



## Belgian pilot action



“Urbanisation strategies for transregional or transnational valleys facing climate change”

### **BACKGROUND NOTE**

The three Belgian Regions have jointly launched a pilot action on "*Urbanisation strategies for transregional or transnational valleys facing climate change*" as part of the European Union's Territorial Agenda 2030. The pilot action focuses on **territorial water management**, in particular the risks of flooding, drought, and water shortages. Both prevention and crisis management strategies are examined.

In the context of preparatory intra-Belgian seminars, discussions focused on planning instruments and governance mechanisms.

**Two case studies** served as a basis for reflection on anticipation measures and responses to extreme weather events:

- the **Woluwe valley**: the Brussels-Capital Region and the Flemish Region focused on how to use and retain water efficiently in the valley in order to avoid flooding, drought and water shortages.
- the **Vesdre valley**: the Walloon Region's work focused on adaptation actions to rebuild the Vesdre valley devastated by the floods in July 2021.

Based on these experiences, the Belgian regions propose to exchange views with other European partners on:

- **governance mechanisms**
- **adapting spatial and urban planning instruments**, implementing **new tools**, and identifying **innovative strategies**

### **Two events will be organised:**

#### **1. Webinar, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (10 am – 12.30 pm, Central European Summer Time [CEST])**

- Feedback on Belgian and other European case studies
- Panel discussion based on a series of questions

#### **2. Workshop, 12<sup>th</sup> October (2 pm – 5 pm, CEST)**

- Initial findings from the webinar held on 11 September 2023
- Two working groups: one on governance mechanisms and the other on spatial and urban development tools
- Identification of good practices and recommendations