

MLGP4  
CLIMATE  
**BULLETIN**

**MAY 2026**

Climate | Cities | Action

Special Edition

IN FOCUS:  
Cities and Climate Action

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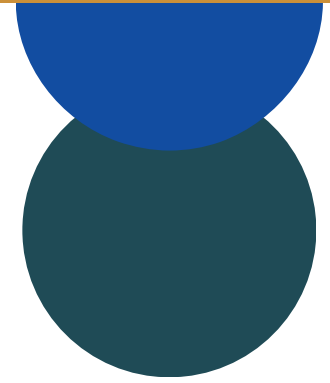
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TOGETHER, WE TURN KNOWLEDGE INTO CLIMATE ACTION



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## From Awareness to Collective Action

May reflects a period of deepening engagement and expanding reach across the MLGP4Climate community.

Throughout the month, our cooperation with municipalities intensified—particularly around SECAP development, climate planning, and local implementation processes. At the same time, new conversations with NGOs, SMEs, and institutional partners reinforced the importance of cross-sector collaboration in building resilient and sustainable communities.

A major highlight of this issue is the **Baku - Azarbaijan World Urban Forum 2026**, which stands as an important platform shaping the future of cities, urban resilience, and global urban governance. In parallel, this edition features **Prof. Dr. Tuncer Demir's** article, **“Negative Impacts of Climate Change on Mediterranean River Systems,”** offering a critical scientific perspective on one of the most pressing environmental challenges facing the region.

May also marked another milestone for our **growing network with the 11th MLGP4Climate Experts Meeting**. Beyond exchanging ideas, these meetings continue to strengthen a shared sense of purpose—creating space for knowledge exchange, cooperation, and practical solutions.

This **brings together funding opportunities, climate action news from Türkiye and around the world, and insights on sustainability**, energy transition, spatial planning, and urban transformation. As always, our goal is not only to inform, but to support action.

Meanwhile, our community continues to grow across social media and beyond. Every new interaction expands the visibility of climate action and strengthens public awareness among municipalities, institutions, youth, women, children, and communities.

It grows through collaboration, persistence, and the belief that local action can create global

**Daiva Matoniene**

*MLGP4Climate voluntary*



# May Focus (1)

**May reflects a period of expansion in collective urban engagement.**

Across the MLGP4Climate community, collaboration is becoming more practical, more interconnected, and increasingly implementation-oriented. Awareness efforts around the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) and the MLGP4Climate platform continued to grow throughout the month, strengthening engagement with municipalities, civil society organizations, SMEs, and local stakeholders across Türkiye.

At the centre of this momentum stands a shared realization: **climate action succeeds only when local capacity, cooperation, and long-term vision come together.**

In his message featured in this edition, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres underlines a defining reality of our era: the fight against climate change and the struggle for sustainable urbanization are inseparable. Cities are no longer peripheral actors in climate governance they are at its core. From resilient infrastructure and renewable energy investments to inclusive public spaces and community-centred planning, local governments increasingly determine whether climate targets become reality.



# May Focus (2)

This perspective resonates strongly with the ongoing transformation within MLGP4Climate.

The 11th Experts Meeting once again demonstrated the value of knowledge exchange, shared learning, and collective problem-solving. Beyond discussion, these meetings are evolving into spaces where partnerships deepen, implementation strategies mature, and common priorities become actionable pathways.

This month's issue also highlights the upcoming Baku World Urban Forum 2026, an important international platform shaping the future of cities, urban resilience, and sustainable development. Complementing this global perspective, **Prof. Dr. Tuncer Demir's article, "Negative Impacts of Climate Change on Mediterranean River Systems,"** provides a critical scientific reflection on the growing environmental pressures facing the region.

At the operational level, cooperation with municipalities continued to intensify—particularly around SECAP development, climate finance access, and local implementation support. At the same time, the platform expanded its role in sharing funding opportunities, grant programmes, and international calls for municipalities, NGOs, SMEs, and other institutions seeking to strengthen their climate and sustainability initiatives.

Meanwhile, the **MLGP4Climate community continues to grow steadily across social media and public engagement channels.** Every new connection expands the visibility of climate action and strengthens awareness among cities, institutions, youth, women, children, and communities.

May therefore represents more than continuity.

It reflects a growing alignment between knowledge, collaboration, and implementation.



**MLGP4**  
CLIMATE



# Happy Europe Day

**9 May** is more than the anniversary of a union.

It represents solidarity, cooperation, and a shared future.

Today, one of Europe's greatest common challenges is clear: the climate crisis.

And addressing it requires more than national policies.

It requires cities, local governments, institutions, and communities working together.

At MLGP4Climate, we believe in cross-border collaboration, sustainable cities, and climate-focused transformation.

Because a more resilient and livable future can only be built together.

May 19 Special Edition



# 19 MAY: THE COURAGE TO BUILD THE FUTURE

19 May 1919 was not only the beginning of a journey— it was a symbol of the determination to rebuild the future.

Today, in a world facing climate crisis, rapid urbanization, and growing environmental vulnerability, the role of young people has become more critical than ever.

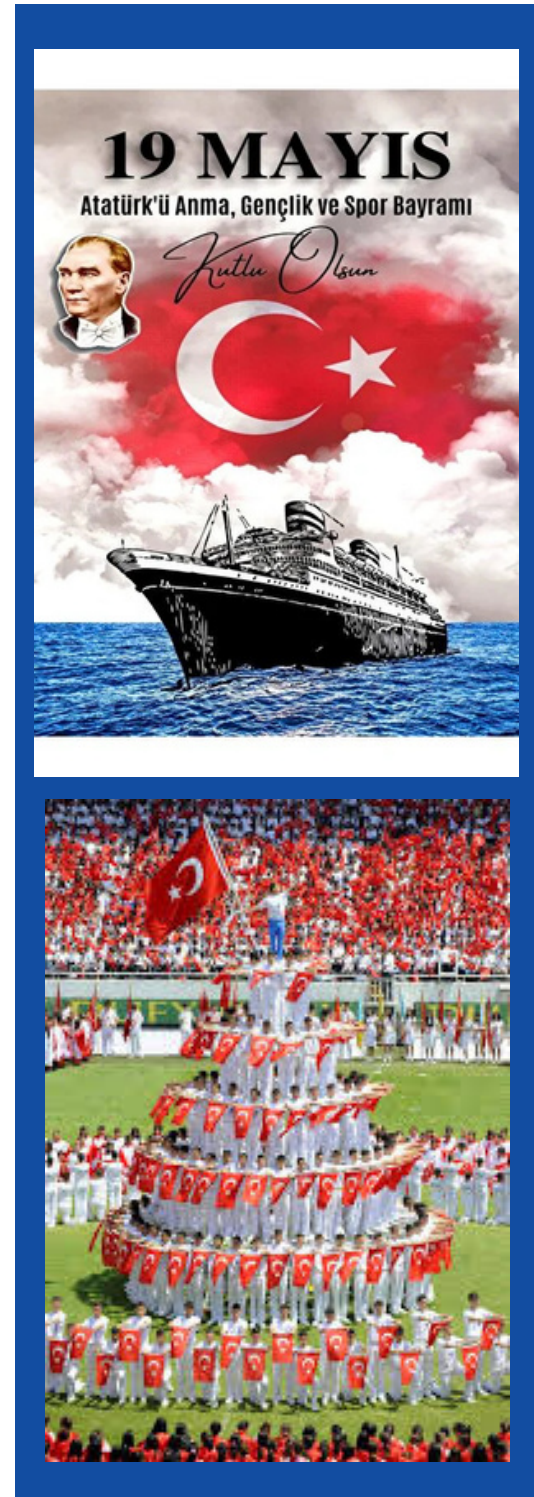
Because a sustainable future cannot be built through technology alone. It also requires vision, responsibility, and a culture of collective action.

