



Maximising impact and accessibility
of European Climate Research

Outcomes of the Policy Roundtables

Deliverable D4.1

WP4 Policy outreach



Funded by
the European Union

Author (s)

Sofia Cunha
Thiago Mendes
Douglas Thompson
Alberto Coelho
João Medina
Mariana Trinidad Corvaro
Aitor Zulueta

sofiacunha@spi.pt
thiagomendes@spi.pt
douglasthompson@spi.pt
albertocoelho@spi.pt
joaomedina@spi.pt
mcorvaro@regions4.org
aitor.zulueta@bc3research.org

Disclaimer

The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. Neither the CINEA nor the European Commission is responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



MAIA project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation programme, Topic **HORIZON-CL5-2021-D1-01-03**. Project name; Maximising the impact and synergy of European climate change research and innovation, under grant agreement No 101056935.

MAIA PROJECT & DELIVERABLE PROFILE

Project Acronym and Full Name	MAIA Maximising impact and accessibility of European Climate Research
Grant Agreement No.	101056935
Programme	HORIZON EUROPE
Topic	HORIZON-CL5-2021-D1-01-03
Funding type (ACTION)	HORIZON Coordination and support action
Deliverable	D4.1 Outcomes of the Policy Roundtables
Work Package	WP4 Policy outreach
Deliverable due date	Month 12, 31 August 2023
Date of submission	31 August 2023
Dissemination level	PU - Public
Lead Beneficiary	SPI
Responsible author	Sofia Cunha
Contributor (s)	Thiago Mendes, Douglas Thompson, Alberto Coelho, João Medina, Mariana Trinidad Corvaro (R4), Aitor Zulueta (BC3) and Kate Williamson (SEI)
Internal Reviewers	Mariana Trinidad Corvaro (R4) and Aitor Zulueta (BC3)

Preface

MAIA applies to the subtopic a) of the HORIZON-CL5-2021-D1-01-03 Topic. MAIA will act as an impact multiplier by providing social structures, technological and outreach activities to accompany, potentiate and help maximise the impact of climate research projects funded under Horizon Europe. MAIA constitutes the response from a group of coordinators and core partners from seven H2020 precursor projects in climate change research (BINGO, BRIGAD, CLARITY, Connecting Nature, DRIVER+, PLACARD and RESCCUE). In these projects, driven by the EC's advice to identify synergies and spark collaboration, we liaised and detected a clear need for increased connectivity and a more robust approach to creating synergies as means to unlock more impact-oriented interactions.

MAIA pivots around connectivity as a key enabling factor for effective outreach. Therefore, we envision specific actions for enhancing the connectivity of:

1. existing communities (consolidation and activation of a Pan-European community of problem owners, solution providers, and enablers)
2. knowledge and technological infrastructure (creation of the MAIA Portal)
3. EU climate research (coordinating an EU climate change research Cluster). Communication and Dissemination activities of EU climate change research projects will be reinforced and amplified by our active outreach campaign, aiming for the democratisation of climate knowledge. Moreover, MAIA will develop a comprehensive cross-project exploitation-support programme.

MAIA also addresses awareness raising, the strengthening of the science-policy and science-civil society interfaces, and the support for climate action and sustainable behaviour through several actions dealing with active dialogue supported through community engagement activities and the use of SSH.

Changes with respect to the DoA

No changes with respect to the work described in the DoA.

Dissemination and uptake

This report is public, but mainly meant as a foundation for follow up work in WP4:

- Summary of the National Scale Policy Roundtable on Climate Change Adaptation: Gaps from Good Practices to Good Policies in Portugal (Task 4.1. Policy makers' Engagement and Policy Roundtables);
- Planning of the European Scale Policy Roundtable – European Week of Regions and Cities (EU Regions Week) (Task 4.1. Policy makers' Engagement and Policy Roundtables).

Short Summary of results

This document is the Deliverable D4.1 on the results of the first policy roundtables of the MAIA project. The purpose of this document is to report on the development of the first Round Table "Adaptation to Climate Change: Gaps from Good Practices to Good Policies in Portugal", describing the main issues highlighted by the participants and highlighting the first results that will contribute to the elaboration of the document "Foresight Promotion Report for Policy & Decision-makers" (D4.3).

