

Mayors Adapt Newsletter 02/2015

Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to announce the date of this year's **Annual Signature Ceremony** which will take place on **15th of October** in the European Parliament in Brussels. Jointly organised with the Covenant of Mayors, the Signature Ceremony will pay tribute to all signatories for their contribution to climate change adaptation. We look forward to seeing you there!

Along with this we are also delighted to inform you that Mayors Adapt has recently welcomed its first signatory from Latvia: The Latvian city of Valka raised the current number of signatory cities to 141 signatories from 23 countries.

Furthermore, we would like to draw your attention to the extended application deadline of Mayors Adapt's City Twinning Programme – a unique opportunity for signatories to learn from peers and increase municipalities' capacities and knowledge to adapt to climate change. The application deadline has now been extended to 24 August 2015.

Would you like to learn more about peers, programmes, grants, tools, platforms, media possibilities and other insightful information in order to put climate change adaptation strategy into practice? Our second newsletter provides you with the latest relevant news and information.

Kind regards,
The Mayors Adapt Office



Join the Mayors Adapt Signature Ceremony 2015

The Mayors Adapt Annual Signature Ceremony 2015 will take place in the European Parliament in Brussels on **Thursday the 15th of October 2015!** This year the Ceremony will be held in



City Twinning: Application Deadline Extended

Don't miss the chance to apply for the Mayors Adapt City Twinning Programme! The application deadline has been extended to Monday, 24 August 2015. The twinning visits will connect 10 cities that are starting

cooperation with the Covenant of Mayors during the Open Days, European Week of Regions and Cities. The Signature Ceremony 2015 will showcase and celebrate cities' and municipalities' continued commitment to climate change adaptation and mitigation. This year's Ceremony will launch a new Covenant of Mayors that aims to step up the momentum towards low-carbon, resilient and inclusive energy systems as well as towards a climate-resilient Europe. It will support the EU's position in the negotiations on an international agreement on climate change and be a key milestone on the road to the COP 21 in Paris at the end of this year. Save the date for this invitation-only event, seats for the event are limited. Like last year, the Signature Ceremony will be accompanied by an information event for adaptation practitioners, where cities receive insights into the newest tools and can exchange about recent activities.

[See here for more information about the Signature Ceremony 2015.](#)

their adaptation work with 10 mentor municipalities that have already developed successful strategies to make their territories more resilient. The goal of these exchanges is to allow local authorities to learn from their peers and foster the creation of long-term connections between European cities facing comparable climate risks or implementing similar approaches.

[Read more about the City Twinning, its benefits, and how to apply.](#)

Financing adaptation: 2015 LIFE Grants Call for proposals now open

Apply now for the LIFE Grant Call 2015 and make use of this great opportunity to apply for funding for your planned adaptation actions. The call opened on the 1st of June, 2015. Proposals can be submitted until September/October 2015 (depending on the project type). The current LIFE Grants Call has been developed with consideration of cities' needs and is therefore particularly suitable for Mayors Adapt signatories. The grant covers a wide range of adaptation-related activities on various governance levels, including the local level. Applicants can choose between different project types that are supported.

[Learn more about the different project types and how to apply.](#)

An initiative for cities shaped by cities: The Mayors Adapt Practitioners Group

As announced in our last newsletter, Mayors Adapt currently convenes a small group of adaptation practitioners – from local and regional authorities (i.e. signatories and coordinators) as well as from city networks and other supporters – to contribute to and provide feedback “from the ground” on the main strategic developments of the initiative. Consulting this group at important milestones in the initiative's development will help ensure that the support, materials, and procedures offered by the Mayors Adapt Office meet cities' adaptation needs and expectations. The first consultation meeting focuses on reporting, monitoring and evaluation and will be held in autumn 2015. Do not hesitate to contact our team to share your monitoring or evaluation experiences, good practice examples or tools!

Promoting urban adaptation worldwide: Recent and Upcoming Events

Conferences, symposiums and workshops are essential for promoting urban adaptation. Mayors Adapt therefore conducted a [workshop on climate change mitigation and adaptation](#) in Dresden as part of the International Climate Alliance Conference, discussing how cities could make best use of the Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt initiatives for the building of more sustainable local authorities. Furthermore, the initiative presented success stories of its signatory cities and introduced the [Urban Adaptation Support Tool](#) at the second [European Climate Change Adaptation Conference](#) in Copenhagen. The [Signature Ceremony in October 2015](#) in Brussels will be the initiative's highlight event of the year. It will be preceded by the interdisciplinary [World Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation](#) in Manchester, United Kingdom from 2 – 4 September 2015. To find out more about what is next on the agenda of Mayors Adapt, see the [Events calendar on our website](#).

Case Study: Combating the heat island effect in Stuttgart

The city of [Stuttgart](#) is located in a valley basin with mild climate as well as low wind speeds. As a major business and industrial center, Stuttgart has to deal with a high traffic volume. All these factors have resulted in poor air quality and contributed to the urban heat island effect. Find out more about [Stuttgart's Climate Atlas](#) to combat the challenges. Do you have your own case studies? We cordially invite you to submit them. [Read more about the benefits of publishing case studies and the simple way to submit them.](#)

In the Spotlight: Pioneer Växjö from Sweden

Congratulations to [Växjö](#)! The first signatory from Sweden has been ranked third in a nationwide survey on Swedish municipalities' climate adaptation efforts. In a participatory process, Växjö has developed a Climate Change Adaptation Plan that describes necessary administrative actions in order to mitigate the negative effects of climate change in its municipality. [Read more about Växjö and the survey.](#)

EU Survey on Urban Green Infrastructure

MAES, an initiative of the European Commission and the EU Member states to map and assess ecosystems and their services, is currently conducting a survey on urban ecosystems and their services. The online survey examines which types of policies and indicators are being used in the context of urban green infrastructure. We invite you to participate in the survey to share your insights and contribute to a better understanding of urban green ecosystems. [Please read more on what the survey is about and find the survey link.](#)

The European Natural Water Retention Measures platform

Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM) are green infrastructure solutions that aim to safeguard or enhance the water storage of landscapes, soils and aquifers by using natural processes. The European NWRM platform gathers information on NWRM at the EU level. It offers a wide range of services and resources, including a practical guide on how to implement NWRM, case studies, and a catalogue of NWRM structured by sectors and benefits.

[Learn more about the platform.](#)

Promote your project: Photo competition and short films

The French-German television channel Arte is currently looking for short films by European citizens about their precious natural places. The best sequences will be assembled in a documentation which will be broadcast during the Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris. Another excellent media promotion possibility is the "Europe in my Region" photo competition about how EU investments are being used. All LIFE projects of Mayors Adapt signatories are eligible to participate.

[See here for further information.](#)

Share your activities in the next Mayors Adapt Newsletter

You are already taking action on adaptation and want to showcase your activities? Great, then we would like to hear from you! Given that Mayors Adapt is all about sharing knowledge, all signatory cities are invited to actively contribute to the Mayors Adapt newsletter. Perhaps your Mayor would like to do a short interview about your city's adaptation activities, or you have published a case study which others can learn from. Send us your ideas and wishes for contributions to the newsletter to newsletter@mayors-adapt.eu.

[About Mayors Adapt](#) | [Mayors Adapt Office](#)

newsletter@mayors-adapt.eu

www.mayors-adapt.eu

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please reply to this email with the subject line "Unsubscribe".

An initiative of:



Initiated within the framework of:



With the support of:

