

KICK-OFF MEETING AGENDA

27th – 29th October 2025



Funded by
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Grant Agreement No. 101112972

AGENDA IN A NUTSHELL

DAY 1 Monday 27th October	
13:00	Registration - Welcome "Salty" Coffee
14:00	Welcome to Participants and GRACE overall presentation
14:30	Messages from the European Commission
15:10	Ice-breaking Activities
15:40	<p>Pillar A Community Based Transformative adaptation experimentation space</p> <p>WP1 - Engaging local communities for preparing resilience transition</p> <p>Interactive session</p> <p>WP2 - Demonstrating, evaluating and upscaling climate change adaptation solutions</p> <p>Interactive session</p> <p>Q&A</p>
17:00	Coffee Break
17:20	<p>Pillar B Climate Adaptation Resource and Knowledge Catalyst</p> <p>WP3 - Delivering data, tools and technical frameworks</p> <p>Interactive session</p> <p>WP4 - Co-creating governance arrangements and assessing economic potential of CCA solutions</p> <p>Interactive session</p> <p>Q&A</p>



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19:00	Networking Aperitif
21:00	End of Day 1
DAY 2 Tuesday October 28th	
9:30	Boat Departure to Cavallino-Treporti
11:00	Field Visit to Dune System and Farm “La Valleri”
13:00	Social Lunch
14:45	Institutional Greetings from the Local partner
15:00	Bingo
15:30	Demonstrators and Replicators Region presentation
17:10	Coffee Break
17:30	Regions Interactive Session
18:30	Boat ride to Venice
DAY 3 Wednesday October 29th	
9:00	Registration
9:30	Wrap-up of Day 2
9:45	WP7 – Project management and coordination Q&A
10:30	Coffee Break
10:50	Pillar C - Impact Booster WP5 - Closing Skill gaps through community capacitation and interregional peer-to-peer exchanges WP6 - Boosting Impact



	Q&A
13:00	Farewell Lunch
14:00	WP leader and Co-Leader meetings
16:00	End of General Assembly

DETAILED AGENDA

DAY 1 Monday 27th October

[Hotel Avani Rio Novo Venice](#)

Abstract: The first day of the GRACE Kick-Off Meeting opens with registration and a welcoming “salty” coffee, setting a warm and collaborative atmosphere. Elisa Furlan (CMCC) introduces the participants and presents the overall vision of GRACE, followed by a message from Giulia Moretto (CINEA) and a representative from the European Commission’s DG RTD, highlighting the project’s alignment with European climate adaptation goals.

Interactive ice-breaking sessions led by Paolo Campo and Michalina Kułakowska (CRS) encourage teamwork and active participation through creative group activities.

The meeting proceeds around the first two thematic pillars.

Pillar A – Community-Based Transformative Adaptation Experimentation Space

This pillar is at the core of the methodological approach with a process-based framework for implementing regional transformative CA. Its operative steps will move from a preparatory phase (WP1) in which remote rural communities in all GRACE project regions (DRs&RRs) are identified and mobilized for the entire project timeframe. Grounded on the results of the preparatory phase, the implementation phase (WP2) will encompass the setup and deployment of the testing and demonstration of CCA solutions in the DRs, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of the demonstrations, considering a unique set of criteria and operative KPIs.

Pillar B – Climate Adaptation Resource and Knowledge Catalyst



This pillar will run in parallel with both Pillars A and C, with the mission to catalyse new knowledge, tools, data, and models to support the execution of the other 2 pillars, laying the enabling conditions for the implementation of innovation and transformative action in GRACE.

Data mapping, data collection using novel tools and new guidelines for data collection will respond to the data scarcity issues prevalent in rural areas that prevents them from making accurate climate predictions, turning it challenging to assess vulnerabilities and plan effective adaptation strategies (WP3). Part of Pillar B knowledge and resource catalysation will also be the formulation of suitable governance arrangements that can best promote climate transition in DRs&RRs and the adoption of the demonstrated CCA solutions, as well as the assessment of the direct benefits of the demonstrated CCA solutions and their co-benefits to the wider society (WP4). The day concludes with a practical briefing on Day 2 logistics and a convivial social aperitif at Ostaria Vecio Pozzo, fostering informal connections among partners.

