

S3ADAPT partners explore climate resilience in Vilnius

Partners of the Interreg Europe project **S3ADAPT** met in **Vilnius, Lithuania, on 27-28 May 2026** for a two-day study visit hosted by the **Lithuanian Innovation Centre**. The programme combined expert presentations and site visits, showcasing how Lithuania addresses climate adaptation through innovative solutions, the use of data and cooperation between institutions.

The visit focused on practical examples of climate resilience, ranging from sustainable urban development and forest management to climate services, cultural heritage protection and urban biodiversity. Thanks to the diverse programme prepared by the hosts, participants were able to learn about a wide range of initiatives that help regions respond to climate-related challenges while contributing to regional development.

One of the key discussions focused on sustainable urban development. Representatives of the **Construction Sector Development Agency (SSVA)** presented an innovative urban sustainability assessment model that goes beyond traditional environmental indicators. The methodology also considers how easily residents can access essential public services and spaces, helping cities become more liveable and inclusive while strengthening their resilience to future climate challenges.

Another session addressed climate adaptation in forest management. Experts from the **State Forest Enterprise** demonstrated how environmental data, remote sensing technologies and predictive tools are being used to support long-term forest resilience. Participants learned how digital solutions help forest managers respond to changing environmental conditions and make informed decisions for the future.

Climate-related challenges affecting cultural heritage were highlighted during a visit to the **Gediminas Castle complex**. Participants explored how advanced geotechnical engineering measures are helping safeguard one of Lithuania's most iconic landmarks from the impacts of extreme weather and slope instability.

During the first day, partners also took part in a workshop dedicated to the results of the **Climate Resilience Stress Test** carried out by each region during the previous project semester. The session facilitated the comparison of findings, discussion of common vulnerabilities and exchange of experiences from the assessment process, helping participants better understand climate adaptation challenges across different regional contexts. In addition, a **Project Steering Committee** meeting was held to review key project management and reporting matters, as well as the main activities during the third project semester.

The second day began with a visit to the **Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service**. Project partners were presented with the country's weather forecasting and climate monitoring systems, demonstrating how environmental data supports public decision-making and preparedness for extreme weather events. The session highlighted the

important role that reliable information plays in supporting preparedness and adaptation efforts at national and regional levels.

The programme concluded with a rooftop meeting in the heart of Vilnius, where representatives of **Urbanbee** introduced participants to the contribution of urban biodiversity to climate-resilient cities. Standing by rooftop beehives, partners discovered how bees can thrive in urban environments and how Vilnius honey, produced from nectar collected from more than 300 plant species across the city, can serve as an indicator of local biodiversity. Even densely built-up areas can successfully support nature while contributing to healthier urban ecosystems.

The programme prepared by the Lithuanian hosts brought together a wide range of perspectives and practical examples, demonstrating ongoing efforts to address climate adaptation challenges at local, regional and national levels. The visit provided valuable input for the ongoing work of the S3ADAPT partnership on integrating climate adaptation policies with Smart Specialisation Strategies across Europe.

The S3ADAPT project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Europe programme and supports European regions in improving policy instruments that foster innovation-driven climate adaptation and resilience.