

Belgrade hosts the second Climateurope2 Festival to strengthen climate services in Southeast Europe

The event brought together over 140 participants from across Europe to foster collaboration, innovation, and public engagement on climate change through science and art.

From September 29 to October 1, Belgrade hosted the second Climateurope2 Festival, under the slogan “Empowering Communities through Climate Services.” It was organized by the [Center for the Promotion of Science \(CPN\)](#) within the framework of the [EU-funded Climateurope2 project](#), coordinated by the [Barcelona Supercomputing Center-Centro Nacional de Supercomputación \(BSC\)](#). The festival brought together experts from across Europe to explore how climate services can drive resilience and support adaptation to an ever-changing climate.

Strengthening the climate community in Southeast Europe

Serbia was chosen as the host country to expand and build connections among the community of experts in Southeast Europe and to promote the market of climate services in a region particularly affected by climate change, where this field is still emerging.

“In Eastern Europe, the public and private climate services markets have not had the same opportunities to grow as in Western Europe. Holding the Festival in Belgrade was a way of showing that the climate services community values being present there and a chance to demonstrate how the climate services market in the region can develop.” stated Prof ICREA Francisco J. Doblas-Reyes, coordinator of the Climateurope2 project and director of the BSC’s Earth Sciences Department.

Over three days, more than 140 participants including scientists, policymakers, entrepreneurs, artists, and communicators took part in keynotes, workshops, a marketplace, and interactive sessions. Discussions focused on climate services for agriculture, health, and regional adaptation strategies.

The festival achieved significant participation from regional experts and institutions, providing a unique platform for dialogue on the development and standardisation of climate services and enhancing cross-border collaboration across countries and sectors. These interactions added new members from Eastern Europe to the Climateurope2 Network, increasing the equity of this European network of specialists connected by the project.

“It’s extremely valuable that we can now take part in panels like these—discussions that weren’t possible before because people were unfamiliar with the concept of climate services. The main challenges in our region, similar to other countries, still revolve around finding the best ways to use climate data to address complex issues in infrastructure, agriculture, and industry,” said Dr. Vladimir Đurđević, climatologist and professor at the Institute of Meteorology in the Faculty of Physics at the University of Belgrade, and Climateurope2 project collaborator.

“The festival was particularly important because it addressed climate services — a concept that, until recently, was almost unknown in Serbia and the wider region. It covered the design, use, quality, and standardisation of climate services, promoting an open, engaged, and collaborative environment. At the

same time, it enabled the entire Southeast European region to take part in the international dialogue on climate services and their applications,” commented Dr. Marjana Brkić from the Center for the Promotion of Science, local coordinator of the Climateurope2 Festival.

Art + Science: turning data into emotion

The festival’s artistic program featured exhibitions and presentations, including those developed by the winning projects from the previous Climateurope2 art+science open calls. The selected artists, in collaboration with scientists, transformed climate data into creative artworks that invite reflection on humanity’s relationship with the planet.

Among the highlights were [M1L3NA, a digital installation by artist Ana Pinter](#), and [Breathing, a multimedia piece by Arnaud Laffond](#). Visitors also experienced the interactive installation “Climate Capsule” and the exhibition “See the Weather,” both exploring the connection between nature, science, and human perception.

M1L3NA and Climate Capsule were part of the [Traveling Climate Action – Roadshow](#), a Climateurope2 initiative led by CPN that toured five cities across Southeast Europe, raising awareness about the role of climate services, bringing climate science closer to the public, and fostering regional collaboration.

The Belgrade Festival marked the culmination of this tour, bringing together many of the creators, scientists, and organizations involved. Next year, a new edition of the Traveling Climate Action – Roadshow will once again tour five locations in the region, featuring Climate Capsule and Breathing, the winning artwork of the second art+science call.

“Navigating toward a safer future depends not only on the accuracy of data but also on our ability to interpret it sensitively and respond with intelligence and empathy. In this sense, art becomes an ally of science – transforming data into emotion, and emotion into action.”- Arnaud Laffond, artist and creator of “Breathing”.

About Climateurope2

Climateurope2 is a 4.5-year project funded by the European Union’s Horizon Europe programme that addresses the need for the timely delivery and effective use of climate information. By connecting experts in this field, the project aims to increase the uptake of climate services and support their standardisation. Its goal is to foster the climate services community and promotes the development of standardization procedures to ensure future climate services are equitable, high-quality, and useful for decision-making across all sectors of society.

Coordinated by BSC, Climateurope2 brings together a consortium of 32 institutions from across Europe, including research centers, universities, public agencies, and private organizations, working together to strengthen and advance climate services in Europe.

Other resources

- [Scribes from the festival](#)
- [Web page of the Climateurope2 Festival](#)

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