Interreg Danube Region

Co-funded by the European Union

HARMONMISSIONS

MISSION 4

APRIL 2025

NEWSLETTER

Word of the editor

Dear readers,

Welcome to the fourth edition of the HARMONMISSIONS Newsletter! As we continue our journey within the Interreg Danube Region Programme 2021–2027, co-funded by the European Union, our shared mission remains clear — to support the implementation of Climate EU Missions, particularly Mission 1: Adaptation to Climate Change and Mission 4: 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030.

In this issue, we highlight several exciting initiatives, projects, and events that are driving climate action across the Danube Region. From Slovakia's Horizon Europe project SCOPE, which aims to strengthen regional climate and emergency risk management, to the European Commission's new MIP4-Adapt platform supporting local adaptation efforts — it is inspiring to see innovation and collaboration at every level.

We also spotlight the upcoming Smart Cities Symposium in Prague, a key opportunity for experts and decision-makers to shape the future of sustainable urban living.

Thank you for being part of our climate community. Let's continue working together for a more resilient, climate-smart Danube Region.

Warm regards,

Public Institution for the Development of Međimurje County REDEA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Smart Cities Symposium Prague 2025

The Czech Technical University will host the Smart Cities Symposium Prague 2025, taking place in Prague, Czech Republic, on 29–30 May 2025. This prominent event will bring together experts and decision-makers to exchange knowledge and build cooperation on key topics such as sustainable mobility, smart infrastructure, and climate-neutral urban transformation.

For more details, please visit: *akce.fd.cvut.cz*

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Author: LIR Evolution

EU Commission 2025 work programme

The EU Commission has adopted its 2025 work programme, outlining its ambition to boost competitiveness, enhance security, and bolster economic resilience in the EU. It builds on the commitments set out in the Political Guidelines and the mission letters sent by President von der Leyen.

The work programme focuses on the flagship initiatives the Commission will take in the first year of its mandate, responding to the issues that matter most to Europeans. It reflects the need for more opportunities, innovation, and growth for our citizens and businesses, ultimately fostering a more secure and prosperous EU. The Commission work programme sets-up an ambitious agenda with 51 New Policy initiatives with several key deliverables across various fields: Sustainable Prosperity and Competitiveness; Defense and Security; Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model; Sustaining our quality of life; Protecting democracy and upholding values; A global Europe: leveraging our power and partnerships; Delivering together and preparing our Union for the future.

Climate change features throughout the work programme, with Europe's long-term goal to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. An important part of this goal is the Clean Industrial Deal, which outlines concrete actions to turn decarbonization into a driver of growth for European industries. This includes lowering energy prices, creating quality jobs and the right conditions for companies to thrive. The Clean Industrial Deal will also go hand in hand with a proposed 90% emission reduction target for 2040 to be enshrined in our European Climate Law.

Author: Karolina Kosjek, Digital Innovation Hub Slovenia, Katja Mohar Bastar
Digital Innovation Hub Slovenia

Bridging Strategy and Action: How the EU's Adaptation Tool Database Can Support the HARMONMISSIONS Project

Last year the European Union introduced a new tool that represents a significant step forward in enabling more effective responses to climate change at the local and regional levels. Developed under the MIP4Adapt platform, the new database is designed to simplify decision-making in planning and implementing climate adaptation measures.

The database features 11 carefully selected tools that provide access to verified, user-friendly, and scientifically supported resources. It is primarily intended for local and regional authorities seeking practical support in shaping their climate strategies.

