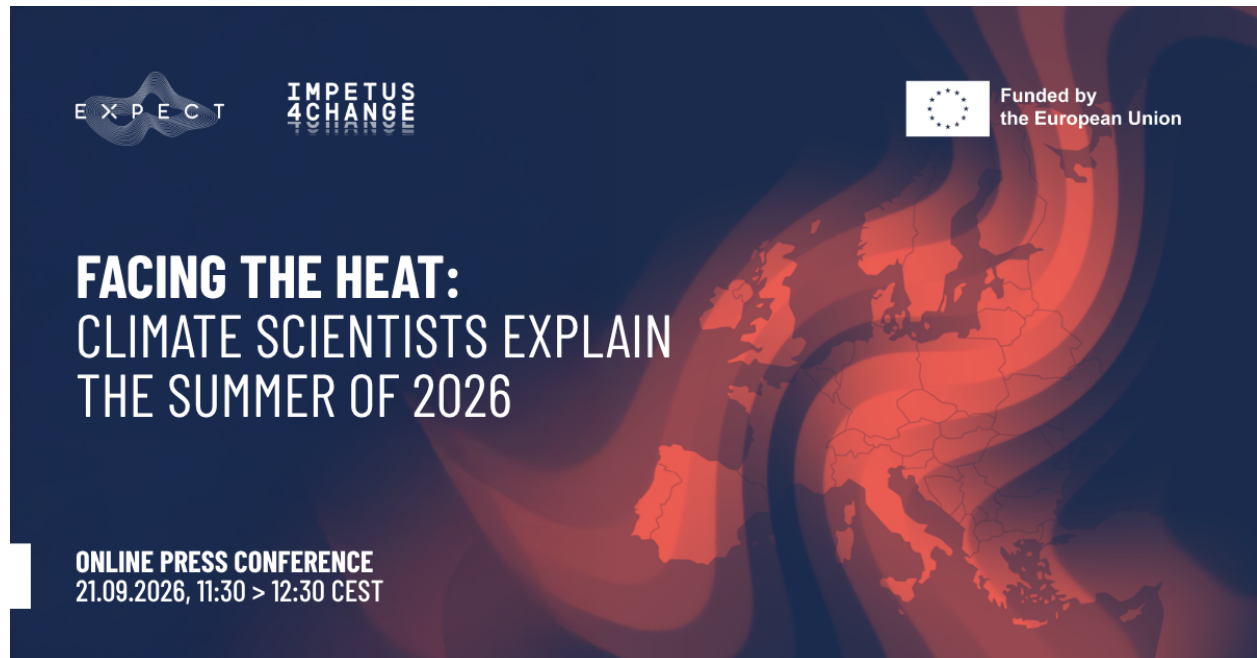


FACING THE HEAT: CLIMATE SCIENTISTS EXPLAIN THE SUMMER OF 2026



Between June and August 2026, temperatures in Western Europe [reached highs never before recorded](#). Along with heatwaves, residents across Europe endured wildfires, heat stroke and other risks associated with climate change. Amidst these emergencies, local representatives need to adapt quickly and effectively.

A **scientific explanation is needed** to understand what happened this summer and what will likely continue to occur in the future.

Join us at 11:30 CEST on 21 September for an online press conference featuring two EU-funded climate projects, [EXPECT](#) and [Impetus4Change \(I4C\)](#).

What's in it for you?

Hear directly from leading climate scientists as they unpack **what happened** this summer, **why it happened**, and what the latest evidence tells us about **what comes next**. Researchers from both projects will take stock of summer 2026 by presenting their latest insights on the current state of climate change.

You'll also have a chance to **ask your questions** to EXPECT and I4C scientists about a host of topics, including:

- **Why Europe is the fastest-warming continent and what is driving the acceleration**, from atmospheric circulation to land–atmosphere feedbacks and human activity.
- **What climate models can (and cannot) tell us about the future**, including common misconceptions, advances in high-resolution modelling and the use of machine learning to improve local projections of heatwaves.
- **What extreme heat could look like in European cities in the years and decades ahead**, with insights from climate assessments and sub-seasonal heat outlooks in cities such as Barcelona.

Preliminary Agenda

Time	Agenda
11:30-11:35	Welcome & Introduction <i>Arctik - Communication for Sustainability, WP leader for Communication & Dissemination for Expect and Impetus4Change</i>
11:35-11:40	Meet the projects <i>Markus Donat, Project Coordinator, EXPECT, and Stefan Sobolowski, Project Coordinator, Impetus4Change</i>
11:40-11:50	Making sense of summer 2026 - setting the scene <i>Markus Donat ICREA Research Professor, Lead Researcher at Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC)</i>
11:50-12:00	What does this mean for future climate adaptation: lessons from Barcelona <i>Paloma Trascasa Castro, Postdoctoral Researcher, Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC)</i>
12:00-12:30	Q&A with press <i>Questions and discussions with researchers and scientists</i>

Interested in participating?

Register now by filling in [this form](#) and submitting your questions in advance.

We'll share the **final agenda and access link** with registered participants shortly. For further information, please contact:

Emma Cabascia at emma.cabascia@arctik.eu

Jose Canovas at press@bsc.es

About the projects

EXPECT is a Horizon Europe research project that aims to address the urgent issue of rapid climate change, which has led to an increase in extreme weather events at a rate faster than current models predicted.

Find out more:

Download the [EXPECT leaflet](#)

Follow on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Bluesky](#)

Impetus4Change (I4C) is also a Horizon Europe research project helping city and social experts work together to improve the quality and accessibility of climate information in cities and regions.

Find out more:

Watch [the project video](#)

Follow on [LinkedIn](#), [Bluesky](#), [X](#)

Additional reading to familiarise yourself with the subjects of the press conference:

- [I4C's Press Release](#): Barcelona Supercomputing Center launches new temperature forecasting service.
- [EXPECT's publication](#) on summer warming and atmospheric circulation changes in response to aerosol forcing.