



FutuResilience

Building sustainable futures together

NEWSLETTER #2

DECEMBER 2023

The **FUTURESILIENCE newsletter** is designed to keep you updated with the latest project developments. You can find the latest news and events and all information about the Future Resilience Labs at a glance. Have a good reading!

About the project

The **FUTURESILIENCE** (Creating **FUTUre** societal **RESILIENCE** through innovative, science-based co-creation labs) project has been funded by the European Commission's Horizon Europe Programme as a Coordination and Support Action (HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01). The project lasts 3 years and aims to strengthen European **economic and social resilience** through an enhanced ability to **adapt and quickly respond to future crises** by facilitating the fast and effective use of policy relevant research and innovation (R&I) findings.

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The '**Future Resilience Labs**' are at the core of the project and discuss and test policy relevant R&I findings. The project runs **10 labs**: 3 pre-identified cases (BAPEMED, Chios and Murcia) regarding health, climate change, migration and urban planning, and 7 labs selected through an open call (see below). The idea is to discuss strategies aiming at **reducing vulnerabilities and increasing capacities of territories to be prepared for multiple types of possible crises**.

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News on the FUTURESILIENCE labs

A space to support citizens on co-creating solutions for climate change impacts

Murcia Lab aims at **reducing heat island, flash rainfalls and floods impacts**, other than **increasing compactness of the city** in 2 pilot neighbourhoods: **Vista Alegre and Espinardo**. In 2023, the Municipality of Murcia and the Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena organised a **two-days crowd mapping workshops** (6th and 7th of October) in Vista Alegre to **engage citizens on heat islands problem**. The first day of the workshop focused on providing information about heat islands, including their definition, causes, impacts, and strategies for reduction. On the second day, the municipality arranged a **community mapping activity** on heat islands for participants who had attended the first day of the workshop. Specifically, by using a phone app and the retrieved knowledge, they could directly assess the vulnerabilities of urban areas against urban heat islands and the effect of climate change. Looking ahead to 2024, researchers from Murcia Lab are planning a Citizen Lab initiative to engage citizens in the development of local policies.

[Read more on Murcia Lab](#)





The impact of the migration crisis on island settings

Chios was the centre of attention in 2015 due to **migration and refugee crisis**. The CHIOS Lab aims at creating resilience on the inflows of migrants and asylum seekers, especially from the nearby Turkey. Indeed, the island struggles to cope with the **large number of arrivals, leading to overcrowded refugee camps**, where conditions are challenging in terms of sanitation, healthcare, and overall living conditions. This situation has created **tensions within the local community and strained resources**, necessitating a humanitarian response beyond the management of the needs of both the local population and the incoming refugees. Towards this direction, Chios Lab is actively engaged in **involving citizens and policymakers** through various initiatives, including webinars, community workshops (including surveys and focus groups) and public events such as Town Hall meetings and Mastic Museum. Additionally, the municipality of Chios is collaborating with local media and organizing Youth Involvement Programs. The lab has started its activities with a deeper analysis of the problem and is organising the first stakeholders workshop on 20th December 2023. More news to come!

[Read more on Chios Lab](#)

Designing robust strategies to develop a more resilient healthcare system

BAPEMED lab focuses on key challenges in healthcare, with a specific focus on issues such as quality, system inefficiencies and limited use of data. BAPEMED is the Bulgarian Association for Personalised Medicine, which is a non-profit association aimed at fostering the better understanding and adoption of personalised medicine for the benefit of the patients and the health care system. The project team has **developed a roadmap to support BAPEMED** in engaging people for prevention-related actions. The roadmap includes both bilateral consultations with policymakers, private sector and civil society groups as well as a series of workshops with national and international organisations, civil society, NGOS, and all relevant stakeholders.

[Read more on BAPEMED Lab](#)

Results of open call

The project is set to encompass a total of 10 pilot cases and will **provide financial support to third parties** to achieve its objective. In June 2023, the consortium launched a call to select the additional seven pilot cases. The evaluation process, conducted throughout October and November, included checking eligibility criteria, individual experts evaluation, and a final evaluation panel. These new FUTURESILIENCE labs will work in a diversity of topics including housing, mobility, energy, labour market, digitalisation, climate change impacts, social conflicts and more, covering different geographies of Europe. **Stay tuned, we are setting up the scene for the experimentation. Results will be published soon!**





Events

European Urban Resilience Forum (Cascais, Portugal)

The FUTURESILIENCE project participated at the 10th edition of the **European Urban Resilience Forum (EURESFO)** in Cascais, Portugal, on the 20th of October 2023. EURESFO is an exchange platform for city representatives, experts, and stakeholders from local and regional institutions to discuss strategies, initiatives, and actions for adapting to climate change, managing disasters and building urban resilience. The FUTURESILIENCE project coordinator, Dr. Matias Barberis (EFIS Centre), participated in the session *"Imagining a resilient urban future. What does success look like?"*. Participants and speakers engaged in discussions about the definition of 'success' concerning societal resilience within an urban context.