Time	Duration	Title
13:00 14:00	60 min	Registration - Welcome "Salty" Coffee
14:00 14:30	30 min	Welcome to the Participants and GRACE overall presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elisa Furlan, CMCC
14:30 15:10	40 min	Message from the European Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sophie Berger, Policy Officer from DG RTD Giulia Moretto, CINEA Project Officer
15:10 15:40	30 min	Ice-breaking Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paolo Campo & Michalina Kułakowska, CRS Part1: Cross The Circle Part2: Equilateral Triangle Collaboration Purpose It shows how effectively a large group can self-organise and work together, even with a lack of strict rules or leadership. Team Building it's an excellent way to get people to work together, have fun, and build rapport at the start of a workshop or meeting and helps to set a collaborative tone for the entire workshop or meeting.
Pillar A Community Based Transformative adaptation experimentation space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Elena Allegri, CMCC 		
15:40 16:40	30 min	WP1 - Engaging local communities for preparing resilience transition (10 minutes)





		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tristan Berchoux, CIHEAM-IAMM <p>Interactive Session (20 minutes)</p> <p>Regional Labs - Challenges and Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tristan Berchoux, CIHEAM-IAMM
	30 min	<p>WP2 - Demonstrating, evaluating and upscaling climate change adaptation solutions (10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daria Ernst; Heidi Grüneis, BAB <p>Interactive Session (20 minutes)</p> <p>NbS Implementation: Challenges and Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daria Ernst; Heidi Grüneis, BAB
16:40 17:00	20 min	<p>Q&A on Pillar A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Elena Allegri, CMCC
17:00 17:20	20 min	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>Pillar B Climate Adaptation Resource and Knowledge Catalyst</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Angelica Bianconi, CMCC 		
17:20 18:20	30 min	<p>WP3 - Delivering data, tools and technical frameworks (10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vuong Pham, CMCC <p>Interactive Session (20 minutes)</p> <p>Find Your Mates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vuong Pham, CMCC
	30 min	<p>WP4 - Co-creating governance arrangements and assessing economic potential of CCA solutions (10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carla Wember, IFLS - Alexia Spyridonidou, EPLO <p>Interactive Session (20 minutes)</p> <p>NbS Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carla Wember, IFLS - Alexia Spyridonidou, EPLO
18:20 18:40	20 min	<p>Q&A on Pillar B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Angelica Bianconi, CMCC



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18:40	20 min	Wrap-up and Walk to the Aperitif
19:00		Logistic information and briefing on Day 2 departure time and settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angelica Bianconi, CMCC
19:00 21:00	120 min	Social Aperitif Ostaria al Vecio Pozzo



Day 2 - Tuesday 28th October

Abstract: The second day offers an immersive experience in the Venice Lagoon and Cavallino-Treporti area, focusing on real-world applications of climate adaptation solutions. A **boat ride to Cavallino-Treporti** opens the day, featuring short introductions to Venice, the local ecosystem, and the field activities. Participants visit the **dune system and local farms** (La Valleri) to explore local best practices. A social lunch at Locanda Zanella provides an opportunity for informal exchange and networking before moving to the Centro Civico, where representatives of the Comune di Cavallino-Treporti offer institutional greetings. The afternoon combines **interactive and technical sessions**, including a Bingo activity, Demo and Replicator presentations from each region, and an interactive regional session led by Tristan Berchoux, which promotes cross-regional dialogue on adaptation strategies. The day closes with a return boat trip to Venice and a brief introduction to Day 3's agenda.

Time	Duration	Title
9:15 9:30	15 min	Arrival time
9:30 10:30	60 min	Boat ride from Venice to Cavallino Tre Porti Introduction of the day (5 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elisa Furlan - CMCC Introduction of Venice (10 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vuong Pham - Fabio Favilli, CMCC Introduction to Cavallino-Treporti and the Field Visit (10 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaetano , CMCC



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11:00 12:00	60 min	Field Visit to the Cavallino Dune System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gaetano Di Gregorio, CCT
12:00 13:00	60min	Field Visit Local farms - Farm “La Valleri” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gaetano Di Gregorio, CCT & Local host
13:00 14:30	90 min	Social Lunch - La Tenuta di Cavallino
14:30 14:45	15 min	Bus time
14:45 15:00	15 min	Institutional Greetings from the Local partner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roberta Nesto, Mayor of Cavallino-Treporti
15:00 15:30	30 min	Bingo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elena Allegi - Angelica Bianconi, CMCC
15:30 17:10	100 min	Centro Civico Demonstrators and Replicators Region presentation 10 minutes for each region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DR1 - Baixo Alentejo (Portugal) ● DR2 - Cavallino-Treporti (Italy) ● DR3 - Bucklige Welt (Austria) ● DR4 - Limfjorden (Denmark) ● DR5 - Varstbotten (Sweden) ● RR1 - Thessaly (Greece) ● RR2 - Zilina (Slovakia) ● RR3 - Atlantic Seaboard North (Ireland) ● RR4 - Vidzeme (Latvia) ● RR5 - Zalishchyky (Ukraine)
17:10 17:30	20 min	Coffee Break Bar Commercio Burger Bistro'
17:30 18:30	60 min	Centro Civico Regions Interactive Session Map exercise -> key characteristics of the region: climate risks, socio-economic factors, governance structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tristan Berchoux, CIHEAM-IAMM



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18:30 19:30	60 min	End of Day 2 and Boat Ride to Venice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elisa Furlan, CMCC
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Day 3 - Wednesday 29th October

[Hotel Avani Rio Novo Venice](#)

Abstract: The final day focuses on coordination, capacity building, and strategic alignment. After registration and a collective wrap-up of Day 2 insights, Andrea Torresan (CMCC) presents WP7 on project management and coordination, followed by an open Q&A.

