

Welcome to the CERMA
Newsletter

Issue #01

CERMA

**Center of Excellence for
Environmental Risk Management**

Project funded by **Erasmus+**
2024-1-SK01-KA220-HED-000243758



**Co-funded by
the European Union**



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Project Overview

CERMA is a three-year European initiative focused on floods, droughts and climate-change impacts on water resources. The project brings together universities, researchers and stakeholders to identify environmental risks, develop hydrological models, and modernize higher education and lifelong learning so that science can support real-world water management and resilience.

Objectives

CERMA's work is built around a clear sequence:

- First, identify and map environmental risks in partner countries.
- Second, turn that evidence into hydrological modelling tools and practical preventive measures.
- And third, translate the results into updated university courses, lifelong-learning pathways and stakeholder-facing resources.

The project also aims to strengthen collaboration, support policy and practice, and create long-term impact through wider uptake of its outputs.



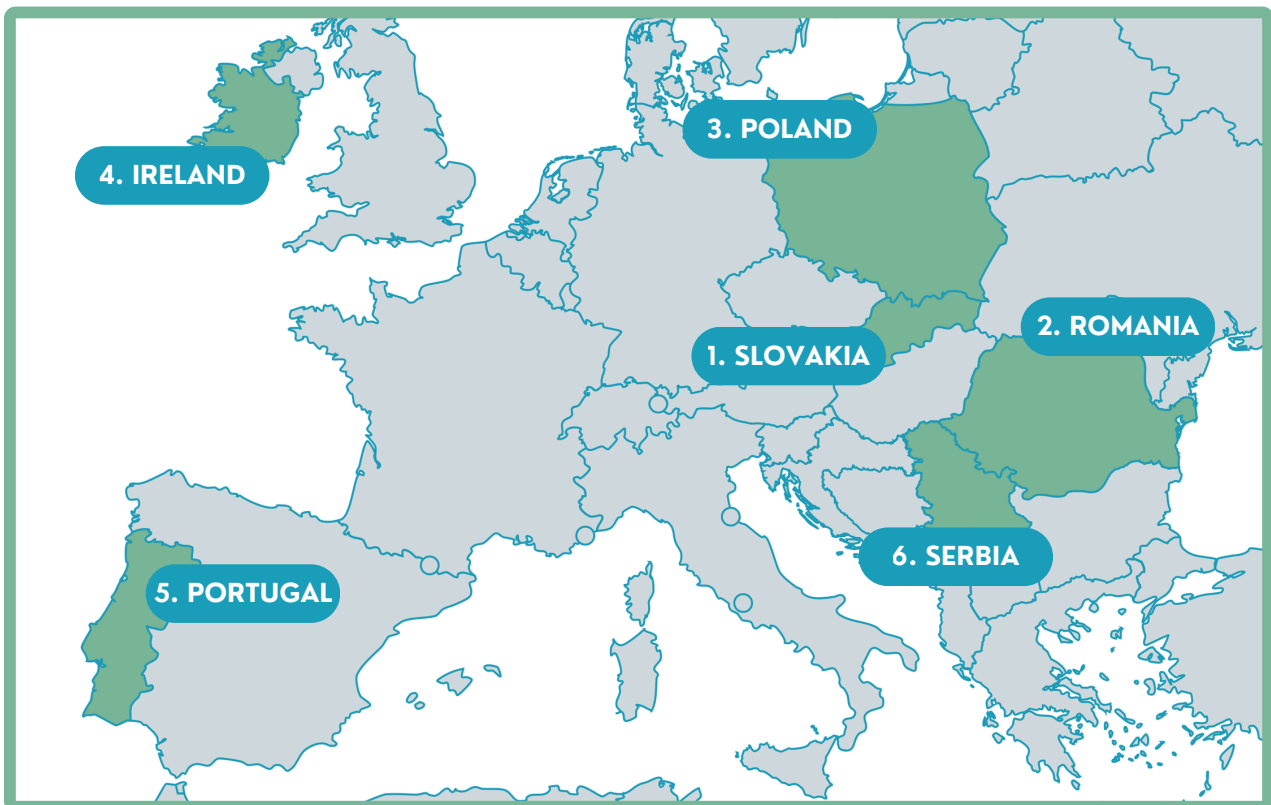
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Our Consortium

CERMA is coordinated by the Technical University of Košice and is implemented with high-value partners such as Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, University of Lisbon, University of Niš, and Sustainable Innovation Technology Services Ltd. Together, the consortium combines modelling, curriculum development, regional adaptation expertise and innovation transfer to connect research with practice.



