durable change than generic awareness campaigns.
- Institutional trust and continuity (same contact person in city hall) are key.
- Visible recognition, e.g. certificate ceremony, press coverage, motivates long-term engagement.
- Transnational exchange stimulates creative implementation and replication.

- **Main challenges:**
  - maintaining momentum between summer seasons and securing time in staff schedules.
  - creating benefits for „hard-to-get“ stakeholder groups.

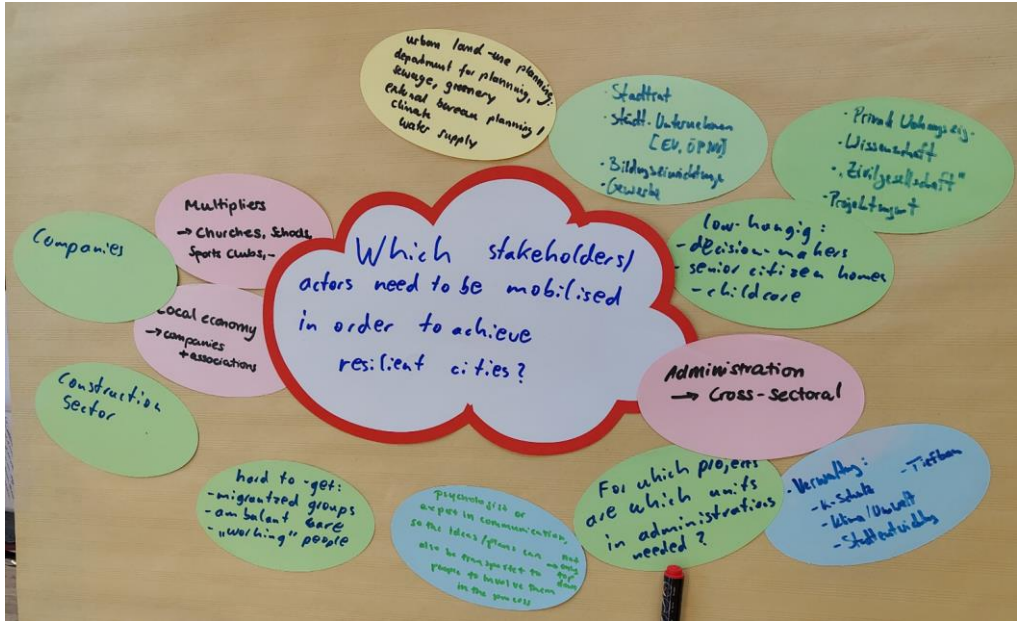


Image: City of Worms

Results & Lessons: Key Takeaways

The Worms pilot demonstrated that social governance structures can function as heat-adaptation infrastructure.

- Quantitative KPIs (36 signatories, 180 participants, > 200 subscribers) show tangible network growth.
- Qualitative results confirm improved knowledge, preparedness and cross-sector cooperation.
- The model's strength lies in **process transferability:** formal framework + human network = scalable governance tool for climate adaptation.

Image: City of Worms

Scaling & Next Steps: Building a Heat-Resilient Future

Recommendations

- **Institutional anchoring:** Integrate social-sector actors formally into municipal adaptation plans.
- **Dedicated funding line:** Small operational budgets (< €30 000/year) can secure continuity.
- **Knowledge brokerage:** National health authorities should provide templates for charters and feedback tools.
- **Monitoring:** Include qualitative indicators (cooperation density, awareness levels) in local adaptation reporting.

Image: City of Worms

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

Co-funded by the European Union

Ready4Heat

From Local Challenge to Local Action: CITY OF Weiz

Dominik Puchner

From Plans to Practice: Pilot Solution Weiz

© wikipedia

City of Weiz:

- 12.000 inhabitants
- Situated Styria, Austria, near Graz
- Heat stress is increasing, noticeable in the last years
- Future outlook regarding heat:
- number of summer days and especially heat days will rise

