



From Climate Crisis to Climate Resilience in Europe at Local and Regional Levels

The Pontifical Academies of Sciences (PAS) and of Social Sciences (PASS), The Vatican
with European Partners Vienna, August 28-29, 2025

1. Objectives of the Cooperation

- Strengthening Climate Resilience through science-based evidence, and networking among science and policy and society consultations for actions.
- Mobilizing and strengthening the voices and actions of subnational governments (mayors and governors) at local, national and regional levels as well as at Climate COPs.
- Emphasizing especially the voice of youth.

2. Background, Rational and Concept

We need to complement mitigation with adaptation to cope with the additional heating of the planet in the coming decades to survive. To catalyze mitigation and adaptation we need to enable societal transformation. The target is to not only survive but also to thrive and evolve to a sustainable way of living. We must broaden the current approach of a dominant focus on Mitigation to climate resilience. Mitigation is the central cornerstone of climate action. But since climate change is already changing the risk landscape we need to build in adaptation, and resilience. Building resilience consists of the following actions: i) Anticipate threats and risks; ii) Prepare for threats and risks; iii) Respond to threats and risks; and iv) Recover and Rebound from threats and risks.

Mitigation, Adaptation, and Societal Transformation (MAST) are forming the three pillars for **Climate Resilience**:

- **Mitigation:** Mitigation to bend the GHG emissions curve downward now and reach climate neutrality by 2050, to limit the warming to below 2°C is the first Pillar of MAST.
- **Adaptation:** Adaptation to unavoidable climate changes is the second pillar of MAST, composed of reduction in sensitivity to climate change, reduction in exposure to climate threats, and enhancement of adaptive capacity. Adaptation must start at the local level, a city, a village and scale upwards to an entire nation.

- **Societal Transformation:** Societal transformation to a sustainable way of living is essential for both reducing the anthropogenic perturbations (bend the curve) and for thriving despite the climate impacts. Societal Transformation involves fundamental shifts in values, behavior and shifts and governance of socio-economic systems. In Pope Francis' words, "This transformation is akin to an ecological conversion."

3. PAS/PASS Initiatives on Climate Resilience and scope for cooperation on the regional summit in Europe

A series of **initiatives by PAS/PASS** on climate policies and the climate crisis organized by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences (PAS), and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (PASS) have paved the way for an influential transdisciplinary alliance between climate science, social science, policy, civil society including faith-based communities.

- The Faith and Science initiative by the Vatican, in which PAS mobilized science communities, and the Governments of the UK and Italy shaped the COP agenda in Glasgow and helped bring issues of water, food and agriculture for the first time high on the agenda of the COP in Sharm el Cheikh.
- In July of 2022, PAS organized a meeting of experts, at which the *MAST concept for resilience was proposed* and accepted by all the experts attending the meeting in a conference declaration. This led to the realization that resilience must be built at the local level of cities and states. <https://www.pas.va/en/publications/scripta-varia/sv152pas.html>
- A Global summit was organized jointly by PAS and PASS during May 15 - 17, 2024, assembling from all hemispheres mayors and governors to discuss and showcase innovative solutions for climate resilience. The outcome of the summit was a *Planetary Call to Action for Climate Change Resilience* (Pope Francis, Ramanathan, V; Suárez-Orozco, M; von Braun, J; Alford, H; Turkson, P; and 15 other authors by PAS and PASS, signed by all attendees, including all the attending Mayors and Governors. [The document](#) recognizes that the climate crisis is upon us already, and we need a new expanded approach adding to emissions mitigation to protect people and ecosystems, and need to engage with global reach at the local level. To support implementation, a series of regional summits across all hemispheres was envisioned.
- The regional Summits in all hemispheres shall advance the call to Action for a universal protocol of resilience, as Pope Francis called it in his speech on May 16, 2024, to the global resilience summit attendees: "*I commend the two Academies for producing a universal protocol of resilience.*" Regional summits are planned from February of 2025 to March of 2026. We aim to culminate in a final comprehensive Vatican Summit in 2026 and the release of a Universal Protocol for Climate Resilience.