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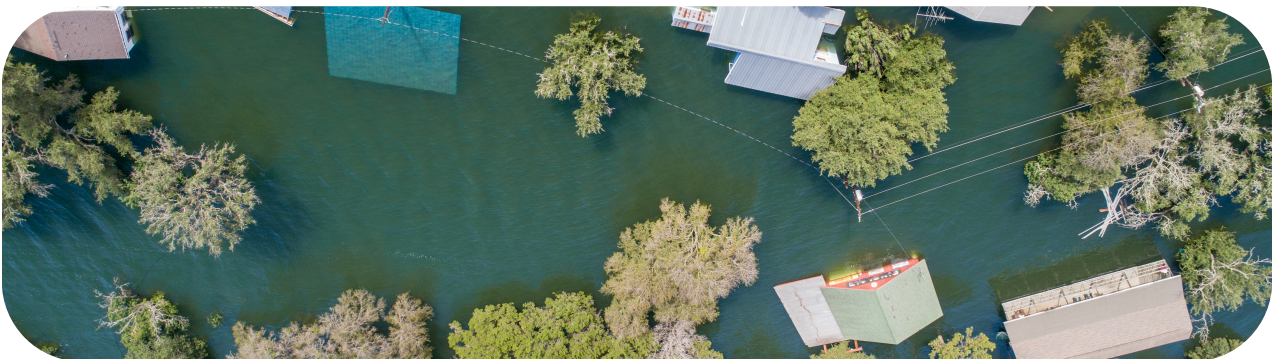
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Activities Done

The project started with the kick-off meeting in Košice, where partners aligned on objectives, roles and collaboration methods. This was followed by the Lisbon project meeting and workshop in December 2025, which focused on risk identification and needs analysis. In Lisbon and Cluj-Napoca, partners and researchers were introduced to different methods of environmental and hydrological risk analysis.

Expected Impacts

CERMA is designed to leave a practical legacy, with better evidence for risk management, stronger hydrological modelling capacity, more relevant university curricula, and lifelong-learning opportunities for professionals and practitioners. In a wider EU context, this aligns closely with the Water Resilience Strategy's goals to restore and protect the water cycle, build a water-smart economy, and secure clean and affordable water for all.



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Kick-Off Meeting in Košice

The project was officially launched with the kick-off meeting hosted by the Technical University of Košice on 16th July 2025. The meeting brought together all consortium partners for the first time to align on the project vision, confirm the work plan, and establish the collaborative foundations needed to address climate-driven hydrological risks across Europe.

During the discussions, partners focused on the project's main priorities, including environmental risk identification, hydrological modelling, curriculum modernisation and dissemination. The meeting marked an important starting point for building a shared approach to floods, droughts and water scarcity, while also setting the tone for the strong cooperation that will support CERMA's scientific and educational outputs over the coming years.



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Training & Workshop in Lisbon

Lisbon set the stage for a key step in CERMA's journey. On 4-5 December 2025, at the University of Lisbon, partners gathered for a two-day meeting that combined coordination with a lively stakeholder workshop.

Rather than a routine check-in, the sessions became a space for real exchange, reviewing progress, sharing perspectives, and shaping the next phase of the project. Discussions focused on pressing environmental risks such as heatwaves, floods, and droughts, explored through a practical question: what do communities actually need to adapt?

These insights helped refine CERMA's approach to training and future pilot activities, while reinforcing its core mission: connecting research, education, and policy to build stronger climate resilience.



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WP2 Successfully Completed

The phase dedicated to identifying environmental risks and carrying out the needs analysis has been completed. WP2 established a shared evidence base by defining the main climate-related hydrological risks, particularly floods, droughts and heatwaves, and clarifying the practical needs that future training, modelling and curriculum activities must address. The Lisbon workshop also confirmed the timing for final WP2 tasks and the transition to the next phase.