© City of Weiz

© stadtplandienst

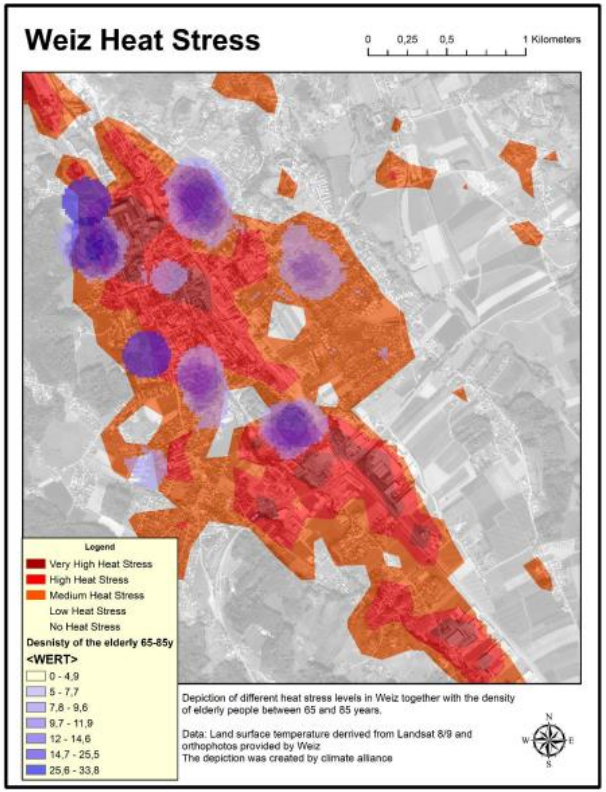
Challenge and Objectives

Local Heat Risks in Weiz:

- Weiz faces increasingly frequent and intense heatwaves, consistent with broader Central European warming trends
- Local assessments (Ready4Heat) identified urban heat hotspots via satellite surveys and mapping, highlighting heavily sealed and densely built-up areas as the most affected

Particularly at risk:

- Older adults, infants, children, and pregnant women
- People working outdoors, caregivers, and isolated individuals
- Residents of care facilities, which were explicitly engaged during Weiz workshops
- People in socially or economically disadvantaged situations



Pilot Solution: Solar assisted cooling

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE
Co-funded by the European Union

Ready4Heat

Pilot: Solar assisted cooling for building

- Pilot Action carried out in a senior citizen centre
- Cooling of the main dining room

Idea behind our Pilot

- Reduce heat stress for vulnerable group
- Use renewable energy for cooling
- Demonstrate a scalable solution
  - start with one room to have a safe space to relief heat stress
- Support long-term climate adaptation goals

Results & Lessons learned

- Renewable-powered cooling is feasible and affordable
- Targeting socially important “heat-sensitive” spaces maximizes impact
- Data-driven selection and mapping are crucial
- Renewables + heat-health planning strengthen long-term resilience

© Ready4Heat Project / City of Weiz

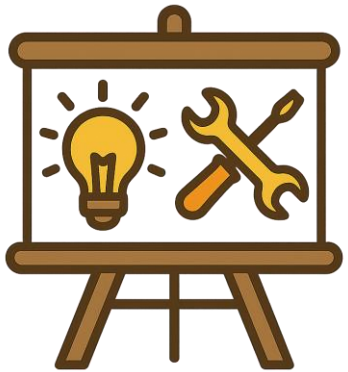
© Ready4Heat Project / City of Weiz

© Ready4Heat Project / City of Weiz

Scaling & Next Steps: Building a Heat-Resilient Future

- Expand Solar-Assisted Cooling to Other Sensitive Buildings
- Prioritize Facilities Serving Vulnerable Groups
- Integrate Cooling Solutions into the Weiz Climate Adaptation Plan
- Combine Technical Solutions with Nature Based Solutions and Community-Based Measures
- Strengthen Cross-Municipal and Cross-Regional Learning

HITZESCHUTZ



Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

Co-funded by the European Union

Ready4Heat

Investing in Green Solutions: Lessons from Municipalities: Panel Discussion

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

Co-funded by the European Union

Ready4Heat

Q&A and Closing Reflections

See our results (scan or click):

Get in touch:

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/ready4heat/

E-Mail: e.suba@climatealliance.org