



Reflections from the NBRACER General Assembly in Lemvig: Turning Knowledge into Regional Action

For immediate release

Lemvig, Denmark, October 2025 – The NBRACER consortium gathered in Lemvig for its 5th General Assembly, hosted by Klimatorium – Danmarks Internationale Klimacenter, bringing together partners, regional representatives, and stakeholders from across Europe for three days of collaboration, learning, and forward planning. Marking the mid-term milestone of the project, this Assembly symbolized a pivotal transition from design to delivery, from developing frameworks and research foundations to applying and validating Nature-based Solutions (NbS) across regions.

As the project enters its third year, participants reflected on how the work accomplished so far is now being embedded into local adaptation strategies, aligning with the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change and the EU Water Resilience Strategy. The meeting reaffirmed NBRACER's central mission: to transform science and local experience into tangible, evidence-based action for regional climate resilience. This discussion gathered voices from across the continent, including the CEO of Lemvig municipality, Søren Søndergaard Kjær who gave a speech on the importance of the 'quadruple helix'.

Collaboration and mutual learning across borders

The Assembly opened with reflections from project partners highlighting the collective journey so far.

*“NBRACER has strengthened our voices and is ensuring learning
across borders”*

Lars Nørgård Holmegaard, Director of Klimatorium

Early sessions explored how to strengthen regional transformation through the practical application of NBRACER's four key principles for transformative change, stressing the importance of sharing challenges, not only successes, and of learning from other regions to create a unified yet locally tailored vision. This spirit of mutual learning was further reinforced by citizen-focused discussions, where participants agreed that "citizens listen better to other citizens," underlining the importance of peer-to-peer dialogue in promoting NbS understanding and adoption.

From monitoring frameworks to regional ownership

A key highlight of the General Assembly was the exploration of NBRACER's monitoring guide and the lessons learnt from field implementation. Partners discussed the importance of proving NbS effectiveness through robust evidence, linking scientific data with regional experience to demonstrate measurable social and environmental benefits.

The sessions stressed the need for consistent monitoring of social KPIs, the sharing of lessons learnt, and the finalization of regional monitoring strategies that can continue beyond the lifetime of the project. This means regional ownership and citizen science will be central to sustaining impact. It's about "letting the flowers bloom and then picking the ones that are more appropriate to each 'regional' bouquet", paraphrasing Julia Bentz (Ce3C, University of Lisbon).

However, the Assembly also highlighted that monitoring is a long journey, requiring both technical partners' support and regions' ownership, and invited participants to exploit the remaining time in the project to refine and apply these strategies across all demonstration regions.

Regional transformation: from research to reality

Field visits across Western Jutland showcased Denmark's leadership in climate adaptation and community-driven innovation. Participants visited the Lemvig Sødal water retention site and the Ramme Power-to-X facility. While the latter visit was more exploratory in nature, it highlighted Denmark's strong commitment to renewable energy, particularly its ability to convert surplus electricity from wind and solar power into hydrogen and ammonium through electrolysis processes. The group also met with the Danish Coastal Directorate and explored the world's largest wind turbine, witnessing first-hand how technological excellence and ecological thinking can reinforce one another.

These visits embodied NBRACER's principle of bridging the gap between research and practice and moreover, they embodied translating technical expertise into locally relevant, scalable solutions.

From frameworks to the future

In its later sessions, the consortium focused on planning the remaining two years of NBRACER. Thanh-Tâm Le, Director of impact and performance at Climate KIC, reminded participants that “the end of the project is not the end of the story”. This is a clear call to ensure that the outcomes created now will live on through regional portfolios and policy integration.

The consortium collectively recognized that while the definition of an NbS portfolio will never be perfect, it must remain adaptable and rooted in the foundational products built over the past two years. As participants agreed, there is no single pathway to achieving regional transformation but only shared learning and collective effort.

Empowering youth and creativity

The General Assembly also celebrated creativity and inclusion through a regional poster exhibition and the announcement of the “Voices of the Youth” contest winners, introduced during the Global Youth Climate Summit 2025 held on 6 October as an interim NBRACER event or an unofficial “day 0”.

The Summit connected people through live dialogue and collaborative workshops, linking inspirational storytelling with practical NbS applications. It also generated three tangible outcomes:

- Increased awareness of NBRACER’s work within international educational communities;
- Creation of educational material links integrating NbS into school curricula; and
- Enhanced youth engagement in democratic and environmental action.

“The Youth Climate Summit was a resounding success in bridging inspirational advocacy with practical Nature-Based Solutions knowledge, empowering students to take pride in their voices and see themselves as agents of change,”

Sarah Lund (Klimatorium)

Looking ahead

In closing, the consortium revisited the project's core mission: to demonstrate that NbS can offer credible, evidence-based solutions to Europe's adaptation challenges but only through collaboration, shared ownership, and sustained learning.

The discussions underscored that the upcoming phase would focus on scaling up NbS from local to landscape levels, ensuring their mainstreaming into regional planning, and strengthening long-term monitoring to provide technical assurance for investors, public institutions, and industries alike.

As the Assembly concluded, participants expressed their gratitude to Klimatorium for hosting an inspiring event that embodied the essence of quadruple-helix collaboration where academia, government, industry, and civil society co-create solutions for a more resilient future and NBRACER would like to add our gratitude towards Klimatorium to the lot.

For more information and to stay up to date on NBRACER's progress, visit NBRACER.EU.

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