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2025 Think Tank

Report

"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași

10 March 2025

Rapporteur,

Dr. Petronela SPIRIDON-URSU

Table of contents

A. Understanding the report template 2

B. Participants 3

C. Results from local session 4

1. Presentation of stakeholder groups 4

2. Results per subtopic 10

3. Implementable actions at the level of EC2U: What can the EC2U Alliance do to contribute to climate change resilience? 28

4. General remarks/Summary of discussion 31

D. Communication on local EC2U Think Tanks 33

A. Understanding the report template

The information required will contribute to the final report and the policy recommendations. As each EC2U University is organising a local session, when analysing the results, it is crucial to have elements of comparaison.

The report template serves as a guide, but feel free to adapt to the discussion held.

If during the event, people were invited to write ideas down on paper board, or post-its (e.g. world café format), you can also add that to this document.

Briefly, *Results from local session* section by section:

- ✓ **Presentation of stakeholder groups**

This provides an overview of the participants, a global picture of who is around the table. The challenges and best practices can also be compared cross stakeholder group and among universities.

Information can be collected prior the Local Think Tank session if prefered.

- ✓ **Results per guiding question**

This section is to present the main findings for each question. It includes

  - Summary of discussion where you can choose to highlight key areas of exchanges, comments, questions, etc.
  - Notable areas of discussion per stakeholder group where the idea is to pinpoint specificities of the stakeholder groups around the table. This data will allow for comparative analysis.

- ✓ **Implementable actions at the level of EC2U: What can the EC2U Alliance do to contribute to climate change resilience?**

This section focuses on concrete solutions that were discussed with your group and that could be implemented at the level of the Alliance. These proposed action points / solutions will contribute to the writing of the policy recommendations.

You can also refer to other areas of discussion to complement this section.

- ✓ **General remarks/Summary of discussion**

This is open to your contribution. You can add anything that you consider relevant to the Think Tank. A summary of the event can be useful but don't feel limited to that.

Partner University: Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (UAIC)

Date of Local Think Tank: 10 March 2025

Format: on-site

B. Participants

Name	**Function / Affiliation**	**Profile** (student / staff / researcher / AP)
Marius Sorin DANGĂ	Vice President - County Council (CJ) Iași	Local Authority
Cecilia PILĂ	Executive director eng. - Agency for the Protection of the Environment Iași	Local Authority
Alexandra FLOREA	Sustainability expert – *Mai Bine* Association	AP
Lucian ROșU	Vice-president – CIVICA Association	AP
Doris PÎNZARIU	Representative member - Fundaţia Comunitară Iaşi	AP
Andrei COȘULEANU	President - Act for Tomorrow Association	AP
Ioana PRUTEANU	Representative member - Association for Ecology and Sustainable Development	AP
Nicoleta Laura POPA	Professor, PhD /Vice-rector - UAIC	Academic staff
Lucian SFÎCĂ	EC2U-WP6 member UAIC, Faculty of Geography and Geology, Moderator	Academic staff
Iustinian BEJAN	Scientific researcher – CERNESIM	Research staff
Cecilia ARSENE	Professor - UAIC, Faculty of Chemistry	Academic staff
Gabriela Carmen PASCARIU	Director - Center for European Studies	Academic staff
Ștefan BONCU	Dean – UAIC, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences	Academic staff
Pavel ICHIM	Professor - UAIC, Faculty of Geography and Geology	Academic staff

Petronela SPIRIDON-URSU	EC2U Local coordinator – UAIC, International Relations Office	Administrative staff
Alexandra Ioana SIMON	Representative member - Erasmus Student Network, Iași	student

Audience: ~~Yes~~ / **No**

Number of attending audience members: -

C. Results from local session

1. Presentation of stakeholders/stakeholder groups

Stakeholder group / Person	Core actions	Challenges	Best practices
County Council (CJ) Iași	• Establishing and tracking the progress of the County Air Quality Plan. • Advancing the Integrated Waste Management Framework. • Initiating and managing projects focused on building energy efficiency. Providing support to APAVITAL SA for projects promoting long-term water sustainability.	• Financial constraints • Legal impediments Weak community engagement with objectives.	We are still in the process of identifying best practices.
Agency for the Protection of the Environment Iași	• Inventory of county-wide emissions. • Environmental regulatory compliance. Monitoring of air quality levels.	• Low levels of environmental literacy (limited comprehension of climate change and adaptation necessities). • Vague legal structure. • Local public administration disengagement.	Cities embracing sustainable urban planning, self-reinvention, and collaborative problem-solving with their communities.
Mai Bine Association	• Educational workshops for the community. • Creative reuse workshop. • "Nest" retaurant - backing local growers. Eco-map of Iasi	• Lack of community awareness and visibility. • Insufficient internal funding to speed up campaigns and put solutions into practice.	Community Education and Local Ecosystem Support: Educational workshops enhance community awareness, and spaces like "Nest" serve as tangible

			examples of thriving local ecosystems.
CIVICA Association	• Building Urban Resilience: fostering collaboration between community and local authority for sustainable urban development. • Promoting Urban Green Spaces: establishing and protecting urban natural areas to enhance biodiversity and climate change adaptation. • Implementing Nature-Based Solutions: Regenerating urban spaces, particularly playgrounds, with natural elements to mitigate heat island effects. • Driving Innovation and Awareness: Organizing events like Climathon Iasi to generate solutions for urban climate challenges. • Community engagement: actively involving the community in all phases of the projects. • Advocacy**:** advocating for the implementation of the solutions discovered, with the local administration. CIVICA Association is dedicated to creating greener and more resilient cities by promoting sustainable solutions, engaging the community, and fostering collaboration with local authorities.	• Lack of climate awareness and education: Despite community interest, understanding of climate change impacts and solutions remains low. • Limited funding: nature-based solutions require financial resources, and accessing funds is often challenging. • Cumbersome administrative processes: Collaboration with local authorities involves bureaucratic hurdles that slow project implementation. • Urban development pressure: city expansion and real estate interests reduce green spaces and limit sustainable solution integration. Absence of clear and coherent local policies: Without a clear climate adaptation strategy, initiatives are fragmented and difficult to scale.	• Hackathons and Climathons: organizing hackathons, such as Climathon Iași, effectively generates innovative solutions to environmental challenges by bringing together diverse stakeholders. • Community Engagement Methodologies**:** Employing participatory methods like co-design and co-planning ensures that projects are tailored to local needs, fostering greater acceptance and implementation. • Environmental Communication and Awareness: Communication strategies are crucial for building urban resilience. Information campaigns, educational workshops, and public events help communities understand climate risks and adopt sustainable behaviors. • Community Feedback Collection: Continuous dialogue with residents is essential for resilient city development. Public consultations and digital platforms facilitate feedback collection,

			identifying key community challenges. • Community Needs Analysis via Opinion Polls: conducting opinion polls provides valuable data for understanding citizen perceptions and priorities, informing the design of effective climate adaptation policies and strategies. Supporting Community-Led Initiatives: local authorities should support community initiatives through grants, participatory funding, and public-private partnerships to foster both small- and large-scale climate adaptation projects.
Fundaţia Comunitară Iaşi	Urban revitalization and urban regeneration projects.	The significant financial resources needed for climate adaptation projects exceed the funding currently available, which hinders long-term implementation.	Implementing nature-based solutions, such as the creation and restoration of green spaces, urban parks, and green infrastructure, is a best practice.
Act for Tomorrow Association	Afforestation initiatives for soil stabilization, combating desertification, and establishing windbreaks to support agriculture, protect infrastructure, and safeguard communities. Circular economy initiatives, water resource protection, and waste management programs.	Enhancing the understanding of relevant concepts and the importance of climate action within Local Administrative Units.	Best practices include policies that allow local authorities to realize tangible benefits with minimal involvement.
Association for Ecology and Sustainable Development (AEDD)	To encourage the widespread adoption of sustainable development practices, prioritizing economic, environmental, and social balance.	Insufficient public understanding of environmental issues, including climate change and adaptation.	AEDD proudly serves as a co-organizer for EUROINVENT, the leading platform for inventions and innovations in Eastern Europe. For more

