

Newsletter

n.1

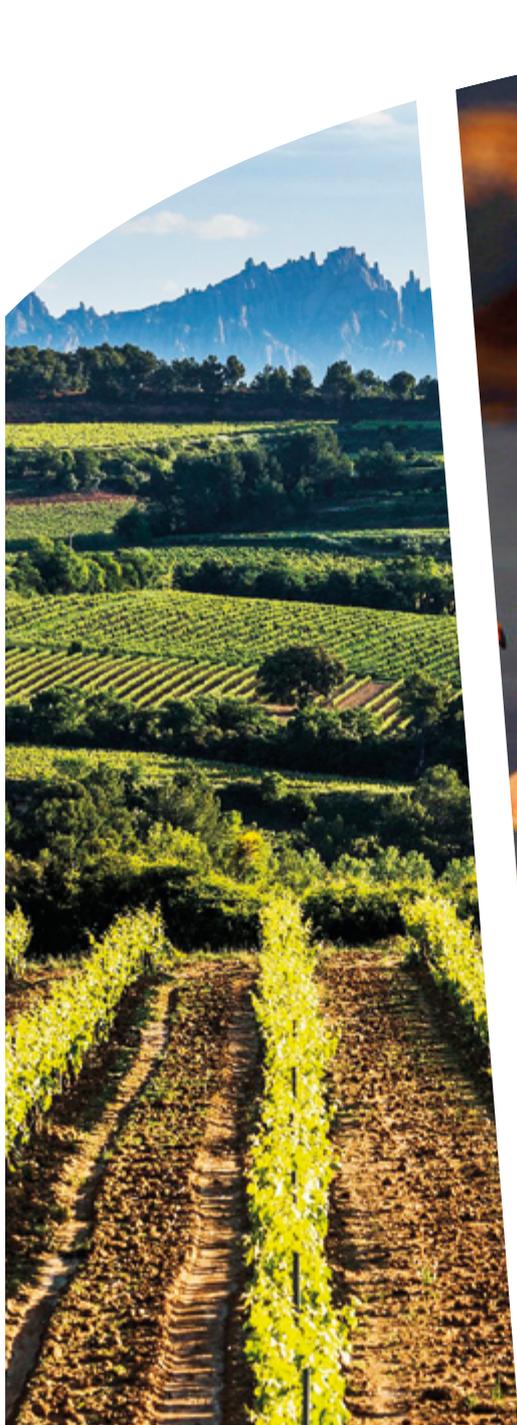
October 2017

LIFE
CLINOMICS



LIFE15 CCA/ES/000102

"This project has been funded with support from the European Commission"



This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Summary

The Life Clinomics project	Page 3
Alt Penedès	Page 5
Biosphere Reserve Montseny	Page 6
Terres de l'Ebre	Page 7

Editorial

LIFE-CLINOMICS is a joint initiative that has been undertaken by employers, employees and public authorities in order to implement those adaptation measures necessary with respect to the impacts of climate change, and with public participation. The project is being managed and developed by public authorities, business associations and trade unions, who are all working in a coordinated way.

The implementation of public and private climate policies and practices has been slow and even more so in the case of policies and actions that focus on adaptation measures. As a result, a certain lack of process has arisen in the planning and investment processes that seek to adapt regions and economic activities to this new climatic scenario: the majority of municipal policies and the investment plans of many companies have not placed the adaptation to climate change among their priorities for the immediate future.

The market alone does not create those adaptation initiatives that are required, and as such, the conscious impulse of all local agents is necessary.

Economic rationality in itself is not effective in a scenario of uncertainty or unpredictability, one in which these issues are likely to manifest themselves in the medium and long term. It is also true that the economic, political and social representatives of municipal bodies still do not consider adaptation measures to be either a necessity, or a clear opportunity for local economies. The public do not have a clear and conscious perception of both sides of the challenge, i.e. both the threats and the opportunities entailed by global warming.

As the beneficiary partners of LIFE-CLINOMICS, we propose to respond to the challenge with the initiation of a process of public and private investment with respect to all the economic, social and political organisations in the regions and with public participation. You are invited to exchange contributions and experiences and to discuss the best ways to adapt local economic activities to climate change with us.

The Life Clinomics project

The Life Clinomics project, "Promoting resilience. Opportunities and Challenges to the Economy and to Local Society in Adaptation to Climate Change", has a three-year duration (June 2016-June 2019), with a total budget of 1,392,349 euros, with a European Union subsidy of 835,278 euros (60%).

The project aims to launch new investment processes for public bodies, especially municipal organisations, as well as for private companies from determined representative sectors, to reduce their vulnerability, and anticipate and increase climate-based impact resilience, which will improve their competitiveness and increase employment.

Life Clinomics seeks to increase the resilience of local Mediterranean entities with intervention in three regions (Terres de l'Ebre, Alt Penedès and the Biosphere Reserve of the Montseny Natural Park) as well as in different economic activities (tourism, fishing, agriculture and forestry).

