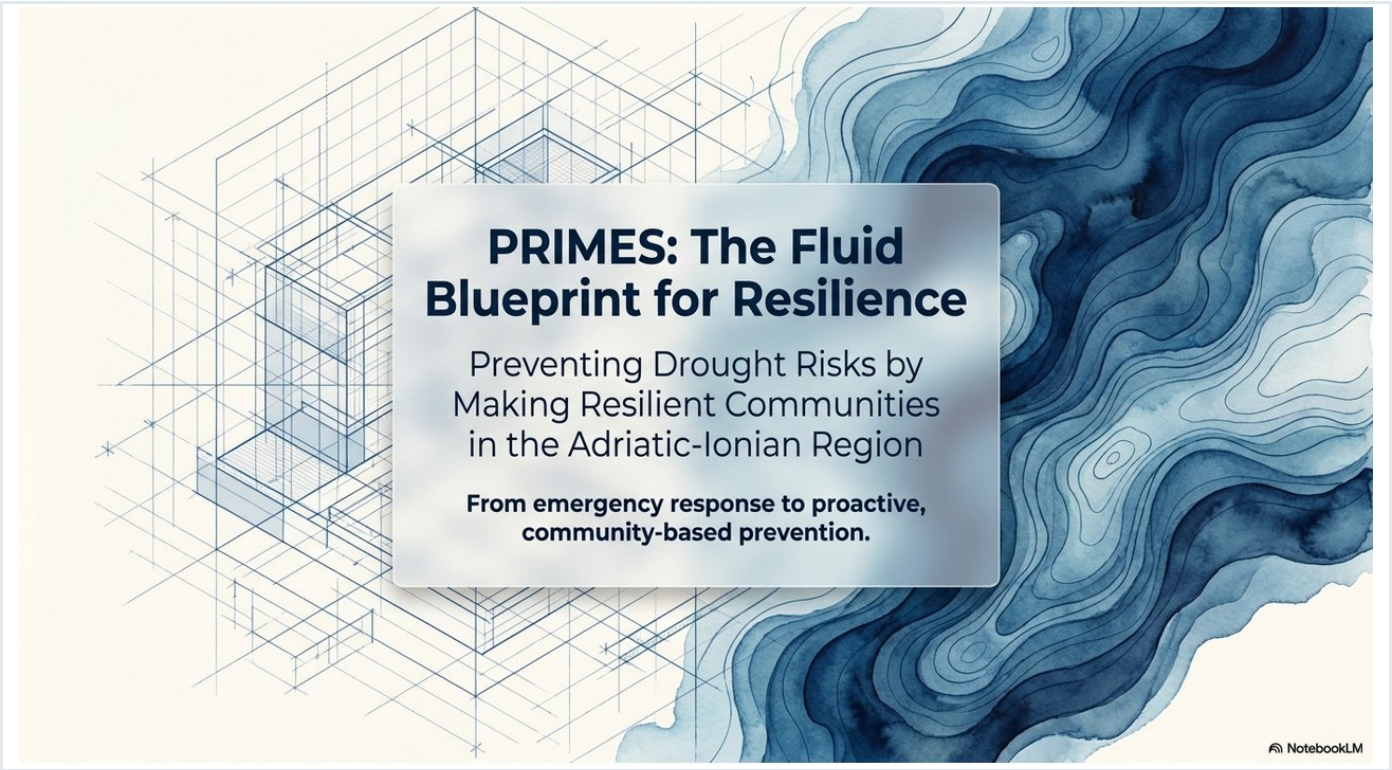
PRIMES

English Speaker Script

Slide-by-slide speaking notes for the Community Drought Resilience presentation



21 slides • Approximate delivery time: 20–25 minutes

The scripts are written as natural spoken English and may be shortened or personalised for the event and audience.

Based on: PRIMES_Community_Drought_Resilience.pptx

CONTENTS

Slide overview

Suggested use

Each page reproduces the corresponding slide and provides a ready-to-deliver script. The wording explains the visual rather than simply reading it aloud.

SLIDE 01

PRIMES: The Fluid Blueprint for Resilience

ESTIMATED TIME
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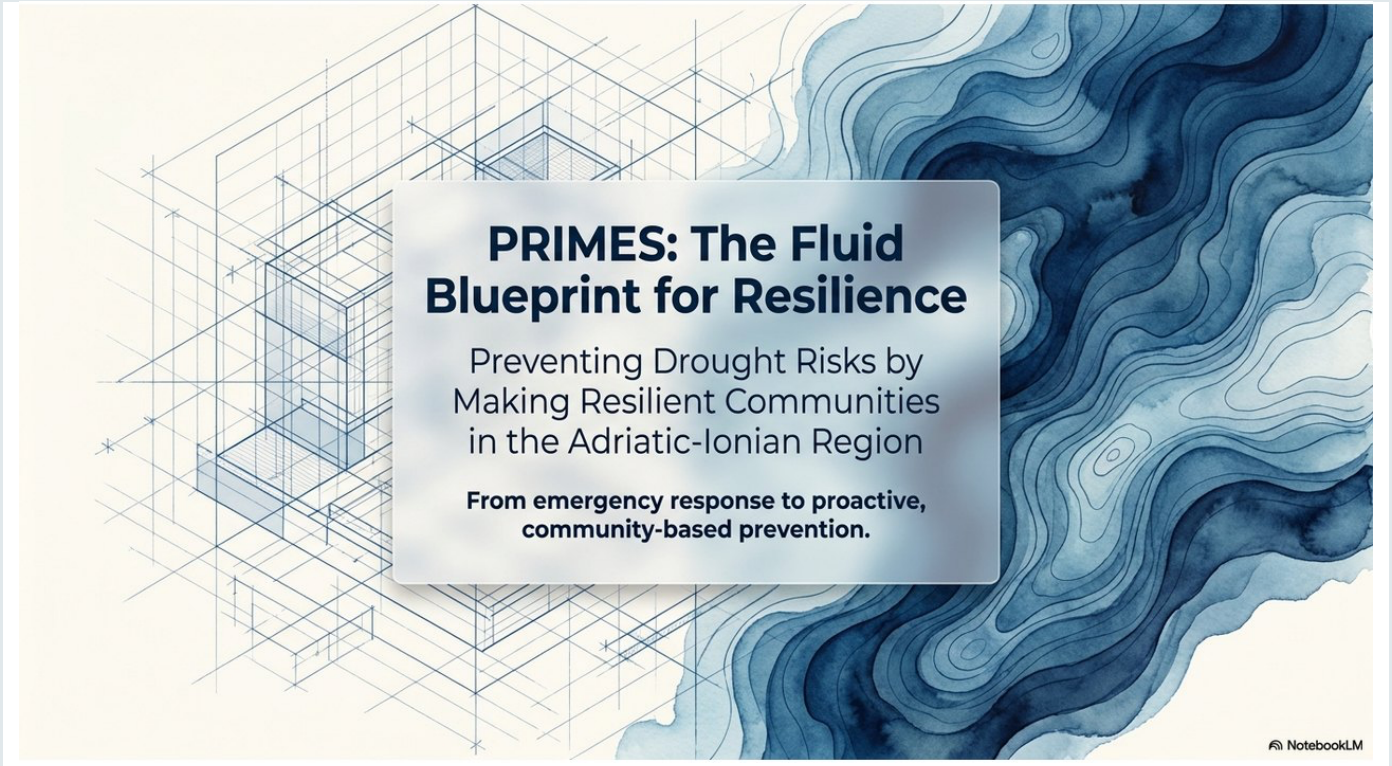

SPEAKER SCRIPT

Good morning, and thank you for joining us. This presentation introduces PRIMES—Preventing Drought Risks by Making Resilient Communities in the Adriatic-Ionian Region. The project starts from a simple but important idea: drought cannot be managed only when a crisis is already under way. We need a fluid blueprint that connects scientific knowledge, governance, digital tools and community action. PRIMES therefore moves from emergency response to proactive, community-based prevention, with a particular focus on helping local territories prepare, adapt and use water more sustainably over the long term. In the following slides, I will explain why this shift is necessary and how the three work packages support it.

SLIDE 02

Why PRIMES?

ESTIMATED TIME
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SPEAKER SCRIPT

Why is PRIMES needed? Because drought is no longer an occasional event that can be treated as an isolated emergency. In the Adriatic-Ionian area, it is becoming a structural and recurring risk, affecting water availability, public services, economic activities and ecosystems. This changes the way institutions and communities need to respond. Emergency measures remain necessary, but they are not enough. We also need prevention, preparedness, early information and coordinated planning. Since drought does not stop at administrative borders, transnational cooperation is essential. PRIMES brings these elements together so that territories can anticipate risk rather than simply react to it.