	To facilitate sustainable socio-economic progress in Romania by elevating living conditions, stimulating business development, and optimizing government relations.	Uncertain legal structures, creating obstacles to sustainable development.	information, visit www.euroinvent.org.
UAIC Professors and Researchers			
Lucian Sfîcă	My expertise, along with that of my climatology team at UAIC, is primarily in evaluating urban climate to support climate resilience strategies. We concentrate on providing a strong understanding of present and future climate conditions to inform effective urban policy decisions.	From my perspective as a professor, the challenges lie in the diverse interpretations of climate change across the institution. My primary concern, shared with my team of climatologists at UAIC's Faculty of Geography and Geology, is the need for a solid scientific foundation for urban climate resilience policies. We aim to address this by providing thorough assessments of current and future urban climate conditions, which are crucial for informing effective policy decisions.	Municipalities should likely have funding streams for various types of projects that effectively include an applied research component.
Pavel Ichim	"URBAN CLIMATE IN IASI MUNICIPALITY: OBSERVATIONS, IMPACT AND ADAPTATION" - Internal grant GI-UAIC-2017-05, Project Director: Ichim Pavel. "Urban Climate Assessment: a prerequisite for developing local resilience to climate change in the North-East Development Region of Romania" (Acronym UCLAR)/PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2021-0882 - Project Director: Lucian Sfîcă.	Communication gap.	The use of numerical models to simulate the current urban climate, combined with strategic simulations of various mitigation measures for the negative effects of the urban heat island, allows for a thorough assessment of the impact of these measures on the urban climate and the effectiveness of the proposed solutions.
Stefan Boncu	Project ENTRANCES, funded by the EU's Horizon 2020, focused on analyzing the multifaceted societal impacts of transitioning from coal and carbon-based	Awareness deficit: the impact of climate change and individual actionable steps are not widely understood among members. Increased	Education and community awareness campaigns can mobilize citizens to participate in climate change adaptation measures

	energy to clean energy in affected European regions. Areas of Analysis**:** Socio-economic, socio-technical, socio-ecological, socio-cultural, socio-political, and socio-psychological aspects.	education and awareness are vital for organizational mobilization.	actively. Community involvement in local projects can increase resilience and social cohesion.
Cecilia Arsene	Project MySMIS 127324, under Financing Contract No. 322 (September 4, 2020), established the 'Research Center with Integrated Techniques for Investigating Atmospheric Aerosols in Romania' (RECENT AIR). The project's implementation phase ran from September 4, 2020, to December 31, 2023, and its sustainability period is scheduled from August 19, 2024, to August 18, 2029, according to the contract terms.	The absence of a coordinated, systematic institutional effort to produce a comprehensive report on climate change resilience, which would include integrated assessments of causes, impacts, and solutions from various specialists, and serve as: 1) a public awareness tool, 2) a basis for enhancing institutional strategies, and 3) a reference for prioritizing climate change research.	Eventual: "Opened science for society" - instrumentul prin care specialistii / cercetatorii trebuie sa isi dezvolte abilitati si competente de pliere a limbajului de specialitate si de stabilire a prioritatilor in activitatile de cercetare in asa fel incat sa aiba capacitatea sa demonstreze pe deplin faptul ca cercetarea se realizeaza pentru oameni si prin oameni, indiferent daca din orase sau alte comunitati
Students	• ESN Iași is committed to developing climate change resilience by focusing on education, inclusivity, and practical environmental initiatives. We empower both local and international students to embrace sustainability and actively contribute to our community. • Our organization prioritizes digital solutions to reduce our environmental footprint. We also implement hands-on environmental projects each semester, including the Cetățuia Hike, which combines exploration with litter collection. We advocate for green travel, encouraging Erasmus+ students to utilize public	• Financial limitations**:** being an NGO, our budget is a primary constraint. However, we endeavor to conduct numerous low-cost activities, particularly those focused on climate change education and awareness. • Transient student population: the short duration of Erasmus+ student stays in Iași makes it difficult to secure long-term participation in environmental projects. These students often prioritize short-term, rewarding activities. • Inadequate environmental infrastructure: the absence	ESN Iași successfully engaged volunteers and Erasmus+ students in ecological initiatives (cleanups, product exchanges) and educational events (language tandem, film screenings), promoting sustainability and cultural exchange.

	transport for regional travel. At the national level, we participate in beach cleanup efforts through the 'Escape to Vama Veche' project.	of well-connected public transport to natural areas surrounding the city discourages eco-friendly exploration. • Insufficient green and recreational spaces: we struggle with a shortage of green spaces and public areas suitable for outdoor activities. While we utilize existing parks, they do not always meet our diverse needs. Competing priorities: students often prioritize affordability over sustainability, especially in travel choices, where low-cost flights are favored over greener alternatives due to added complexities.	

If participants highlight a specific best practice, don't hesitate to share the link or photos that can be used for the report.

2. Results per guiding question

What are the most promising research findings and tools for helping cities and communities become more resilient? What is the role of education?

Summary of main findings

City and community resilience requires a multidimensional approach that combines scientific research, social innovation, and education. Education plays a crucial role in raising awareness, engaging, and empowering communities to build a sustainable future.

Building resilient cities requires a shift from passive resistance to active antifragility. Education plays a vital role in this transformation by fostering a new paradigm of environmental awareness, promoting knowledge transfer, and empowering individuals to take responsibility.

Education is paramount in fostering resilience. It must shift towards promoting awareness, critical thinking, and a sense of community responsibility. Addressing consumerism and ensuring research accessibility are also crucial components.

Notable areas of discussion/comments per stakeholder group

Stakeholder group / Person	Answer
Local authority	**Legislative Framework:** **Romania:** • National Climate Change Strategy (SNSC) • National Integrated Energy and Climate Change Plan (PNIESC) • National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (PNASC) **European Union:** • European Climate Law (Regulation 2021/1119) • "Fit for 55" legislative package (2021) • EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) • Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2021) • European Green Deal • RePowerEU
ONG / citizens	**Key Research Findings and Tools:** • **Social Innovation and Collective Intelligence:** ✓ Using social innovation and collective intelligence to address environmental and community issues. ✓ Engaging in "citizen science" and co-design projects to create tailored solutions. • **Focus on Practical Solutions:** ✓ Addressing food waste through education and practical actions. ✓ Promoting urban gardens and local food production to enhance personal and community resilience. ✓ Managing textile waste and promoting sustainable resource use. • **Science Communication:**

	✓ Improving science communication to the general public through accessible formats, such as 3-minute presentation competitions. ✓ Facilitating public access to research results. **The Role of Education:** • **Early Education and Awareness:** ✓ Educating students about resource use, waste reduction, and urban tree planting. ✓ Educational programs that promote family resilience and sustainable habits. • **Community Engagement:** ✓ Involve youth, homeowners, and other community members in resilience initiatives. ✓ Facilitating joint actions with local authorities, even in the context of expertise gaps. • **Higher Education and Collaboration:** ✓ Engaging academia in research and solution implementation. ✓ Collaborating with NGOs and student associations to amplify impact. ✓ Participating in participative disciplines. • **Bridging the Gap:** ✓ Facilitating knowledge transfer from research centers to implementers. ✓ Providing practical tools and training to enable communities to take action.
Academic Staff	Temporal pessimism ("things will get worse") can be locally/regionally mitigated by spatial optimism ("things are better here"). Gifford et al., 2009, Journal of Environmental Psychology **Terminological Nuances and City Resilience:** • **Resistance:** Rigid, opposes change, vulnerable to extreme events (e.g., massive dams). • **Resilience:** Accepts shocks, adapts without fundamental structural change, focuses on flexible systems (e.g., permeable drainage). • **Prosilience:** Uses stress to learn and improve, analyzes extreme events to implement better solutions (e.g., transforming parking lots into water retention gardens). • **Antifragility:** Thrives in chaos, uses climate challenges as opportunities for sustainability and innovation (e.g., developing green infrastructure, urban agriculture). The text describes how to change a city from only resistant to a city that is antifragile and how, with each step, the cities become better prepared for climate change. **Key Research Findings and Tools:** • **Urban Climate Balance:**

