

Newsletter - AGILE Stress Tests | A New Year, Building on a Year of Action

Recapping a year of system stress-testing & looking ahead to 2026

As we begin 2026, the AGILE Project team would like to extend our warmest New Year wishes to all partners, stakeholders, and collaborators. We hope the year ahead brings renewed energy, resilience, and opportunity.

2025 marked a significant chapter in the **AGILE Project's Stress Test** journey. Over the course of the year, the consortium delivered a series of Tier 1 and Tier 2 stress test workshops across multiple



European regions addressing distinct risk contexts. Each event brought together diverse stakeholder groups; from emergency responders and infrastructure managers to policy experts and researchers, to collaboratively explore complex cascading scenarios under the lens of High Impact Low Probability (HILP) events.

Workshops in Venice, Setúbal, Rotterdam, and Iceland tackled a wide range of challenges, from cascading coastal risks and climate-related socio-ecological system vulnerabilities to cyber threats affecting critical urban infrastructure, and natural hazards such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Participants engaged in workshops that tested early response and recovery strategies using AGILE's stress test methodology. Stakeholders praised the use of the AGILE serious card game (Tier 1) and the approach for its practical, scenario-based exercises (Tier 2) which supported evidence-based, lateral thinking and inclusive participation. The threat-agnostic approach allowed individuals to move beyond expected scenarios and routines and take a system level view beyond their day-to-day roles, with a focus in collaboration across diverse sectors and institutional levels. Many described the sessions as energising and thought-provoking, and valued the space for open reflection, interpretation, and the opportunity to challenge assumptions.



The workshops also revealed the complexity of managing interdependencies and cascading effects across systems. From infrastructure and information flows to coordination and decision-making, the simulations helped surface hidden vulnerabilities and illustrated how disruptions in one area can quickly ripple through others. In several sessions,

stakeholders chose to extend their engagement beyond the official programme to continue exchanging ideas and perspectives.

The final stress test of the year took place in Venice, where the AGILE consortium has begun its 2025 journey. There, the focus turned to climate-related disruptions and socio-ecological system resilience in a complex urban–coastal context. The session was hosted by the CMCC Foundation, with support from local authorities and researchers, and marked the close of the AGILE stress-testing activities for this year.

As the project paused over the winter, the AGILE jellyfish drifted into quieter waters, reflecting on a year of shared learning, diverse perspectives, and collective progress toward strengthening systemic resilience to future shocks.

Looking ahead, the stress test workshops will resume in February 2026, starting with the Tier 1 workshops in Bucharest and Ukraine. Throughout the year, the programme will expand across several European cities, including Setúbal, Reykjavík, London, Frankfurt, and Venice. For the first time, the AGILE stress test will also go beyond Europe, with a Tier 1 workshop to be hosted in Asia. This marks a significant step in applying the AGILE methodology to new geographic, cultural, and systemic contexts.

The consortium remains committed to keeping stakeholders informed and engaged through regular updates, event highlights, publications, and behind-the-scenes stories shared on our LinkedIn and YouTube channels, including interviews and insights from partners and participants.

From all of us in the AGILE project, we thank all stakeholders, local hosts, and project partners for their trust, time, and collaboration throughout 2025. Your contributions have strengthened the AGILE stress test methodology, making it more grounded, relevant, and ready for the challenges ahead.

We wish you a very Happy New Year and a strong start to 2026.

Until then, the jellyfish moves forward. 



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