

Regional governments have competences in the field of the environment, energy, transport, industry, agriculture and land & resources management, which are responsible for a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions. They also implement the bulk of national, European and international climate change policies and elaborate their own regional economic and climate change strategies.

Moreover, regional governments have the capacity to and the experience of working with other levels of government, third sector bodies, the private sector and the financial institutions in order to find real solutions for real problems.

Furthermore, regions lead in interregional partnerships to support the implementation of climate change policies and legislation widely, as well as to promote international solidarity via the understanding, collaboration and capacity building in climate action.

Fully aware of the cost of inaction around climate change, regional governments commit individually and collective - through organisation such as nrg4SD - to this global challenge with substantial human and financial resources.

Regions see the challenge as an opportunity to take our societies out of the global economic crisis transformed into more sustainable, low carbon, less resource intense and inclusive communities; as well as to exchange experiences and increase regional skills and competitiveness towards a green economy. In this context, regions are particularly well placed for identifying the needs and the strengths of our societies in tackling climate change.

Under a multilevel governance approach, it is instrumental that regions are placed at the heart of the national, European and international decision-making process from its early stages.

The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development nrg4SD, which brings together more than 45 regions from 29 countries across the globe and 7 associations of regions committed to sustainable development activities, calls on the EU to:

- Be an ambassador of the territorial dimension of global climate change policies at international instances such as the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change and, within the EU's international negotiation strategies, further take advantage of the regions capacity for dialogue and collaboration with other governance levels and economic and social actors;
- Enhance the regional dimension of all European policies related to climate change and ensure the active participation of regional representatives in relevant EU working groups;
- Strengthen the collaboration with the regions in the elaboration of specific working tools and methodologies for the bottom-up deployment of a low carbon economy and encourage the regional development of specific climate change action projects, with a view to climate action being a priority for the post 2013 EU Cohesion Policy;
- Orient the bulk of current and future EU funding and policies to the empowerment of creativity and innovation in tackling climate change at regional level; and encourage actual networking between regional R&D and innovation actors and EU funded projects on climate action, in the spirit of the recent "Innovation Union" initiative;
- Further promote, in close collaboration with the European Investment Bank and other international financial institutions, the set up of climate change, innovation and cooperation funds fully conducive to the development of EU and UN climate change action mechanisms at subnational scale, and
- Enhance the application of the triple helix approach – involvement of public sector, private sector and academia – to the climate action capacity building actions the EU carries out with developing countries by further recognising the work of subnational authorities in this field.



Becoming a low carbon society: Planning regional strategies and communicating with citizens in a green, inclusive and smart manner

Regions have an important role to play in the transition to a low carbon and less resource intense economy. It is a massive challenge: keeping the regions' economy active and dynamic; while at the same, moving the regions from being "greener" to being "green" so that higher living standards are matched by higher quality of life.

It requires advanced methodologies and innovative approaches for carbon and resources accounting so that investment decisions can be informed by knowledge of a project's footprint and that it can be understood how a decision to be "carbon-free" and "non-resource intense" affects a region's overall economic performance and, thus, traditional notions of living standards.

The challenge is multiple for the regions. It involves organising regional economic strategies oriented to low carbon impact and living within environmental limits; as well as developing carbon and resources accounting and mainstreaming it in investment decisions. It also requires citizenship informing and involvement so that the low carbon and low resource intensity ambition becomes a consensus between citizens, businesses, academia and all other sector of society.

Moreover it implies a need for innovative schemes which enable carbon and resources saving to become a part of all streams of citizens' daily life. The list is long.

From the competences, experience and political will of regional governments, it follows that regions play an important role in turning the world's transition to a low carbon, less resource intense and more inclusive society into reality, as well as in using the current global economic context as an opportunity to do so.

Subnational governments find that the EU can strengthen the collaboration with them towards this common goal via the elaboration of specific working tools and methodologies for the bottom-up deployment of low carbon and less resource intense economy.



nrg4SD regional case studies

Aquitaine Carbone — Following from the devastating Klaus storm in January 2009 - which destroyed 203 000 ha of forest - the Regional Council of Aquitaine deployed plans to better support reforestation and pursue the long-term objective of tackling climate change also through the maintenance and improvement of the Aquitaine forest capacity to sequester carbon.