4. The Pan-European Summit: Strategic orientation and implementation

4.1 European Summit themes, processes and outcomes

PAS & PASS with their partners will facilitate the regional climate resilience consultations, and provide guidance in line with the Call to Action. The conference is generously supported by and organized in partnership with the Bertelsmann Foundation, as well as in partnership with Austrian Academy of Sciences and the European Academies of Sciences Advisory Council

(EASAC). This Summit shall address the unique climate, environmental, and socio-economic challenges that a plurality of invited European cities and regions face, responding to hazards and building systemic preparedness. The concept includes – as for all other regional Summits, attention to

- **Regional Contexts:** Tailor solutions to each region's unique climate challenges and socio-economic and cultural contexts.
- **Community Engagement:** Involve local communities, and diverse stakeholders including faith-based communities, in discussions and decision-making. Invite PAS/PASS academicians with scholarly expertise and regional interest to each conference. And strong **Youth Engagement**, as an integral part of the conference
- **Regional Collaboration:** Foster cooperation and knowledge sharing in Europe to develop effective, scalable climate solutions.
- **Equity:** Prioritize equity and the protection of the poor and most vulnerable populations, including children, and incorporate diverse perspectives in climate resilience planning.

City- and region-specific threats will be determined bottom up from the participating cities and states, and often far beyond the local effects: increased temperatures, heat waves, droughts, more frequent and severe wildfires, air pollution, decreasing snow cover, Alpine Mountain ecosystems and water systems change, Baltic Sea and Mediterranean change, sea level rise, coastal flooding and erosion, extreme precipitation, and flooding. Broader **themes of actions** include, innovation in city-state climate risk management systems, preventive measures in infrastructures, water and sewage systems, insurance systems, data systems for climate resilience. Strengthening public health infrastructure (to cope with heat stress, respiratory issues, and water-borne diseases; providing mental health resources for those affected by climate disasters, eco-anxiety and changing cultural contexts; developing child-centered resilience strategies, including climate education and safe spaces during extreme events).

4.2 Organizational aspects and reach of the Vienna Summit

Date: August 28-29, 2025, Location: Vienna, Austria

Central to the Pan-European Summit are mayors of cities and heads of provinces (local states) from all parts of Europe to cover urban and rural areas resilience challenges, together with EU Commission leaders, youth, science, business, civil society stake holders.

4.3 Aiming for lasting outcomes among the partners

Beyond conference reporting and platform formations, the following tangible outcomes are envisioned:

- options for climate resilience oriented regional and local planning, including adaptation strategies, and sharing local business plans.
- high-level policy dialogue formats for resilience actions, combined with youth and multi-stakeholder perspectives on climate resilience.
- adoption of implementation protocols, and structured inputs for city and regional protocols for Climate Resilience for COPs and for the Final Vatican Summit in 2027.

Pan-European Summit
Climate Mitigation, Adaptation, and Societal Transformation (MAST)
Vienna at OEAW, August 28-29, 2025

Day 1: Thursday, August 28, 2025

8:00 **Breakfast Available**

8:45 – 9:30 **Words of Welcome & Opening Addresses**

Heinz Fassman, President, OEAW

Hon. Michael Ludwig, Mayor, Vienna

Joachim von Braun, President, PAS

Wim van Saarloos, President, European Academies Science Advisory Council

His Eminence, Cardinal Peter Turkson, Chancellor, PAS & PASS

Hon. Norbert Totschnig, Federal Minister, Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management, Austria (video)

Jürgen Schneider, Head, Climate Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate- and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management

9:35-10:35 **Challenges and Best Practices for resilience - Mayors and local leaders**

Moderator: **Joachim von Braun**, President, PAS

Hon. Ricardo Rio, Mayor, Braga, Portugal, Global Parliament of Mayors Exec. Committee Chair

Hon. Henriette Reker, Mayor, Cologne

Hon. Nina Abrahamczik, Member, Vienna City Council

Ada Ámon, Executive Director, Budapest Climate Agency

Alastair Hannaford, WHO Youth Council Co-Chair, World Organization of the Scout Movement representative

10:40-11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:05-12:05 **Innovations and Entrepreneurship – New Ways of Addressing Climate Adaptation of Cities and Subregions**