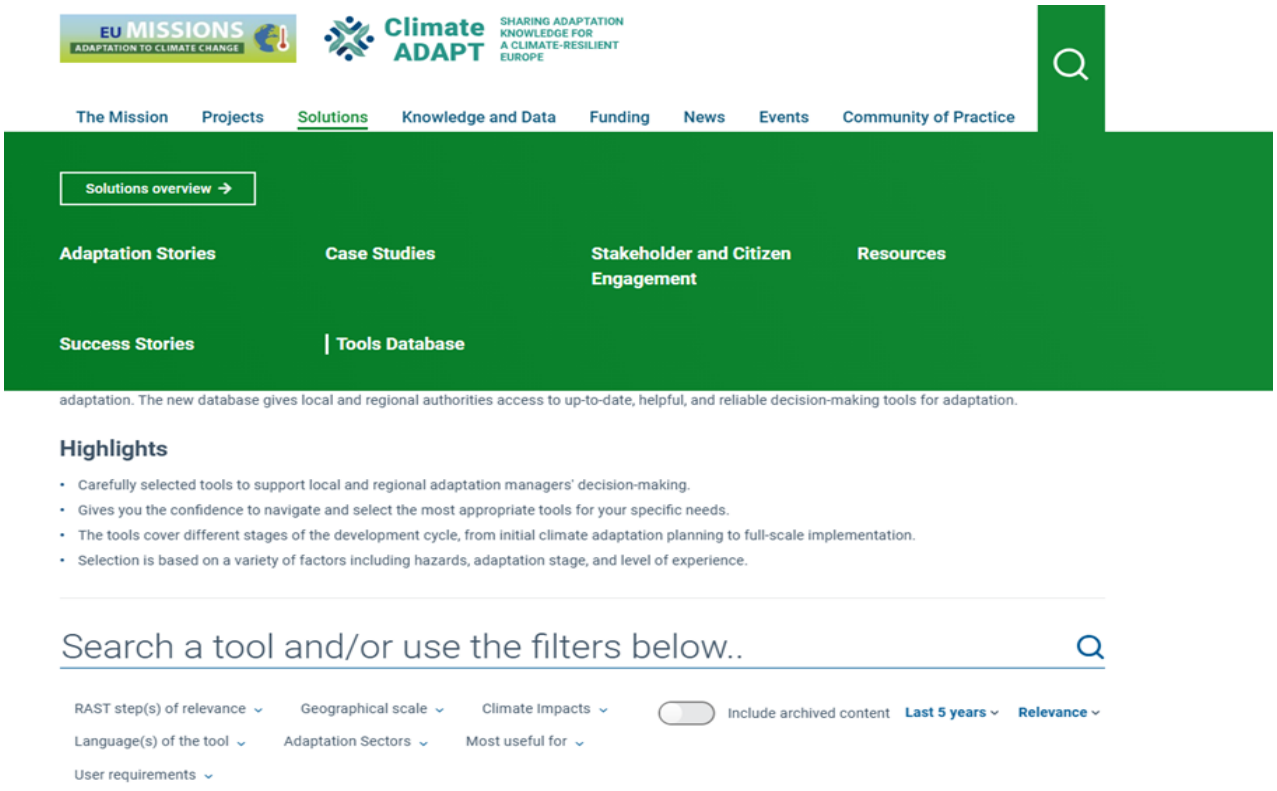
According to Guido Schmidt from MIP4Adapt, the new database "does the hard work for the user by removing irrelevant or outdated tools and providing quick access to those that are truly useful in practice."

Concrete Tools for Diverse Contexts

The collection includes tools designed for urban areas, rural environments, islands, coastal regions, and even small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Among the highlights:

- **Climate Resilient City Tool (CRCTool)** – Supports the selection of nature-based solutions in urban planning, especially to address drought, heatwaves, and heavy rainfall.
- **Thermal Assessment Tool** – Provides visualizations of extreme heat events (past, present, and future) in European regions and cities, helping assess risks and plan appropriate responses.
- **Social Vulnerability Index (SVI Tool)** – Assesses the vulnerability of communities to climate impacts, supporting targeted interventions for those most at risk.
- **Pluvial Hazard, Risk Assessment and Adaptation Tool** – Allows for quick identification of flood-prone hotspots and recommends nature-based solutions to reduce risks.
- **DERRIS** – A climate risk self-assessment tool for SMEs, encouraging companies to understand their exposure and adapt accordingly. Particularly valuable for cities seeking to engage the business sector in resilience planning.

The database also includes specialized tools for islands, coastal management, and the evaluation of the quality of local adaptation plans (e.g., the Climate Change Adaptation Scoring Tool).



Source: MIP4Adapt platform

Supporting EU Missions

This database also plays a key role in supporting the implementation of EU Missions, particularly the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change and the Mission on 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030. These two areas are at the core of the HARMONMISSIONS project, which aims to harmonise the understanding and implementation of EU Missions across the Danube region.

Across the EU, including in the Danube region, there are major differences in awareness, access, and implementation capacity regarding climate action. The HARMONMISSIONS project seeks to close these gaps by developing a mission governance model supported by real data, knowledge exchange, and cooperation among cities, regions, and stakeholders across borders.

This is where the new database becomes essential. With its set of reliable and diverse tools, it can serve as a foundation for the common platform that HARMONMISSIONS is building. Cities and regions can more easily exchange best practices, compare approaches, and establish shared standards.