From cities and energy transition to climate policy and community resilience, young people are no longer only representatives of the future— they are active actors of transformation.

At MLGP4Climate, we believe that: more resilient cities, more sustainable systems, and a more equitable future will only be possible when young people have access to knowledge, participation, and decision-making processes.

The spirit of hope and determination carried by 19 May continues to inspire climate action today.

Because what changes the future is not only ideas — but the courage to turn those ideas into reality.



# MLGP4CLIMATE 11<sup>th</sup> EXPERT MEETING

WE ARE STILL AT THE SAME TABLE AFTER A YEAR.  
AND WE ARE STRONGER.



Shared knowledge.  
Stronger partnerships.  
Better cities for a sustainable future.

MLGP4Climate held its 11th Experts Meeting.

What started as a project is now becoming a growing international collaboration network.

A year ago, we were talking about sustainability.  
Today, we are talking about implementation.

With the number of Turkish municipalities in the Global Covenant of Mayors rising from 15 to 135, and our platform approaching 200 member municipalities, one thing is clear:

Local collaboration is growing.

From Antalya to Brussels, from Vilnius to Istanbul—different institutions and different expertise continue to come together around one shared goal:  
More resilient and sustainable cities.

Because real transformation happens not only through ideas, but through the determination to keep building together.

And sometimes, dialogues that begin on a Zoom screen can help shape the future of cities.



MLGP4CLIMATE | EXPERTS IN ACTION

# From Local to Global:

## Strengthening Collective Climate Action

Union of Eco-Municipalities (Turkey)  
1st Ordinary Assembly Meeting 2026  
Edremit, Balıkesir



GLOBAL COVENANT  
of MAYORS for  
CLIMATE & ENERGY

# 150

member municipalities  
and growing



TOGETHER WE DESIGN CLIMATE RESILIENT CITIES

## WHAT WAS SHARED

# Key Topics Presented to Member Municipalities

**01** **GCoM Membership**  
Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy - membership processes and benefits

**02** **MLGP4Climate Platform**  
Cross-border collaboration tools and knowledge-sharing for local governments

**03** **EU Funding & Grants**  
Available EU funds and grants that municipalities can access for green projects

**04** **Energy Transition & SECAP**  
Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan preparation and implementation

**05** **Climate Finance**  
Mechanisms and pathways for accessing climate finance at the local level



## WHY IT MATTERS



# Cities are no longer just infrastructure managers.

They are becoming the driving force of climate transformation.



That is why municipalities must:

**Join international networks**

**Access climate finance**

**Plan energy transitions**

**Develop strategic roadmaps like SECAP**

Climate-resilient cities are only possible through strong collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and local capacity.

**Transformation is no longer shaped only at global summits - it starts in municipal councils.**



**António Guterres**

*Secretary-General of the United Nations*

# The Future of Climate Action Is Urban

A vision of style, crafted with purpose

The fight against climate change and the struggle to achieve more sustainable and equitable urbanization are two sides of the same coin.

Today, cities are on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

When buildings, homes and essential infrastructure — including water and transportation systems — are poorly planned, built or managed, they become increasingly vulnerable to rising seas, heatwaves, floods and other extreme weather events driven by climate change. And as always, the greatest burden falls on the poorest and most vulnerable communities.

But cities are also where some of the world's most effective climate solutions are taking shape.

With bold investments, forward-looking urban planning and resilient design, cities have the power to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen climate adaptation and improve the lives of millions of people.

Across the world, local governments are already leading this transformation. They are expanding inclusive green spaces, investing in renewable energy, redesigning urban mobility systems and implementing smarter planning strategies that make communities both more sustainable and more resilient.

The future of climate action will not be decided only in conference rooms or international negotiations.

It will be decided in neighborhoods, streets, transport systems and public spaces.

City and local leaders therefore remain at the forefront of global climate action. In many cases, cities are moving faster and further than national governments in efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

This leadership matters.

Because the success or failure of climate goals will ultimately be measured at the community level — where people live, work and build their futures.

The recently adopted Pact for the Future also recognizes the importance of cooperation across all levels of government to create safe, healthy, resilient and sustainable cities for everyone.

As we accelerate efforts toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, we must ensure that cities everywhere remain central to this mission.

Because the future of climate action is urban.

*“The fight against climate change and the struggle to achieve more sustainable and equitable urbanization are two sides of the same coin.”*





# THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM (WUF13)

## Housing the World Safely: Unpacking WUF13 and the Multi-Level Climate Mandate



UN-HABITAT

# WUF13

17–22 MAY 2026

BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

As the global community converges in **Baku, Azerbaijan, for the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF13) from May 17–22, 2026**, the conversation surrounding sustainable development has reached a critical turning point. Operating under the overarching theme, "**Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities**," this year's forum underscores a chilling global reality: nearly 3 billion people currently face housing inadequacy, further exacerbated by escalating climate emergencies.

For the **Multi-Level Governance Platform for Climate Action (MLGP4Climate)**, May is a month of intense institutional alignment. WUF13 serves as a premier testing ground for the exact principles we champion—strengthening the horizontal and vertical policy frameworks necessary to transform vulnerable local communities into resilient, net-zero safe havens.

