



Adaptation to climate change in the EU: the central role of national adaptation strategies

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Nicosia, 27 March 2014



Why an EU Strategy?

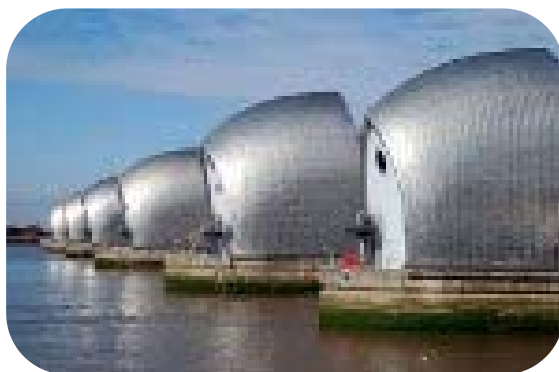
- **Cross-border** dimensions
- EU competence in **common policies** affected by climate change
- **Economies of scale** in capacity-building, research, data-gathering and knowledge transfer
- Different capacities and vulnerabilities across regions and population call for **solidarity**
- **EU Funding**



EU Adaptation Strategy (2013)

Contributing to a more climate-resilient Europe

Priority 1:
**Promoting
action by
Member States**



Priority 2:
**Better informed
decision-
making**



Priority 3:
**Key vulnerable
sectors**



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Priority 1: Promoting action by Member States

Action 1. Encourage MS to adopt Adaptation Strategies and action plans

- Guidelines on developing adaptation strategies
- Check in 2017 coverage & quality of NAS

Action 2. LIFE funding, including adaptation priority areas

- cross-border floods management, cross-border coastal management
- urban environment
- mountain and island areas
- drought-prone areas (water, desertification, fire risks)

Action 3. Promoting adaptation action by cities along the Covenant of Mayors initiative

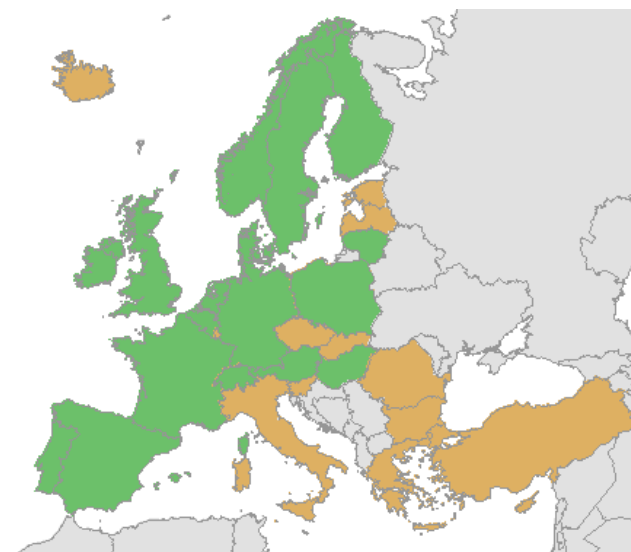
- Launch on March 19, 2014
- Complements mitigation efforts under existing Covenant

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Developing national adaptation strategies: why?

Action 1

- An Adaptation Strategy aims to increase society's resilience to climate change.
- It is a framework for managing future climate risk, prioritising and coordinating action.
- It must result in climate risk being considered as a normal part of decision-making.
- Any climate change adaptation strategy must be flexible and continue changing as new impacts are seen.





Developing national adaptation strategies: How?

Action 1

- Commission published guidelines on developing adaptation strategies
- Build on the adaptation support tool available on Climate-ADAPT
- Advance a common understanding of important aspects relevant to any adaptation process
- Highlight key principles for successful adaptation processes
- Present various good practices taken by EU Member States



Brussels, 16.4.2013
SWD(2013) 134 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Guidelines on developing adaptation strategies

Accompanying the document

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

An EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change

{COM(2013) 216 final}
{SWD(2013) 131 final}
{SWD(2013) 132 final}
{SWD(2013) 133 final}
{SWD(2013) 135 final}
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{SWD(2013) 137 final}
{SWD(2013) 138 final}
{SWD(2013) 139 final}

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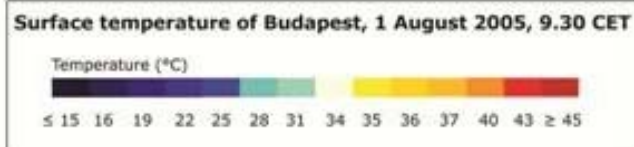
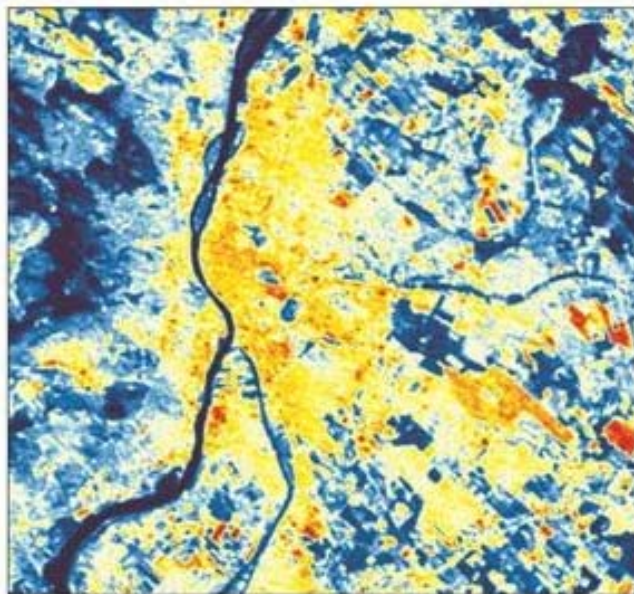
Developing national adaptation strategies: When?