Main results of the work achieved so far are:

- (i) Development of the first roundtable as a pilot for the definition of the methodology;
- (ii) Collecting national results on adaptation to climate change in Portugal;
- (iii) Define a methodology for next round tables;
- (iv) To approve the proposal to develop a roundtable during the EU Regions Week.

Evidence of accomplishment

This report.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
Version	Publication date	Changes
V0.1	06 June 2023	Structure proposal (WP4 – Meeting)
V0.2	20 March 2023	First draft of the Document (internal version SPI)
V0.3	31 March 2023	Second draft of the Document (shared version)
V0.4	10 August 2023	Third draft of the Document (inputs from BC3)
V0.5	15 August 2023	Fourth draft of the Document (inputs from R4)
V0.6	22 August 2023	Contributions from SEI
V0.7	29 August 2023	Final Version

Table of Contents

Contents

Executive Summary.....	8
1. Introduction	9
1.1. About MAIA.....	9
1.2. About WP4 - Policy outreach	11
2. Roundtable Report.....	12
2.1. Roundtable “Climate Change Adaptation: Gaps from Good Practices to Good Policies in Portugal”	12
2.2. First outcomes from the Roundtable “Climate Change Adaptation: Gaps from Good Practices to Good Policies in Portugal”	17
The Importance of Access to Information	17
Importance of Promoting Connections and Dialogues.....	18
Importance of the Involvement of the Media	18
4. Methodology for Next Roundtables	20
4.1. Workplan	20
4.2. Target Groups	20
4.3. Approach and Methods	21
5. WP4 Forthcoming Activities.....	22
Task 4.1. Policy makers’ Engagement and Policy Roundtables	22
Task 4.2. Strengthening the policy-science and policy-civil society interfaces.....	22
Sub-task 4.2.1. Policy – Science dialogues	22
Sub-task 4.2.2. Policy – Civil Society dialogues: supporting citizen Climate Assemblies.....	23
Task 4.3. Outreach to Policy	26

Executive Summary

The main objective of MAIA is to amplify the impact of European climate research by supporting a group of projects to create synergies, facilitating their upscaling, and maximising their joint impact through enhanced connection of knowledge and networks as well as through networking for improved coordination of activities for dissemination, exploitation, and cross-fertilisation of research results.

This document is the D4.1¹ Outcomes of the Policy Roundtables. The purpose of this document is to:

1. Report the main results from the roundtable “Climate Change Adaptation: Gaps from Good Practices to Good Policies in Portugal”.
2. Point out the main outcomes of the round table discussion that can be used to support the final document on policy recommendations.
3. Identify the methodology that will be adopted for next roundtables.
4. Indicate the forthcoming activities planned for the WP4.

¹ The deliverable D4.1 will be updated with D4.2 (Due M18) and D4.3 (Due M34), in accordance with the Grand Agreement.

1. Introduction

1.1. About MAIA

The MAIA Consortium aims to enhance the impact of climate change research funded by the European Union by consolidating knowledge and fostering connectivity among communities, platforms, and research initiatives. It originated from the successful outcomes of various Horizon 2020 projects focused on climate resilience, namely BINGO, BRIGAD, CLARITY, Connecting Nature, DRIVER+, PLACARD, and RESCCUE. In pursuing these goals, MAIA's primary objective is to:

“...amplify the impact of European climate research by supporting a group of projects by creating synergies, facilitating their upscaling and maximizing their joint impact through enhanced connection of knowledge and networks as well as through networking for improved coordination of activities for dissemination, exploitation, and cross-fertilisation of research results.”

In this manner, MAIA coordinates and mobilizes the Climate Resilience Project Cluster group, which encompasses related projects. Its actions are driven by specific objectives, namely enhancing network connectivity (WP1), curating knowledge (WP2), and advancing ongoing research (WP6). Additionally, MAIA incorporates other specific objectives that are directly linked to supporting the exploitation of results (WP3), dissemination and communication (WPs 1 and 3-6), cross-fertilization of knowledge (WPs 3-6), and scaling up efforts from individual projects (WP 1-6) (Figure 1).

As an expected outcome, the project envisions the consolidation and mobilization of a Pan-European Climate Action Community comprising climate-driven problem owners, solution providers, and enablers, known as the MAIA Community. Furthermore, it will lead to the establishment, coordination, and effective activation of the Climate Resilience Projects Cluster, along with a range of technological structures aimed at connecting knowledge and promoting climate action. These structures include:

- MAIA Portal;
- MAIA Connectivity Hub;
- MAIA semantic ontology;
- MAIA Marketplace and regional branches;
- MAIA Training Platform.