Dr. Matias Barberis presented the FUTURESILIENCE project approach, **connecting science, policy and society** in building societal resilience and increasing preparedness. He underscored the **importance of using scientific evidence and understanding how people deal with this challenge in their everyday life**. Three key “take home messages” were identified: the value of both quantitative and qualitative insights from people in establishing clear evidence, the importance of stakeholder engagement and trust-building to ensure societal resilience, and the crucial role of scenario development in preparing for uncertainty.

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CERIS - Disaster Resilient Society Annual Event (Brussels, Belgium)

The FUTURESILIENCE project team was present at the annual event of the **Disaster Resilient Societies network of the Community for European Research and Innovation for Security (CERIS)** held from on the 4-7th December 2023 in Brussels, Belgium. Two of our consortium partners – EFIS Centre and NTNU Social Research – actively participated in the event and presented the project in the “Disaster Resilience and Risk Governance” session.





Dr. Matias Barberis (EFIS Centre) highlighted the **role of social experimentation** and presented the **FUTURESILIENCE Labs** approach. This approach is based on **active citizen participation** and maintains **constant connection with policymaking**, a crucial element for **building robust and legitimate policies geared towards long-term preparedness and resilience**.

Dr. Jörgen Sparf (NTNU Social Research) participated in the session on “Anticipating tomorrow’s crises and adapting response means”. He presented the innovative idea of the age of limits and discussed how this sociological concept could be meaningful in the analysis of future resilient societies.

[Read More | Full Agenda of the Event](#)

FUTURESILIENCE 1st Policy Roundtable

On 30th of November 2023, the 1st FUTURESILIENCE Policy Roundtable took place online, bringing together different stakeholders including researchers, practitioners and policymakers at the EU level. Expected impacts of the FUTURESILIENCE project included the alignment of R&I system with societal needs and values to strengthen resilience and the promotion of inclusiveness with citizens engagement. These expected impacts imply **fostering knowledge valorisation for creating resilience at local and regional levels**, creating a **linkage between science, society and policy**. The policy roundtable served as an opportunity for **policymakers to be informed about the beta versions of the two main outputs of the FUTURESILIENCE project** (the **Knowledge Base** of policy-relevant R&I findings and the **Toolbox** for policy testing) and the presentation of the existing **FUTURESILIENCE Labs (Murcia, Chios and BAPEMED)**. The policy relevance of the Knowledge Base and of the Toolbox was presented by, respectively, Dr. Matias Barberis (EFIS Centre) and Dr. Philine Warnke (Fraunhofer ISI). Updates about FUTURESILIENCE Labs were illustrated by representatives of each pilot.





This event marked an important milestone for the FUTURESILIENCE project, as the project looks to strengthen the science to policy process. In the roundtable, participants **interacted and engaged in debates on their experiences related to effective and efficient resilience policy design, as well as possible future actions about societal resilience.**

Highlighted **key points from speakers** during the Policy Roundtable include:

- *“This project is relevant for knowledge valorisation policies. It is about the uptake of research results to inform public policies in different areas, engaging with citizens, using experimentation as policy tool and building resilience” – Iphigenia Pottaki (Policy Officer DG RTD)*
- *“We are building a Knowledge Base with research results in different areas typically impacted by crises. They can inform more robust and flexible policies to strengthen capacity and preparedness at societal level” - Matias Barberis (FUTURESILLIENCE coordinator – EFIS Centre)*
- *“Foresight and other tools in our Toolbox allow to develop long term solutions by improving capacity for continuous knowledge valorisation” – Philine Warnke (Fraunhofer ISI)*
- *“Striking a balance between political realities and evidence-based policy making is crucial for developing effective and equitable solutions” – Jenny Sykala (Chios Lab)*
- *“The project provides the local community and policymakers with knowledge and tools to understand key challenges of climate change effects and promote the co-creation of robust actions at local level” – Fernando García (UPCT – Murcia Lab)*
- *“The advantage of using evidence is that we can look at policies that have been tried and tested elsewhere; it gives us an advantage in the policy design” – Martin Kruse (CIFIC - BAPEMED Lab)*

In 2024, additional policy roundtables will be organised at local and regional levels for each of the pilot cases. Stay tuned and **join us in sharing your perspectives** on how to build societal resilience by using science-based evidence and engaging citizens in the policy design process.

[Read our first policy brief](#) | [Watch the recordings on YouTube here](#)

Get in touch with us!



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