The project will activate regional and socio-economic participation bodies, while investigations and documents (such as action plans and strategies for adaptation) will be developed, furthermore, tools will be designed for local authorities and socio-economic bodies (such as the methodologies and the pilot tests), in addition to the provision of knowledge, training and information from the representatives of these bodies, as well as societal awareness initiatives and other strategies that will facilitate pro-adaptation actions.



The project is being backed by the regional government body, the Diputació de Barcelona together with the following beneficiary partners:

- Three territorial organisations where the actions need to be undertaken: the Consortium of Environmental Policies of the Terres de l'Ebre (COPATE), for the Terres de l'Ebre region, the Alt Penedès County Council (the CCAP), for Alt Penedès region, The Montseny Natural Park, for the Montseny Biosphere Reserve.
- A knowledge-generating entity: the Catalan Office for Climate Change (the OCCC), which will help in providing information on the problems of climate change in these regions.
- Four socioeconomic organisations that will promote the extension of actions with respect to economic and productive systems: the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce (the CCB), the Commissions of Workers of Catalan (the CONC), the General Union of Workers of Catalonia (UGTCAT) and the Farmers' Union of Catalonia (UPCAT).

The Life Clinomics project was presented on Thursday, 24 November, 2016 at the Balaguer Forum in Vilafranca del Penedès.

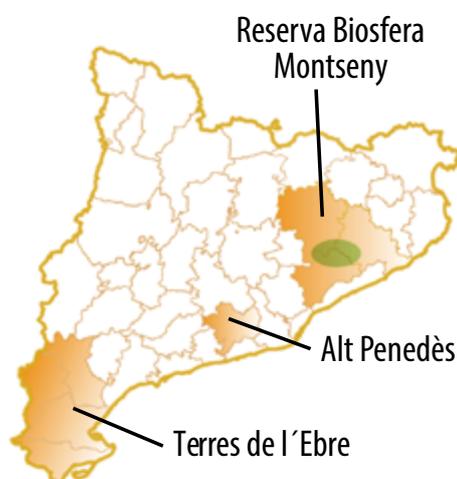
The project was presented by President of the Alt Penedès County Council, Francesc Olivella, and the Parliamentary Representative for the Environment of the Barcelona Regional Government, Valentí Junyent, accompanied by the Head of the Technical Office for Climate Change and Sustainability of the Barcelona Regional Government and Project Coordinator, Ramon Rabella.

Two technical committee meetings later took place; the first exposed the impact of climate change and adaptation measures in agriculture, forest management, fisheries and tourism, while the second dealt with views from the three project regions: Alt Penedès, Montseny and Terres de l'Ebre.

A policy committee meeting was then held, in which the four socio-economic organisations

explained why they are participating in the project.

The Minister of Agriculture of the Alt Penedès County Council, Pere Soler, closed the ceremony, stating "with the Life Clinomics project we want foresee the consequences of not doing anything."



Clinomics project territories



Clinomics project presentation session

Alt Penedès

The [Alt Penedès](#) region has a landscape structure heavily influenced by vineyards. This fact has led to the generation of a specific socioeconomic fabric through the area's wine and cava industry and their associated business clusters.



Vineyards in the Alt Penedès

While these vineyards occupy most of the plains in the Penedès region, biodiverse forest and shrubland areas predominate in the region's periphery and in the areas of more pronounced geographical relief, where habitats are associated with river areas.

The Alt Penedès County Council works with the 27 municipal councils in the region, designing action plans that focus on the areas' sustainability, with the application of three strategic policies: the promotion of wine tourism, the improvement of the territory and municipal services and the mitigation of climate change.

The CCAP is participating in the Life Clinomics project as a territorial partner in order to increase resilience to climate change and reduce its effects in the Penedès area.

The first phase of the project has provided us with more information with respect to the contextualization of our region, through two studies:

- [A diagnosis of the institutional social reality:](#) identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the three sectors that form part of the project: tourism, forestry and agriculture, and identifying the key actors in our region.
- [A diagnosis of climate vulnerability:](#) identifying the main risks that affect each economic sector and calculating indicators of vulnerability for each risk. These indicators are based on exposure variables, sensitivity, and the adaptive capacity of the region.

A participatory process was initiated using the results from both studies, with representatives from different sectors in the region.

[The first MeTACC](#) (Territorial Committee for Adaptation to Climate Change) was held at the CCAP headquarters on 8 June, 2017. This session brought together 33 agents, who were divided into four working groups of eight people, all of whom had different profiles, the aim was to reach an agreement on the three priority risks that were to be addressed in the subsequent months of participation: changes in vineyard management, the loss of landscape quality and the reduction of water flow in rivers and streams were the risks identified.