# The thirteenth session of the World Urban Foru

## The Intersection of the Housing Crisis and Climate Urgency



Urban areas are simultaneously the epicenter of climate vulnerability and our greatest hope for a sustainable transition. Today, cities account for over 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions and three-quarters of global energy consumption. At WUF13, UN-Habitat has made it clear that resolving the global housing crisis cannot be decoupled from local climate adaptation.

Unplanned rapid urbanization leaves cities heavily exposed to extreme climate shocks, such as intense heat island effects and urban flooding. When we build or retrofit homes, we are not merely erecting shelters—we are building a city's primary line of climate defense. Sustainable urbanization now demands that housing plans inherently feature nature-based solutions, passive cooling infrastructure, and decentralized green energy grids.



**Multi-Level Governance: The True Enabler of WUF13 Outcomes**

The overarching consensus emerging from the dialogue rooms in Baku is clear: no single entity can tackle the urban housing and climate crisis alone. It requires a robust, coordinated response combining national ministries, regional authorities, and municipal bodies.

This is exactly where the **MLGP4Climate** platform acts as a vital bridge. By fostering multi-donor collaborations and bolstering the Covenant of Mayors Initiative, we enable local municipalities to align seamlessly with broader national and international frameworks like the New Urban Agenda.

**Vertical Integration:** Local climate actions and Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) must be financially and legislatively backed by national targets.

**Horizontal Knowledge Exchange:** Municipalities must utilize platforms like **MLGP** to duplicate successful green practices—ranging from Medellín's structural green corridors to smart city transit systems.

**From Baku to Local Municipalities: Key Actions for May and Beyond**

To turn the high-level resolutions of WUF13 into tangible actions on the ground, MLGP4Climate encourages local governments to prioritize the following focus areas in their current planning cycles:

- **Climate-Resilient Social Housing:** Integrate rigid energy efficiency standards, green rooftops, and stormwater harvesting infrastructure directly into municipal housing policies.



- Decarbonizing Urban Transport: Shift city transit toward low-emission and electric mobility frameworks, utilizing scalable and cost-effective solutions to reduce transit dependency on fossil fuels.
- Unlocking Urban Climate Finance: Bridge the gap between local climate projects and international funding facilities. Municipalities must build up their capacity to draft bankable, green infrastructure plans.

### Conclusion

**WUF13 in Baku** has reaffirmed that sustainable housing is a human right and a core pillar of climate resilience. As we close out our May focus, **MLGP4Climate** remains fiercely committed to empowering local mayors and urban planners. By embracing multi-level governance, we can move away from fragmented reactive responses and instead build interconnected, climate-ready cities capable of sheltering the future safely.

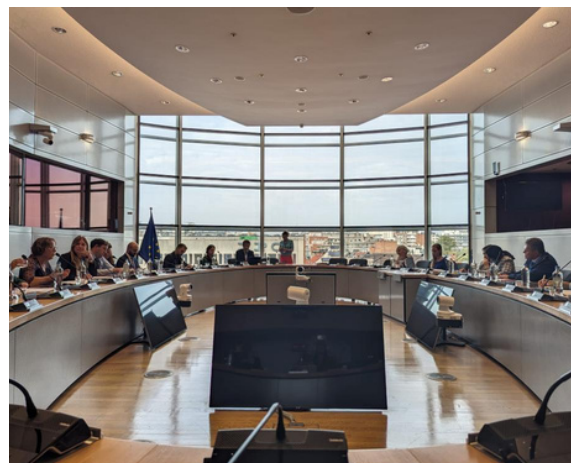
# Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM)



## A Global Alliance for Climate-Resilient Cities

Cities are increasingly at the forefront of the global climate transition. As local governments face growing environmental, social, and energy challenges, international cooperation platforms such as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) are becoming more important than ever.

The Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) is the world's largest alliance of cities and local governments committed to climate action and energy transition. Bringing together more than 14,000 cities and municipalities across over 140 countries, the initiative supports local authorities in building low-carbon, resilient, and sustainable urban futures.



At the core of GCoM lies a simple but powerful principle:

Cities are not only affected by climate change – they are also key actors in delivering solutions.

Member cities commit to:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Strengthening climate adaptation capacity
- Improving access to sustainable and secure energy
- Developing long-term climate and energy strategies



# Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM)



GLOBAL COVENANT  
*of MAYORS for*  
CLIMATE & ENERGY



One of the initiative's most important implementation tools is the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) framework, which helps municipalities translate climate ambitions into measurable local actions.

**14030**  
CITIES

**1.32 BN**  
PEOPLE

**24 BN**  
TONS CO<sub>2</sub> E BY 2030

**100+**  
GLOBAL PARTNERS

Beyond technical planning, GCoM also provides:

- Capacity building opportunities
- Access to international networks
- Knowledge sharing and peer learning
- Visibility for local climate leadership
- Support for financing and implementation processes

Today, as cities face increasing pressures from extreme heat, floods, energy insecurity, and infrastructure stress, international cooperation among municipalities is becoming more important than ever.

At MLGP4Climate, we believe platforms such as GCoM play a critical role in accelerating local climate governance and strengthening implementation capacity across cities and regions.

Because the future of climate action will largely be shaped at the local level — where policies become practice, and commitments turn into real transformation.



# AN OPEN CALL FOR CITIES AND REGIONS BUILDING A **GREENER,** **MORE RESILIENT FUTURE.**



APPLICATION DEADLINE:  
**MAY 29**

## A Call to Accelerate Urban Transformation

Cities That Grow With Nature, Not Against It

An international opportunity has opened for cities and regions ready to place nature-positive transformation at the center of urban development.

Launched by GoNaturePositive!, the programme supports local governments in exploring how economic growth, climate resilience and ecosystem restoration can advance together.

Selected participants will collaborate on topics including:

- climate resilience and ecosystem restoration
- nature-positive finance
- sustainable public procurement
- local economic development
- partnerships with businesses and communities

As cities continue to grow, one critical question becomes impossible to ignore: Can urban development move forward without exhausting nature?

This programme aims to help answer that question.

Because the cities of the future will not be built only with concrete —

but with green infrastructure, resilient ecosystems and stronger local collaboration.

[Deadline](#)



**MLGP4**  
**CLIMATE**



Funded by  
the European Union  
NextGenerationEU

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

# HYDROGEN VALLEYS

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT



**APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
**JUNE 26, 2026**

## CLEAN HYDROGEN VALLEYS: A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR TÜRKIYE

A new call has been launched under the Horizon Europe Clean Hydrogen Partnership to support the development of Hydrogen Valleys across Europe. The programme aims to accelerate clean hydrogen ecosystems and help projects reach final investment readiness through technical, regulatory, and financial support.