Cross-Border Cooperation for a Shared Future

Climate change knows no borders – and thus it can only be effectively addressed through cross-border cooperation and shared access to knowledge. The new European database is a key enabler of such collaboration, offering tools that are widely applicable and adaptable to different contexts – from large cities to remote rural areas.

By integrating these tools into the HARMONMISSIONS project, a bridge could be established between strategy and action, between EU ambitions and local realities. This would enable the project to strengthen its role in supporting regional and urban climate resilience, while also paving the way toward shared goals of sustainable and smart development.
The full database of climate adaptation tools is available at:
https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/solutions/tools

Sources:

https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/solutions/tools
https://distender.eu/news/new-database-aiming-to-simplify-climate-adaptation-decision-making/

PROJECT NAME : SCOPE - Sustainable Climate Outcomes for People of Eastern Slovakia

CLIMAAX climate ready regions

Funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) under grant agreement No. 101093864.

CITY OF IMPLEMENTATION Košice
TOTAL COST € 171 975
NFP AMOUNT € 171 975
OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME CLIMAAX - Horizon Europe
FUNDING RATE This project is co-financed by the European Union at 100%
RECIPIENT City of Košice
HQ of the RECIPIENT Trieda SNP 48/A, 040 11 Košice

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

CLIMAAX (CLIMAte risk and vulnerability assessment framework and toolboxX) is a four-year Horizon Europe project that will provide financial, analytical and practical support to improve regional climate and emergency risk management plans. CLIMAAX is intended to contribute to the harmonisation and consolidation of climate risk assessment practice and to leave a legacy for upcoming European initiatives.

CLIMAAX builds on existing risk assessment frameworks, methods and tools and promotes the use of datasets and service platforms for deployment at local and regional level. It will create a reliable and coordinated framework for consistent, harmonised and comparable risk assessments. The project moves existing tools and services beyond the status quo by prioritising further development of accessibility, guidance, adaptation to local conditions, interpretation and use by representative disaster risk management and civil protection authorities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The main objective of the SCOPE project is a detailed mapping and analysis of climate risks specific to the city of Košice and its functional area of sustainable urban development. Using modern tools and methodologies provided by CLIMAAX, we will generate and regularly update localized climate risk data that is both accurate and actionable.

The results of the project will support the integration of climate risks into all aspects of local governance and planning. This holistic approach will ensure that climate change adaptation and risk management are not stand-alone efforts, but are integrated into the broader framework of regional development, urban planning and social welfare policies.

FRAMEWORK

The framework is based on established principles (related to social justice, equity, transparency), technical choices to be made (e.g., for parameters, climate scenarios, time horizons etc.), and participatory processes (learning, communication, consultation). (1)

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

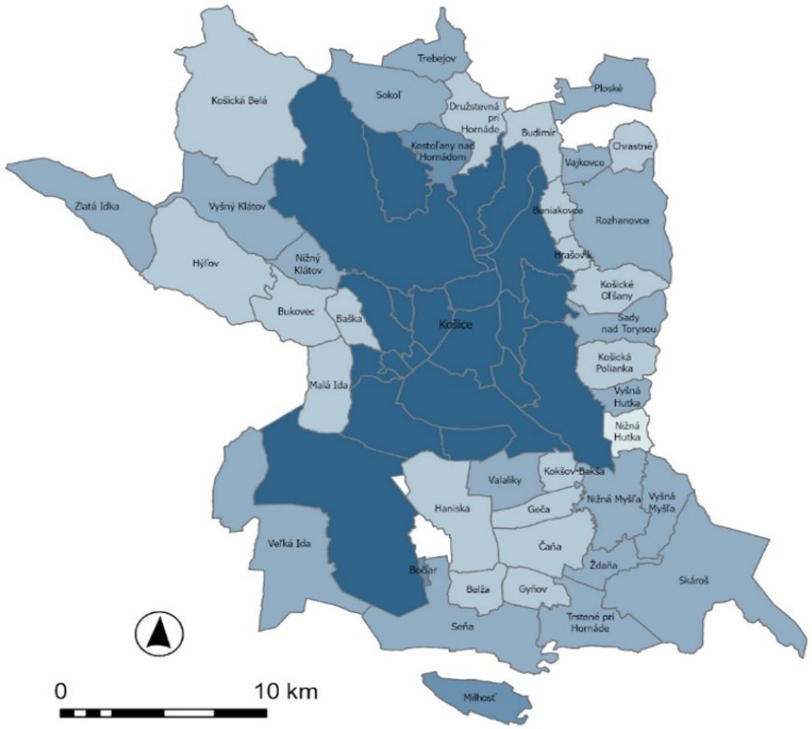
-Collection and processing of local data in the past.
-Stakeholder review/resolution of the local CRA workflow.
-Adaptation of CLIMAAX workflows and toolbox.
-Building on an ongoing participatory approach to define viable adaptation strategies.
-Identification of successful examples of CLIMAAX-driven adaptation for replication in other regions/sectors.
-Recommendations for local policy making (adaptation strategy, civil protection, planning and building law).