SLIDE 03

Updated Climate Context

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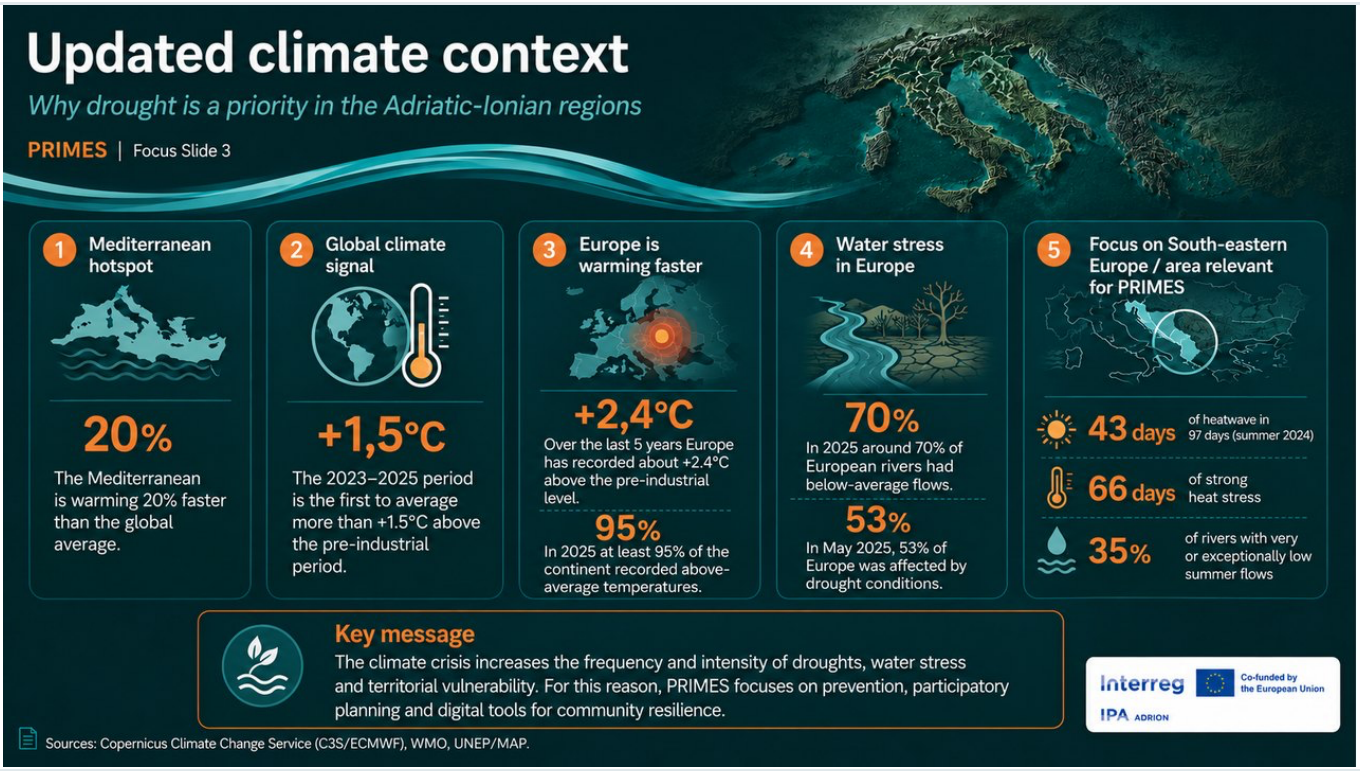

SPEAKER SCRIPT

This slide provides the climate evidence behind the project. The Mediterranean is warming around 20 percent faster than the global average. The 2023–2025 period was the first three-year period to average more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Europe is warming even faster: the latest five-year average is about 2.4 degrees above the pre-industrial baseline, and in 2025 at least 95 percent of the continent experienced above-average temperatures. The water signal is equally clear. Around 70 percent of European rivers had below-average flows in 2025, and 53 percent of Europe was affected by drought conditions in May. In South-eastern Europe, the summer of 2024 brought 43 heatwave days, 66 days of strong heat stress, and very low summer flows in 35 percent of rivers. These figures explain why drought prevention is a strategic priority for PRIMES. The sources reported on the slide include Copernicus, WMO and UNEP/MAP.

SLIDE 04

Drought Is No Longer an Emergency: It Is a Structural Crisis

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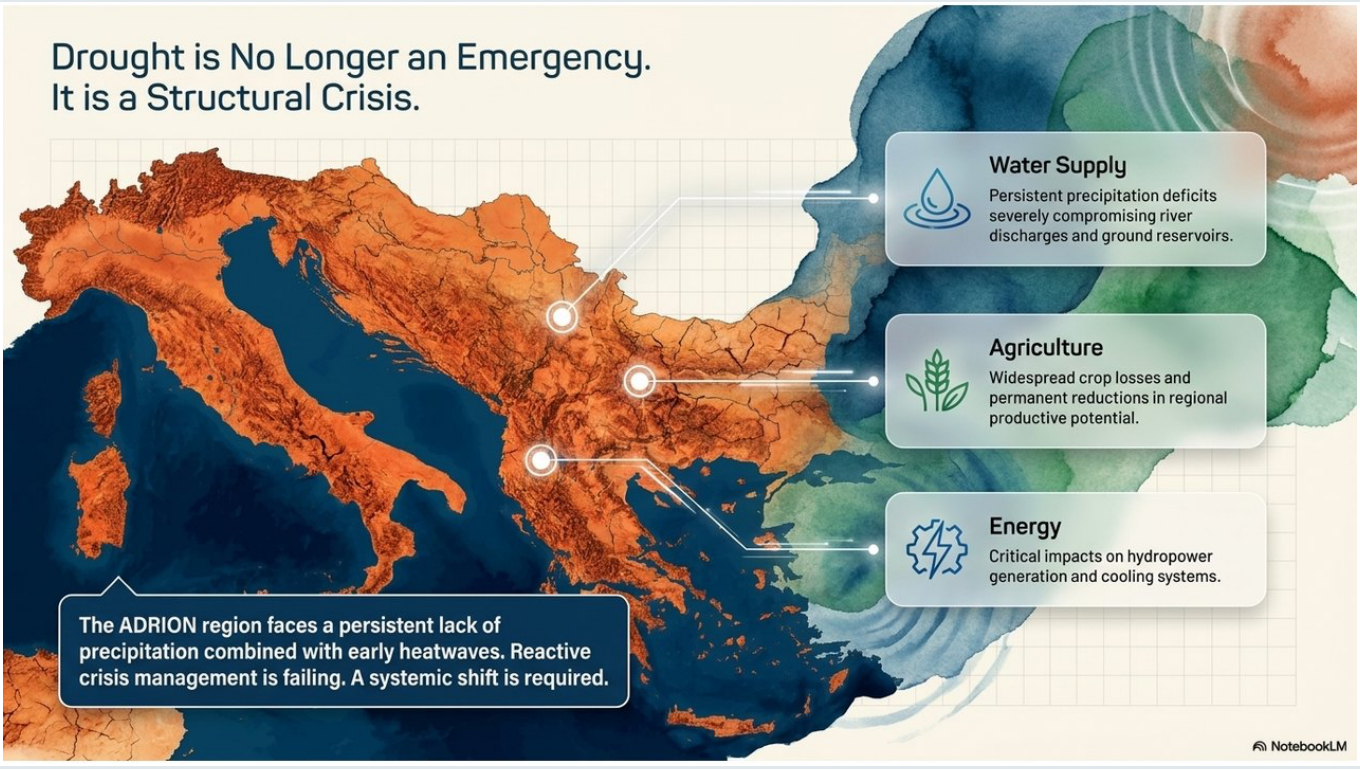

SPEAKER SCRIPT

The key point of this slide is that drought has become a structural crisis with impacts across several connected systems. Persistent rainfall deficits reduce river flows and groundwater availability, putting pressure on drinking-water supply. Agriculture faces crop losses and a decline in productive potential. The energy sector is also exposed through reduced hydropower generation and constraints on cooling systems. In the Adriatic-Ionian region, prolonged dry periods combined with early heatwaves can create cascading impacts across services, economies and communities. This means that reactive crisis management—waiting for shortages and then imposing emergency measures—is no longer sufficient. A systemic shift is required, combining monitoring, preparedness, coordinated governance and long-term adaptation.

SLIDE 05

Drought Impacts

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60 sec

SPEAKER SCRIPT

This slide translates the climate trends into practical consequences. The first and most immediate impact is pressure on water availability and supply networks. For urban areas and water utilities, this can mean lower source availability, greater operational stress and more difficult decisions about distribution and demand. The effects then spread to agriculture, ecosystems, energy production, tourism and local economies. These sectors depend on the same limited resource, so pressure in one area can reinforce pressure in another. Without adaptation, communities become increasingly vulnerable. PRIMES therefore treats drought not as a single-sector problem, but as a territorial risk that requires coordinated action across public authorities, service providers, businesses and citizens.