The call will support up to 13 projects through two tracks:

- PDA Light — for early-stage projects
- PDA Plus — for more advanced initiatives

Public institutions, municipalities, universities, companies, and consortia are eligible to apply.

With its strong renewable energy potential, Türkiye holds significant opportunities for the development of regional hydrogen valleys—particularly in Marmara, the Aegean Region, and Eastern Anatolia.

For institutions seeking to lead the green energy transition, this call represents an important strategic opportunity.

[More information and application](#)



## APPLICATIONS FOR THE ARISE INVESTMENT PROGRAMME ARE STILL OPEN!



Climate resilience is no longer only an environmental issue. It is becoming an economic and urban priority.

Launched by the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), the new ARISE programme aims to place climate resilience at the centre of economic planning in developing countries.

ARISE represents a new generation of climate finance focused on resilient cities, stronger economies, and long-term stability.

One of its strongest aspects is the integration of the private sector—not only in investment, but also in planning and implementation.

Because the reality is becoming clear:

Climate resilience is not only about environmental protection. It is also about economic security.

**Deadline: 8 June 2026**

# €324 Million for the Future of Cities

New Horizon Europe calls are now open.



And this time, the focus is not only technology.

Energy transition, circular economy, local democracy, social inclusion, and neighborhood-scale transformation are all part of the agenda.

- ◆ Energy Call — €223.2M

Focused on clean energy, climate transition, and energy efficiency.

Deadline: 15 September 2026

- ◆ New European Bauhaus Facility — €101.1M

Supporting green transformation, inclusive communities, and regenerative urban approaches.

Deadline: 1 December 2026

Across Europe, urban transformation is no longer seen only as infrastructure. It is also about how we live, produce, and connect together.

For cities and local governments, these calls represent not only funding—but a new direction for the future. Because the cities of tomorrow must be not only smart, but also resilient, inclusive, and sustainable.

**€324 MILLION FROM EUROPE FOR THE CITIES OF TOMORROW!**

New Horizon Europe calls support cities in building a more sustainable, inclusive and democratic future.

**1. ENERGY CALL**  
**€223.2 MILLION**  
For projects on climate transition, clean energy, energy efficiency and sustainable use.  
DEADLINE: 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

**2. NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS FACILITY**  
**€101.1 MILLION**  
For projects advancing green transformation, social inclusion, local democracy and regenerative neighbourhoods.  
DEADLINE: 1 DECEMBER 2026

# A New Energy Call for Cities Is Coming!

CETPartnership Joint Call 2026 is launching - one of Europe's largest clean energy transition partnerships.

The programme offers opportunities for international projects in clean energy technologies, smart energy systems, energy storage, hydrogen, carbon-neutral infrastructure, and sustainable urban solutions.



## Who Can Apply (incl. Turkey):

Municipalities, Universities, NGOs, Energy agencies, Research institutions, Technology companies - through international consortia.

## Key Focus Areas:

Smart city energy systems | Renewable energy | Energy storage | Hydrogen solutions | Carbon-neutral infrastructure | Energy efficiency | Grid transformation

## Important Timeline:

- Launch Event: 26 May 2026
- Call opens: 8 June 2026
- Pre-proposal deadline: 8 October 2026, 14:00 CEST

Energy transition is no longer just an environmental issue - it is becoming a matter of economic resilience, energy security, and competitiveness for cities.

**More info:** <https://lnkd.in/de8wBzvi>





## CLIMATE CRISIS: A CHAIN REACTION

Climate change is no longer only an environmental issue. It is a systemic challenge. And every system is interconnected. When forests disappear, carbon storage declines, temperatures rise, then the chain reaction begins:

- ◆ Drought
- ◆ Food insecurity
- ◆ Rising prices
- ◆ Loss of livelihoods
- ◆ Migration
- ◆ Inequality
- ◆ Social and economic instability

And nature's ability to regenerate is decreasing. The climate crisis is not a single problem. It is a network of interconnected impacts.

That is why solutions cannot exist in isolation either.

- Clean energy
- Ecosystem restoration
- Climate-friendly cities
- Resilient food systems
- Strong health infrastructure
- Fair economic models

All of them must work together. Because the future will not be built through isolated actions, but through interconnected systems. And perhaps the most important question is this:

Will we build that system together with nature — or against it?



URBAN PLANNING SERIES



# BARCELONA example

## WHO ARE STREETS REALLY FOR?

For decades, cities were designed around cars. More roads, more traffic, more concrete.

Barcelona chose a different direction.



# BARCELONA MODEL



In 2016, Barcelona launched its now-famous Superblocks model — rethinking entire neighborhoods around people instead of vehicles.

Traffic was redirected to surrounding roads.  
Inner streets were returned to the community.

And the city began to breathe again.

## WHAT CHANGED

- More walkability
- More cycling
- Cleaner air
- Less noise

Streets once dominated by cars became places where:

- Children could safely play
- Elderly residents could move comfortably
- Communities could gather and reconnect

## THE RESULTS

**25%**

reduction in  
air pollution

**30%**

increase in  
pedestrian activity

**€500M**

annual health  
savings

**100s**

of lives saved  
every year

URBAN PLANNING SERIES



# NOT JUST A MOBILITY PROJECT

Barcelona's Superblocks represent a shift in how cities think about public space, health, accessibility, and quality of life.

At MLGP4Climate, we believe the cities of the future will not be defined by speed alone — but by how well they put people at the center.

**Because sometimes transforming a city does not require building more roads.**

**It requires giving some streets back.**



CINEMA &amp; URBANISM



# SOMETIMES ONE FILM IS ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND A CITY

Some films do more than tell stories. They reveal the soul of a city — its inequalities, its future, its fragility.

That is why urban planners, architects, and city thinkers keep returning to cinema. Because sometimes a film can ask stronger questions than a hundred-page report.

◆ **Blade Runner 2049**

Density, vertical cities, and unequal urban futures...

◆ **The Truman Show**

Controlled environments and the illusion of the "perfect" suburb...

◆ **City of God**

Urban poverty, informal settlements, and survival...

◆ **Children of Men**

Collapsing systems, pressured infrastructure, and fragile cities...

◆ **Her**

Quiet, walkable, human-scale urban life...

◆ **Parasite**

Architecture, topography, and the invisible borders of class...