Moderator: **Elena Lopez-Gunn**, Founder and Director, ICATALIST & Senior Research Fellow, Royal Elcano Institute

Panelists:

Gesa Ziemer, Professor, Digital Urban Cultures, HafenCity University

Brigitte Mohn, Member, Executive Board, Bertelsmann Stiftung

Bianca Carvalho, WHO Youth Council, Universities Allied for Essential Medicines representative

Frederik Galtung, Co-Chief Facilitator, Catalyst Now

Alvaro Soldevila, Lead, Programs & Resilience Practice, Resilient Cities Network

12:10-12:40 **Mitigation, Adaptation, Societal Transformation (MAST) - Resilience Concepts, Challenges and Actions**

Moderator: **Sr. Helen Alford**, President, PASS

Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, Council, PASS

Cornelia Richter, Bishop designate, Evangelical Church of Austria & Chair, Systematic Theology and Hermeneutic, Universität Bonn

Markus Gerhartinger, Environmental Officer, Archdiocese of Vienna

12:45-13:45 **Lunch**

13:50-15:00 **Innovative Financing Resilience & Insurance**

Moderator: **Bianca Pitt**, Co-Founder, SHE Changes Climate

Panelists:

Hon. Anne Hidalgo, Mayor, Paris

Hon. Matteo Lepore, Mayor, Bologna

Christof Reinert, Head of Risk Management Partners, on Future of Modeling Climate Risk, Munich Re Insurance,

Emily Jones, World Organization of the Scout Movement representative

Ingmar Rentzhog, CEO & Founder, We Don't Have Time

Christin Braak-Forstinger, Founder & CEO, Chi Impact Capital

15:05-16:15 **Weather Disasters, recovery and prevention**

Moderator: **Frank McGovern**, Vice Chair, JPI Climate

Panelists:

Elina Bardram, Director for Climate Resilience and Information Management, European Commission, DG CLIMA

Hon. Cornelia Weigand, County Commissioner, Ahrweiler District

Hon. Paula Llobet Vilarrosa, Councilor for Innovation, Technology, Digital Agenda and Investment Capture, Valencia

Elena Xoplaki, Acting Head, Climatology, Climate Dynamics and Climate Change Group at the Institute of Geography, Justus Liebig University in Giessen

Ronit Batra, Climate Cardinals

16:20-17:20 **Interactive “European / Vienna Café Consultation on MAST Solutions” led by Youth** (incl. Coffee Break) (MAST – Mitigation, Adaptation, Societal Transformation)

- **All participants assemble in 12 Conversation groups** in round tables
- Each table has a **Youth chair** and a **rapporteur from the Youth group and one scientist**
- Each table has a set of **thematic challenges related to the MAST agenda** to address and to identify **solutions**,
- Participants may move between tables
- The discussions are moderated by the chair from **Youth** participants
- The **Youth rapporteurs** report back in the following session, each presenting up to **3 calls to action for solutions to the identified challenges**

Youth Facilitators:

Corinna Fortunato, WHO Youth Council, European Network of Medical Residents in Public Health representative

Natalia Pidmurniak, Youth Council, Ministry of Health of Ukraine, Head of the International Medical Youth Diplomacy Department

Lieke Vivianne Schipper, International Federation of Medical Students Association
Kadrie Adem, MD, InciSioN Global Representative
Olha Dybkaliuk, World Scouting
Habib Olatunji Alagbo, WHO Youth Council representative, Health Education and Literacy Working Group
Evangelia Savvidou, WHO/Europe EVID-ACTION Youth Alcohol Network, Youth Advisor
Pauline Hastenteufel, Youth Health Organization
Daniel Cieślak, Youth Climate Council Poland
Mehmet Yağız Güzel, Vice President of Capacity, European Medical Students' Association
Balkiss Abdelmoula, MD, MPH, WHO Youth Council Representative, World Medical Association Junior Doctors' Network Deputy Chair
Katja Čič, WHO Youth Council, Chair of Planetary Health Working Group, International Youth Health Organization representative

17:20 – 18:30 **Reporting back of calls to action by Youth leaders to plenary**
Chair: **Katja Čič**, WHO Youth Council, Chair of Planetary Health Working Group, International Youth Health Organization representative