	✓ Emphasis on translating general ideas into legislation. ✓ Real-time data generation and utilization. ✓ Development of strategies to constrain decision-makers. ✓ Using technologies for research, big data processing, and predictive tools. • **Addressing Pollution:** ✓ Focus on the impact of pollutants like polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and heavy metals on lung health. ✓ Social education regarding carbon footprints. • **Waste Management:** ✓ Implementing systems for textile waste collection (e.g., textile waste "ovaries"). **The Role of Education:** • **Paradigm Shift:** ✓ Moving from a reactive to a proactive and revolutionary approach. ✓ Shifting the educational paradigm to view humans as part of the ecosystem, not above it. ✓ Educating individuals, including entrepreneurs, on sustainability. • **Knowledge Transfer and Decision-Making:** ✓ Promoting research and ensuring it reaches decision-makers. ✓ Educating decision-makers through a new paradigm that integrates individuals, health, and technology. • **Individual Responsibility:** ✓ Fostering individual responsibility from a young age. ✓ Providing education for adults and promoting self-education. ✓ Implementation of carbon footprint assessments into educational systems. • **Addressing Generational Gaps:** ✓ Bridging the gap between information access and active engagement among younger generations. ✓ Addressing the lack of understanding regarding climate change. • **The need for philosophy and debates:** ✓ There is a need for philosophical debates that will lead to actions and strategies. **Challenges:** • Overexploitation of the "resilience" concept. • Difficulties in knowledge transfer and implementation. • Language barriers in research dissemination. • Lack of climate change education.
Researchers	**Key Research Findings and Tools:** • **Global Monitoring Laboratory, NOAA:** ✓ This laboratory provides crucial data for understanding greenhouse emissions contributing to ongoing climate change.

	✓ The use of tools such as: https://climall.shinyapps.io/UCLAR_IS/ give the ability to monitor key climate changes. **The Role of Education:** • **Vital Importance:** ✓ Education is fundamental to building resilient communities. ✓ There are systematic issues with educational systems across institutions. ✓ There is a large underutilization of Artificial intelligence in education. • **Consciousness and Self-Awareness:** ✓ Educational practices must focus on raising awareness and self-awareness. ✓ Individuals need proper education to articulate ideas effectively. ✓ There is a need to educate people so that they can understand the data that is provided by the research tools. • **Addressing Consumerism and Waste:** ✓ Breaking the cycle of rapidly degrading recycled clothing. ✓ Aligning individual interests with community interests. ✓ Disseminating research findings to the general public. ✓ There is a need to educate people about the effects of consumerism. • **Education Starts at Home:** ✓ Students bring established habits from their families. ✓ Combating consumerism requires promoting modesty. **Key Themes:** • The importance of making research data accessible. • The need to change social models. • The essential part the family plays in education.
Students	

How do community-based initiatives complement or challenge institutional efforts to build climate resilience?

Summary of main findings

Notable areas of discussion/comments per stakeholder group

Stakeholder group / Person	Answer
Local authority	**Community Complements:** ✓ **Grassroots Education:** Community initiatives can initiate early educational actions, such as planting trees and flowers in kindergartens, involving local resources, teachers, and community members (grandparents). This complements institutional efforts by cultivating ecological awareness from a young age.

	✓ **Air Quality Monitoring:** Communitiy can play an active role in monitoring air quality, processing and validating data, and informing relevant institutions when thresholds are exceeded. This complements institutional monitoring by providing real-time data and raising local awareness. ✓ **Information Campaigns:** Community initiatives can collaborate on information campaigns, using social media and other platforms to educate the public about environmental issues. This extends the reach of institutional campaigns and engages the community in information dissemination. **Community Challenges:** ✓ **Funding Difficulties:** Community initiatives often face difficulties in securing funding, as companies may be reluctant to support NGOs. ✓ Personal costs involved in pro-environmental actions, and giving up comfort. • **Attitude vs. Behavior:** ✓ It is difficult to distinguish between attitude and behavior, and to change people's behavior. ✓ Stimulation through education and persuasion is not always effective. • **Resistance to Change:** ✓ People may be reluctant to give up their comfort, which can hinder the implementation of climate resilience initiatives. ✓ Lack of appreciation for didactic activities. • **Remuneration and Engagement:** ✓ It is difficult to find effective methods of remunerating and engaging community members in pro-environmental activities.
ONG / citizens	**Community Complements:** ✓ **Partnerships with the Corporate Sector:** Community initiatives can engage in dialogue with the corporate sector to obtain financial support and resources, complementing traditional institutional funding. Revitalization of green offices + hackathons. ✓ **Funding for Specific Projects:** Funds like "Științescu" can support community projects benefiting children, such as indoor gardens in schools, involving children and teachers. Example: an indoor garden in schools (involving children and teachers). ✓ **Direct Community Involvement:** Community initiatives can directly implement solutions, such as greening playgrounds, involving community members in the delivery process. **Community Challenges:** ✓ Community initiatives may have difficulty accessing European funding, which can limit their scope and impact. **Relationship Between Community Initiatives and Institutional Efforts:** ✓ Community initiatives can complement institutional efforts through direct community involvement, partnerships with the corporate sector, and funding for specific projects. ✓ Collaboration between institutions and communities is essential for building effective climate resilience.

Academic Staff	**Community Complements:** ✓ **Direct Involvement and Partnership:** Community initiatives complement institutional efforts by directly involving the community, moving from the role of mere participants to active partners in the decision-making process. ✓ **Benefit-Driven Actions:** Community initiatives can initiate actions that generate benefits greater than the costs incurred, ensuring long-term sustainability and impact. ✓ **Reconnecting with Fundamental Values:** Community initiatives can play a crucial role in regaining love for the environment and fellow humans, essential values for building resilience. ✓ **Awareness of Public and Community Goods:** Promoting pro-environmental campaigns; ✓ **Paradigm Shift:** A paradigm shift is needed, from the 18th-century liberal individualism, which saw the individual as a means to achieve the goals of others, to a perspective where the individual is an end in themselves, aware of their responsibility towards public and community goods. **Relationship Between Community Initiatives and Institutional Efforts:** ✓ Community initiatives can offer a valuable perspective and mobilize local resources, but close collaboration with institutions is essential to ensure long-term sustainability and impact. ✓ Funding - local administration - we are involved, not participants.
Researchers	**Community Complements:** ✓ **Local Expertise:** Community initiatives can provide local councils with access to experts who can contribute to the development and implementation of climate resilience policies. Motivation for local councils to benefit from experts. **Relationship Between Community Initiatives and Institutional Efforts:** ✓ Community initiatives can support institutional efforts by providing specialized expertise, which can be crucial for informed decision-making and the development of effective solutions.
Students	

What motivates stakeholders (universities, businesses etc.) and what barriers do they face in collaboration?