PROJECT OUTPUTS

The output of the project will be a study developed using the methodologies and tools provided by the CLIMAAX project. This study will assist in reducing vulnerability to climate change in the city of Košice. By strengthening risk and risk awareness and providing a solid data base for local policies, the community will be empowered to navigate complex climate situations with confidence and strategic foresight.

(1)Source: CLIMAAX Consortium

ANALYZED AREA – KOŠICE
Area City of Košice and its functional area (40 villages)



START OF IMPLEMENTATION 10/2024
END OF IMPLEMENTATION 07/2026
PHASE OF IMPLEMENTATION Under implementation (2)

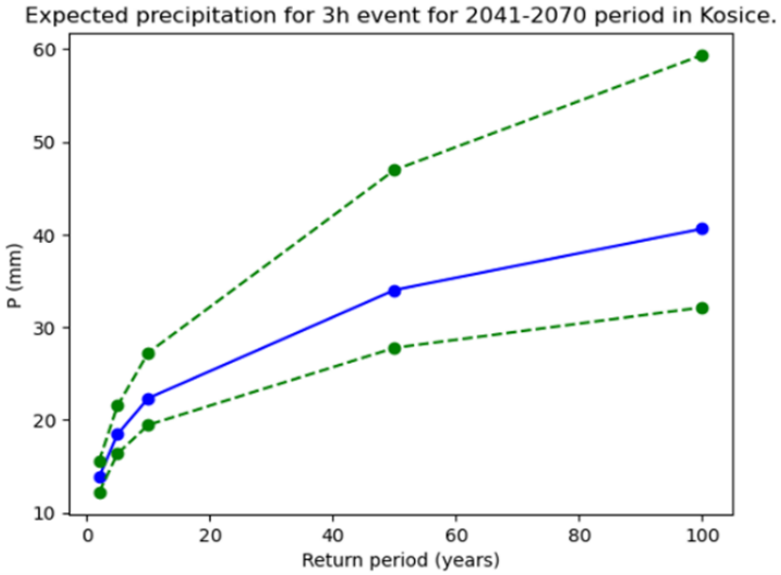


Figure -22 Expected precipitation for 3h event for 2041-2070 period in Košice (rcp8.5) based on the Euro-Cordex data.