And perhaps all of them lead to the same question:

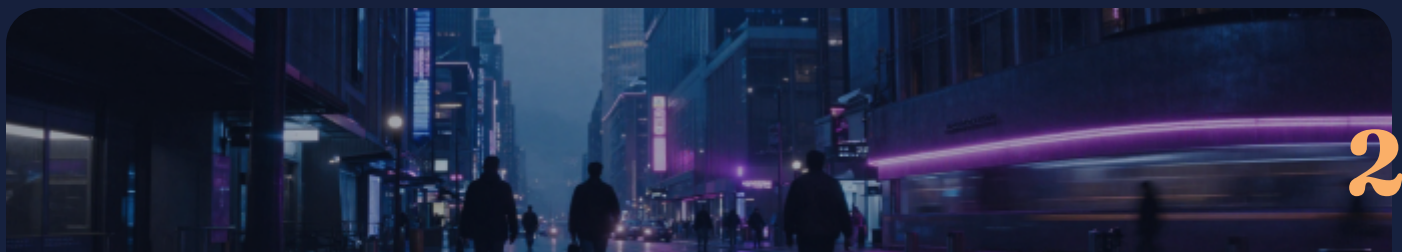
## Who are cities really designed for?

At MLGP4Climate, we believe understanding cities is not only about plans and infrastructure.

It is also about understanding people, stories, emotions, and everyday life.

Because good urbanism may begin with a simple shift in perspective:

## Seeing streets not only as infrastructure — but as stages of human life.



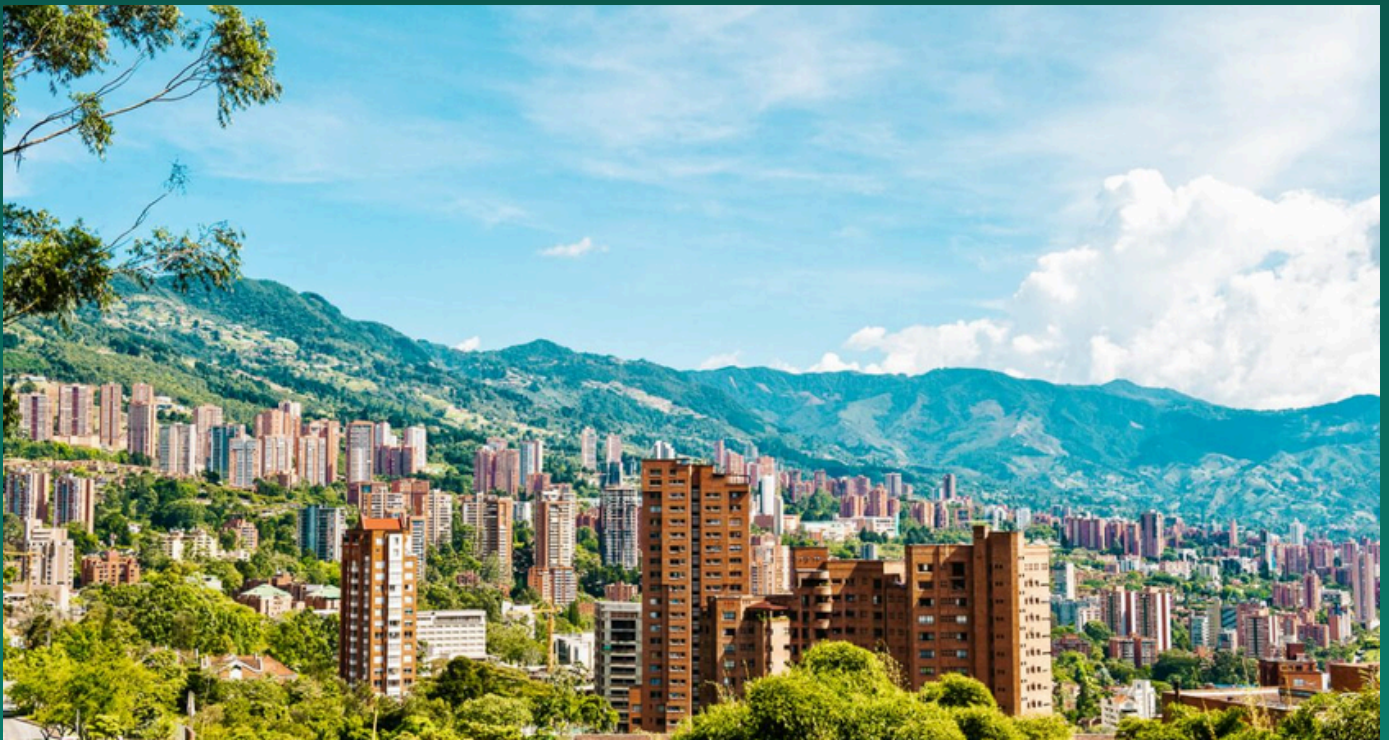


# MEDELLÍN DIDN'T BUILD A HOSPITAL. IT PLANTED TREES

Years ago, the Colombian city of Medellín made a different choice.

Instead of more concrete, it invested in more green space.

Between 2016 and 2019, the city created 30 green corridors across streets, roads, and waterways — planting thousands of trees throughout the urban landscape.



## THE RESULTS

- 12,500 new trees
- Tens of thousands of plants added
- Average urban temperatures reduced by 2°C
- 34% increase in cycling
- Cleaner air and lower respiratory illness rates

All with an investment of around **\$16.3 million**.

# NOT JUST ABOUT PLANTING TREES

But this story is not only about planting trees.



It is about understanding something many cities still overlook:

**Nature is not a cost.**

**It is living infrastructure.**

## THE COST OF DOING NOTHING

Rising healthcare costs

Higher energy demand

Urban heat islands

Increased flood risks

Loss of biodiversity

At MLGP4Climate, we believe resilient cities will not be built through concrete alone.

They will be shaped by how cities reconnect with nature.

**Because sometimes the impact of a single tree  
lasts far longer than the impact of a building.**





# NATURE'S HIDDEN AIR CONDITIONER



**40-46°C** No shade



**32-34°C** Tree canopy

Same city. Same sun.  
Two completely different streets.

Less heat stress

Cleaner air

More livable streets

More resilient cities

Trees are not simply aesthetic elements.  
They are part of a city's **natural cooling infrastructure**.