SLIDE 06

Community Is the Core

ESTIMATED TIME
60 sec

COMMUNITY is the CORE

- Water as a common, precious and limited good.
- Awareness + data + daily responsibility.
- Local communities as a lever of resilience and adaptation.
- Citizens, families, farmers, businesses and schools become part of the solution.

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SPEAKER SCRIPT

PRIMES places the community at the centre of drought resilience. Water is a common, precious and limited resource, and resilience depends not only on infrastructure but also on awareness, reliable data and everyday responsibility. The image of the urban tap and the single drop reminds us that water security is connected to daily decisions: using only what is needed, reporting leaks, protecting drinking-water sources and responding to local information. Communities are therefore not passive recipients of emergency measures. Citizens, families, schools, farmers, businesses, local authorities and water service providers all become part of the solution. This shared involvement is what turns technical knowledge into lasting behavioural and institutional change.

SLIDE 07

The Paradigm Shift: Rethinking Drought Management

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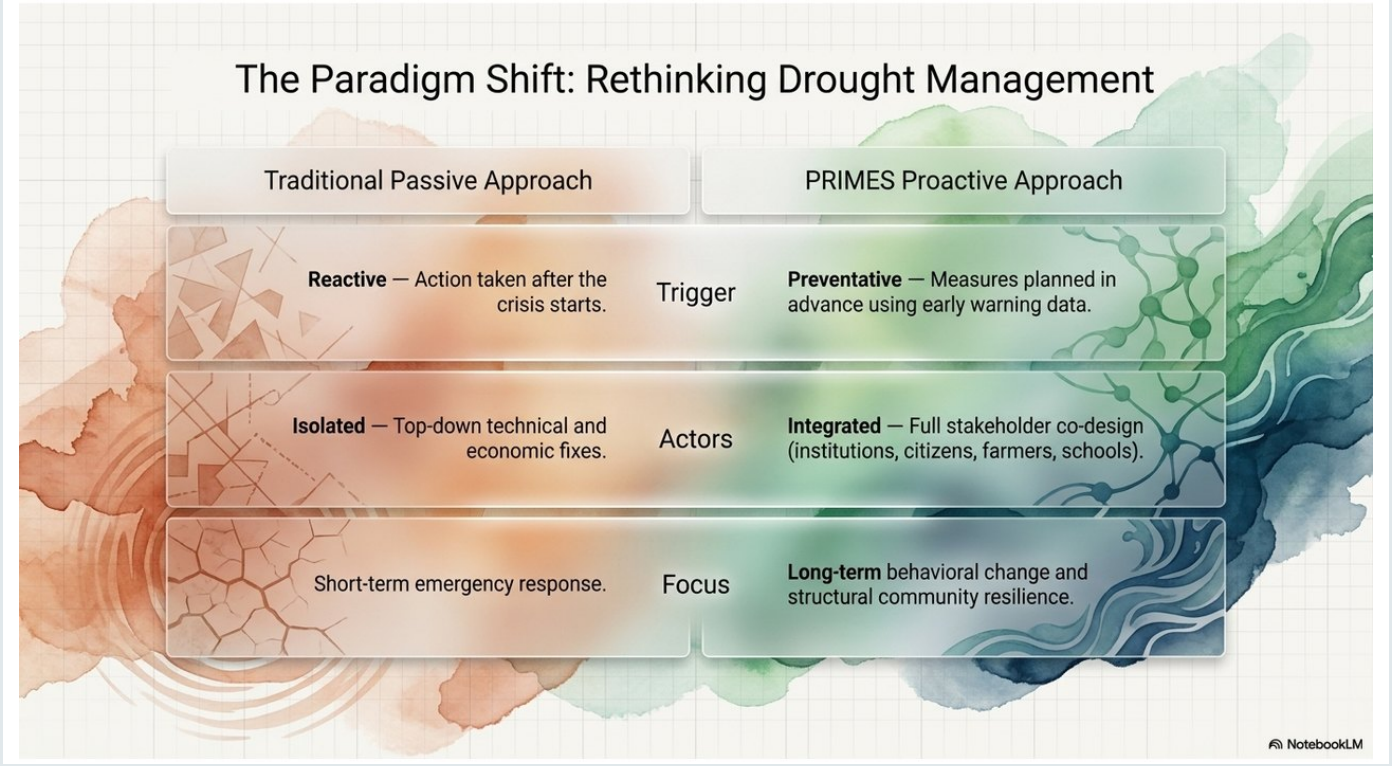

SPEAKER SCRIPT

This slide summarises the paradigm shift proposed by PRIMES. The traditional approach is reactive: action begins only after the crisis has started. The PRIMES approach is preventive, using data and early information to plan measures in advance. The second difference concerns the actors involved. Traditional responses are often isolated and top-down, based mainly on technical or economic fixes. PRIMES instead promotes integrated co-design, bringing together institutions, citizens, farmers, schools and other stakeholders. Finally, the focus changes from short-term emergency response to long-term resilience. The goal is not only to manage the next shortage, but also to change behaviour, strengthen local capacity and create structures that allow communities to prepare for recurring drought risk.

SLIDE 08

The Project at a Glance

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SPEAKER SCRIPT

This slide presents the main dimensions of PRIMES. The project runs for 30 months, with a total budget of just under 1.5 million euros. It brings together 10 partners from six countries—Italy, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Greece—and works with eight pilot communities. Viva Servizi is the lead partner. The partnership includes water utilities, municipalities, regional agencies, national authorities and civil-protection bodies. The main outputs reflect the integrated nature of the project: a transnational cooperation protocol and Adriatic-Ionian network; a digital infrastructure composed of a web platform, a digital tool-kit and a citizen-facing drought information app; a common PRIMES strategy; and eight Community Water Management Plans. In other words, PRIMES is not a single tool. It is a complete pathway from cooperation and knowledge to practical local planning.

SLIDE 09

The Engine of Resilience: An Integrated Ecosystem

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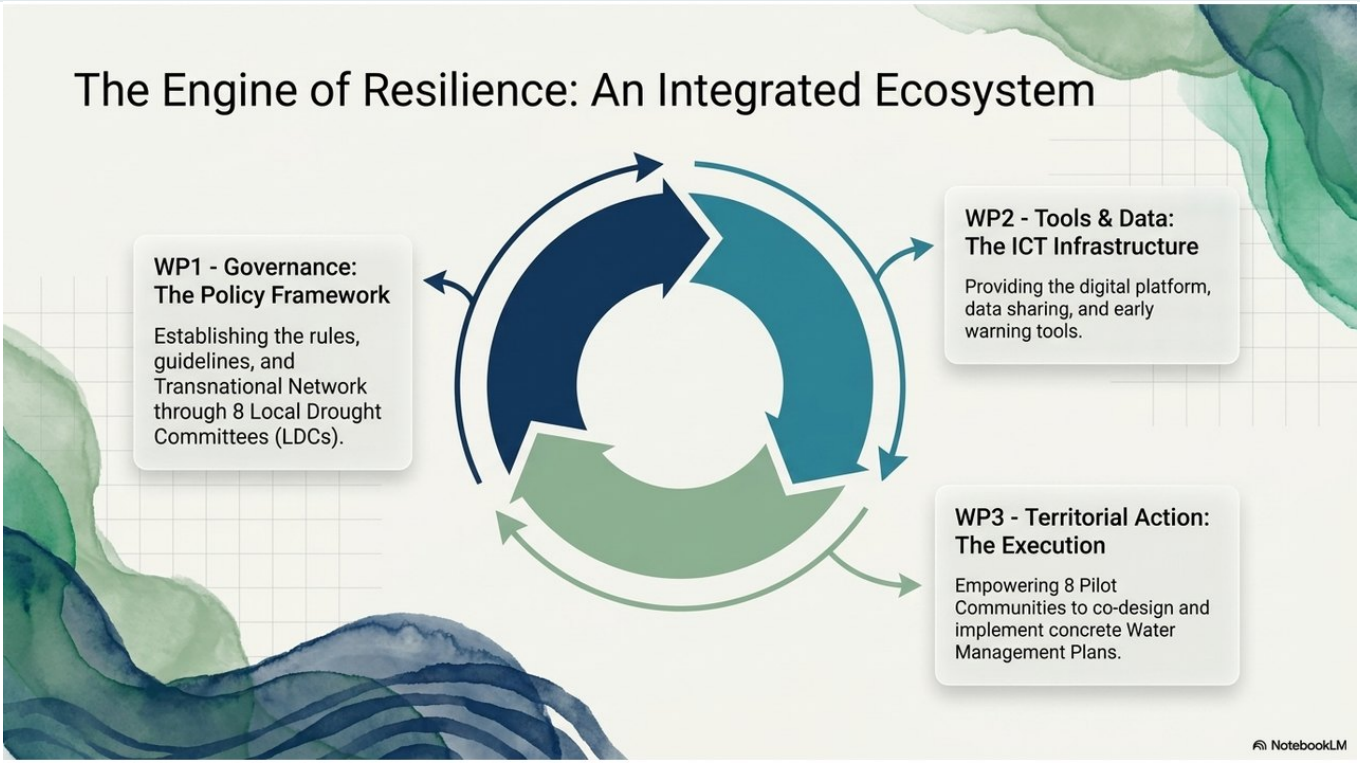

SPEAKER SCRIPT

The three work packages operate as one integrated ecosystem. WP1 creates the governance and policy framework: common guidelines, a transnational network and the Local Drought Committees. WP2 provides the tools and data through the digital platform, information-sharing functions and early-warning resources. WP3 is the territorial execution layer. It enables the eight pilot communities to assess risk, co-design solutions and turn them into concrete water-management plans. The circular graphic is important because these work packages are not separate steps that end in isolation. Governance guides the tools, the tools support local action, and the experience from local action feeds back into governance and shared learning. This continuous loop is the engine of resilience.