Summary of main findings

Notable areas of discussion/comments per stakeholder group

Stakeholder group / Person	Answer
Local authority	**Motivations:** ✓ **Meeting Regulatory Requirements:** Local authorities are often mandated to implement climate action plans and meet environmental standards. ✓ **Protecting Public Safety:** They are responsible for safeguarding their communities from climate-related hazards (floods, heat waves, etc.). ✓ **Improving Community Well-being:** They aim to enhance the quality of life for residents through sustainable development and environmental protection.

	✓ **Accessing Funding and Resources:** Collaboration can unlock access to external funding and expertise for climate-resilience projects. ✓ **Political Capital:** To be seen as active in the climate change fight. ✓ **Access to local knowledge:** ONG's and citizens can give them valuable local information. **Barriers:** ✓ **Budgetary Constraints:** Limited financial resources can hinder their ability to invest in climate-resilience initiatives. ✓ **Bureaucratic Processes:** Rigid administrative procedures can slow down collaboration and project implementation. ✓ **Lack of Technical Expertise:** They may lack the specialized knowledge needed to address complex climate challenges. ✓ **Political Pressures:** Conflicting political agendas and short-term electoral cycles can impede long-term climate planning. ✓ **Lack of staff:** They may not have the workforce to properly implement new climate-related projects.
ONG / citizens	**Motivations:** ✓ **Environmental Stewardship:** A strong desire to protect the environment and promote sustainability. ✓ **Community Empowerment:** A commitment to empowering local communities to take action on climate change. ✓ **Advocacy and Social Change:** A drive to advocate for policy changes and raise awareness about climate issues. ✓ **Direct Impact:** The desire to see tangible results from their efforts. ✓ **Local knowledge:** Citizens have the best understanding of the local climate and problems. **Barriers:** ✓ **Limited Funding:** NGOs often rely on grants and donations, which can be unstable. ✓ **Lack of Institutional Support:** They may face challenges in collaborating with government agencies and businesses. ✓ **Volunteer Capacity:** Reliance on volunteers can lead to fluctuations in capacity and commitment. ✓ **Public apathy:** It can be hard to motivate the general public to action. ✓ **Lack of technical knowledge:** Although they have local knowledge, they may lack technical skills.
Academic Staff	**Motivations:** ✓ **Research Opportunities:** Climate resilience research provides opportunities for academic advancement and publication. ✓ **Educational Impact:** They are motivated to educate students about climate change and sustainability. ✓ **Knowledge Transfer:** They seek to translate research findings into practical solutions for communities and policymakers. ✓ **Community Engagement:** They value opportunities to engage with local communities and contribute to social good. ✓ **Access to funding:** Collaboration can give access to funding that would otherwise be unavailable.

	Barriers: ✓ **Science Policy Gap**: A noticeable reluctance from the authorities to embrace the findings of locally conducted scientific research ✓ **Time Constraints:** Teaching and administrative duties can limit their time for collaborative projects. ✓ **Lack of Practical Experience:** Some academic staff may lack experience in implementing real-world climate solutions. ✓ **Funding limitations:** Funding for projects can be limited and hard to obtain. ✓ **Publication Pressure:** Academic staff are often under pressure to publish research, which can sometimes come at the expense of practical application.
Researchers	**Motivations:** ✓ **Scientific Discovery:** A drive to advance scientific understanding of climate change and its impacts. ✓ **Problem-Solving:** A desire to develop innovative solutions to climate challenges. ✓ **Impactful Research:** They seek to conduct research that has real-world applications and benefits society. ✓ **Professional Recognition:** They are motivated by the recognition and impact of their research. ✓ **Access to data:** Collaboration can give access to new and relevant data. **Barriers:** ✓ **Funding Uncertainty:** Research funding can be competitive and unpredictable. ✓ **Data Access and Sharing:** Barriers to accessing and sharing data can hinder research progress. ✓ **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Coordinating research across different disciplines can be challenging. ✓ **Communication Gap:** Difficulty in communicating complex research findings to non-scientific audiences. ✓ **Time scale differences:** Researchers may work on a different time scale than other stakeholders.
Students	**Motivations:** ✓ **Career Opportunities:** They are motivated by the growing demand for professionals in sustainability and climate-related fields. ✓ **Social Impact:** A desire to contribute to positive social change and make a difference. ✓ **Networking:** Collaboration gives opportunities to network with professionals. ✓ **Practical experience:** A desire to gain experience outside of the classroom. **Barriers:** ✓ **Limited Time and Availability:** Academic commitments can limit their time for collaborative projects. ✓ **Lack of Experience and/or professional networks:** They may lack the experience and expertise needed to contribute effectively; also, they often lack the professional connections of other stakeholders.

	✓ **Financial Constraints:** Unpaid internships or volunteer positions can be financially challenging. ✓ **Access to projects:** Students may have difficulty finding projects to participate in.

How can students and young people drive innovation and activism?

Summary of main findings

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Notable areas of discussion/comments per stakeholder group

Stakeholder group / Person	Answer
Local authority	**Innovation:** ✓ Students can contribute fresh perspectives to local climate action plans through internships, volunteer programs, and collaborative projects. ✓ They can research and propose innovative solutions for urban planning, waste management, and renewable energy adoption. ✓ They can help local authorities with data analysis and the use of new technologies. **Activism:** ✓ Young people can organize and participate in local climate strikes, demonstrations, and awareness campaigns. ✓ They can advocate for youth representation in local decision-making processes. ✓ They can use social media to raise awareness about local environmental issues and hold local authorities accountable.
ONG / citizens	**Innovation:** ✓ Students can volunteer with NGOs to develop and implement innovative community-based climate solutions. ✓ They can use their digital skills to create online platforms and tools for citizen science and community engagement. ✓ They can help NGOs research and apply for grants. **Activism:** ✓ Young people can lead grassroots movements and campaigns to promote sustainable lifestyles and raise awareness about environmental issues. ✓ They can organize community cleanups, tree-planting events, and other environmental initiatives. ✓ They can use creative forms of expression, such as art, music, and film, to engage the public and inspire action.
Academic Staff	**Innovation:** ✓ Students can assist academic staff in conducting research on climate resilience and developing innovative solutions. ✓ They can contribute to interdisciplinary research projects that explore the social, economic, and technological aspects of climate change. ✓ They can help with the creation of new teaching materials. **Activism:** ✓ Students can organize campus-wide campaigns to promote sustainability and reduce the university's carbon footprint.

	✓ They can advocate for the integration of climate change education into the curriculum. ✓ They can help academic staff to communicate research to a wider audience.
Researchers	**Innovation:** ✓ Researchers can actively involve students in creating impactful data visualizations, such as graphs showing the rate of CO2 addition (not just total emissions), making complex data accessible to youth-led advocacy. ✓ Researchers can create student-led projects focusing on "Smart People, Smart Education, Smart Cities," empowering young people to develop innovative solutions for smart transportation, sustainable urban planning, and policy development. ✓ Researchers can work with students to develop educational materials that simplify climate change concepts using relatable examples like the "open faucet" analogy, ensuring that information is easily understood by young audiences. ✓ Students can help to form and run children's climate change awareness clubs. ✓ Researchers can engage students in projects that address real-world environmental issues, such as analyzing the impact of rapid deforestation (e.g., "20 years of growth, 20 seconds of destruction") and developing sustainable alternatives. **Activism :** ✓ Researchers can provide students with training in data analysis and research communication, equipping them to advocate for evidence-based climate policies. Students can help to communicate to the public, that adaptation alone, is not enough. ✓ Researchers can collaborate with students to organize public workshops, lectures, and events, fostering dialogue and raising awareness about climate change within their communities. They can help students to create short, effective messages about climate change. ✓ Researchers can support student-led research projects that investigate local environmental issues, empowering young people to become active agents of change. ✓ Researchers can help students to understand the importance of climate change activism, and how their voice matters.
Students	Students and young people are uniquely positioned to be powerful drivers of both innovation and activism in the climate resilience movement. Their inherent energy, creativity, and sense of urgency, combined with the advantages of their current stage of life, make them a force for change. **Innovation:** ✓ Students can establish innovation hubs and startups dedicated to developing sustainable technologies and business models, bringing fresh perspectives to market-based solutions. ✓ Leveraging their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit, young people can devise novel approaches to address climate. Participation in hackathons provides a platform for students to collaboratively develop rapid prototypes and innovative solutions to pressing climate issues. **Activism**:

	✓ Students effectively utilize social media to mobilize their peers, amplifying awareness about climate change and fostering a sense of collective action. ✓ Organizing and participating in global climate strikes and demonstrations allows young people to exert pressure on policymakers and demand systemic change. ✓ Students advocate for climate action at local, national, and international levels, ensuring that youth voices are heard in decision-making processes. ✓ Creating online communities facilitates the sharing of information and ideas, fostering a network of informed and engaged young activists. ✓ Students use artistic expression to raise awarness and to communicate the urgency of climate change. **Advantages of Youth:** ✓ **Time and Energy:** Students and young people possess the time and energy to dedicate to climate initiatives, allowing for sustained engagement and impactful action. ✓ **Intrinsic Motivation:** A strong motivation to make a difference drives young people to actively seek solutions and contribute to positive change. ✓ **Pursuing Passion:** Young people have the freedom to choose their path, and to follow their passions.

How can urban planning promote sustainable mobility?

Summary of main findings

Notable areas of discussion/comments per stakeholder group

Stakeholder group / Person	Answer
Local authority	**Role in Promoting Sustainable Mobility:** ✓ Local authorities are central to implementing sustainable mobility through strategic urban planning. They can: - Develop and enforce zoning regulations that encourage mixed-use development and reduce urban sprawl. - Invest in and maintain efficient public transportation systems, including dedicated lanes and integrated ticketing. - Create and maintain safe and accessible infrastructure for walking and cycling, such as bike lanes and pedestrian zones. - Implement parking policies that discourage private vehicle use in congested areas. - Integrate smart city technologies for traffic management and public transport optimization. - Implement the 15 minute city concept. - Create spaces for car sharing, and ride sharing. **Specific Actions:** ✓ Reevaluate and adjust programs like "Green Friday" based on data analysis. ✓ Address citizen concerns about commuting by improving public transport reliability and frequency.

ONG / citizens	**Role in Promoting Sustainable Mobility:** ✓ NGOs and citizens can advocate for and initiate community-driven sustainable mobility solutions. They can: - Organize campaigns to promote walking, cycling, and public transport use. - Conduct community mobility audits to identify areas for improvement. - Develop and implement local projects such as community bike-sharing programs or pedestrian advocacy groups. - Advocate for the development of green spaces and shaded play areas to make walking and biking more enjoyable. - Advocate for a polycentric city development. - Promote the 15-minute city concept. **Specific Actions:** ✓ Promote personal sacrifice for the common good in mobility choices. ✓ Advocate for the development of safe, shaded play areas to increase the number of people who are willing to walk.
Academic Staff	**Role in Promoting Sustainable Mobility:** ✓ Academic staff can contribute to sustainable mobility through research, education, and public engagement. They can: - Conduct research on the social, economic, and environmental impacts of different mobility strategies. - Develop educational programs that train future urban planners and transportation professionals in sustainable mobility principles. - Engage in public discourse and provide expert advice to local authorities and communities. - Researched the effects of different urban planning models on the environment. - Research the effects of implementing dedicated transit lanes. **Specific Actions:** ✓ Study the factors that influence urban congestion and propose solutions. ✓ Educate students on the importance of sustainable urban planning and transportation.
Researchers	**Role in Promoting Sustainable Mobility:** - Researchers can provide data-driven insights and develop innovative technologies to support sustainable mobility. They can: - Develop models to simulate the impact of different urban planning and transportation scenarios. - Researched and developed technologies for electric vehicles, smart traffic management, and multimodal transportation. - Analyze data to identify patterns and trends in mobility behavior. - Research the effects of implementing different time schedules for different types of activities. - Research the effects of different types of incentives to increase the use of public transportation. **Specific Actions:** ✓ Develop applications for multimodal route planning and real-time traffic information. ✓ Propose innovative solutions for public transport optimization, such as dynamic scheduling and demand-responsive services.

Students	**Role in Promoting Sustainable Mobility:**
	- Students can drive innovation and activism in sustainable mobility through creative projects and advocacy. They can:
	  - Develop mobile applications and digital platforms to promote sustainable transportation options.
	  - Participate in urban design projects that prioritize walking, cycling, and public transport.
	  - Organize campaigns to raise awareness about sustainable mobility on campus and in the community.
	  - Develop digital tools, to improve hybrid education, thus reducing the necessity of commutes.
	  - Participate in community audits to evaluate the infrastructure.
	Specific Actions:
	- Develop apps for multimodal route planning and bike-sharing programs.
	- Conduct mobility audits and propose improvements to local infrastructure.
	- Inform citizens about the importance of personal sacrifice for the good of the community.

What does a climate-resilient Iasi city look like in 2030, in 2025? What can we do to get there? Focus point: brainstorm on what EC2U can bring.

Summary of main findings

Vision: Climate-Resilient Iași 2030/2055

Through collaboration and active engagement, Iași can become a model climate-resilient city, providing its residents with a healthy, safe, and prosperous environment.

By 2030/2055, Iași will be a green, smart, and climate-adapted city, characterized by:

- **Extensive Green Infrastructure:**

✓ Polycentric green spaces, parks, and urban gardens improving air quality and reducing the urban heat island effect.

✓ The Bahlui River transformed into a green-blue corridor with vegetation islands and recreational areas.

✓ Buildings with green roofs, green facades, and biophilic design.

✓ Green parking areas with vegetation to mitigate thermal impact.

- **Sustainable Mobility:**

✓ Electrified, efficient, and accessible public transportation throughout the city and surrounding areas.

✓ An extensive network of bicycle lanes connected to residential, commercial, and recreational zones.

✓ Car-free City Day and other initiatives promoting active transportation.

- **Engaged Community:**

✓ Citizens aware of climate issues and actively involved in decision-making.

✓ Less selfish individuals prioritizing community interests.

✓ Local stakeholders communicating and collaborating to achieve resilience goals.

- ✓ Smiling, confident, and respectful people enjoying a comfortable and safe city.
  - **Circular Economy and Sustainable Energy:**
- ✓ Energy-sustainable city producing sufficient renewable energy to meet its needs.
- ✓ Economy based on sustainable development principles, emphasizing reduced consumption and waste.
- ✓ Conversion of industrial zones into green spaces and recreational areas.
  - **Smart Urban Planning:**
- ✓ Clear and strictly enforced Urban Plan (PUG/PUZ) prioritizing green spaces and sustainable transport.
- ✓ Certified green buildings that aesthetically integrate into the urban area.
- ✓ Polycentric development with commercial and recreational hubs in residential neighborhoods.
- ✓ Implementation of the "15-minute city" concept.
- ✓ A city with well prepared administrators, and feasible strategies.

EC2U's Role: EC2U can accelerate Iași's transition to a resilient city through:

- ✓ **Best Practice Exchange**: Facilitating the sharing of experience and knowledge among EC2U member cities and universities.
- ✓ **Research and Innovation Projects**: Developing joint projects on green technologies, sustainable mobility, and urban planning.
- ✓ **Educational Programs**: Integrating climate resilience concepts into university curricula and organizing training programs for professionals.
- ✓ **Community Engagement**: Organizing events and awareness campaigns to involve citizens in climate actions.
- ✓ **Access to Funding**: Supporting local authorities and NGOs in accessing European funds for environmental projects.