Objectives: To create a regional carbon compensation offer based on reforestation and carbon storage (forest storage and storage in woods products). The Aquitaine Carbon Association pre-finances projects of carbon storage and acquires carbon credits. These carbon credits are open to public or private bodies willing to compensate their carbon emissions (principle of voluntary carbon market). The Association works on a methodology for forest sequestration projects and will provide a certification of the carbon credits for recognition in the voluntary market.

Tools: Definition of common methodology for CO2 sequestration in carbon forest projects; certification of the methodology by accredited bodies, and creation of a voluntary compensation market.

Developing Eco-responsible high-school Students in Rhône-Alpes — The 270 public secondary schools (lycées publics) managed by Rhône-Alpes, with a 4,3 million m² surface, represent the bulk of its real state sites and a privileged hub for educating future generations on the issues at stake on sustainable development.

Objectives: To promote and integrated approach targeted to all actors involved, both at education and site management level by specific actions for schools such energy plans (including data basis, diagnosis, installation of renewables, education, etc.), the voluntary schemes "Eco-responsible schools" and "Bio schools" or the artistic competition Fluid'ART for the visualisation an awareness of the energy consumption of each school in real time.

Tools: Elaboration and annual update of a registry on the condition and consumption of schools, including individual in depth diagnosis and follow up; creation of a technical metering and monitoring tool, and elaboration of a methodology for the carbon impact of catering services in schools (in partnership with ADEME and the French regions of Aquitaine, Champagne-Ardenne and Poitou-Charentes).

Financing climate action: Encouraging green business and using development aid differently

Regional governments have the competences and the experience of working with other levels of government, third sector bodies, the private sector and the financial institutions in order to find real solutions for real problems.

Regions encourage and support the private sector in the adoption of green practices and voluntary schemes. Moreover regions lead in interregional partnerships also involving the private sector in order to support the implementation of climate action policies and legislation widely, as well as to promote understanding, collaboration and capacity building in climate action.

Regions believe that the EU has the capacity to encourage and support comprehensive regional schemes to mainstream climate change concerns into the industrial and the production & consumption strategies at subnational level.

Besides the EU can further promote, in close collaboration with the European Investment Bank and other international



financial institutions, the set up of climate change funds fully conducive to the development of EU and UN climate change action mechanisms at subnational scale.

Many are the subnational governments committing financial and human resources in North-South cooperation schemes for sharing experiences, technologies and best practices on climate action matters.

In this context, within the UN system, the Territorial Approach on Climate Change (TACC) programme is a response to the increasing request from developing regions for adapting to the social, economic and environmental impacts of climate change, and also to the increasing solidarity of developed regions towards building capacity for climate change in other less favoured regions of the World.

Subnational governments would however welcome measures for fostering an international environment more conducive to a true North-South collaboration on climate action.

Being the mayor development cooperation aid donor at global level, the EU is well placed to enhance the application of the triple helix approach – involvement of public sector, private sector and academia – to the climate action capacity building actions the EU carries out with developing countries by further recognising the work of the subnational authorities in this field.

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Catalonia's Voluntary Agreements for greenhouse emissions reductions — Managed by the Catalan Office for Climate Change, this public and private sector oriented scheme is a transparent and rigorous undertaking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in Catalonia beyond legal requirements. It falls under the Catalan Framework Plan for Climate Change Mitigation 2008-2012. Only through the Voluntary Agreements, it is expected to reduce 0.59 million tonnes of emissions/year up to 2012.

Objectives: To curb GHG emissions and improve the competitiveness Catalonia's economic sectors, to reduce the energy bill and to guarantee the continuous improvement of Catalan organisations. Signatories are listed as a committed group; can access specific dissemination and communication activities, and are entitled to use the official label.

Tools: Signature of the Scheme by organisations as a proof of long-term commitment; assessment by means of an inventory of GHG emissions, which must at least take into account direct emissions (fossil fuel consumption and public transport) and those associated with electricity consumption according to international standards; elaboration of a reduction action plan with specific measures and timescales; followed by the implementation of the measures and a reassessment to consider new proposals.