SLIDE 10

WP1 – Building the Foundations

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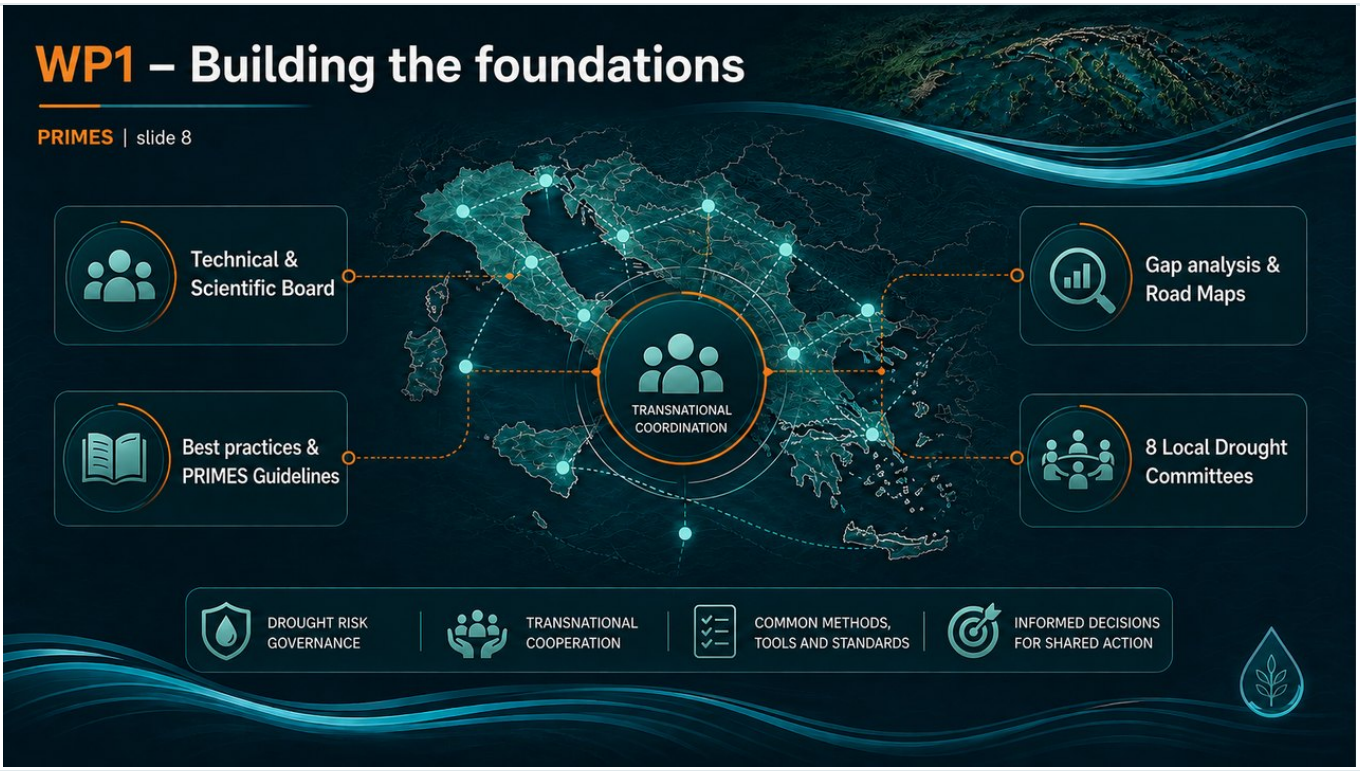

SPEAKER SCRIPT

WP1 builds the institutional and methodological foundations of PRIMES. The Technical and Scientific Board supports the quality and consistency of the project. Best practices are collected and translated into PRIMES Guidelines, providing partners with a common reference. Gap analyses and local road maps then help each territory understand where it currently stands and what needs to be strengthened. The eight Local Drought Committees connect this work to the pilot communities and create a space for local coordination. At the centre of the slide is transnational coordination, linking all these elements across the Adriatic-Ionian area. The expected result is stronger drought-risk governance, more effective cooperation, common methods and standards, and better-informed decisions for shared action.

SLIDE 11

WP1: Building the Transnational Foundation

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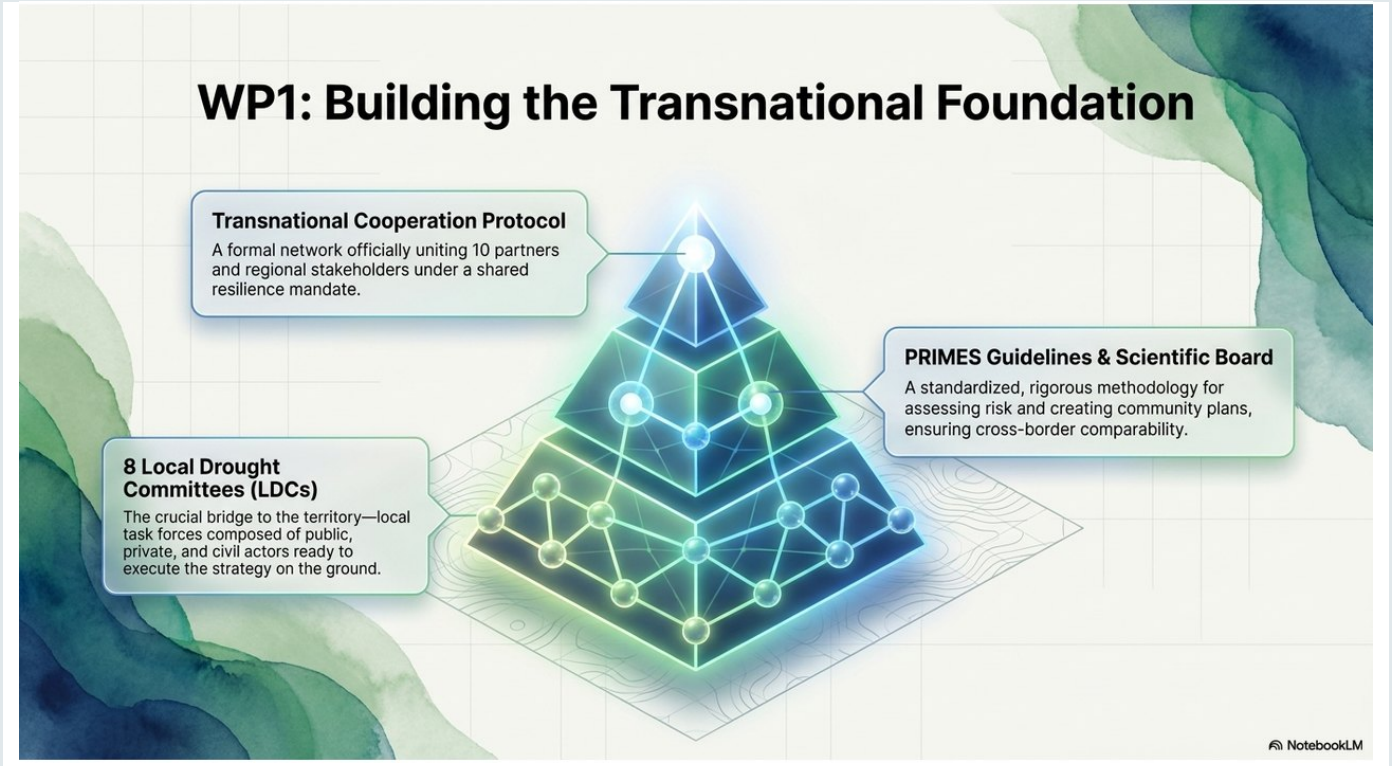

SPEAKER SCRIPT

This slide presents WP1 as a three-level foundation. At the top is the Transnational Cooperation Protocol, which formally connects the 10 partners and regional stakeholders around a shared resilience mandate. This gives the project a common institutional framework beyond individual pilot areas. The second level is the PRIMES Guidelines and the Scientific Board. Together, they provide a rigorous and standardised methodology for assessing drought risk and preparing community plans, while making results comparable across borders. The third level is formed by the eight Local Drought Committees. These committees are the bridge to the territory, bringing public, private and civil-society actors together to support implementation. The strength of WP1 lies in connecting common transnational standards with local ownership and action.