Under **Pillar C – Impact Booster**, sessions on WP5 and WP6 guide participants through interactive exercises designed to strengthen skills, encourage peer-to-peer exchange, and boost the overall impact of GRACE activities.

This pillar will operate hand in hand with the other 2 pillars (A and B), providing comprehensive support through an extensive capacitation to enhance skills and knowledge of small and medium-size communities in RRA. This coordinated process will also result in the formulation of replication plans by RRs, steering the future adoption of CCA solutions and practices (WP6).

The General Assembly will be closed by highlighting key outcomes and next steps, led by Elisa Furlan (CMCC), before participants share a farewell lunch. The afternoon is dedicated to WP leaders and co-leaders, to reflect on project strategy, consolidate the theory of change, and plan the upcoming phases of implementation.

Time	Duration	Title
9:00 9:30	30 min	Registration
9:30 9:45	15 min	Wrap-up of Day2 Mentimeter activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gea Grassi, CMCC
9:45 10:15	30 min	WP7 – Project management and coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrea Torresan, CMCC
10:15 10:30	15 min	Q&A on WP7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrea Torresan, CMCC



10:30 10:50	20 min	Coffee Break
Pillar C - Impact Booster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Gea Grassi, CMCC 		
10:50 11:35	45 min	WP5 - Closing Skill gaps through community capacitation and interregional peer-to-peer exchanges (10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shannon Pfohman, AEIDL Interactive Session (35 minutes) Break-out tables on Capacity Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shannon Pfohman, AEIDL
11:35 12:05	30 min	WP6 - Boosting Impact (10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monica Garcia Quesada, ESCI Interactive Session (20 minutes) Taglines & Workshop on Communication Outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monica Garcia Quesada, ESCI
12:05 12:25	20 min	Q&A on PillarC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Gea Grassi, CMCC
12:25 13:00	35 min	Highlights of the GA and End of the General Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elisa Furlan, CMCC
13:00 14:00	60 min	Farewell Lunch Lunch Box will be available for PPs who need to take an afternoon flight or train.
14:00 16:00	120 min	WP leader and Co-Leader meetings External Advisory Board; reflection times; theory of change.





LOGISTIC INFORMATION

→ Google Maps it might get lost in the tiny Venetian streets, but it's generally accurate and remains the best tool to move across the city.

Practical Information – How to Reach Hotel NH Avani Rio Novo (Venice)

Hotel Address:

Hotel NH Avani Rio Novo
Dorsoduro, 3499 – 30123 Venice, Italy

From Venice Marco Polo Airport (VCE):

By Water

- Alilaguna Water Bus (Orange Line):
 - Departure: Marco Polo Airport pier (10 min walk from arrivals, follow “Water Transport” signs).
 - Direction: Venice City Center.
 - Stop: *Ca’ Rezzonico* (approx. 70 min).
 - From Cà Rezzonico, it is a 7-minute walk to Hotel NH Avani Rio Novo.

By Land (bus or taxi + short walk):

- Bus Shuttle to Piazzale Roma:
 - ATVO or ACTV buses run every 20 minutes from the airport (journey time: 20–25 min).
 - From Piazzale Roma, the hotel is a 10-minute walk.
- Land Taxi to Piazzale Roma:
 - Journey time: approx. 20 minutes (depending on traffic).
 - From Piazzale Roma, a short 10-minute walk to the hotel.

By Train (if arriving from other Italian/European cities):

- Arrival station: **Venezia Santa Lucia**.
- From the station: 15 minutes on foot to the hotel, or stop by Vaporetto (water bus) to *Cà Rezzonico*

Field Visit Logistics (Day2 - Tuesday 28th)

- The meeting point for the Boat ride is the entrance of the [Church of Saint Mary of the Rosary 'Gesuati'](#) - **please be there not later than 9:15 am**. The boat will depart at 9:30 am sharp
- We suggest wearing comfortable shoes and, eventually, a waterproof/windproof jacket based on the weather forecast.

Subsistence arrangements

Day 1

- Kick off your day with a warm welcome at the [Hotel Avani Rio Novo Venice](#) Enjoy a cozy “salty” coffee and a tasty snack before diving into the activities.
- Join us for a delightful networking aperitif [Ostaria al Vecio Pozzo](#) from 19:00 to 21:00 to wrap up the day! There will be plenty of delicious food options, and it’s a great opportunity to get to know each other in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. We can’t wait to see you there!

Day 2

- Enjoy the boat ride to Cavallino-Treporti and the social lunch at [La Tenuta di Cavallino](#)
- Once we return to Venice, you'll have the wonderful opportunity to explore the city at your own pace! Feel free to enjoy dinner on your own or organize in groups.

Day 3

- [Hotel Avani Rio Novo Venice](#) will arrange lunch boxes! They’ll be easy to grab on the go, just in case you need to catch an afternoon train or flight. Enjoy your meal!



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