The expected results from MAIA offer several key benefits. Firstly, it connects dispersed knowledge related to climate change by generating synergies among existing and ongoing EU-funded climate change research projects. Secondly, it ensures the interoperability and usability of this knowledge, leading to the development of market-ready outputs and the widespread diffusion of innovation in products, services, and processes. This strengthens the implementation of innovative solutions. Lastly, MAIA facilitates access to research results for a broad range of audiences, ensuring that climate change knowledge is available and accessible to a wide array of stakeholders.

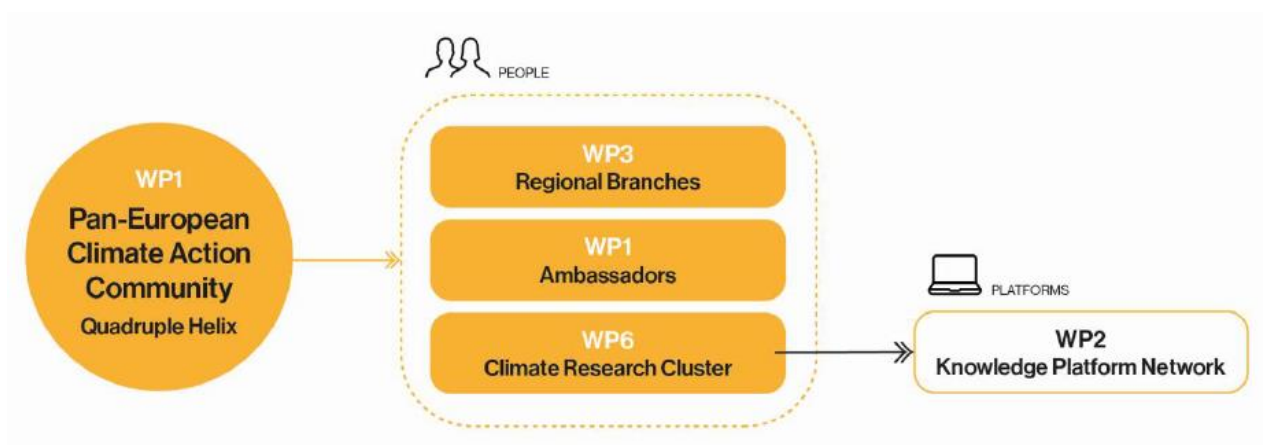


Figure 1: Social structures to be consolidated and activated in MAIA

1.2. About WP4 - Policy outreach

The primary objective of WP4 in the MAIA project is to undertake actions aimed at strengthening the interfaces between science and policy, as well as science and civil society, regarding state-of-the-art climate change research. This is intended to enhance Europe's capacity to respond to the climate crisis and other environmental challenges. WP4 is led by [Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação \(SPI\)](#) and is supported by the following participants associated with the MAIA project:

- Regions4 Sustainable Development
- Asociacion BC3 Basque Centre for Climate Change - Klima Aldaketa Ikergai
- BRIGAD-connect
- Athena Research Center / Climate KIC Hub Greece
- Horizon Nua Innovation
- AQUATEC
- Austrian Institute of Technology
- Stockholm Environment Institute
- Smart Cities Consulting
- Inmedia Solutions

WP4 is divided into three main tasks. Task 4.1, "Engagement of Policy Makers and Policy Roundtables," aims to develop roundtables involving individuals from various fields related to climate change policy-making. Task 4.2, "Strengthening the Interfaces between Policy, Science, and Civil Society," consists of two subtasks: "Policy-Science Dialogues" and "Policy-Civil Society Dialogues: Supporting Citizen Climate Assemblies." The main objective of this task is to facilitate mutual learning and cross-fertilization between policy and science actors, as well as civil society, through hybrid events and participation in Citizen Climate Assemblies.

Task 4.3, "Outreach to Policy," aims to synthesize the knowledge and best practices gathered through the organization of various initiatives such as Policy Roundtables and dialogues, validate them, and incorporate them into local, regional/national, and European policies. Policy implications and recommendations will be developed in the form of policy briefs.