SLIDE 12

WP2: The Smart Infrastructure Stack

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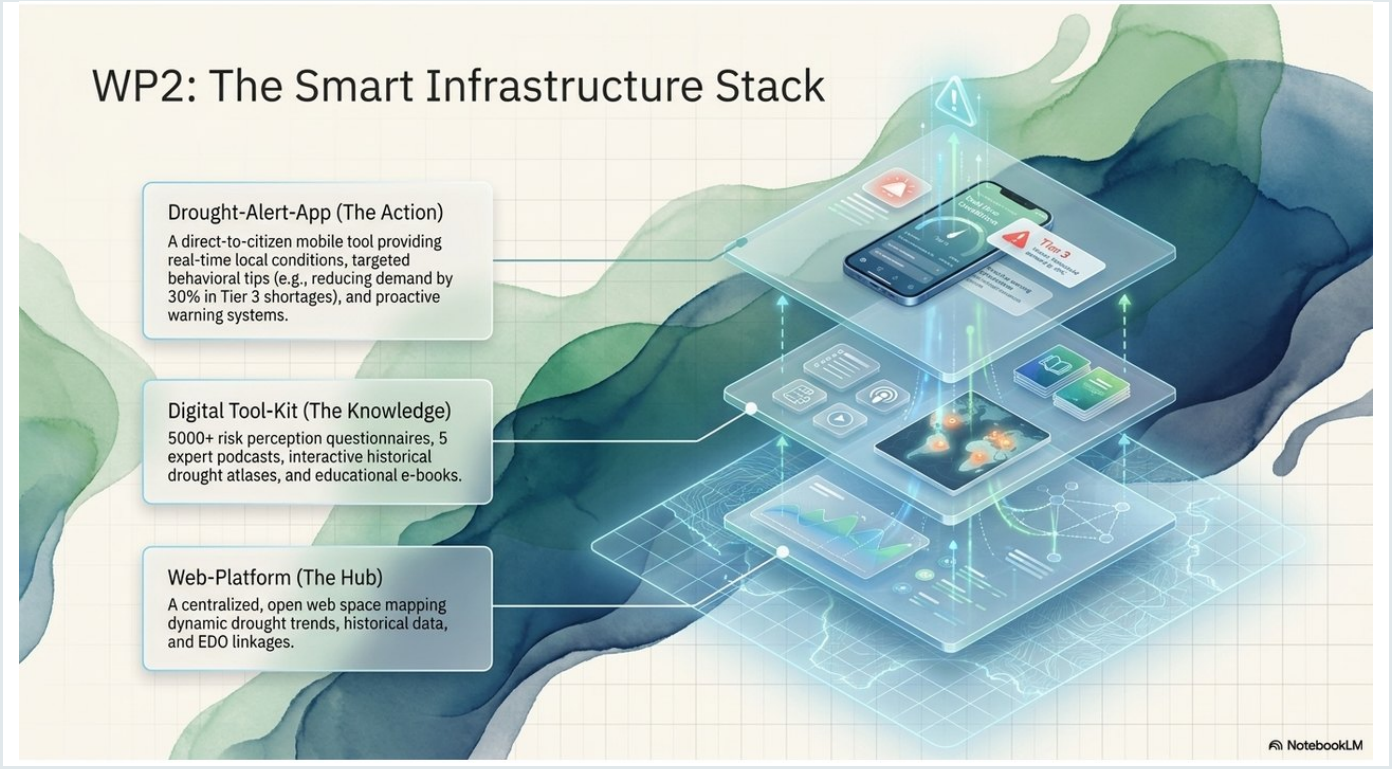

SPEAKER SCRIPT

WP2 provides the digital infrastructure that turns knowledge into accessible information and action. The web platform is the hub: it brings together drought trends, historical information, mapping and links to established European monitoring resources. The Digital Tool-Kit is the knowledge layer. It includes risk-perception questionnaires, expert podcasts, historical drought atlases and educational materials that can be used by institutions, schools and communities. The mobile app is the action layer. It is designed to provide local information, targeted behavioural guidance and proactive warnings directly to citizens, including demand-reduction advice during severe shortages. Each layer serves a different purpose, but together they create a connected system for monitoring, learning, communication and preparedness.

SLIDE 13

WP3 Deep Dive: From Strategy to Territorial Action

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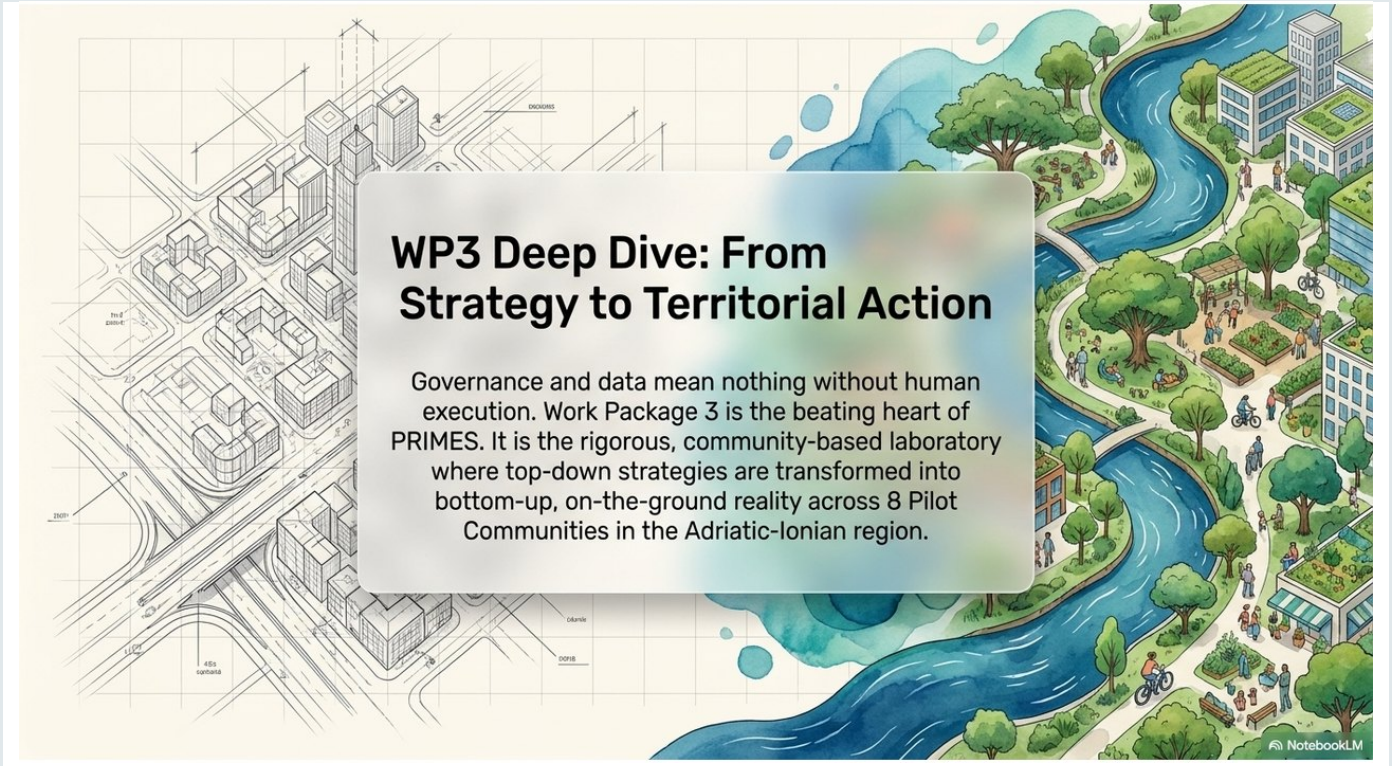

SPEAKER SCRIPT

This slide marks the transition from project architecture to local implementation. Governance and data are essential, but they create value only when people use them to make decisions and change practices. WP3 is therefore the operational heart of PRIMES. It acts as a community-based laboratory in which common strategies, scientific evidence and digital tools are translated into bottom-up action. Across the eight pilot communities, local actors work together to understand their specific risks, identify priorities and design measures that are realistic for their territory. The following slides explain this WP3 process in more detail.