While concrete traps heat,  
green spaces allow cities to breathe.  
**Urban green space is no longer a luxury.**

**It is a public health and climate resilience necessity.**

**Because sometimes the shade of a single tree can change the future of an entire city.**

# MORE THAN FOUR WALLS: BUILDING THE FUTURE



Housing is more than a roof over our heads.  
It is the foundation of security, dignity, and belonging.

Today, affordable and safe housing is no longer only a social issue.  
It is becoming one of the most critical pillars of climate resilience and social stability.



When cities invest in inclusive, climate-conscious, and accessible housing, the impact reaches far beyond buildings.



# FIVE PILLARS OF INCLUSIVE HOUSING

## Healthier Generations

Children growing up in safe, daylight-filled homes instead of unhealthy living conditions.

## Climate Protection

Homes that provide safety during extreme heat, disasters, and growing climate risks.

## Economic Stability

Lower housing burdens and stronger opportunities for individuals and families.

## Stronger Communities

Neighborhoods where social connection, solidarity, and belonging can thrive.

## Accessible Urban Life

Housing connected to transport, education, water, and essential urban services.

**Cities should not be built with concrete alone.**

They must also be built with equity, sustainability, resilience, and care.

**Because inclusive housing is not simply about shelter.**

**It is about creating cities where people — and futures — can truly thrive.**



## MLGP4CLIMATE INFORMS!

# WHAT IS A SECAP?

Cities are no longer simply expanding.

They are being reshaped by climate risks, energy transition pressures, and increasing resource challenges.

One of the most important tools guiding this transformation is the **SECAP**.

**Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs)** are more than technical documents for municipalities. They are strategic roadmaps designed to strengthen climate resilience, improve energy efficiency, and prepare cities for a low-carbon future.



Today, for many cities, the question is no longer:

**“Do we need climate action?”**

The real questions are:

- How fast can it be implemented?
- How well can it be integrated across sectors?
- And how effectively can it deliver measurable results?

Because climate action only becomes meaningful through implementation capacity.

In this issue, we briefly explore:

- the main objectives of SECAPs
- why they are critical for municipalities
- how they shape the future of cities

The transition toward more resilient, livable, and low-carbon cities starts at the local level.



# CITIES ARE HEATING UP

## RISKS ARE RISING



Europe is now the fastest-warming continent in the world. And cities are at the center of this transformation. This is no longer a future scenario. It is becoming part of everyday urban life.

- Hotter streets
- Increasing water stress
- More frequent flood risks
- More fragile infrastructure systems

Cities are aware of these challenges.  
Many already have climate adaptation plans in place.  
But a critical gap remains.

- 85% of cities have adaptation plans
- Only 6% have dedicated financing strategies
- 46% still cannot clearly calculate the cost of implementation

In other words:  
The plans exist.  
But implementation remains the real challenge.

If progress continues at the current pace, the economic cost of droughts, heatwaves, and floods in Europe could reach €126 billion by 2029.

The latest Urban Climate Resilience in Europe study by highlights a clear reality:  
What is urgently needed now is:

- Clear allocation of responsibilities
- Stronger institutional and technical capacity
- Predictable long-term financing
- Effective multi-level coordination

Because climate resilience is not built through plans alone.  
It is built through implementation, investment, and sustained action.



# EUROPE'S CLIMATE STRATEGY ENTERS A NEW PHASE

The European Commission is considering expanding free allowances under the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) for heavy industries such as steel, cement, and chemicals.

The proposal could reduce carbon costs for these sectors by nearly €4 billion by 2030

The discussion is no longer focused only on reducing emissions. It is increasingly about balancing:

- Climate ambition
- Industrial competitiveness
- Energy security
- Economic resilience

A key question now emerges:

Could lower carbon costs slow the pace of decarbonisation and clean technology investment?

As Europe navigates this transition, climate policy is becoming not only an environmental issue, but also a strategic economic priority.

The upcoming EU carbon market review expected in July may become a defining moment for the future direction of Europe's green transition.

## The EU supports industry towards 2030:

**€4.7 billion** in free  
**CO<sub>2</sub> allowances**  
for industry.



SUPPORTING  
INDUSTRY



REDUCING  
EMISSIONS



BUILDING  
A CLEANER FUTURE



TOGETHER FOR  
CLIMATE NEUTRALITY



# A NEW ERA FOR BUILDINGS IN TÜRKİYE

Türkiye is taking an important step toward low-carbon and environmentally responsible construction.



STARTING FROM  
**1 JANUARY  
2027**



Under the newly introduced regulation, all new buildings larger than **10,000 m<sup>2</sup>**

will be required, starting from **1 January 2027**, to meet stronger environmental performance standards.

## THE NEW FRAMEWORK INTRODUCES:



**ENERGY  
IDENTITY  
CERTIFICATES**



**BUILDING LIFE CYCLE  
ASSESSMENT  
CERTIFICATES**



IN ADDITION,  
A NEW **LOW-CARBON  
BUILDING CERTIFICATE**  
WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR  
BUILDINGS WITH REDUCED  
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.



The regulation signals an important transition for Türkiye's construction sector — moving beyond growth alone toward **sustainability, energy efficiency,** and **climate-conscious urban development.**



Buildings will increasingly be evaluated not only by their size or design, but also by their **energy performance, carbon footprint,** and long-term **environmental impact.**



At MLGP4Climate, we believe climate-resilient cities are built through **climate-friendly buildings, sustainable infrastructure,** and forward-looking urban policies.



This marks another important step in Türkiye's **sustainable urban transformation journey.**



# NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MEDITERRANEAN RIVER SYSTEMS



## Climate Pressures, Ecological Risks and Pathways for Resilience


The Mediterranean region is increasingly recognized as one of the world's major climate change hotspots. Temperatures are rising faster than the global average, precipitation patterns are shifting, and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe. These changes are placing significant pressure on Mediterranean river systems, which are already stressed by urbanization, pollution, intensive agriculture, dam construction, and growing water demand.

Today, climate change is no longer a future scenario for Mediterranean rivers. Its impacts are already visible through declining river flows, worsening droughts, degraded water quality, ecosystem loss, and increasing flood risks.

### Climate Change Is Reshaping Mediterranean Rivers

One of the clearest consequences of climate change across the Mediterranean is declining water availability. Rising temperatures and reduced precipitation are decreasing river discharge, lowering groundwater recharge, and intensifying drought conditions. Rivers that once flowed year-round are increasingly becoming seasonal or intermittent.

changing not only river behavior, but also the long-term resilience of Mediterranean cities, food systems, and regional economies.