Basque Country MoU for a nrg4SD Framework of Multilateral Cooperation on Water Issues in Latin America and the Caribbean — Developed by the Basque Country Government and the Basque Water Agency within nrg4SD, this Memorandum of Understanding for 2010-2014 involves an extensive list of Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Peninsula partners willing to establish long-term collaboration on water issues also related to sustainable development. The MoU should be read in connection with the wider political commitments undertaken at Basque level with the Basque Climate Bill.

Objectives: To provide education, training and awareness on water issues, with an emphasis on women participation; to exchange advise on hydrological planning; to collaborate on research, innovation and development projects related to hydrology, and to monitor the sound environmental and ecological status of water bodies.

Tools: Seminars, conferences and exchange of subnational specific strategies and action plans adopted by the signatories; technical training, including online courses and internships and assistance on the "International Decade for Action Water for Life 2005-2015", and high-level events on sustainable development and water.

nrg4SD regional case studies

Wallonia's Territorial Approach to Climate Change (TACC) Project with Senegal - This project of the region of Wallonia involves as well the French regions of Rhône-Alpes and Poitou-Charente, the Spanish region of Catalonia, the areas of Ferlo and Sine-Saloum in Senegal, the Federal Government of Belgium and the UN Development Programme (PNUD).

Objectives: Strengthen the capacities of the targeted regions, particularly of those from the South to mainstream climate and carbon concerns in their long-term development and regeneration planning for their territories. The main obstacle to be removed is the lack of articulation mechanisms between the national and regional policies. One of the main outcomes of the project is the creation of decentralised structures, also aligned to the national structure.

Tools: Elaboration of a governance framework; strengthening of the capacity of local actors from the South to identify the climate issues and risks at stake; elaboration of an Integrated Territorial Climate Plan, and identification and elaboration of a portfolio of eligible projects under the Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM).

Please refer to the nrg4SD website for project fiches



- International organisation representing at global level:
 - ‘regional governments’, and
 - ‘associations of regions’ for sustainable development
- Founded in 2002 alongside the Johannesburg World Summit on SD in 2002 – First international intraregional network of its kind
- Accredited to UN bodies: SD Commission, UNFCCC, Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum UNEP
- Objectives:
 - The voice and the representative of its members globally, promoter of global development at regional level across the World
 - Seeks greater and better international recognition of the importance of the contribution of regions to SD
 - Promotes understanding, partnerships, projects and experience exchange between its members and between its members and other international actors



Reducing the knowledge gap: Partnering for scientific research and innovation

Aware of the impact of the knowledge gap on scientific consensus and political decision-making, regional governments put in place regional research & development and innovation agencies, which identify regional research priorities and implement policies in climate action.

Regions also take an active role in establishing collaborative research projects and in creating networks of research actors both at European and international scale. Some of these regional initiatives are also part of wider development cooperation schemes with less developed regions.

Regions have the capacity to establish concerted initiatives between the public sector, academia and the private sector in order to encourage a real transfer of knowledge on climate change matters to the regional economic strategies.

Regional governments particularly welcome EU programmes targeted to the increase of the capacity of regions to invest in and develop their commitment in research, such as the Regions of Knowledge programme or the Regions for Economic Change Initiative.

However, large disparities still remain at national and subnational level on R&D capacity for climate action. All regions are facing common challenges linked to climate change and its related consequences - such as energy dependence or demographic changes - for which rigorous R&D capacities, innovative measures and the sharing of these are instrumental.

Regions find that the EU has the capacity to orient the bulk of its current and future funding and policies to empower creativity and innovation at regional level, which are fundamental in tackling climate change .

The EU, through the management of funding programmes, is well placed to encourage actual networking between regional R&D and innovation actors and EU funded innovation projects; and in this way increase the EU's climate -change-related skills and competitiveness.



nrg4SD regional case studies

El Hierro 100% RES - the example of Canarias - Meeting the energy demand of the Island of El Hierro by means of a 100% renewable energies (RES) strategy is a commitment within the Sustainable Development Plan of the Island, supported by UNESCO. The Plan sets a development model of Biosphere Reserve, where citizenship participation is key. Citizens get involved in strategic decisions related to energy production, the exploitation of endogenous resources and the population's quality of life in general.