SLIDE 14

WP3 – From Strategy to Territorial Action

ESTIMATED TIME
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SPEAKER SCRIPT

This slide shows the full WP3 pathway from emergency response to proactive community action. The first stage is knowledge and participation: assessing water and climate risks while actively involving communities and stakeholders. The second stage is co-design, using participatory workshops to develop solutions together rather than imposing them from outside. The third stage is the preparation of local plans and actions. The result is eight Community Water Management Plans containing concrete, measurable and implementable measures. The map identifies the eight pilot communities across the Adriatic-Ionian area. The lower part of the slide shows who must be involved: citizens, schools and young people, farmers and businesses, local authorities and water service managers. By combining these perspectives, WP3 aims to improve resilience, water-use efficiency, social cohesion, environmental protection and sustainable local development.

SLIDE 15

The WP3 Playbook: A Four-Step Transformation

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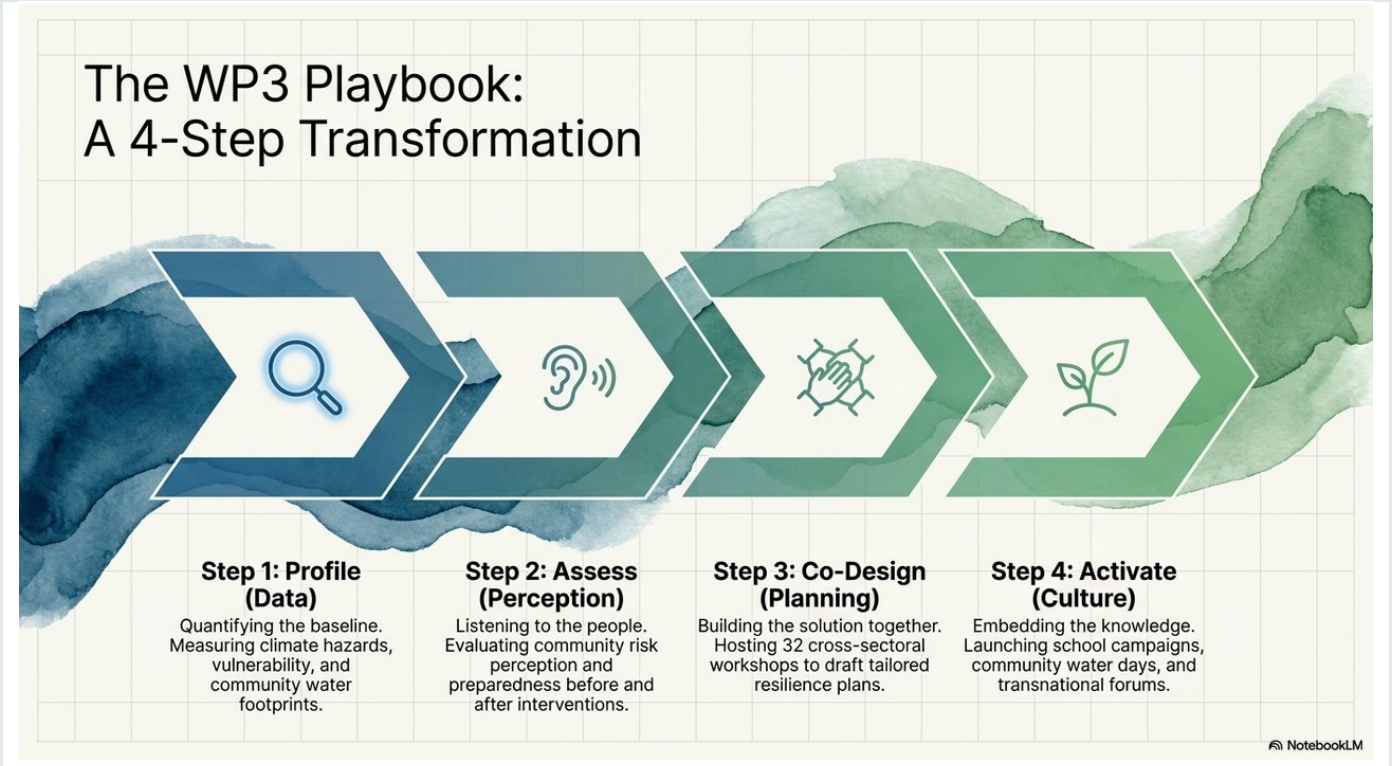

SPEAKER SCRIPT

WP3 can be understood as a four-step transformation. Step one is to profile the territory using data. This means establishing the baseline by measuring climate hazards, vulnerability and the community water footprint. Step two is to assess perception. PRIMES listens to local people and evaluates how communities understand drought risk and how prepared they feel, both before and after the interventions. Step three is co-design and planning. Through 32 cross-sectoral workshops, stakeholders work together to draft tailored resilience measures and community plans. Step four is activation: embedding the knowledge through school campaigns, Community Water Days and transnational forums. The sequence is deliberate. It moves from evidence, to understanding, to joint planning, and finally to a culture in which resilience becomes part of everyday community life.

SLIDE 16

Phases 1 and 2: Fusing Hard Data with Human Perception

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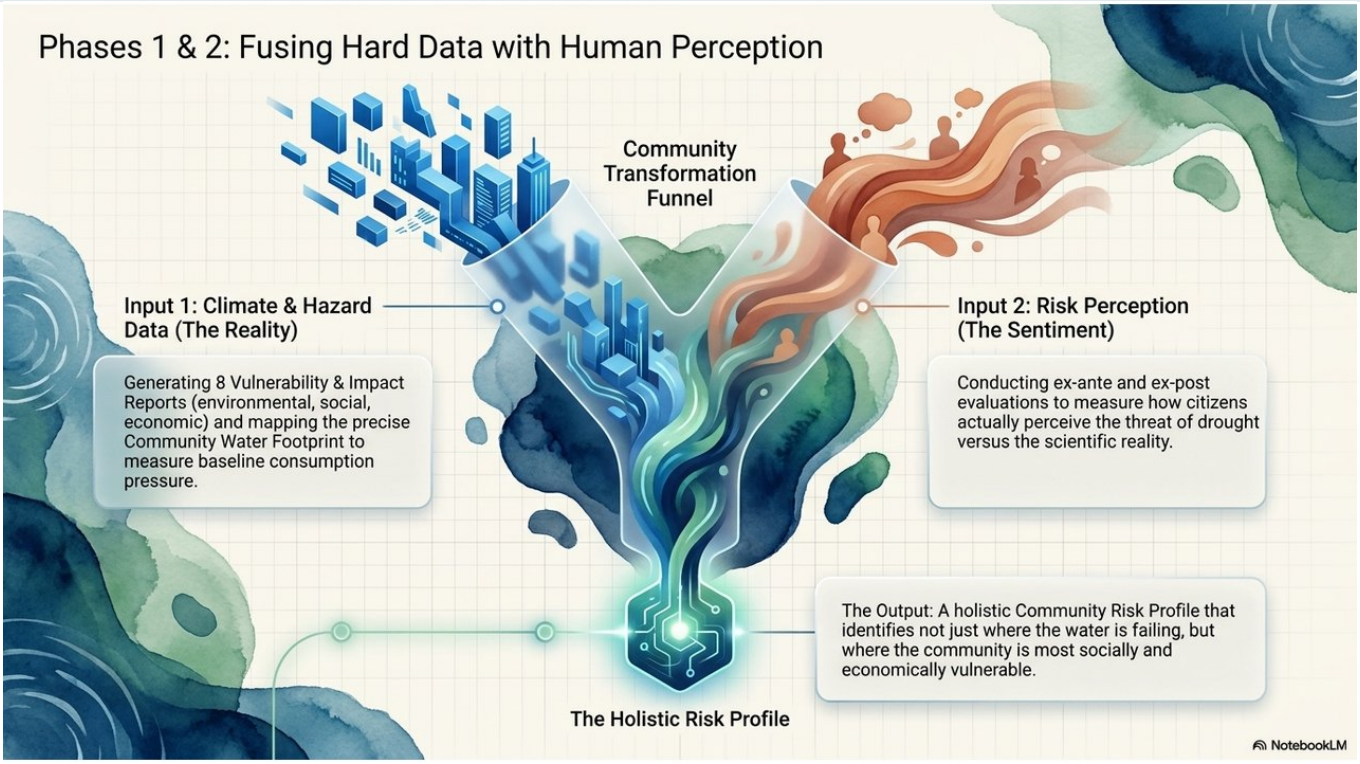

SPEAKER SCRIPT

The first two phases combine two different but complementary types of knowledge. The first input is the evidence base: climate and hazard data, eight vulnerability and impact reports, and Community Water Footprint assessments. These elements describe environmental, social and economic exposure and establish the baseline pressure on water resources. The second input is human perception. Ex-ante and ex-post assessments explore how citizens perceive drought risk, how prepared they feel and how their understanding compares with the evidence. Bringing these two inputs together creates a holistic community risk profile. This profile does more than identify where water availability is under pressure. It also reveals where social or economic vulnerability may make the effects more serious. That fuller picture allows each pilot community to target its actions more effectively.