**OPINION COLUMN**  
Insights. Analysis. Perspective.

**Prof. Dr. Tuncer Demir**

Professor of Environmental Engineering  
Akdeniz University

“ Sustainable solutions for a resilient future through science, innovation, and global collaboration. ”





**AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY**  
ANTALYA, TÜRKİYE

Italy's Po River offers one of the most striking examples. In recent years, the basin experienced its worst drought conditions in centuries, with extremely low water levels disrupting agriculture, hydropower generation, and ecosystems. Yet paradoxically, the same region has also faced severe floods caused by increasingly erratic rainfall patterns. This growing "climate volatility" — shifting rapidly from drought to extreme rainfall — is becoming a defining feature of Mediterranean hydrology.

Coastal river deltas are also under growing threat from sea-level rise. In Spain's Ebro Delta and Egypt's Nile Delta, rising seas, land subsidence, and reduced sediment flows are accelerating erosion, salinization, and flood exposure. Saltwater intrusion is already affecting agricultural lands, freshwater systems, and local livelihoods.

These physical transformations are changing not only river behavior, but also the long-term resilience of Mediterranean cities, food systems, and regional economies.

## NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MEDITERRANEAN RIVER SYSTEMS

*Prof. Dr. Tuncer Demir*



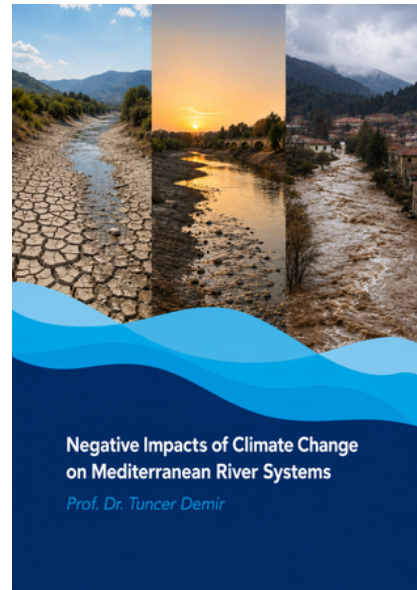
## Water Quality and Ecological Stress Are Intensifying

Climate change is not only altering how rivers flow; it is also changing the chemical balance and ecological health of freshwater systems.

Reduced river discharge means pollutants become more concentrated during drought periods, while extreme rainfall events wash accumulated contaminants into rivers in sudden pulses. Rising temperatures further worsen conditions by reducing dissolved oxygen levels and increasing the risk of eutrophication and harmful algal blooms. Salinization is emerging as another major concern. In coastal areas, seawater intrusion is increasingly contaminating freshwater aquifers and irrigation systems, particularly in vulnerable delta regions such as the Nile Delta.

The ecological consequences are equally severe. Mediterranean freshwater ecosystems host unique biodiversity, yet many species are now under significant pressure from habitat fragmentation, warming waters, declining flows, and changing salinity levels. Wetlands continue to disappear, fish populations are declining, and many endemic species face increasing extinction risk.

In many river systems, climate change is amplifying existing human pressures rather than acting alone. Water abstraction, unsustainable land use, pollution, and infrastructure development often intensify climate-related stress and reduce ecosystem resilience.



### Adaptation Requires More Than Infrastructure

The review emphasizes that climate adaptation in Mediterranean river systems cannot rely solely on engineering solutions. Long-term resilience depends on integrated and ecosystem-based approaches that combine water governance, restoration, planning, and institutional coordination.

Several adaptation pathways are already emerging across the region:

- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- Wetland and floodplain restoration
- Sediment management in deltas
- Nature-based coastal protection
- Early warning systems
- Water reuse and efficiency measures
- Climate-smart agriculture

The Ebro Delta in Spain demonstrates how ecosystem restoration can support both flood resilience and biodiversity protection through improved hydrological connectivity and wetland rehabilitation.

Similarly, adaptation efforts in the Nile Delta increasingly combine engineered coastal defenses with ecosystem-based measures such as dune restoration and improved water management.

However, the report also makes clear that adaptation alone will not be enough.

## NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MEDITERRANEAN RIVER SYSTEMS

*Prof. Dr. Tuncer Demir*

### Adaptation and Mitigation Must Work Together

A central message of the study is that adaptation and mitigation should not be treated as separate policy areas. Mediterranean river resilience depends both on reducing future climate risks and strengthening current adaptive capacity.

Ecosystem restoration, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy transitions, and improved water management can generate both adaptation and mitigation benefits simultaneously. Wetlands, riparian ecosystems, and restored floodplains, for example, not only reduce flood risk and improve biodiversity, but also act as important carbon sinks.

At the same time, governance emerges as one of the most critical factors determining resilience. Effective climate responses require coordination between governments, river basin authorities, local administrations, scientific institutions, communities, and international organizations.

The report highlights that climate resilience is ultimately not only a technical challenge, but also a governance challenge.



### Conclusion

Mediterranean river systems are entering a period of profound transformation. Declining water availability, rising temperatures, salinization, ecosystem degradation, and increasingly extreme hydrological events are reshaping both natural systems and human livelihoods across the region.

The evidence is clear: historical water management models are no longer sufficient for future climate realities.

Building resilience will require:

- integrated river basin management,
- stronger institutional coordination,
- ecosystem-based adaptation,
- long-term financing,
- and accelerated climate mitigation efforts.

Ultimately, the future of Mediterranean rivers will depend not only on how effectively societies respond to climate change, but also on how successfully they rethink the relationship between water, ecosystems, infrastructure, and urban development in an increasingly uncertain climate future.

# WORLD CITIES REPORT 2026

World Cities Report 2026

## The Global Housing Crisis Pathways to Action



Cities are growing rapidly — but growth alone is no longer the defining urban challenge.

Today, cities are simultaneously facing rising inequality, housing pressures, climate risks, and increasing demands on infrastructure and public services.

Against this backdrop, UN-Habitat has released the World Cities Report 2026, one of the most important global references shaping discussions on the future of urban development.

More than a collection of data, the report offers a strategic overview of the pressures, risks, and opportunities that will define cities in the coming years.