2. Roundtable Report

2.1. Roundtable “Climate Change Adaptation: Gaps from Good Practices to Good Policies in Portugal”

The first MAIA Roundtable was developed on May 18 in the LNEC (National Civil Engineering Laboratory) in Lisbon, Portugal. The theme of the event was “Climate Change Adaptation: Gaps from Good Practices to Good Policies in Portugal” and the Agenda was the following:

- *Reception of participants (15 minutes);*
- *Presentation about BINGO Project (20 minutes) (National Civil Engineering Laboratory);*
- *Presentation about MAIA Project (15 minutes) (Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação);*
- *Roundtable “Climate Change Adaptation: Gaps from Good Practices to Good Policies in Portugal” (1 hour 30 minutes).*

The Roundtable gathered relevant policymakers and institutional representatives that have a significant influence at the regional and national level in the topic of climate change adaptation. In particular, the roundtable focused on the following main topics:

- *Between policies and practices: Where we are and where we should be in terms of adaptation to climate change? Guidelines that should guide public policies focused on adaptation to climate change.*
- *How to implement climate change adaptation plans?*
- *The limitations of current policies focused on adaptation to climate change.*
- *Examples of good practices and good policies in adaptation to climate change.*

The roundtable participants included:

- Ana Estela Barbosa (National Civil Engineering Laboratory);
- João Medina (Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação);
- Ana Daam (Portuguese Environmental Society);
- Ana Sofia Rizzone (Directorate for Territory, Portugal);
- Rosa Onofre (Alentejo Coordination and Development Committee);
- Rita Cardoso (Dom Luiz Institute);
- António Bota (Almodôvar Municipality);
- Carla Castelo (climate change researcher).



Figure 2: Roundtable “Climate Change Adaptation: Gaps from Good Practices to Good Policies in Portugal”

Prior to the event, the development of the Roundtable was disseminated in the [National Civil Engineering Laboratory Portal](#), in the [Portuguese Association of Water Resources Newsletter](#), and in the [MAIA Project Website](#).



Figure 3: Dissemination of the Roundtable in Portuguese Association of Water Resources Newsletter

During the Roundtable, the participants acknowledged the existence of significant constraints in effectively implementing climate change adaptation policies. A key constraint highlighted was the delay in implementing policies at practice level. This delay could be attributed to several factors, including the delayed inspections and supervision of policy implementation in Portugal. These delays, can have adverse effects on climate adaptation efforts. It can hinder the timely execution of adaptation measures and compromise the effectiveness of policies designed to address climate change impacts. The participants recognized the need for more efficient and expedited processes to ensure that policies are implemented promptly and effectively.

To overcome these constraints, it was suggested to develop a more streamlined and proactive approach to putting some policies into practice. This could involve allocating adequate resources and personnel to carry out inspections, establishing clear timelines for implementation, and implementing monitoring systems to track progress and compliance.

Furthermore, participants in the Roundtable emphasized that certain entities responsible for monitoring and supervising policy implementation in Portugal often provide unclear responses, leading to further delays in the operationalization of climate change adaptation measures. This lack of clarity can hinder progress and generate obstacles in the effective implementation of policies.

When entities involved in monitoring and supervision fail to provide clear guidance or instructions, it can create confusion and uncertainty among stakeholders responsible for implementing climate change adaptation projects. This lack of clarity may result in inefficiencies, misinterpretation of requirements, or even the postponement of necessary actions.

Another issue highlighted by the Roundtable is the lack of human resources in the bodies responsible for developing climate change policies in Portugal. Both the Alentejo Coordination and Development Committee, and the Portuguese Environmental Society have emphasized this issue as a significant factor causing delays in numerous activities. The Portuguese Environmental Society, for example, states that around 40% of positions in the field of climate change adaptation and mitigation remain vacant for a variety of reasons, including budgetary constraints and institutional centralization.

Nevertheless, there has been a significant increase in the number of studies focusing on climate change adaptation and mitigation in Portugal. However, there is still a challenge in fostering dialogue between research institutions and policymakers. The Dom Luiz Institute has emphasized the urgent need to establish closer institutional communication, not only at the higher levels of the hierarchy but also in a bottom-up approach. While decisions-making ultimately depend on higher-level approval, the interaction at lower levels of the hierarchy appears to be more dynamic and effective in supporting decision-makers.

