

# Advice to Autonomous Region of Sardinia



Figure 1: Map of Sardinia

The Regional Programming Centre (CRP) of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia is responsible, among other activities, for preparing, implementing and coordinating the programmes of Cohesion Policy. The Managing Authority (MA) of the ERDF programme for the 2021/2027 programming period is based at the CRP (Law n° 40 of 2018).

The **Regional Programming Centre** was awarded a C4T GROUNDWORK TA assignment as part of the second call for applications launched at the end of 2023. The assignment started in April 2024 and was completed in September 2024.

**C4T GROUNDWORK** was launched by the European Commission, DG REGIO, to support the implementation of sustainability transitions investments funded by ERDF and CF, under Policy Objective 2 (PO2) "A greener, low carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy".

C4T GROUNDWORK provides eligible regions with tailor-made capacity building and advisory support covering areas such as the energy transition, circular economy, water management, climate adaptation or biodiversity.

As MA of ERDF programmes, CRP is experienced in coordinating the implementation of infrastructure projects in the fields of the environment and climate change. However, given the new rules of the 2021-2027 programming period in these fields (for example in relation to the DNSH principle or the climate adaptation processes), the CRP needed to expand its

knowledge related to specific activities, such as the climate verification of infrastructure projects<sup>1</sup>.

Therefore, the technical assistance was focused on improving the capacity building of the ERDF MA in relation to the climate-proofing verification process.

More specifically, the TA was aimed: 1) at supporting the CRP in carrying out a climate proofing exercise of an infrastructure project in the field of the "integrated water system" located in the Badesi Municipality and 2) at preparing methodological guidelines providing suggestions and recommendations for future climate verification activities.

In carrying out the TA, the TA team followed as much as possible the methodology for the climate verification suggested in the existing EU and national technical guidelines<sup>2</sup>.



Figure 2: Badesi Municipality.

The C4T TA provided advice structured in two main phases:

- Implementation of a pilot climate verification of an actual infrastructure project and development of a methodology for future climate proofing verifications.

<sup>1</sup> As stated by the art.73, par. 2 point J, of the Common Provision Regulation 2021/1060, "in selecting operations, the managing authority shall [...] ensure the climate proofing of investments in infrastructure which have an expected lifespan of at least 5 years".

<sup>2</sup> Respectively, "Technical guidance on the climate proofing of infrastructure in the period 2021-2027 (2021/C 373/01)" ([https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0916\(03\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0916(03))) and "Indirizzi per la verifica climatica dei progetti infrastrutturali in Italia per il periodo 2021-2027" - DPCoe - MASE - JASPERS - 6 ottobre 2023 ([https://politiche-coesione.governo.it/media/ch0naoef/indirizzi-per-la-verifica-climatica\\_e\\_al-legato.pdf](https://politiche-coesione.governo.it/media/ch0naoef/indirizzi-per-la-verifica-climatica_e_al-legato.pdf)).

- Roll-out of a dissemination/training session targeted to regional officials and other territorial stakeholders involved in the process.

### Phase I – Pilot exercise of a Climate verification

This first part of the TA consisted of a Climate verification exercise of an infrastructure project in the field of wastewater treatment located in the Badesi Municipality.

The activities were carried out in close cooperation with the regional actors (Managing Authority staff, regional departments, environmental authorities, beneficiary of the project, engineer and architects involved in the design of the infrastructure) from the selection of the concrete infrastructure project to be analysed to the pre-screening of potential sensibility of the project to the final identification of adaptive measures.

The construction of Local Climate Scenarios was based on local climate data obtained thanks to the cooperation of the regional Agency for Environment (ARPAS). This allowed the TA team to carry out more detailed and robust analysis of climate scenario and future development of relevant climate indicators. Relying on these data, the C4T TA team assessed the infrastructure's sensitivity, exposure, and vulnerability characteristics to current and future climate hazards, providing also recommendations on adaptive measures to be implemented.

Two main outputs were delivered: a Methodological Report illustrating the steps carried out in the climate verification process and a Guidance with suggestions for replicating the same methodology in future climate verifications.

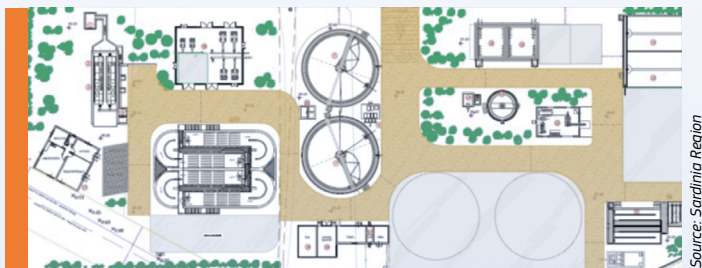


Figure 3: The wastewater treatment project in Badesi.

### Phase II – Training and dissemination workshop

A hybrid format workshop was organised for the relevant regional officials, other key regional actors (representatives of professional associations) and national authorities at the end of September 2024. There were approximately 150 participants in total (present and on-line). The workshop/

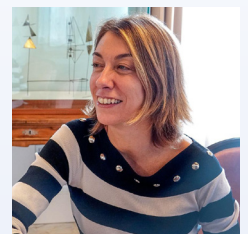
training was used as part of the Badesi pilot project providing hands-on experience. The event focused on the lessons learnt in relation to the procedures and data for the climate-proofing of the infrastructure projects and on potential solutions and improvements to replicate in future climate proofing activities. The half-day workshop was highly interactive: the experts developed a set of presentation slides to facilitate the workshop, and a time slot was dedicated to the debate and exchanges with participants.

The pilot project was also central in showing the importance of the coordination between public bodies and authorities in the Climate verification process and of the possibility to rely on rich and detailed local climate data.

CRP is committed to continue to improve the capacity building of regional offices and territorial actors (for example the infrastructure designers) on the topic of Climate verification.



Thanks to this project, the Autonomous Region of Sardinia had the opportunity to deal with a practical application of climate proofing, highlighting the aspects which need to be improved in order to increase our expertise on such an important topic.



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