Key themes highlighted in the report include:

- Housing affordability and accessibility
- Accelerating urban growth
- Deepening social and spatial inequalities
- Climate resilience and urban adaptation needs

The report also reinforces a critical reality:

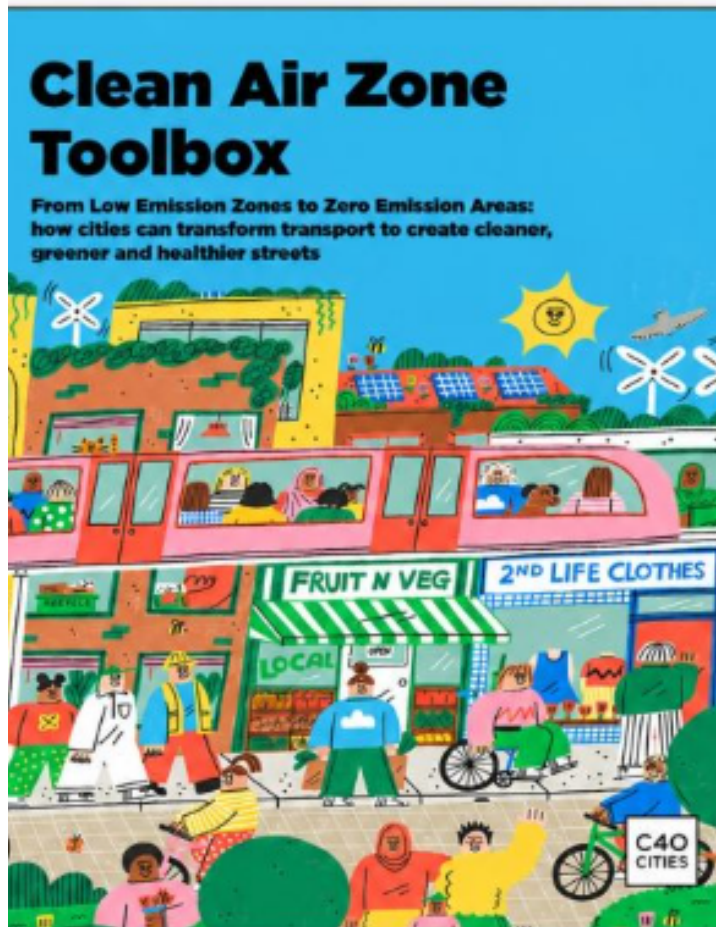
The future of sustainable development will largely be determined in cities.

The planning decisions made today will shape tomorrow's quality of life, economic resilience, social equity, and environmental sustainability.

At MLGP4Climate, we believe cities must evolve beyond expansion alone. Building resilient, inclusive, and livable urban environments will be essential for navigating the complex challenges of the coming decades.

Because the cities of the future will not simply accommodate growing populations — they will need to sustain life, resilience, and opportunity in an increasingly uncertain world.

# CLEAN AIR IS AN URBAN PLANNING ISSUE



The amount of street space allocated to vehicles, the accessibility of public transport, the quality of pedestrian infrastructure, and the availability of green public spaces all influence the air people breathe every day.

This is why the Clean Air Zone Toolbox approaches clean air not only as a public health issue, but as a core urban planning and mobility challenge.

The report highlights that successful Clean Air Zones require far more than vehicle restrictions alone. Effective implementation depends on:

- Active mobility infrastructure
- Accessible and reliable public transport
- Greener public spaces
- Low-emission logistics systems
- Data-driven urban management
- Strong public engagement

Cities such as London, Paris, Amsterdam, Seoul, and Bogotá demonstrate that clean air policies can simultaneously improve public health, reduce emissions, strengthen local economies, and create more livable streets.



# MLGP4 CLIMATE

*Data informs, collaboration transforms, shared knowledge build resilient cities*



**MLGP4  
CLIMATE**

# MLGP4 CLIMATE LIBRARY

A Growing Knowledge Hub for Cities



### Reaching a New Milestone

This month, the MLGP4Climate Library reached:

**1,351+**  
resources

Positioning itself as one of the most comprehensive climate and energy knowledge hubs for municipalities in Türkiye.



### More Than a Library

This is not just a collection of documents. It is a working tool for:

- climate planning
- SECAP development
- local capacity building



### Why It Matters

Access to the right knowledge means:

- ✓ faster decision-making
- ✓ stronger project design
- ✓ better implementation



### Explore the Library

Access the full collection and start using the resources to strengthen



**Knowledge does not create impact. Applied knowledge does.**



**MLGP4**  
CLIMATE

VISIBILITY ACTIONS

# Growing Impact

## A Growing Community

MLGP4Climate continues to expand its reach and engagement across platforms.

This growth reflects not only visibility—but a strengthening community around climate action.

THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE



**4,000**

LinkedIn followers



**1,150**

Instagram followers



### Beyond Numbers

Growth is not just about metrics.

- It is about engagement
- It is about shared purpose
- It is about collective impact



### What's Next?

Your engagement helps amplify:

- climate awareness
- local action
- global collaboration



### A Shared Journey

Together, we turn visibility into meaningful, measurable change.



KEY MESSAGE

**Visibility**  
creates awareness.

**Engagement**  
creates impact.



**MLGP4**  
CLIMATE



# MLGP4Climate in Action



## 40 Stories. One Mission.

### Staying Active, Staying Relevant

In May 2026, MLGP4Climate shared:

40 new posts on Instagram

Each post contributes to a broader goal:

- ◆ informing
- ◆ engaging
- ◆ accelerating climate action

### More Than Content

This is not just activity.

It is about:

- ◆ spreading knowledge
- ◆ building awareness
- ◆ connecting communities

### Why It Matters

Consistent communication turns:

- information into awareness
- awareness into action



# Announcements from MLGP4Climate June 2026



- Summer Climate Academy
- Registrations Now Open!
  
- New EU Funding Opportunities
- Partner City Spotlights
- Updated Resource Library





**MLGP4**  
CLIMATE

OUR NOTE

# Built With You, Growing With You



We value hearing from our members and readers.

If you have ideas, feedback, or suggestions for future editions, we encourage you to reach out:



[mlgp4climate@gmail.com](mailto:mlgp4climate@gmail.com)



## A Platform Shaped by Its Community

MLGP4Climate is not only a platform— it is a growing community of practitioners, experts and cities.

Your insights help us:



improve



expand



create more impact



### FINAL MESSAGE

**Your voice  
strengthens  
this platform.**

### STAY CONNECTED

Follow us on:



[@mlgp4climate](https://www.linkedin.com/company/mlgp4climate)





Every **city** we connect,  
every **story** we share,



brings us closer to a  
**climate-resilient world.**



MLGP4Climate

# MLGP4Climate Bulletin

## MAY 2026

*"Where knowledge meets  
action, resilient cities rise."*

### From Knowledge to **Action**

Supporting cities in Türkiye  
to plan, finance and implement  
climate action.



MLGP4Climate



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