

ERRIN INPUT ON MISSION ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE CHARTER

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Who is signing the Charter?

Unlike the draft Charter developed in the Ocean and Waters Mission, the intended signatories of the Mission Adaptation to Climate Change Charter are currently intended to be regions and cities alone. ERRIN advocates for the engagement of quadruple helix stakeholders in research and innovation. This means breaking silos so that public and local authorities, academia and research organisations, industry and citizens are all involved in every step of innovative processes. Achieving the Adaptation Mission goals will require broad and structured collaboration of different stakeholders.

While we appreciate the recognition of the vital role local and regional authorities will play in adapting to climate change, these authorities on the ground in the regions cannot achieve the Mission objectives on their own without active engagement from the industry sector, such as farmers and forest owners, and research/academia. One of the commitments regional authorities could make in the Charter could be to coordinate the mobilisation of their regional stakeholders.

We note that regions and communities must ‘adhere’ and ‘commit’ to the Charter, while other key partners will simply ‘show willing’ and ‘endorse’ it. We would encourage all governance levels to commit to the Charter. The national level, in addition to the European level, will be key to support the development of projects and foster large-scale actions and to fully address regulatory and financial issues related to climate change adaptation. For a successful implementation of the Mission on the long-term, it will be imperative to foster a dialogue and collaboration between all governance levels.

Additionally, networks like ERRIN would not be able to sign the Charter under this current stipulation. It would be important to invite organisations, which can mobilise and support regions and communities, and the various stakeholders groups necessary for the Mission implementation, to also sign the Charter. The Charter should go further to promote community building by encouraging stakeholders that are currently off the radar to sign and to allow different communities to formally join and commit to the Mission.

What is meant by authoritative knowledge?

We notice the phrase ‘authoritative knowledge,’ which also appears in the Ocean Mission Charter. We have raised questions about this term in our feedback to the Ocean Mission Charter and would ask again here, what does this mean? As with our concerns above regarding the signatories of the Charter, we also have doubts about how regions and communities can be expected to commit to ‘open access’ to knowledge to support ‘entrepreneurs, scientists and policymakers,’ without directly engaging those actors themselves in the Mission.

The role of citizens

Under the Charter heading ‘Stimulating public mobilisation and engagement,’ we believe there are improvements to be made regarding the involvement of citizens in the Mission. Citizens should have

more than ‘a say’ and be the receivers of awareness campaigns. Instead, stronger commitment should be made to involving citizens in the design of climate adaptation actions, as well as the implementation and evaluation of them.

How will the Community of Practice ‘network and share’?

We are looking forward to further information on what kind of exchanges and collaborative activities the Community of Practice will offer to cities and regions beyond the annual Mission Forum. Peer learning and knowledge sharing are key for cities and regions to advance their climate adaptation work.

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