(2)Source: Strategic Development Department, Strategic Development Department

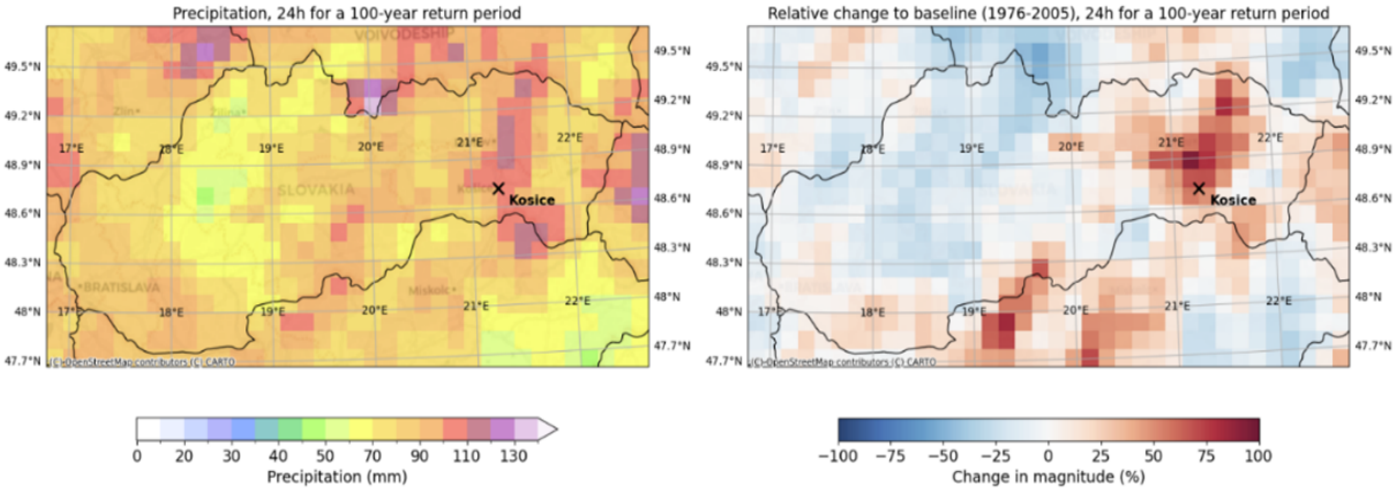


Figure -23 Preciptation for 24h for 100-year return period on left for 2041-2070 and relative change to baseline 1976-2005 on the right

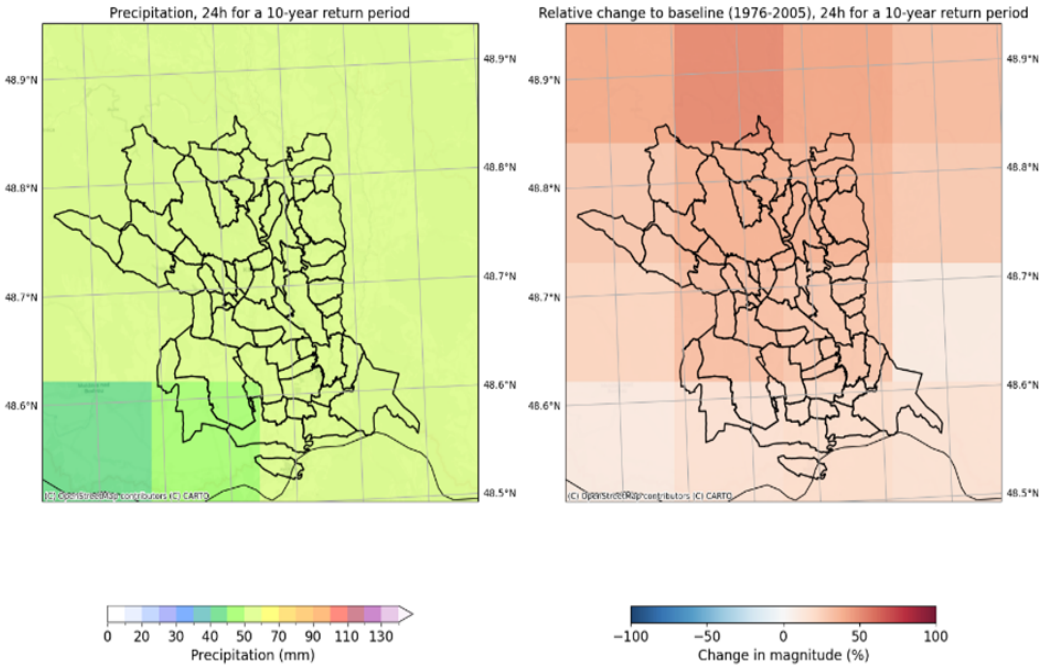


Figure 2 -5 Precipitation for 24h for 10-year return period on left for 2041-2070 and relative change to baseline 1976-2005 on the right clipped for Interested area