Notable areas of discussion/comments per stakeholder group

Stakeholder group / Person	Answer
Local authority	Iași 2030/2055 will be a city that has made significant progress in adapting to climate change by implementing sustainable public policies, science-based strategies, and active citizen involvement. This progress is bolstered by Iași's inclusion in the M100 mission, a national initiative aimed at achieving climate neutrality within a tangible timeframe. While challenges remain, Iași will be well on its way to a greener and more resilient future.
ONG / citizens	By 2030/2055, Iași will be a city where community spirit and environmental concern define the way of life. Citizens and NGOs have played a crucial role in transforming the city into a green, sustainable, and equitable space. In 2030/2055, Iași is envisioned as a city fundamentally transformed by grassroots community initiatives and a heightened awareness of environmental protection. Urban gardens and renewable energy projects are integral to daily life, supported by widespread awareness campaigns promoting sustainable lifestyles. Extensive polycentric green spaces, ensuring nature is accessible throughout all neighborhoods, along with an electrified public transportation system and well-connected bicycle lanes, foster sustainable mobility. The revitalized Bahlui River,

	now a vibrant green-blue corridor, and buildings featuring green roofs and facades harmonize with the urban landscape. The community is characterized by increased solidarity, with citizens actively participating in decision-making processes, cultivating an educated and welcoming European city. Transparency in administration and robust cooperation among all stakeholders are prioritized. Key aspirations include reduced urban density (fewer high-rise blocks), increased bicycle use, efficient public transport reaching all surrounding areas, a car-free city day, and the implementation of aesthetically pleasing, health-focused green building practices. Crucially, Iași 2030 is a city where smiling, kind people contribute to a positive and supportive atmosphere, fostering a strong sense of community. This is supported by initiatives that enhance thermal comfort and overall well-being. Ultimately, Iași 2030 will be a city where green infrastructure and a sustainable transportation network are seamlessly integrated with participatory processes that actively engage the community in shaping its future, creating a vibrant and joyful place to live.
Academic Staff	By 2030/2055, Iași aspires to evolve into a city where interdisciplinary research and education for sustainable development play a vital role. Universities are expected to contribute significantly to climate change adaptation by conducting thorough impact research and developing educational programs that promote sustainable living. It is recognized that fostering a sense of collective responsibility is crucial, and efforts will be made to explore strategies that encourage citizens to consider how personal choices can contribute to the well-being of the broader community. From a climatological standpoint, Iași will strive for climate neutrality, guided by a meticulously enforced General Urban Plan (PUG) that prioritizes balanced development, moving beyond a sole focus on residential expansion. The revitalization of industrial zones will prioritize the creation of green and public spaces, and urban development will adhere to mandatory green space provisions. All city areas will receive equitable attention, transcending the current focus on tourist-centric zones. The implementation of tangible, practical solutions will cultivate a greener, smarter, and more resilient Iași capable of effectively addressing climate challenges and ensuring a high quality of life for its residents. The city will be defined by a community of smiling, confident, and respectful individuals, driven by a genuine desire to contribute positively, regardless of the season.
Researchers	By 2030/2055, Iași will be a center of innovation in green technologies, actively contributing to carbon reduction and climate adaptation. University researchers will play a pivotal role in developing advanced technological solutions, such as efficient renewable energy systems, sustainable building materials, and carbon capture technologies. Continuous climate change monitoring and impact assessment will be prioritized, utilizing precise data and advanced models. Researchers will collaborate with local authorities and other institutions to develop science-based adaptation strategies. Effective communication of research findings to the general public will be crucial. Researchers will create accessible and easy-to-understand educational materials to raise awareness and promote sustainable behaviors.
Students	By 2030/2055, students envision Iași as a city that has made notable strides in environmental consciousness and sustainable practices. University students anticipate playing a constructive role in developing practical, innovative projects focused on sustainable mobility and renewable energy.

	They also foresee contributing to public awareness through campaigns that thoughtfully inform the community about environmental protection and the value of sustainable living. Additionally, students hope to participate in discussions that explore how individual choices can contribute to the collective well-being of the city. In this vision, Iași would feature an expanded network of green spaces, parks, and pedestrian areas, allowing residents to enjoy a healthier, more natural environment. The public transportation system would aim to be efficient and increasingly sustainable, with the gradual integration of electric buses and trams to improve connectivity across the city.

BONUS: If you had illimited resources for a single climate resilient initiative, what would it be and why?

Summary of main findings

Primary Initiative: Large-Scale Integrated Urban Regeneration through Green-Blue Infrastructure

It would be considered that, with unlimited resources, a significant investment should be made in a large-scale urban regeneration program focused on green-blue infrastructure. This initiative would be intended to transform Iași into a model, resilient city, yielding numerous long-term benefits.

Components of the Initiative:

1. **Extensive Green Space Network:**
   - ✓ Green roofs on all buildings, transforming the city into an "urban garden" (Singapore model).
   - ✓ Interconnected urban forests and green corridors creating an integrated natural space system.
   - ✓ Greening all parking lots, turning them into oases of coolness and biodiversity.
   - ✓ Transforming the Bahlui River into a navigable green-blue corridor with vegetation islands and recreational areas.
2. **Sustainable Mobility:**
   - ✓ Building an extensive network of bicycle lanes and green pedestrian corridors.
   - ✓ Developing free regional public transport with electric buses and modern trams.
   - ✓ Designing and constructing a metro system.
   - ✓ Building the Iași ring road.
3. **Education and Community Engagement:**
   - ✓ Comprehensive educational programs to raise awareness about climate change and the importance of green-blue infrastructure.
   - ✓ Active citizen participation in urban regeneration and environmental monitoring projects.
   - ✓ Stimulating resilient behaviors and rewarding teachers who promote value change.
   - ✓ A day off from work to contribute to environmental efforts.
   - ✓ Adult re-education programs.
4. **Green Buildings and Energy Efficiency:**
   - ✓ Incentives for real estate developers who build green buildings and implement energy-efficient solutions.
   - ✓ Thermal rehabilitation of existing buildings and installation of solar panels.
   - ✓ Transforming the city's heating system.

5. **Research and Innovation:**
   - ✓ Funding research on innovative solutions for urban regeneration and climate change adaptation.
   - ✓ Developing digital tools for environmental monitoring and resource management.
   - ✓ Problem modeling for climate issues.

Why This Initiative?

- **Multiple Benefits:** Green-blue infrastructure offers numerous benefits, including improved air and water quality, reduced urban heat island effect, flood mitigation, increased biodiversity, and enhanced quality of life.
- **Long-Term Resilience:** This initiative strengthens the city's resilience to climate change, making it better prepared to face extreme weather events.
- **Community Involvement:** By actively engaging citizens, the initiative fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility towards the environment.
- **Sustainable Development Model:** Iași can become a model green and resilient city, inspiring other cities in the region and worldwide.

Through this comprehensive initiative, Iași could become an exemplary city where nature and technology coexist harmoniously, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

Notable areas of discussion/comments per stakeholder group

Stakeholder group / Person	Answer
Local authority	It is suggested that, with unlimited resources, a comprehensive urban regeneration project focusing on green-blue infrastructure would be implemented. This initiative aims to transform Iași into a model, resilient city, yielding multiple and long-term benefits. Specifically, a city-wide 'Green Roof and Urban Forest' program would be enacted, mandating and incentivizing green roofs on all new and existing buildings, alongside the creation of interconnected urban forests and pocket parks. This would directly address the high temperatures recorded in the city, drastically reduce the urban heat island effect, manage stormwater, and improve air quality. Local authorities are uniquely positioned to enact and enforce city-wide regulations, making this initiative a direct and visible demonstration of commitment to sustainability. Furthermore, the General Urban Plan (PUG/PUZ) would be revised to integrate green-blue infrastructure and sustainable mobility principles. Industrial zones would be converted into green spaces and recreational areas, and the construction of new residential buildings within the city would be prohibited, concentrating residential development in green areas with top-tier standards. Recognizing that access to water resources is a critical future challenge, best practices in sustainable water usage would be sought and rapidly implemented. A ring road for Iași would be constructed to eliminate traffic through the city center, and the design of a sustainable metro system would be prioritized. A local, regional, and global green-blue infrastructure network would be established and conserved to ensure vital human services, including clean air, potable water, food, flood mitigation, CO2 capture, recreation, water resource storage during droughts, and local microclimate regulation.