SLIDE 17

Phase 3: The Co-Design Engine

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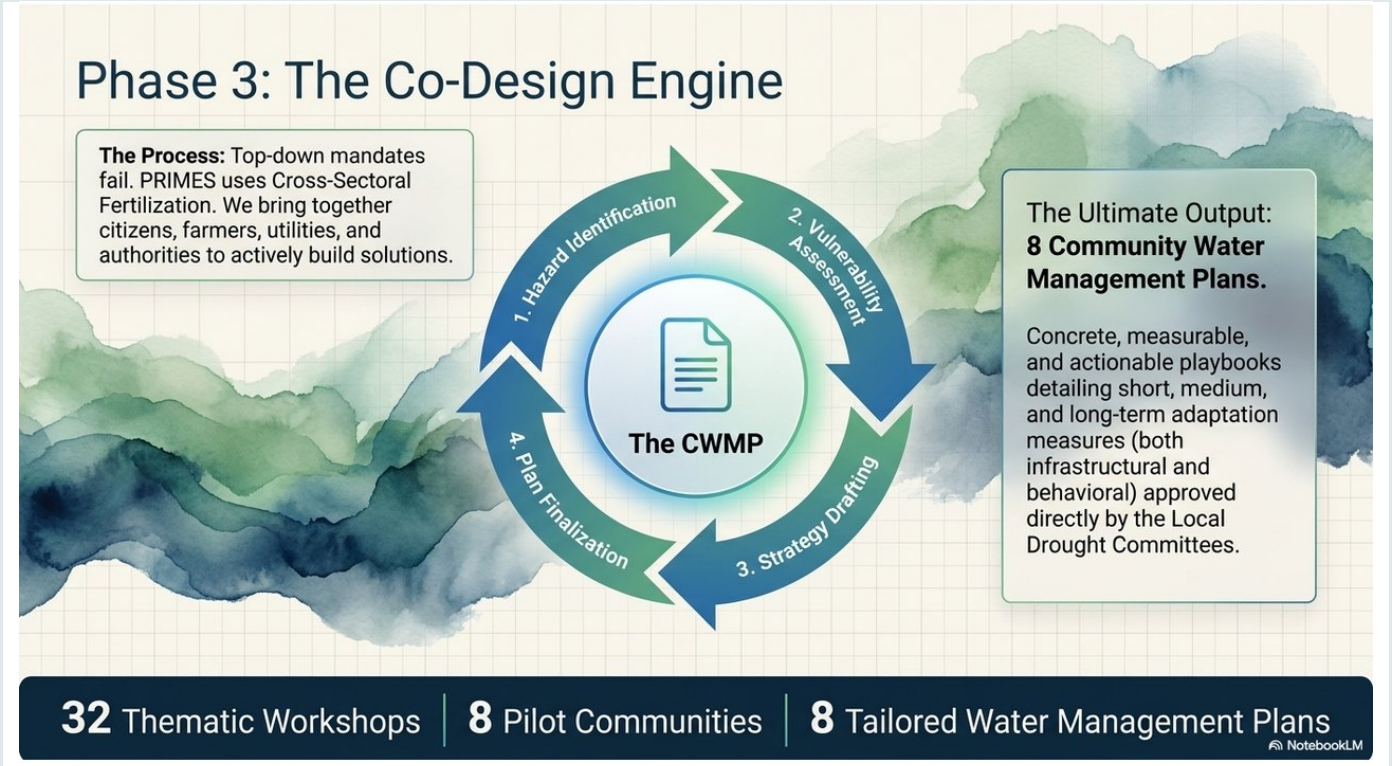

SPEAKER SCRIPT

Phase three is where diagnosis becomes a shared plan. The slide stresses that top-down mandates alone are unlikely to produce lasting change. PRIMES therefore brings citizens, farmers, utilities, public authorities and other local actors into a structured co-design process. Across the eight pilot communities, 32 thematic workshops support a cycle of hazard identification, vulnerability assessment, strategy design and finalisation. The workshops allow participants to compare evidence, discuss practical constraints and agree on priorities. The final output is eight tailored Community Water Management Plans. These are intended to be concrete, measurable and actionable, with short-, medium- and long-term measures that may include behavioural, organisational and infrastructural actions. Approval through the Local Drought Committees gives the plans local legitimacy and a clear link to implementation.

SLIDE 18

Phase 4: Activating a Culture of Water Resilience

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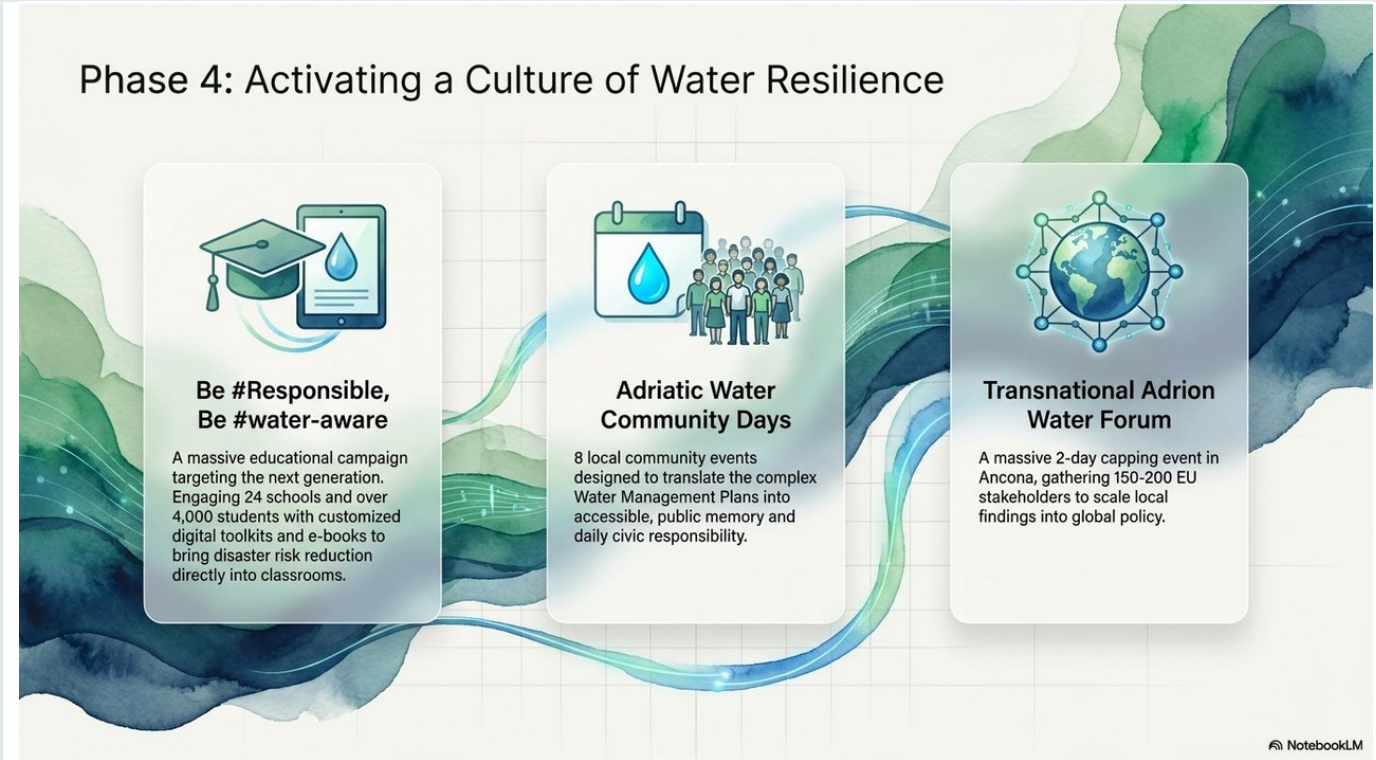

SPEAKER SCRIPT

The fourth phase ensures that the plans do not remain technical documents. The first action is the “Be Responsible, Be Water-Aware” educational campaign, which targets the next generation through 24 schools, around 4,000 students and customised digital materials. The eight Adriatic Water Community Days bring the project into public spaces and help translate complex water-management plans into understandable messages and daily civic responsibility. The Transnational Adrion Water Forum then connects local experience to a wider audience. The two-day event in Ancona is designed to bring together approximately 150 to 200 European stakeholders and share the lessons from the pilot areas. Together, these activities turn knowledge into culture, strengthen public ownership and give local results a transnational platform.