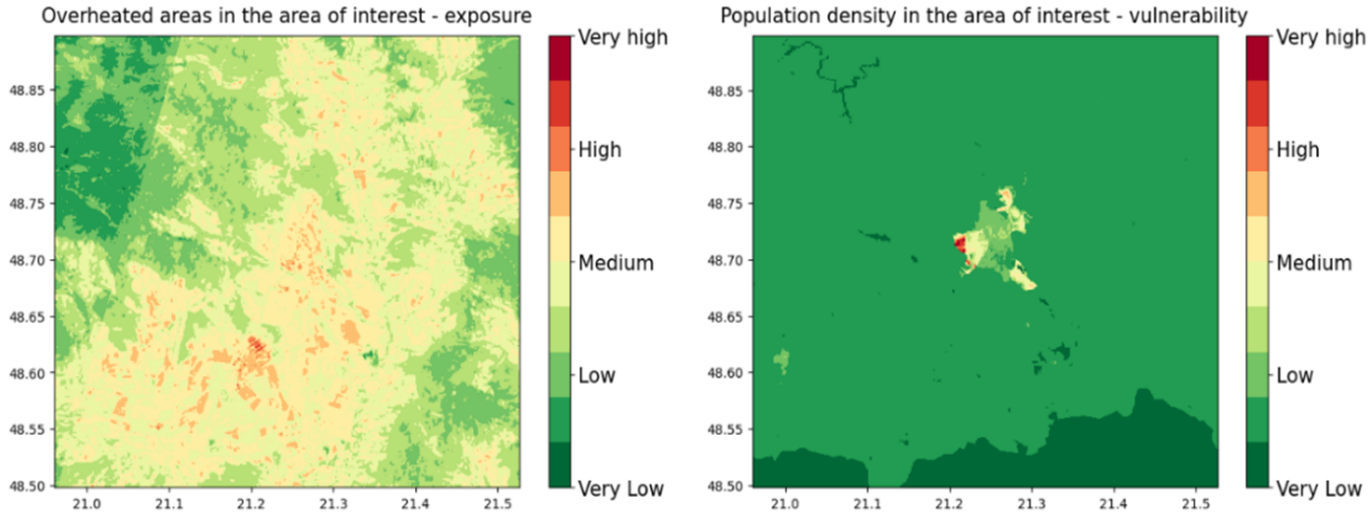


Figure 2-10 Overheated areas (on the left) and vulnerable population density (on the right) results based on Climaax heat wave toolbox for the interested area of Kosice UMR.

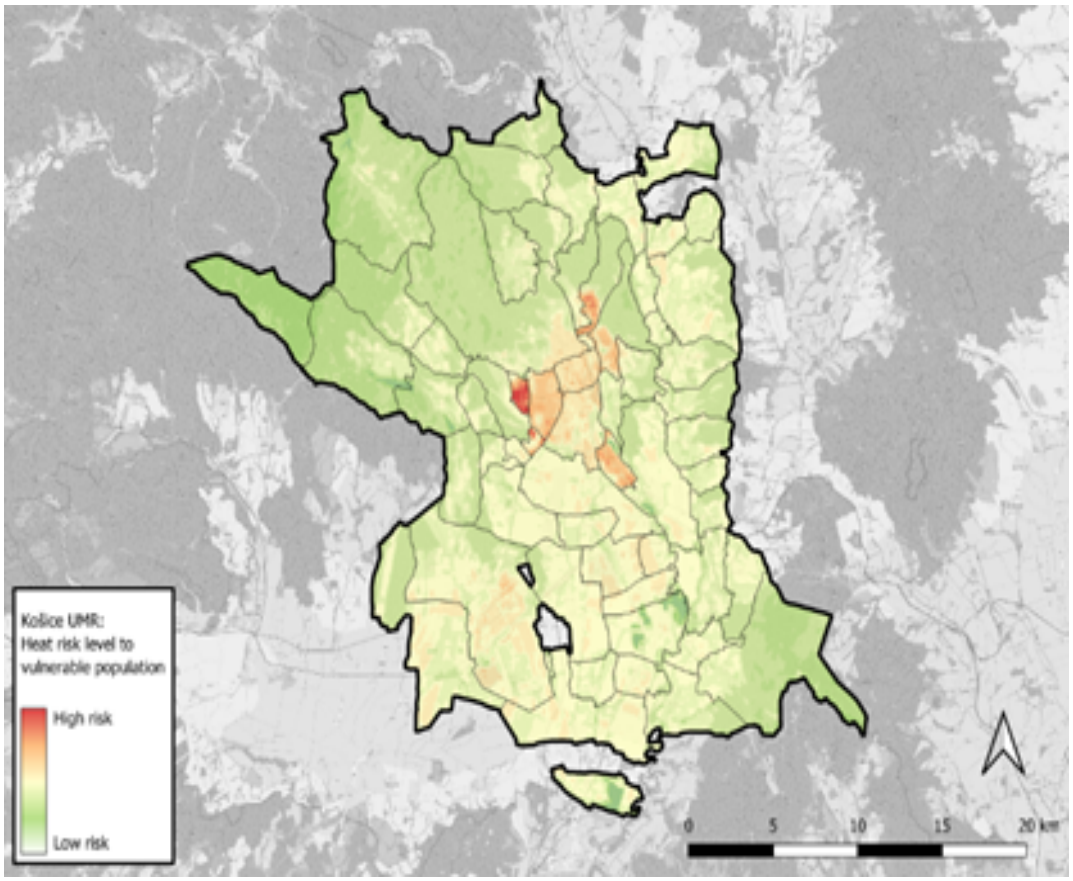


Figure 2-11Heat-risk level for vulnerable population in Košice UMR