ONG / citizens	It is suggested that, with unrestricted resources, the most effective strategy for enhancing Iași's climate resilience would be the implementation of a comprehensive, community-based green infrastructure initiative. This would focus on enabling residents to create and maintain local green spaces and urban gardens, strengthening community cohesion and self-sufficiency. This would be achieved through: the provision of resources and training to support community-led climate actions; the development of interconnected urban forests and green corridors, along with bicycle lanes and smart city technologies; the implementation of mandatory and incentivized green roofs, based on the Singapore model, to regulate urban temperatures and improve environmental health; and the optimization of district heating, alongside the requirement for greening parking lots and building roofs, and the promotion of sustainable transportation options.
Academic Staff	It is suggested that, with unlimited resources, several key initiatives would be prioritized to enhance Iași's climate resilience. A central focus would be the establishment of a "Center for Urban Climate Resilience Research and Education." This center would conduct interdisciplinary research, develop educational programs, and provide expert advice to guide the city's climate actions. This aligns with the recognition of academic institutions as crucial for knowledge generation and leadership development. Furthermore, investment would be directed towards fostering a deeper understanding of community responsibility and promoting behavioral changes (not just attitudinal changes), including increased environmental awareness and active civic engagement. Additional initiatives would include: • **Public Education:** Educating the population about climate change and its impacts. • **Environmental Action Day:** Providing a dedicated day for environmental activities. • **Bahlui River Revitalization:** Transforming the river into a navigable waterway. • **Renewable Energy Transition:** Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through renewable energy adoption. • **Controlled Urban Development:** Restricting new residential construction within the city and focusing on sustainable development in designated green areas. • **Educational Investment:** Rewarding educators who promote sustainable values and resilient behaviors.
Researchers	It is suggested that, with unlimited resources, a key initiative to enhance climate resilience would involve the development of a "Smart Green-Blue Infrastructure Monitoring and Modeling" system. This system would utilize advanced sensors and data analytics to monitor the performance of green infrastructure and create predictive models for climate impacts and adaptation strategies. The rationale for this initiative stems from the understanding that data-driven insights are crucial for effective climate action. This system would provide real-time information and predictive capabilities, enabling the city to optimize its resilience efforts and make informed decisions. Additionally, it is proposed that user-friendly digital tools be developed to promote sustainable practices at both individual and corporate levels. This would include gamification elements, such as comparing the consumption levels of companies, particularly those producing chemical substances, to encourage reductions in resource use.

Students	It is suggested that, given unlimited resources, student-driven initiatives should be prioritized to enhance climate resilience. A key proposal involves the establishment of a "Student-Led Sustainable Mobility Innovation Hub." This hub would provide students with resources and mentorship to develop innovative solutions for sustainable transportation, such as mobile applications, bike-sharing programs, and electric vehicle infrastructure. This aligns with the recognition of students as future innovators and activists, capable of accelerating the transition to a low-carbon city through digital proficiency. Additionally, the implementation of free regional public transportation is considered beneficial. Iași faces significant pollution and traffic congestion, and free public transport would encourage residents to reduce personal vehicle usage, thereby lowering greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality. This would lead to immediate traffic and pollution reduction, enhance urban mobility and accessibility, and contribute to a greener, healthier, and better-connected city in the long term. While the loss of ticket revenue would present a financial challenge, the long-term benefits of free public transportation are deemed to justify the investment. Alternative funding sources, such as congestion charges and public-private partnerships, could be explored to offset the financial impact.

3. Implementable actions at the level of EC2U: What can the EC2U Alliance do to contribute to climate change resilience?

Implementable actions at the level of EC2U

- ✓ Facilitate partnerships between EC2U universities and the private sector to fund student training programs in climate change.
- ✓ Implement a digital program/game across the alliance where all students and staff can monitor and reduce their carbon footprint through self-monitoring of environmental behavior.
- ✓ Organize periodic hackathons at the EC2U level, focusing on developing innovative solutions for climate challenges.
- ✓ Organize online and in-person meetings where experts from EC2U universities and beyond can present solutions and best practices in climate resilience.
- ✓ Create an online platform where EC2U universities can share best practices from academic and non-academic environments in climate resilience.
- ✓ Establish joint departments at the EC2U level dedicated to research, innovation, and the development of startups in climate change.
- ✓ Allocate grants to student associations to implement climate resilience projects within EC2U.

General Benefits for EC2U:

- ✓ Increased visibility and reputation of EC2U as a leader in climate resilience.
- ✓ Strengthened collaboration and knowledge exchange among member universities.
- ✓ Generation of innovative solutions for climate challenges.
- ✓ Training of specialists in sustainable development.
- ✓ Active involvement of students and the community in climate actions.

You may build upon the responses received to the questions:

- ***What are the most promising research findings and tools for helping cities and communities become more resilient? What is the role of education?***

Promising Research Findings and Tools for Urban and Community Resilience:

1. ***Green-Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Research:***
   - ✓ ***Findings:*** *Studies consistently demonstrate the effectiveness of GBI (green roofs, urban forests, permeable pavements, etc.) in mitigating heat island effects, managing stormwater, improving air quality, and enhancing biodiversity.*
   - ✓ ***Tools:***
     - *GIS-based mapping and modeling tools to identify optimal locations for GBI.*
     - *Hydrological modeling software to assess the impact of GBI on stormwater management.*
     - *Remote sensing and drone technology for monitoring GBI performance.*
2. ***Climate Modeling and Risk Assessment:***
   - ✓ ***Findings:*** *Advanced climate models provide increasingly accurate projections of future climate risks, such as extreme heat, flooding, and drought.*
   - ✓ ***Tools:***
     - *High-resolution climate models tailored to local contexts.*
     - *Risk assessment frameworks that integrate climate projections with socioeconomic data.*
     - *Early warning systems for extreme weather events.*
3. ***Smart City Technologies:***
   - ✓ ***Findings:*** *Smart city technologies can enhance urban resilience by optimizing resource management, improving infrastructure efficiency, and enabling real-time monitoring of environmental conditions.*
   - ✓ ***Tools:***
     - *IoT sensors for monitoring air quality, water levels, and energy consumption.*
     - *Data analytics platforms for analyzing urban data and identifying trends.*
     - *Smart grids for managing renewable energy and improving energy efficiency.*
4. ***Community-Based Resilience Building:***
   - ✓ ***Findings:*** *Community engagement and social capital are crucial for building resilience. Local knowledge and participation can enhance the effectiveness of climate adaptation strategies.*
   - ✓ ***Tools:***
     - *Participatory mapping and planning tools.*
     - *Community resilience frameworks that emphasize social cohesion and local empowerment.*
     - *Citizen science platforms for environmental monitoring.*
5. ***Circular Economy Principles:***
   - ✓ ***Findings:*** *Transitioning to a circular economy can reduce waste, conserve resources, and minimize environmental impacts, contributing to urban resilience.*
   - ✓ ***Tools:***
     - *Life cycle assessment tools to evaluate the environmental impacts of products and services.*

