

BRIGAIID is a four-year (2016-2020) project of the European Commission, in the framework of Horizon Program, and its aim is to establish an effective bridge between innovators and the end users of the innovations in the field of buildings resilience after flooding, drought and extreme weather conditions.

www.brigaid.eu

The National Territory Planning Agency

- the official partner of BRIGAIID, part of the bigger Horizon 2020 program of European Commission – has organized three forums with **Flooding, Drought, and Extreme Weather Conditions** being their main topics respectively.

Can a solution be implemented if the whole project is focused on a challenge?

Can a structure of actors become functional if the natural disasters need more than innovation?

The answers to these questions and to many others were detailed during the three interactive sessions on 17, 19, and 21 December 2018, in Tirana, Albania.

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO BROWSE THIS LEAFLET
AND READ ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE FORUMS!**



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**Climate
Innovation Window**

<https://climateinnovationwindow.eu/>

CLIMATE INNOVATION WINDOW –
THE ONLINE PORTAL
DEDICATED TO CHANGES

**INNOVATING
AND
BEING
INNOVATIVE
IN ALBANIA**

**ALBANIAN INNOVATORS, NATIONWIDE
ISSUES AND END USERS OF INNOVATIONS**
– how do these three actors interact with
each other?

Erzen River Interventions to Prevent Flooding – innovator Enkelejda Kucaj, Polis University

Maptioner System in Shkodra – Innovator Gjeovjosa

SAEx-L, Atmospheric Indicator About Extreme Weather Conditions – Innovator METEOALB ltd

Rainwater Collection in the Gardens – Innovator Ekolevizje

FIRST INTERACTIVE SESSION – INNOVATIONS ABOUT FLOODING

Four innovations dealt with possible solutions to build resilience after flooding. Participants included representatives from the Civil Emergencies' institutions, academic personalities, as well as members of institutions and companies whose daily operations are related to climate changes and relevant issues.

The persons behind the innovations were eager to receive feedback from those present, being the first line of response in case of emergencies.

The involved actors proactively reviewed the innovations. The four projects were also compared against solutions that belong to partners of Climate Innovation Windows.

SECOND INTERACTIVE SESSION – INNOVATIONS ABOUT DROUGHT

The second day was focused on the problems that drought may cause. Four innovators presented their ideas to representatives of the Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment (IGEWE), Institute of Albanian Geological Survey, as well as academics from public and private universities.

These ideas enjoyed the attentive review of IGEWE experts, as an institution fully authorized to inform high representatives of the government about forecasted natural disasters.

BRIGAIID is presenting its innovations to relevant institutions to demonstrate that scientific research requires more opportunities for development. And the Climate Innovation Windows can serve exactly as a channel of knowledge and experience, and of course as a cooperation tool with other partners to successfully face natural disasters.

Low Cost Weather Stations – Innovator Marsed Leti, Epoka University

QoAir, Technology to Manage Heat Waves in Urban Areas – Innovator Edlira Martini, freelancer

Polymer Concrete Blocks – Innovator Erion Luga, Epoka University

Fire and Erosion Resistant Carpets – Innovator Al-Geosystem

UFPUS, Unified Fire Safety Units – Innovator Andrea Papa, Exinn Technology Center

ArboDroughtStress, Monitoring Plant Stress in Periods of Extreme Weather – Innovator Endrit Kullaj, freelancer

3D Printing to Protect the Shore – Innovator Gerdi Papa, Polis University

THIRD INTERACTIVE SESSION – EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

Three innovations were presented during the last day, all of them dealing with challenges that extreme weather poses to Albanians. Participants included members of the Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment, the Civil Emergencies' institutions, agencies of research and innovations, the Institute of Albanian Geological Survey, and academics from public and private universities.

These three ideas sparked a debate on the willingness of institutions to accept innovations. Given the positive results in other countries, are the institutions ready to implement innovations? What keeps them from promoting such initiatives?

If the suggested innovations are appealing and feasible enough, the relevant institutions should follow them up and try to implement them.

LESSONS LEARNED



- 1. INNOVATE FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND SOLUTIONS FOR EVERYBODY:** Any given emergency situation is not enough to produce an innovation. A thorough history of the event, in addition to the weather conditions, geology and hydrometeorology studies of the area are necessary. Any innovation requires a preliminary study and time period.
- 2. INNOVATE TO COMPENSATE FOR LACK OF HUMAN AND FINANCIAL CAPACITIES. INCREASE INTEREST OF RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS, SO THAT EVERY PARTY CAN BENEFIT:** There a number of Albanian institutions that are required by the law and their function, to warn and report in real time about expected emergencies. COOPERATION with these institutions and with other innovators is a must, in order to better address the needs of the country..
- 3. A CLERLY DEFINED OBJECTIVE, WITH COMPREHENSIVE AND ENCOURAGING EFFECTS:** The innovations already presented TACKLE MORE THAN ONE TOPIC. There is a strategy in place on climate change and its problems. At the same time, the National Territory Planning Agency and BRIGAIID have already taken measures for innovative solutions. Now, innovators should make use of this landscape.
- 4. BRING ABOUT BUSINESS IDEAS AND FOLLOW UP THE PROJECTS, STRESSING THEIR VALUE:** Providing financial support for the innovations is the only reason they are being submitted to projects of European Commission and round tables. When their ideas are reviewed by interesting parties, the innovators demonstrate lack of preparedness, lack of a sound business and promoting plan, thus failing to create a most favorable audience. Any research should include contribution from students and take into consideration existing studies. Efficiency of the idea is of utmost importance.
- 5. INNOVATIVE PROJECTS BUT INNOVATIVE INNOVATORS, TOO:** INNOVATIONS still face many obstacles in Albania, be it for the issues they deal with or their actual implementation. All actors involved and the entire flow of work should be accounted for if we want the process to really work. An innovation can strive for a final objective, but it can well become the start for another new project.