Another issue raised during the meeting was the accessibility of reliable information at the appropriate scale. On the one hand, obtaining data from entities like the Portuguese Institute for the Ocean and Atmosphere (IPMA) is extremely challenging, and on the other hand, there is a significant lack of information at the local level, such as information on land use and vegetation.

Nevertheless, it is important to note that despite these limitations and obstacles, significant progress has been made in the realm of adaptation and mitigation policies. Notable examples include the National and Regional Spatial Planning Programs, the Landscape Transformation Program, and the Landscape Planning and Management Program. The Portuguese Environmental Society has also emphasized that the

inclusion of climate change-related goals in Portuguese law for the Horizon 2030 is a groundbreaking milestone.

After the Roundtable, the main results of the event were also disseminated, namely on the [MAIA Project Website](#).

2.2. First outcomes from the Roundtable “Climate Change Adaptation: Gaps from Good Practices to Good Policies in Portugal”

The development of the Roundtable “Climate Change Adaptation: Gaps from Good Practices to Good Policies in Portugal” was very useful in gathering relevant information and drawing conclusions on the policy recommendations that emerged. Some of the main outcomes of the Roundtable include a focus on the importance of access to information in the field of climate change adaptation, the importance of promoting connections and dialogues among different relevant stakeholders, and the importance of involving the media in studies and events on climate change adaptation. These key findings are explained below.

The Importance of Access to Information

The policymakers and institutional representatives that participated in the Roundtable highlighted the importance of providing access to information in the field of climate change adaptation. In fact, they pointed out that to some relevant information that is needed to conduct some studies is often not freely accessible and can delay some studies or affect their effectiveness.

In addition, the importance of hiring qualified human resources in the entities working on the field of climate change adaptation was also highlighted. Some of the reasons why hiring qualified human resources is crucial for entities working on climate change adaptation include:

- **Expertise and Knowledge:** Qualified professionals bring specialized knowledge and expertise in various aspects of climate change adaptation, such as environmental science, policy analysis, and sustainable development. This knowledge is essential for the development and implementation of effective adaptation strategies;
- **Innovation and Problem-Solving:** Adaptation to climate change requires innovative approaches to address complex challenges. Qualified human resources can offer creative solutions and contribute to problem-solving efforts, leading to more robust and adaptable strategies;

- Policy Development and Implementation: Governments and organizations need skilled professionals to design and implement climate change policies at various levels. These policies need to be consistent with international, national and regional policies;
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Climate change adaptation initiatives require continuous monitoring and evaluation to assess their effectiveness and make necessary improvements. Qualified personnel can establish robust monitoring systems and evaluate the success of adaptation measures.

Importance of Promoting Connections and Dialogues

The importance of promoting connections and dialogues among different types of entities in the field of climate change adaptation is also a key recommendation that was shared at the Roundtable. In fact, the field of climate change is a holistic topic that requires a multifaceted approach to address its challenges comprehensively. By bringing together diverse entities, such as governments, NGOs, research institutions, the private sector, and local communities, a more integrated and well-rounded approach to climate change adaptation can be developed. In addition, these entities often have unique knowledge, expertise, and resources. Facilitating dialogue and collaboration allows for the exchange of valuable insights, best practices, and lessons learned from different stakeholders. This shared knowledge can lead to innovative and effective adaptation strategies.

Importance of the Involvement of the Media

The importance of involving the media in the studies and events conducted on climate change adaptation was also highlighted at the Roundtable. Indeed, the media plays a significant role in shaping public perceptions, raising awareness, and encouraging behavioural changes that can contribute to both mitigation and adaptation efforts. It is therefore important that they are involved in climate change adaptation studies and events, so that they can disseminate sound and accurate information to communities. In this sense, the media serves as a powerful platform for disseminating accurate and up-to-date information on climate change and adaptation strategies. It helps bridge the gap between scientific research and the general public, ensuring that important

findings are communicated in a clear and accessible way. Through targeted messaging, they can encourage individuals and communities to adopt sustainable practices, make eco-friendly choices, and support climate-resilient actions. The involvement of the media is therefore essential to creating a well-informed and engaged society is actively involved in efforts to adapt to climate change.

4. Methodology for Next Roundtables

4.1. Workplan

The work plan for future roundtables is to develop at least 2 roundtables per year.

The next Roundtable will take place during a prominent international event on climate change.