- *Waste management systems that promote recycling and resource recovery.*
- *Platforms that promote the sharing economy.*

6. ***Sustainable Mobility Solutions*:**
   - ✓ ***Findings*:** *Reducing reliance on private vehicles and promoting active and public transport can lower emissions and improve urban livability.*
   - ✓ ***Tools*:**
     - *Multimodal transportation planning tools.*
     - *Mobile apps for real-time transit information and route planning.*
     - *Electric vehicle charging infrastructure and bike-sharing programs.*

***The Role of Education*:**

Education is fundamental to building climate resilience at all levels:

1. **Public Awareness and Engagement:**
   - ✓ Education campaigns can raise awareness about climate change risks and promote sustainable behaviors.
   - ✓ Community workshops and training programs can empower citizens to take action.
2. **Professional Training:**
   - ✓ Universities and vocational schools can provide training for professionals in fields such as urban planning, engineering, and environmental management.
   - ✓ Continuing education programs can help professionals stay up-to-date on the latest climate resilience strategies.
2. **Research and Innovation:**
   - ✓ Universities and research institutions play a vital role in generating new knowledge and developing innovative solutions for climate challenges.
   - ✓ Interdisciplinary research collaborations can foster the development of integrated approaches to resilience.
3. **Youth Empowerment:**
   - ✓ Integrating climate change education into school curricula can empower young people to become future leaders in sustainability.
   - ✓ Student-led initiatives and projects can promote climate action on campus and in the community.
4. **Promoting Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving:**
   - ✓ Education helps people to analyse complex systems, and to think critically about the climate crisis.
   - ✓ Education helps to develop the skills needed to create solutions.
5. **Changing societal values:**
   - ✓ Education can help to change values, and to promote values that are more in line with a sustainable society.

By integrating these research findings, tools, and educational approaches, cities and communities can build greater resilience to climate change and create a more sustainable future.

- What does a climate-resilient Iasi look like in 2030, in 2025? What can we do to get there**?** **Focus point: brainstorm what EC2U can bring/do.**

A resilient Iași in 2030/2055 will be characterized by:

- ✓ **Extensive Green-Blue Infrastructure:** Green roofs, urban forests, revitalized Bahlui River, green parking lots.
- ✓ **Sustainable Mobility:** Electrified public transport, bike lanes, pedestrian zones, and potentially a metro system.
- ✓ **Engaged and Informed Community:** Active citizen participation, awareness campaigns, and educational initiatives.
- ✓ **Circular Economy and Sustainable Energy:** Renewable energy production, waste reduction, and resource recovery.
- ✓ **Smart Urban Planning:** Integrated green building codes and data-driven decision-making.

***EC2U's Enhanced Role in Achieving This Vision*:**

- ✓ Develop a collaborative project to implement and monitor green-blue infrastructure solutions across EC2U cities, including Iași.
- ✓ Create a network of sustainable mobility corridors connecting EC2U cities, promoting the exchange of best practices and technologies.
- ✓ Develop a joint curriculum on sustainable mobility planning and management.
- ✓ Establish a platform for citizen-led climate initiatives and knowledge sharing across EC2U communities.
- ✓ Organize joint citizen science projects to monitor environmental conditions and assess the impact of climate change. Develop digital tools for citizen engagement and participation in climate action.
- ✓ Develop a comprehensive education and training program on climate resilience, targeting students, professionals, and citizens.
- ✓ Establish research clusters focused on interdisciplinary approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- ✓ Fund joint research projects that address the complex interactions between climate, society, and the environment. Facilitate the exchange of researchers and research infrastructure.

But do not limit yourself to these questions alone and include a specific brainstorming session on this aspect.

4. General remarks/Summary of discussion

If additional questions were asked, please use this section to add the questions and the answers. You can use the same format as above, with a summary and detailed responses per stakeholder group.

The discussion has focused on developing a comprehensive vision for a climate-resilient Iași in 2030/2055, exploring implementable actions for the EC2U Alliance, and identifying promising research findings and tools. We've emphasized the importance of green-blue infrastructure, sustainable mobility, community engagement, and data-driven decision-making. The EC2U Alliance was highlighted as a crucial catalyst for achieving Iași's climate resilience goals through collaboration, knowledge sharing, and resource mobilization.

Additional Question: How can we ensure equitable access to climate resilience benefits for communities located far from the city center and important school, commercial, and agreement hubs in Iași?

Summary: Ensuring that climate resilience initiatives benefit all residents, especially those in communities distant from central amenities, is crucial for building a just and sustainable city.

Responses:

Local Authorities:

- ✓ We must prioritize investments in infrastructure that connect these outlying communities to essential services. This includes improving public transportation, creating safe bicycle and pedestrian paths, and developing local green spaces. We also need to ensure that these communities have access to reliable information and resources regarding climate resilience.

NGOs/Citizens:

- ✓ Advocate for the decentralization of services and amenities so that residents in these areas have access to what they need closer to home. Work with local community groups to identify and address the specific climate-related challenges they face. Promote initiatives that empower residents to take ownership of local solutions and advocate for better public transport and bike lanes.

Academic Staff:

- ✓ Conduct research on the unique climate vulnerabilities of these outlying communities. Develop educational programs that address the specific needs of these areas. Provide technical assistance to local authorities and community groups on how to implement climate resilience strategies in these regions. Research the effects of decentralization on the climate and on the local population.

Researchers:

- ✓ Develop data-driven tools to map the distribution of climate risks and benefits across the city, with a focus on these outlying communities. Analyze the accessibility of essential services and amenities in these areas. Research the effectiveness of different interventions aimed at improving climate resilience in these locations and the effects that long commutes have on the environment.

Students:

- ✓ Organize student-led projects that address specific needs, such as developing community gardens or organizing workshops on climate preparedness. Advocate for policies that improve transportation and access to services in these areas. Volunteer with local NGOs to provide support to residents in these communities. Develop apps that help people to commute more efficiently.

D. Communication on local EC2U Think Tanks

[Add photos of local session]



















[Add links to articles/press releases and/or screenshots of communication done on social media]

- **Local daily newspaper: Buna Ziua Iasi**

  https://www.bzi.ro/uaic-a-organizat-un-think-tank-despre-construirea-rezilientei-la-schimbarile-climatice-in-orase-si-comunitati-in-cadrul-aliantei-ec2u-5200820



- **UAIC website:**

  https://www.uaic.ro/uaic-a-organizat-un-think-tank-despre-construirea-rezilientei-la-schimbarile-climatice-in-orase-si-comunitati-in-cadrul-aliantei-ec2u/



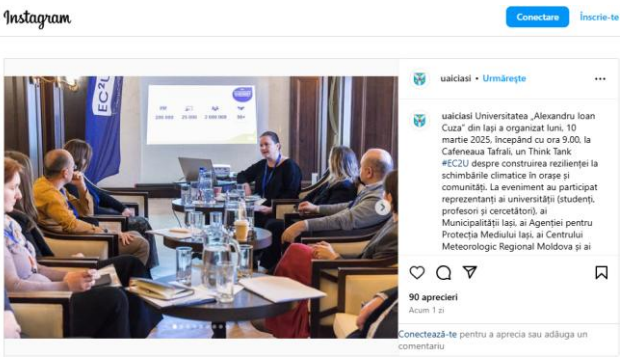
- **UAIC Facebook:**

  https://www.facebook.com/UAICdinIASI/posts/pfbid029aYHr6mtuBz1iKJkSjcbxDktAaFkXYNeQnH3koNThtqhzuANRXuW98AtWcF1Bfotl



- **UAIC Instagram:**

  https://www.instagram.com/p/DHBV_i4Mr7T/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==



- **UAIC LinkedIn:**

  https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7305242336282767360



- **EC2U Newsletter**