Objectives: With EU financial support and a consortium of 7 European partners coordinated by the Government of the Canary Islands through the Technology Institute of Canarias, the project aims to demonstrate the feasibility of RES integration as a way for providing 100% of the energy supply on isolated islands; the significant contribution to RES penetration in weak grids in isolated areas achieved by synergies between different RES, and the cost-benefit advantage of storing energy in water form. Optimising the RES potential thanks to an energy-mix for local power supply and disseminating the benefits of innovative and integrated renewable energy solutions for islands are also key objectives.

Tools: Innovative actions including the set up of a Wind-Hydro Power Station (WHPS), to cover 75% of the electricity demand and achieve 30% direct wind penetration into the grid; the introduction of Energy Savings, "100% RES for Electricity Production" and Transport Programmes, and the implementation of Solar Thermal Energy, PV Roof and Biofuels Programmes.

AGIR Innovative Global Action for Provence Alpes Côtés d'Azur - Based on the principles of innovation, exemplarity and transferability, AGIR is a citizen and participative approach for a more conducive environment towards RES and energy efficiency. It is aimed at citizens, via grants ("energy cheques"), independent, advice & awareness-raising campaigns; at the private sector (agriculture and industry) to develop greener production processes, and at territorial authorities and public structures to promote low energy consumption buildings or larger scale RES initiatives.

Objectives: 6 axis, namely AGIR with the territories (wind turbines, energy control, etc.), AGIR by the example (100 exemplary buildings, refurbishment of social housing, etc.), AGIR with the industries (photovoltaic, etc.), AGIR for the 21st century building (training of building professionals, architects, etc.), AGIR for the future (environmental education), and AGIR for the investment of citizens in renewable energy.

Tools: Regional, private and EU funds are used for 21 calls of proposals with 600 projects being implemented; independent evaluation assessments; tools for energy savings and RES production metering; mainstreaming of energy concerns across governmental departments; training of more than 500 building sector professionals over 3 days, and guides on energy performance requirements.

Mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts: Finding real solutions for real problems

Regional governments have competences in the field of the environment, energy, transport, industry, agriculture and land & resources management, which are responsible for a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions. They also implement the bulk of national and international climate change policies and elaborate their own and climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

In complement, their closeness to citizens and to the implementation level, gives regions a privileged position for identifying the needs, strengths and resilience capacity of our societies in the battle against climate change.

On the mitigation front, subnational authorities encourage, set and implement, amongst others, GHG emissions targets, green public procurement policies, waste management & treatment strategies, energy efficient buildings initiatives,



sustainable mobility and clean transport plans, sustainable agriculture and forest practices, and in some cases fiscal incentives in support of these initiatives. The list is longer and it is very often part of wider regional strategies for green, inclusive and smart growth policies.

In a similar way, in the adaptation field subnational authorities encourage, support and deploy, for instance, education and awareness campaigns; information gathering systems on climate conditions; air and water quality monitoring and management; tools to identify and assess risks and vulnerable areas; risk prevention and reduction strategies; civil protection action plans, including disaster response, reconstruction and relief actions; or health care programmes for elderly and vulnerable citizens.

Regions believe that in its capacity of party to major international conventions, the EU can be an ambassador of the subnational dimension of global adaptation and mitigation climate change policies. The EU has also the capacity to enhance the territorial dimension of all European policies related to climate change and ensure the active participation of regional representatives in relevant EU working groups. Last but not least, the EU can play a crucial role in the dissemination and knowledge sharing of subnational mitigation and adaptation measures.

nrg4SD regional case studies

ClimSAT, World Centre of Satellite Images of the UN in Brittany — As a tool of the United Nations Development Programme UNDP, ClimSAT provides services to the UNDP and the regions across the World that implement UN Territorial Approach on Climate Change (TACC) projects. The Centre ClimSAT relies on Breton scientific resources.

Objectives: Supply GIS data in support to TACC programme implementation and to subnational decision-making and implementation of adaptation to climate change actions; as well as contribute to capacity building. Supplied data and tools have to demonstrate high technical quality. Transferability and adaptability to Regions from the South ' are also a requirement.

Tools: GIS data bases, including numerical models; integrated reporting on land uses; scenario projection of different climate change impacts (floods, droughts, raising sea levels, etc.); spatial planning and land management decision tools, and training for local field teams.