The main outcomes include a consolidated risk and needs assessment, a harmonised understanding of partner-region priorities, and criteria for selecting case studies and pilot sites. Overall, WP2 combined survey results, partner expertise and stakeholder input to identify key environmental pressures, related data needs, and required competencies, providing a solid basis for developing hydrological models and future learning materials.



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Hydrological Modelling Training in Cluj-Napoca

In Cluj-Napoca, CERMA took another step forward, this time diving into the practical world of hydrological modelling. Hosted by the Babeş-Bolyai University, the three-day training, back-to-back with a consortium meeting, brought together partners and participants for an immersive experience focused on managing environmental risks through applied models.

Far from a purely theoretical exercise, the workshop blended coordination moments with hands-on sessions, guiding participants through the entire process, from terrain data preparation to real model application. It was a chance to learn by doing, exploring how tools and data can be translated into concrete insights on floods, droughts, and heatwaves.

More than just a training, the event strengthened technical capacity across the partnership and empowered participants with practical skills. It marks another key milestone for CERMA, reinforcing its mission to equip institutions and stakeholders with the knowledge needed to better understand and respond to hydrological risks across Europe.



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Upcoming Events



Farm to Fork for Climate Resilience: Advancing Sustainable Agriculture

5 May 2026 | Cluj-Napoca, Romania

[Sign Up Online](#)

This Climate Pact event focuses on water, circular economy and sustainable agriculture, with discussions on ecosystem protection, resource efficiency and a just green transition. It is highly relevant to CERMA because it connects water resilience, adaptation and practical knowledge exchange in a setting where climate and land-use pressures meet.



EU CAP Network conference: Water resilience in agriculture

19-21 May 2026 | Hamburg, Germany

[Sign Up Online](#)

This conference will showcase practical solutions for water resilience in EU agriculture and forestry, including circular water management, digital tools, precision irrigation and nature-based solutions. The event is especially relevant to CERMA because it links water efficiency, climate adaptation and knowledge exchange in a way that mirrors the project's own approach.



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Upcoming Events



Resilience Expo 2026

10 June 2026 | M'gladbach, Germany

[Sign Up Online](#)

This Mission Adaptation trade exhibition is dedicated to climate adaptation products, technologies and services. For CERMA, it offers a strong reference point for sharing hydrological risk-management tools, showcasing innovation and connecting education with applied climate-resilience solutions.



European Urban Resilience Forum 2026

17 June 2026 | Guimarães, Portugal

[Sign Up Online](#)

This forum will focus on integrated approaches to climate resilience and disaster risk management. It is a strong fit for CERMA's mission, especially where hydrological risks meet urban planning and local preparedness, exploring strategies and offering valuable lessons for climate resilience efforts worldwide through their close connection to citizens.



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EU Framework News



**EU Mission on Adaptation
launches new portal to
support a climate-resilient
Europe**

[Read The Full Story](#)

Launched on 22 January 2026, the new Mission portal gives regions, local authorities and communities access to guidance, data and practical tools for adaptation planning. For CERMA, it is a relevant reference point for sharing project outputs, connecting with adaptation audiences and positioning CERMA within the wider EU climate-resilience landscape.



**CAP implementation:
hot topics and next
steps**

[Read The Full Story](#)

The EU CAP Network highlighted water resilience, cooperation and simplification as recent priorities in its 19 February 2026 update. This is useful for CERMA because it confirms that water resilience is increasingly treated as a cross-sector policy issue, not just a technical one, and that knowledge exchange remains central to implementation.



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EU Framework News



Faster progress needed to protect Europe's waters and better manage flood risks

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The European Commission stressed that more action is needed to improve freshwater quality, quantity and flood-risk management across the EU. The Commission also launched a call for evidence to help shape the future European Water Resilience Strategy, which makes this a highly relevant reference for CERMA's risk-assessment and policy-oriented work.



Commission adopts the main Horizon Europe Work Programme for 2026-2027 and dedicates €4.9 billion to climate action

[Read The Full Story](#)

This update confirms strong EU-level support for climate-related research and innovation in the 2026-2027 Horizon Europe programme. For CERMA, it reinforces the importance of turning research into training, tools and scalable solutions that can support long-term climate resilience.



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