[The second MeTACC](#) event was held on 6 July, in which the participants presented their projects and experiences on climate change to those attending. These experiences opened up the way for group work and a common agreement on the three risks to be dealt with at the session



A MeTACC Alt Penedès meeting

Biosphere Reserve Montseny

The implementation of the CLINOMICS project in [the Montseny Biosphere Reserve](#) has from the start permitted a greater understanding of the effects of climate change on this region. Indicators show that increased temperatures, the reduction of water flow in rivers and the reduction of surfaces and/or the duration of snow-covered areas are risks with higher levels of susceptibility, and which directly affect the forestry, farming-stockbreeding and tourism sectors. The increased risk of forest fires



Montseny Biosphere Reserve

is also a vulnerability that, despite being low-risk on average in many areas of the Montseny region, due to the presence of forests with a low fire-risk potential, as in the case of beech woods, has now been evaluated as being higher by participants from the forestry sector. Other elements of significant vulnerability include the loss of biodiversity and the quality of the landscape.

[The abovementioned diagnosis of the climatic vulnerability of Montseny Biosphere Reserve](#) has served as a preliminary step to open up the debate with the socioeconomic actors and authorities of the region, with which the Territorial Committee for the Climatic Change of the Montseny BR ([MeTACC Montseny](#)) was founded. This second step was supported by a [study of the social and institutional panorama of the Montseny BR](#), which established the existence of a remarkable participatory culture

and an active willingness to take part in the actions of the CLINOMICS project to adapt the El Montseny area to the effects of climate change.

The Montseny MeTACC was founded on 6 April, 2017 in the municipal area of El Montseny, with the participation of some thirty local actors linked to CLINOMICS. This first meeting explored "the vision of El Montseny that we want and can create", taking into account the challenges posed by climate change. A broad consensus was attained on the need to move towards sustainable development in El Montseny that would allow its preservation and the promotion of biodiversity, although without neglecting the creation of a living, humanized, diverse and balanced region. At the second meeting, which was held in Figaró-Montmany on 13 June, the participants drew up a map (or model) based on the impacts of climate change and those elements in the region that focused on the sectors covered by the project. This joint reflection on the relationship between the impacts of climate change, more vulnerable elements and key driving elements for the primary and tourist sectors is the starting point for work on specific actions related to the adaptation of climate change at the next meeting, which has been scheduled for October.



A MeTACC Montseny meeting

Terres de l'Ebre

In the context of Catalonia, the [Terres de l'Ebre](#) is the most sensitive region with respect to global change and with climatic risks that are more evident. Added to the environmental, social and economic impacts in Terres de l'Ebre, the consequences that a rising sea level may have on the physical continuity of the delta platform and the final section of the Ebro river must also be taken into account.

As such, the Terres de l'Ebre Biosphere Reserve, its administrative body (COPATE) and the local ac-



A MeTACC Terres de l'Ebre meeting

tors that promoted it are taking part in the Life Clinomics project in order to create initiatives, as well as participatory and inclusive governance models that aim to increase the resilience of the region and its socioeconomic activity in the with respect to the effects of climate change.

In this initial phase of the project, the information necessary has been acquired and compiled in order to allow the rest of the project to be undertaken and implemented with total guarantees. The Catalan Office for Climate Change (the OCC) has undertaken [a diagnosis of the vulnerability of the Terres de l'Ebre to climate change](#), with the participation of experts from the Department of Geography at Rovira i Virgili University. COPATE has also hired consultancy company Ceres, which

is an expert in social studies and the coordination of participatory processes, in order to undertake a [diagnosis of the social and institutional](#) capacity of the region with a view to increasing its resilience, and to design an initial map of the most relevant actors in the region in terms of the prevention and adaptation to climatic risks.

With this information, the Territorial Committee for Adaptation to Climate Change ([MeTACC](#)) in the [Terres de l'Ebre](#) was formed at the end of May. This body comprises some eighty public and private organisations that have shown interest in taking part. Due to the geographical size and the diversity of Terres de l'Ebre, as well as the complexity of its socioeconomic fabric, the decision was made to channel the operative work of the MeTACC in the Terres de l'Ebre through four working groups: agriculture, tourism, fishing and society in general.

The groups were formed during the summer, which will work during the last four months of 2017 and the first few months of 2018. The work sessions are carried out in a decentralized manner throughout the four counties in the region. At the same time, an online survey has been initiated that permits greater participation with respect to the organisations involved.

All of the above will permit the drafting of the Strategy and the Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Terres de l'Ebre in 2018 and prioritizes the testing and demonstration initiatives determined by Life Clinomics.



Fishing in the Ebro Delta



Coordinator



Partners



Website: www.lifeclinomics.eu

Life Clinomics Events: www.lifeclinomics.eu/ca/category/agenda

Mail: life.clinomics@diba.cat

Follow us on Twitter: [@ClinomicsLife](https://twitter.com/ClinomicsLife)

Dipòsit legal B 28456-2017

This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.