Québec's Climate Municipalities Programme - Since 2006, the Government of Québec implements an Action Plan on Climate Changes aimed at curbing GHG emissions in 6% compared to 1990 levels by 2012. The Action Plan is mainly funded by a tax on fossil fuels. In April 2009, within the framework of the Action Plan, a new Climate Municipalities Programme was launched. The scientific consortium Ouranos has been brought in order to develop a methodology for awareness-raising and dissemination targeted to the municipalities. Ouranos, a scientific network for regional climate, mitigation and adaptation to climate change studies, was created back in 2001 upon the initiative of the Government of Québec, Hydro-Québec and the Federal Ministry for the Environment. Today Ouranos articulates the collaboration between the scientific research and the decision-making levels on climate change impacts and adaptation matters.

Objectives: To support and finance the elaboration of climate change adaptation plans for the cities having developed a strategy on GHG emissions reduction before 2009.

Tools: Elaboration of an Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation; guide for municipal actors; multidisciplinary and inter-institutional committee and education and awareness-raising workshops for the elaboration of the adaptation plan of the City of Québec.

nrg4SD regional case studies

Sigmaplan - Flood risk management in Flanders — The Scheldt estuary, including Antwerp, is regularly subject to storm surges from the North Sea. Higher tide levels and more frequent storms than the predicted average have become a reality in the recent past. Back in 2004, the Flemish Government approved Sigmaplan, aimed at protecting against floods; preserving the natural character of the estuary system, and ensuring the accessibility of the port.

Objectives: To establish a system of controlled inundation areas and dike heightening. The long-term objective is the establishment, at several stages, of a robust and secure flood risk management system for Flanders. In this context, up to 2030, the construction of new project areas is planned every 5 years. The first projects are scheduled for 2010. The plan involves important changes in land use, mostly from agriculture to natural estuarine habitat. Allowing more space for the river also favours a healthier ecosystem, the improvement of water quality and opportunities for unique flora and fauna.

Tools: Multidisciplinary and interregional support plan, given the international character of the Scheldt River; multifunctional cross-policy steering committee, involving all interest groups and linking them to the decision-making level; compensation package to farmers affected by agriculture land expropriation; international collaboration for widening the port fairway to a keel depth of 13.10 m. (tide independent) in order to continue reducing CO2 emissions from road transport.

arbed - Strategic Energy Performance Investment Programme in Wales - Established by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2009, arbed invests in the energy performance of Welsh homes. This constitutes a major stimulus for jobs in Wales in what is a highly labour-intensive sector, with the added benefit that it helps delivering on housing, fuel poverty and climate change ambitions. The design of arbed reflects the shift in policy towards (i) a 'whole-house' or 'consider-all-options' approach to domestic energy performance, in order to tackle harder-to-treat homes, where the impact of fuel poverty tends to be most severe and (ii) a community or street-by-street approach, in order to support social cohesion and achieve economies of scale wherever possible.

Objective: To coordinate investment into the energy performance of Welsh homes, maximising the environmental, social and economic benefits, and helping deliver the *One Wales* commitments to reduce climate change, eradicate fuel poverty and boost economic development and regeneration in Wales.

Tools: Thanks to a combination of Welsh, private, public-private-partnership and EU funds, it is estimated that in phase 1 arbed will help 6,500 households with measures including solid wall insulation, solar hot water panels and heat pumps. A further 1,500 households should benefit through leveraged investment. arbed grantees are tied through contractual terms and conditions into taking part in targeted supply-side measures. These measures include: i) attending meet-the-buyer events prior to undertaking procurement; ii) making Targeted Recruitment & Training core to contracts, using the Can Do Toolkit; iii) delivering 156 trainee weeks for every £1m spent; iv) sourcing training/employment opportunities through JobMatch and its equivalents; v) helping local contractors gain qualifications/accreditation where appropriate, and vi) attending learning events. -

Please refer to the nrg4SD website for detailed project fiches



**Global
commitment of
North and South
regional
governments for
sustainable
development**

Commitment, political will and sustainable human and financial investment, for the global and long-term challenges of regional governments

- Legitimacy – directly from member regional governments and associations of regions
- Representative – 45 regions from 29 countries across the Globe and 7 associations of regions
- Experience and technical knowledge
- Action with direct impact on our members