The Eu Week is the first event to which WP4 has submitted a proposal for a side event. The proposal involved high-level representatives of the European Directorates-General as a first attempt. On 17 July, the results were published and the proposal for the Round Table was approved. As a result, invitations will be sent out in August to confirm participants and ensure the development of the event along with other planning steps.

4.2. Target Groups

The round table event planned by WP4 during the European Week of Regions and Cities aims to engage European policy makers at a higher level in discussions with regional representatives. However, the audience will be composed of participants from different European regions and sectors, as the event is planned as a hybrid format:

- Permanente regional representatives based in Brussels
- Local/regional representatives
- Representatives of Horizon Europe projects
- Secondary audiences
- Other EU and national stakeholders (CoR)

4.3. Approach and Methods

The roundtable scheduled to take place during the European Week of Regions and Cities will be an in-person side event, with structure for online participation. It will feature one moderator and four invited speakers, selected among the following suggestions:

- Moderators:

Maria José Sanz (BC3 / MAIA)

- Speakers:

Regional Representative from Catalunya (to be confirmed)

Regional Representative from Basque Country (to be confirmed)

European Representatives from European Commission (to be confirmed)

The invitations for speakers from the European Commission will be based on their positions and the alignment of their respective offices. In the event that one of the speakers declines the invitation, they will be asked to suggest a suitable representative from their office to participate in the discussions. If there is no feedback from the offices, the European Commission representation will be replaced by an EU projects representative.

The Roundtable will follow one of the EU Regions Week models, specifically the Participatory/Political Lab. It will be held at the Ambiorix Center (<https://ambiorixcenter.eu/>) on Square Ambiorix 7, Brussels, with an expected audience of up to 40 people.


<p>Participatory/Political lab</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duration: 90 minutes (max) • Venue: SQUARE or CoR • Speakers: max 4 (plus one moderator) • Focus on exchanging knowledge, co-creating solutions to local and regional challenges (digitalisation, energy efficiency, retaining talent etc.) and/or debating political opinions by using interactive techniques. At least 60 minutes for participants to share experiences facilitated by a collaborative and creative environment. • Type of content presented: initiative co-creation with round tables
---	---

Figure 4: Orientation for the format of the session (EU Regions Week)

5. WP4 Forthcoming Activities

Task 4.1. Policy makers' Engagement and Policy Roundtables

As mentioned previously, the upcoming activities in Task 4.1 will primarily involve the European Scale Roundtables. The immediate focus is on the "European Week of Regions and Cities". The event will be the main platform for hosting the roundtable discussion.

Task 4.2. Strengthening the policy-science and policy-civil society interfaces

Sub-task 4.2.1. Policy – Science dialogues

There is a close connection between WP4 and WP6 in this subtask. The strategy to be adopted here is to leverage this synergy and invite the speakers who participated in the WP6 webinars (led by AIT in Task 6.5 - Outreach to Science) and in the Policy Roundtables (Task 4.1) to take part in the Policy-Science dialogues, which will be conducted in WP4.

The following webinars were held by **WP6** (until August 4th):

- Advancing Climate Resilience in European Cities
 - Speakers: Montse Martínez (Life Baetulo); Christine Liang (CITYClim); Àlex de la Cruz (ICARIA)

- Wildfires and Forest Management (I)
 - Speakers: Woutt Hoff (Groasis); Ragni F. Mikalsen (TREEADS); Pau Brunet-Navarro (FIRE-RES).

- Wildfires and Forest Management (II)
 - Speakers: Eduard Plana (FIRELOGUE); Lovorko Mariac (SILVANUS); Claudio Rossi (SAFERS).

- Wildfires and Forest Management (III)
- Speakers: Representatives from FirEUrisk, SUPERB and the authors of the paper Wildfires in Europe: Burned soils require attention.

Through the collaboration between participants from the roundtables and webinars, a select group of policy-makers and scientists will be chosen to address the following topics:

- Key issues, visions, conflicts, gaps, and needs related to climate change adaptation.
- Barriers, constraints, and enabling factors affecting both policy and science activities within each regional/EU context.
- Cross-cutting issues identified by different projects, as well as the development of a transferability framework to support the scaling up of solutions and tools.
- Establishment of social and institutional cross-sectoral arrangements for the operationalization of climate resilience research and the exploitation of long-term project results.

These discussions will take place through hybrid events, strategically organised on occasions to be determined.