19:00 **Conference Dinner**
Location: Jesuit Hall

Day 2: Friday, August 29, 2025

8:00 **Breakfast Available**

8:45-9:45 **Climate Change and Health including extreme Heat**
Moderator: Andy Haines, Professor, Environmental Change & Public Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Panelists:
Muha Hassan, WHO Youth Council, WMA-Junior Doctors Network representative
Beth Stinchcombe, International Federation of Medical Students' Associations representative, WHO
Lamia Messari-Becker, Professor, Energy-efficient Building Technology, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT)
Eleni Myrivili, Global Chief Heat Officer, United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Sascha Müller-Kraenner, CEO, Deutsche Umwelthilfe

9:50-10:50 **The change of European Mountain areas – Glaciers, Water, Rocks and Landscapes**
Moderator: Jakob Rhyner, Professor Emeritus, Global Change and Systemic Risks, University of Bonn & Chair, Science Advisory Committee, OEAW Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research
Panelists:
Show of short part of new **film “Requiem in Weiss”** by **Harry Putz**
Thomas Stocker, Climate and Environmental Physics, Universität Bern

Keywan Riahi, Director of the Program on Energy, Climate, and Environment at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Laxenburg (Austria)

Harry Putz, Filmmaker

Sofia Bergqvist, Youth Health Organization, Human Geographer

10:55-11:15 Coffee Break

11:20-12:20 **Coastal Resilience (North Sea, Baltic Sea, Mediterranean)**

Moderator: Costas Papanicolas, President Emeritus, Cyprus Institute

Panelists:

Hon. George Hatzimarkos, Governor, South Aegean Region and President, Association of Greek Regions

Nadia Pinardi, Professor. Physical Oceanography, University of Bologna and Director, Decade Collaborative Centre for Coastal Resilience

Antonio Navarra, President, The CMCC Foundation (Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change)

Jacek Piskozub, Vice Chair, Committee for the Climate Crisis, Polish Academy of Sciences

Melinda Martins, WHO Youth Council, Youth Environment

12:25 – 13:25 **Land Use, Water, Agriculture, Food System, Bioeconomy**

Moderator: Cecilia Tortajada, PAS & University Glasgow and Singapore, Environmental Science and Sustainability, Water

Panelists:

Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Jaime Flores Cabeza, Deputy Director, Canal de Isabel II

Vera Eory, Climate Change Researcher, Scotland's Rural College

Julia Weatherhogg, Programme Management Officer, Adaptation Division, UNFCCC

Hinda Sahir, WHO Youth Council, Act4Food representative

Louise E.M. Vet, Netherlands Institute of Ecology & Emeritus Professor, Evolutionary Ecology, Wageningen University

13:25-14:20 **Lunch**

14:25-15:35 **Foresight and Scientific and Policy Innovations**

Moderator: Wim van Saarloos, President of EASAC, Professor emeritus of theoretical physics, University of Leiden

Panelists:

Örjan Gustafsson, PAS and University of Stockholm

Inge Jonckheere, Head, Green Solutions Division, European Space Agency

Dino Žujić, MD, Director, Standing Committee on Public Health, International Federation of Medical Students Association

Eleni Zika, Head of Sector, European Research Council

Frank Ewert, Scientific Director, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research & Professor, Crop Production, University of Bonn

Pascale Braconnot, Climate Scientist, Institute Pierre Simon Laplace

15:40-16:50 Societal Transformation - Building Resilience with all stakeholders in multi-level governance

Moderator: Katja Čič, WHO Youth Council, Youth Representative Manager, International Youth Health Organization, Slovenia

Panelists:

Hon. Henriette Reker, Mayor, Cologne

Hon. Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Former Prime Minister, Iceland

Hon. Serhii Morhunov, Mayor, Vinnytsia

John Schellhuber, Director General, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Nadia Pinardi, Professor. Physical Oceanography, University of Bologna and Director, Decade Collaborative Centre for Coastal Resilience

16:55-17:25 Way forward with Call to Action, Statements from Youth and Closing

Remarks

Joachim von Braun, President, PAS

Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, Council, PASS

17:25-18:30 Refreshments