Urban Klima 2050, the largest climate action project in the Basque Country

**Urban Klima 2050** aims to implement in the urban context the Climate Change Strategy of the Basque Country – KLIMA 2050. The project seeks to boost the climate governance at all administrative levels through the development of action plans linked to the strategy as well as to promote the integration of climate change in different sectoral policies, such as land use and urban planning, health, water resource management and energy.

Urban Klima 2050 is a demonstrative and action-oriented project in which case studies are being developed as laboratories for adaptation to climate change. The project is led by a consortium made of around twenty organisations and institutions and is coordinated by the Basque Government’s public environment agency, Ihobe. It also involves the regional agencies and departments responsible for the management of water resources, energy, health, and ports. Other members of the project are the three provincial governments, seven municipalities, and five research and technology centres.

The project represents a direct investment of 19.8 million euros through the EU-LIFE project and 51% co-financing from the EU. In addition, the project is expected to contribute to mobilising an additional 625 million euros.

The Climate Change Strategy of the Basque Country - Klima 2050 was approved in 2015 as a pioneering tool with a long-term horizon and the integration of both adaptation and mitigation into its objectives in a coordinated manner. However, since then, the international climate change context has evolved significantly, and global objectives are now much more ambitious. For this reason, the Basque Government is redefining the roadmap to 2050 which, in addition to integrating adaptation and mitigation, also integrates the energy transition factor, with the concept of just transition at the core. The roadmap to 2050 will be supported by two main policymaking components: a strategy to 2030 with specific lines of action, as indicated in the recently launched Energy Transition and Climate Change Plan of the Basque Country to 2024, and a legislative process run in parallel to approve the upcoming Basque Law on Energy Transition and Climate Change.

In this context, the Urban Klima 2050 project is working on the deployment of ambitious climate action in the territory, with actions such as: the application of organic farming, the renaturation of a dam, the creation of an urban marsh, or a flooded forest. The actions under the project have been divided into five blocks: Analyse, Define, Act, Empower, Manage. Under the results listed so far are reports on the state of knowledge and research, pre-implementation studies, guides for policy, and status reports for projects already underway.

Pilot projects are being implemented across intervention areas across the different levels of actions of the project – coast, river basin and urban/peri-urban regions (ref. figure).