Information about upcoming webinars resulting from the collaboration between WP4 and WP6 will be accessible on the MAIA website (<https://maia-project.eu/knowledge-base/get-involved-in-maia-webinars>).

Sub-task 4.2.2. Policy – Civil Society dialogues: supporting citizen Climate Assemblies

The processes of deliberative democracy are conceived as open and inclusive forums and entail a balanced and responsible reflection of citizens on the subject to be deliberated. Its main argument defends that legitimate political decisions should be the result of informed reflection and conversations between citizens about their arguments, preferences, and values; all this in a context of equal recognition, respect

and justice. In this way, deliberation, and not just voting, is considered the appropriate way to manage decision making processes. Deliberative democracy emerges as a critical response to some of the shortcomings of the current representative democratic systems. It is becoming particularly relevant in the context of complex wicked environmental and societal challenges.

In recent years, the climate crisis has been at the top of political agendas both nationally and globally. And it has drawn attention to what has been referred to as the “democracy–environment nexus” that is constituted by different possibilities for reconciling political democracy and environmental sustainability. Democratic systems have shown that they are the best equipped to face climate change and environmental challenges, and there is a clear relationship between the degree of democratisation of a country and its commitment to environmental and climate policies, more ambition in emission reduction targets and an increasing consideration of the need to adapt.

However, the current representative democracies have not shown that they are prepared to face the climate crisis alone. This fact is due to several causes: 1) The short-term horizons imposed by the current electoral systems make it difficult to address long-term environmental crises, 2) The apparent difficulty of citizens to understand the complexity behind wicked problems and the climate crisis.

With the aim of trying to address these deficiencies, in recent years numerous deliberative processes have taken place within the scope of the climate and ecological crisis, both locally and nationally.[1] It's important to note that the effectiveness of citizens' assemblies depends on factors such as the quality of facilitation, the transparency of the process, the willingness of policymakers to consider the recommendations, and the public's awareness and understanding of the outcomes.

Some MAIA partners (e.g. BC3) were directly involved in the design and operationalisation of the national Citizen Climate Assemblies and currently are members of international networks (i.e. Knowledge Network On Climate Assemblies_KNOCA). Assemblies are becoming one of the cornerstones for the strengthening of the Policy-Civil Society interface. An issue that is currently being made evident is the need for adequate resources (e.g. online courses and easily findable and trustable information, i.e. well-curated information) that can be used to

set a common knowledge-ground for society representatives in the Climate Assemblies. MAIA will address through the outcomes of events and workshops, some already held in the context of support by the European Climate Foundation and the KNOCA, with the key actors involved in the design of these Climate Assemblies to identify current gaps and actual needs in capacity building, that will be addressed through a specific course to be part of the MAIA Training Platform.

Events held, which outcomes will be considered for the identification of gaps and needs:

- Special Session at CONAMA[2]. In the context of the year convening of CONAMA in 2022. Session: “Gobernanza para la transición ecológica”. Coordina: BC3 Basque Center for Climate Change (ST-36)” (21 November 2022, 16:00 - 19:00).
- Half a day event at the Donostia Sustainability Forum on Citizens Assemblies – UIK[3] on 19 May 2023. Title of the event “Citizen´s Assemblies, a new wave of citizens engagement in Europe” [4]. It was a hybrid event attended by 165 people with the participation of experts and citizens from citizens' assemblies on climate from France, Scotland, Spain, Balearic Islands, Gipuzkoa.

[1] <https://knoca.eu/national-climate-assemblies/>

[2] The Conama Foundation is a Spanish, independent and non-profit organization that promotes the exchange of knowledge for sustainable development. It was created in 2000 so that the National Environmental Congress, organized since 1992 by various professional groups, could adopt its own identity and consolidate itself as a service of general interest to the environmental sector in Spain. <http://www.conama2022.org/web/>

[3] University of the Basque Country Summer School. <https://www.uik.eus/en/we-are-uik/foundation>

[4] <https://www.uik.eus/en/activity/citizens-assemblies-new-wave-citizens-engagement-europe>. Available in youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0VzWgPIQzM>.

Task 4.3. Outreach to Policy

SPI and the partners of WP4 will carry out an analysis of several published policy briefs to evaluate their structure and content. This analysis will be used as a basis for the development of the first policy brief model for the MAIA project. The model will be based on the results of the roundtables and other discussion forums, incorporating their findings and insights.