

Climate Frontline Project: Strengthening Newsrooms and Communities in Europe for Resilient Futures

As climate change intensifies across Europe, the Climate Frontline Project emerges as a collaborative effort to bridge the gap between science, journalism, and community engagement, equipping local newsrooms in Spain and Portugal to better inform and engage communities on climate risks.

6 June 2025 – The Climate Frontline Project has officially launched, marking a significant step in improving how local and regional media in Southern Europe report on climate hazards. With the continent warming at twice the global average, this region is bearing the brunt of climate-related disasters: over 1,000 wildfires were reported across Portugal and Spain in 2024, displacing thousands and causing widespread devastation.

Despite the urgency, regional media outlets often lack the resources and training to cover these events effectively. A 2019 European Commission study revealed that only 26% of local journalists in Southern Europe felt adequately prepared to report on climate change. Climate Frontline addresses this gap by building newsroom capacity, fostering collaboration with civil society and policymakers, and amplifying

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the voices of communities most affected by climate hazards, ensuring communities receive accurate, actionable, and solutions-focused information in times of crisis.

Co-led by the European Journalism Centre (EJC) and REVOLVE, the one-year project targets the most climate-vulnerable regions—Valencia, Leiria/Coimbra, and Baixo Alentejo—where the impact of environmental disasters is compounded by limited resources and fragmented media coverage. Four newsrooms from Portugal and Spain will receive grants to produce high-impact narratives and/or storytelling narrative products on climate hazards and adaptation strategies within a specific geographic or community context.

Climate Frontline enhances newsroom capacity through tailored training in climate science, disaster reporting, and audience engagement. Journalists from participating outlets will receive mentorship, grants, and collaborate with civil society and climate experts to co-create impactful storytelling formats rooted in lived experience.

“Climate change is not only an environmental crisis, but also a communication crisis. Through this project, we aim to make climate reporting more accessible, representative, and grounded in community realities,” Boris van Westering, Strategic and Advocacy Lead for the project

A central output will be the Climate Hazard Reporting Toolkit, a practical guide featuring case studies and best practices to help media professionals respond effectively before, during, and after climate emergencies. This toolkit will be openly accessible to the broader media sector, encouraging scalability and knowledge transfer.

The collaboration with additional, associated partners ensures the project stays grounded in local context while exploring new formats to reach digitally engaged, younger audiences.

Climate Frontline will also engage scientists and environmental experts in listening sessions with journalists, building mutual understanding and trust in climate communication.

With its participatory approach, cross-sector partnerships, and commitment to journalistic excellence, Climate Frontline is redefining the role of media in climate resilience, turning vulnerability into action through storytelling.

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