SLIDE 19

The Bi-Directional Loop: From Global to Local and Back

ESTIMATED TIME
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SPEAKER SCRIPT

PRIMES is designed as a two-way learning loop. From the top down, the transnational strategy developed through WP1 and the digital infrastructure created through WP2 provide scientific rigour, common guidelines, monitoring capacity and shared tools. These elements give the pilot communities a strong framework for action. From the bottom up, the eight Community Water Management Plans generate practical evidence. Their local data, implementation experience, successes and behavioural insights feed back into the PRIMES network. This prevents the pilot actions from becoming isolated demonstrations. Instead, they become living laboratories whose lessons can refine the wider strategy and support replication in other Adriatic-Ionian and Mediterranean territories. The value lies in the continuous exchange between common direction and local reality.

SLIDE 20

Anchoring the Future: European Alignment

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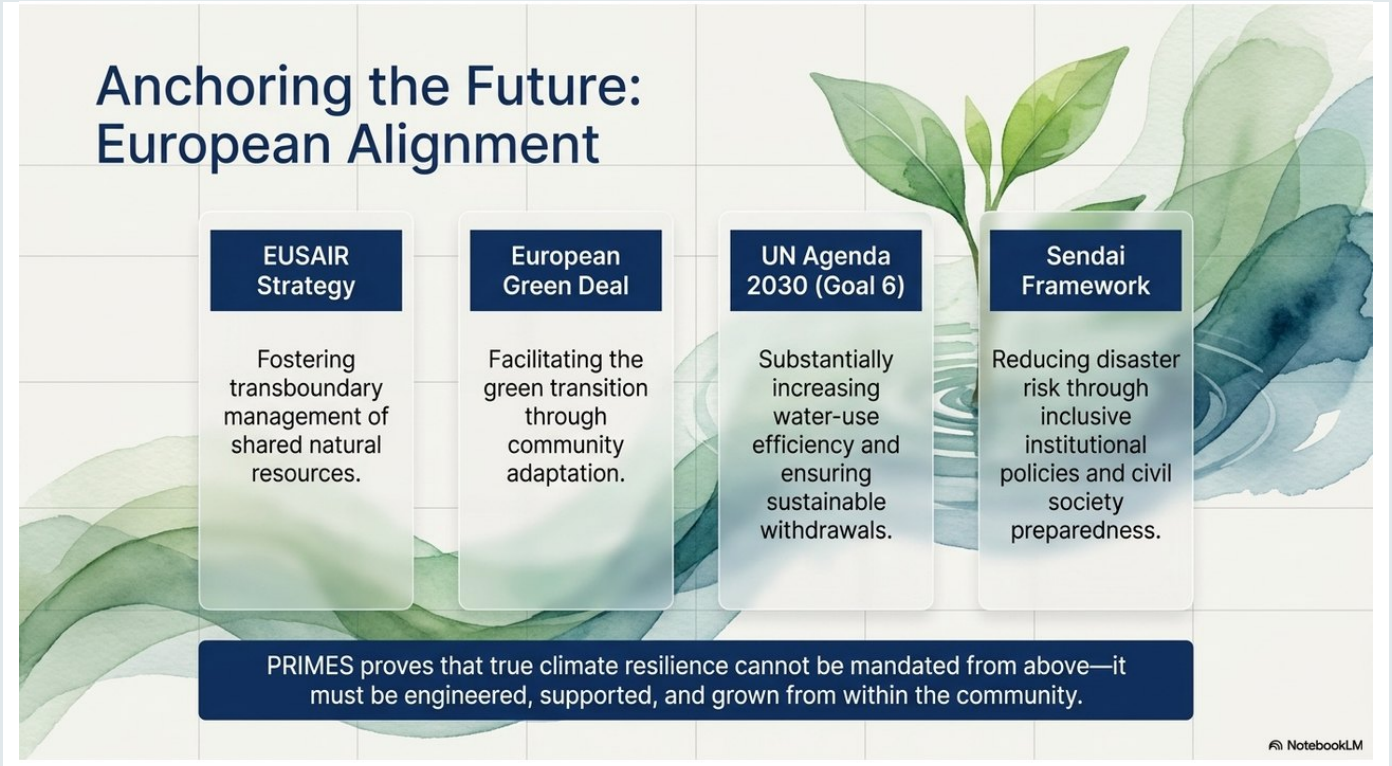

SPEAKER SCRIPT

PRIMES is closely aligned with major European and international policy frameworks. It supports the EUSAIR Strategy by promoting transboundary management of shared natural resources. It contributes to the European Green Deal by linking the green transition with community adaptation and local resilience. It also supports United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 by encouraging more efficient water use and sustainable withdrawals. Finally, it reflects the Sendai Framework by strengthening disaster-risk reduction through inclusive institutions and civil-society preparedness. The important point is that this alignment is practical, not only formal. PRIMES translates broad policy objectives into local processes, tools and plans. The message at the bottom of the slide captures the approach: climate resilience cannot simply be mandated from above; it must be supported and grown from within the community.

SLIDE 21

Key Messages

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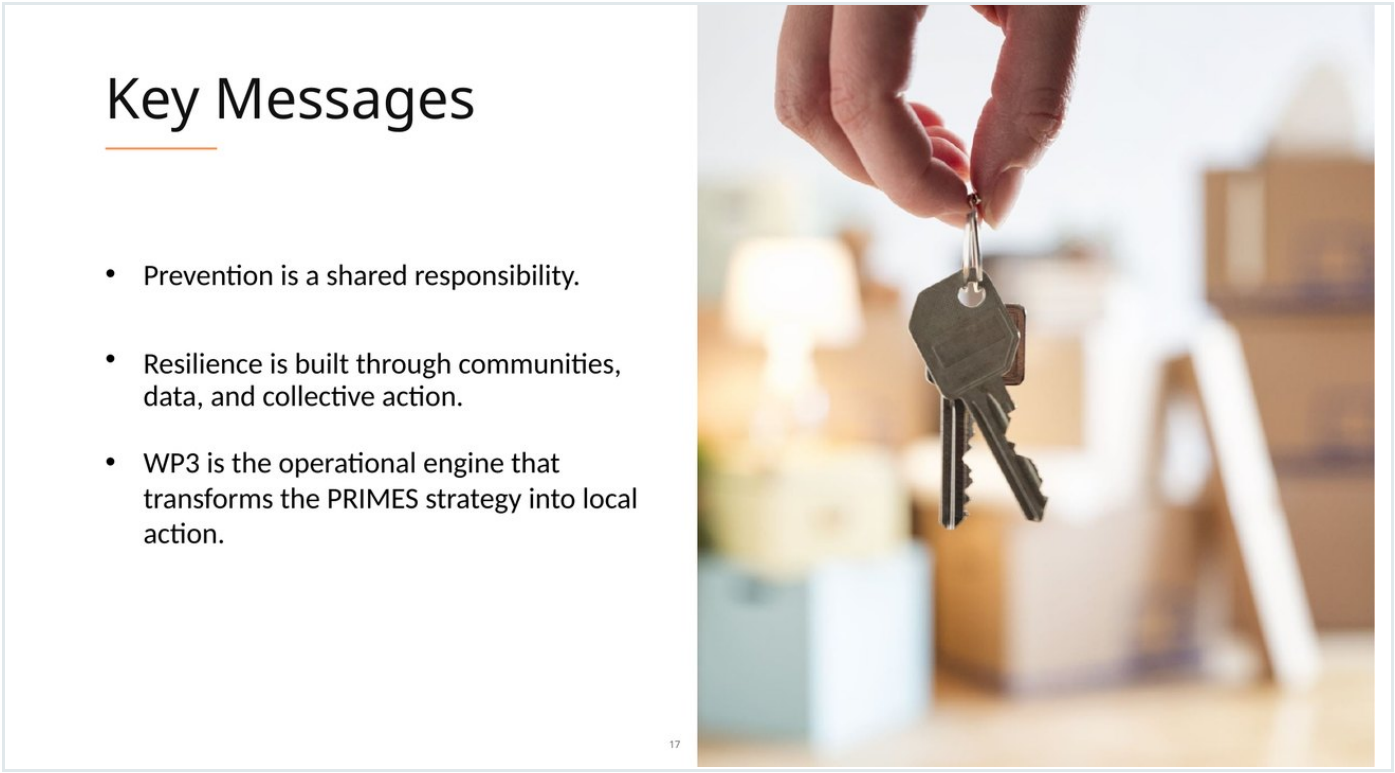

SPEAKER SCRIPT

Let me close with three messages. First, prevention is a shared responsibility. Institutions and water utilities have essential roles, but lasting resilience also depends on the choices and participation of communities. Second, resilience is built by combining empowered communities, reliable data and collective action. None of these elements is sufficient on its own. Third, WP3 is the operational engine that turns the PRIMES strategy into local action. It connects risk assessment, participation, co-design, planning and public engagement in the eight pilot communities. The wider value of PRIMES is therefore not only the production of tools and plans, but the creation of a shared way of working for long-term water resilience across the Adriatic-Ionian region. Thank you.