

OUTPUT FACTSHEET

Project index number	CE0100067	Acronym	Ready4Heat
Output type (“x” to be included)	Strategy/ action plan	x	Pilot action Solution
Output number (O.xx)	O 1.1	Output title	Municipal heat strategies and action plan for mitigation of the heat waves
If the output target is > 1 in the AF, please specify the output(s) described in the factsheet	The municipal heat strategy and action plan for the City of Weiz was jointly developed through active participation of all PPs in co-working groups during project meetings online and in person. Above all, PP6 - the Styrian Climate Alliance has supported the municipality of Weiz in the development of the action plan. In addition, a large part of the development of the strategy and action plan was implemented by an external service provider: Innovation Center W.E.I.Z..		
Output delivery date	20.11.2024		
Project website	https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/ready4heat/		

Summary description of the output

Please present the output by addressing the following topics.

Territorial challenges and needs in the regions specifically addressed by the output

(max. 700 characters)

The region of Weiz faces increasing challenges due to rising temperatures and more frequent heatwaves, intensified by the urban heat island effect and limited green spaces in certain areas. Vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, and those with chronic illnesses are particularly affected. High levels of soil sealing and industrial areas exacerbate local heat stress, while the need for more adaptive infrastructure, such as shaded public spaces, water features, and better building insulation, is evident. The heat action plan addresses these challenges by proposing targeted short-, mid-, and long-term measures to mitigate heat impacts and improve urban resilience.

Main aim(s) of the output and how it contributes to tackle the identified challenge(s)

(max. 500 characters)

The main aim of the output is to provide a comprehensive Heat Strategy and Action Plan for Weiz, focusing on mitigating the health, social, and environmental impacts of heatwaves. It addresses identified challenges by proposing adaptive measures such as improved shading, greening initiatives, enhanced public awareness, and targeted support for vulnerable groups. These actions aim to reduce heat stress, improve urban resilience, and align local efforts with broader climate adaptation strategies.

Technical description of the output (e.g. scope, main features, innovative elements etc.)

(max. 1500 characters)

The Heat Strategy and Action Plan for Weiz provides a structured framework to mitigate the impacts of heatwaves through a combination of immediate, mid-term, and long-term measures. Its scope encompasses urban planning, public awareness, and infrastructure improvements, targeting the city's most vulnerable groups and high-risk areas identified through detailed climate and heat stress analyses.

Key features include:

1. **Comprehensive Analysis:** Integration of heat hotspot mapping and demographic data to prioritize actions in critical areas, such as industrial zones and neighborhoods with a high density of elderly residents.
2. **Actionable Measures:** A suite of interventions, from immediate solutions like water distribution and shaded seating to long-term strategies like urban greening, reflective surfaces, and building insulation improvements.
3. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Development through participatory workshops involving 50 stakeholders from various sectors, ensuring diverse input and broad support for the measures.
4. **Monitoring and Adaptation:** A built-in evaluation mechanism ensures that the plan remains responsive to evolving climate challenges, with biannual reviews by a dedicated steering group.
5. **Innovative Elements:** Use of satellite data for heat mapping, integration of heat mitigation with regional climate adaptation strategies, and innovative public awareness campaigns leveraging digital tools and community networks.

By combining scientific data with stakeholder insights, the plan introduces innovative, localized approaches to reduce heat risks and improve quality of life in Weiz.

Involvement of target groups during output development and/or implementation

(max. 700 characters)

The development of the Heat Strategy and Action Plan actively involved diverse target groups through participatory approaches. Vulnerable groups, including the elderly, children, and those with chronic illnesses, were represented in nine stakeholder workshops held between December 2023 and February 2024. These workshops engaged 50 participants, including city administration, social and care sector representatives, educational institutions, and emergency organizations. Stakeholders contributed to identifying challenges, generating ideas for mitigation measures, and shaping short-, mid-, and long-term actions. The process fostered broad support and ensured that the plan reflects local needs and priorities.

Cooperation dimension of the output, i.e. joint development within the partnership and, if applicable, joint implementation (see output indicator definitions in chapter 1.3.3 and Annex 2 of the programme manual)

(max. 700 characters)

The Heat Strategy and Action Plan was developed through extensive cooperation within the Ready4Heat partnership, integrating insights and best practices from other partner cities, such as Worms and their Heat and Health Action Plan. Also, the jointly developed concept for the action plan in D.1.1.1, which was developed in cooperation with all project partners, contributed to the creation of the heat action plan and strategy. Collaboration with PP6 (CA-Styria) was crucial for stakeholder network establishment and alignment with regional strategies. Joint activities, like the online project meetings and joint events, ensured a harmonized approach across the partnership. This cooperation facilitated knowledge transfer, strengthened regional integration, and laid the groundwork for consistent pilot implementation across participating regions.

Results - expected change and lasting effects in the territories generated specifically by the output, its uptake by relevant organisations and benefits for target groups

(max. 1000 characters)

The Heat Strategy and Action Plan for Weiz is expected to significantly improve urban resilience to heatwaves by implementing targeted, actionable measures that directly address local heat stress challenges. Vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, children, and those with chronic illnesses, will benefit from enhanced protections, including shaded spaces, public cooling areas, and tailored awareness campaigns. The plan's adoption by local government ensures that heat mitigation is integrated into urban planning, infrastructure development, and social services. Lasting effects include reduced health risks, improved quality of life, and increased community awareness about heat resilience and will also benefit the general public in the long term. The collaboration with regional authorities and alignment with federal state-level strategies facilitate sustained implementation and regional scaling of best practices. Regular monitoring and revisions ensure the plan remains effective and adaptable, serving as a replicable model for other municipalities facing similar climate challenges.

Ownership and durability of the output after the project end, considering financial and institutional support including, if applicable, maintenance

(max. 700 characters)

The Municipality of Weiz holds full ownership of the Heat Strategy and Action Plan, which should also be formally adopted by the City Council within the context of D.1.3.3 - "Enactment of the strategy and action plans". Implementation of the strategy will continue in the coming years, with durability ensured through ongoing commitment from the municipal administration. Relevant departments actively contributed to the plan during its preparation, ensuring alignment with local needs and will also be part of the ongoing monitoring and heat action steering group. Financial resources for implementation and maintenance will be allocated through municipal budgets on a yearly basis, as the municipal council can only ever decide on the budget for one year in advance, ensuring the plan's long-term viability. Regular evaluations by the dedicated steering group will ensure its relevance and effectiveness in the future.

Transferability of the output to other territories, sectors or target groups and planned measures for supporting such transfer

(max. 700 characters)

The Heat Strategy and Action Plan for Weiz is designed for transferability to other territories, sectors, and target groups by leveraging the outcomes of Ready4Heat's transnational collaboration. Deliverables such as D.3.1.1 (Solutions recommended to improve sustainability of the heat measures) provide scalable, sustainable strategies that can be adopted by other municipalities. D.3.1.2 (Report on policy upstreaming engagement) ensures alignment with broader regional and national policies, making it easier for other regions to adapt these measures.

Additionally, the plan's transferability will be supported through D.3.2.1 and D.3.2.2, two transnational webinars focusing on action plan development and project results. These webinars will share best practices, insights, and lessons learned, facilitating knowledge exchange and enabling other regions to replicate and adapt the strategies to their specific contexts.

Related final deliverable(s) (Number(s) and title(s) to be included)	D.1.3.2: Development of the strategy and action plan
Output web link (if applicable)	
GPS coordinates (if applicable)	