Action 1

- The EU Adaptation Strategy encourages all Member States to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies (action 1)
- The Commission is providing guidelines for formulating adaptation strategies.
- By 2014 the Commission will develop an adaptation preparedness scoreboard, identifying key indicators for measuring Member States' level of readiness → on-going discussions with MS
- In 2017, the Commission will assess whether action being taken in the Member States is sufficient. If it deems progress to be insufficient, [...], the Commission will consider without delay proposing a legally binding instrument.

From national to local: Fostering urban adaptation

Action 3



- Cities and urban areas are particularly vulnerable
- Impacts are often stronger and more costly:
 - High share of population concerned (e.g. heat waves)
 - Different magnitude of damages due to concentration of infrastructure/assets (e.g. cost of floods in cities; port cities)
 - Co-location of network infrastructure and possible cascade failure (e.g. energy, ICT)
 - Urban Heat Island effect
- Coherence between national, regional and local strategies is vital!

Main challenges for urban areas

Action 3



Map of how and where high tides of 226cm over sea level will flood Inner Copenhagen (2110).
©City of Copenhagen

- **High investment needs**
 - Adaptation of existing infrastructure (e.g. buildings, canalisation, electricity distribution)
 - Protective measures (e.g. flood protection in built environment)
 - Climate resilience of new infrastructure (e.g. new construction/planning parameters)
- **Governance issues**
 - Long-term impacts vs. short-term political cycles (political commitment)
 - Integrated nature of adaptation (many sectors)
 - Geographical scope and co-operation (e.g. river basins)
 - Risk awareness across policies and adaptive capacity of stakeholders (incl. urban/land-use planning)



'Mayors Adapt': Support for Cities

Action 3

New EU initiative, launched on 19 March 2014

- Follows the model of the **Covenant of Mayors** (for mitigation)

Approach:

- **Political commitment** to develop/implement local adaptation strategies
- **Direct support for cities** (help-desk)
- **Link to LIFE funding** – 2014 call focussed on urban adaptation, including the development of urban adaptation strategies
- Better access to **urban knowledge** (via Climate-Adapt)
- www.mayors-adapt.eu



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Priority 2: Better informed decision-making

Action 4. Knowledge-gap strategy

- Identify and prioritise knowledge gaps
- Feed this into programming Horizon 2020
- Better interfaces science/policy/business
- EU-wide vulnerability assessments: JRC (economic costs of cc); Integrated threat and risk assessment reports (2015).

Action 5. Climate-ADAPT:

- Develop interfaces with other databases and climate services
- Inclusion of Copernicus (Ex-GMES) climate services



Priority 3: Key vulnerable sectors

Action 6. Climate proofing of Common Agricultural Policy, Cohesion Policy, and Common Fisheries Policy

- Guidance
- Capacity building

Action 7. Making infrastructure more resilient

- Mapping standards through CEN/CENELEC
- Guidelines for project developers

Action 8. Promote products & services by insurance and finance markets

- Green paper insurance of disasters
- Stakeholder dialogue

Thank you.

Where to find more information?

Factsheet →

Climate-ADAPT



CLIMATE-ADAPT
European Climate Adaptation Platform

Home | Adaptation information | EU sector policies | Countries and other areas | Tools | Links | Search the database

Climate Change Adaptation in Europe

The European Climate Adaptation Platform (CLIMATE-ADAPT) aims to support Europe in adapting to climate change. It is an initiative of the European Commission and helps users to access and share information on:

- Expected climate change in Europe
- Current and future vulnerability of regions and sectors
- National and transnational adaptation strategies
- Adaptation case studies and potential adaptation options
- Tools that support adaptation planning

Find case studies on adaptation in Europe

Share your information

<http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/>

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EU adaptation
Strategy package



CLIMATE ACTION

European Commission | Climate Action | Policies | Adaptation | What is the EU doing?

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What is the EU doing?

Policy | Documentation | Studies

EU Adaptation Strategy Package

- 30/07/2013 - SWD (2013) 299 - Principles and recommendations for integrating climate change adaptation considerations under the 2014-2020 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund operational programmes [179 KB]
- 18/06/2013 - Council conclusions on the EU Adaptation Strategy [97 KB]
- 16/04/2013 - COM (2013) 216 - An EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change
- 16/04/2013 - SWD (2013) 131 - Summary of the Impact Assessment
- 16/04/2013 - SWD (2013) 132 - Impact Assessment Part 1 [716 KB]
- 16/04/2013 - SWD (2013) 132 - Impact Assessment Part 2 [2,27 MB]
- 16/04/2013 - COM (2013) 213 - Green paper on the insurance of natural and man-made disasters
- 16/04/2013 - SWD (2013) 133 - Climate change adaptation, coastal and marine issues [144 KB]
- 16/04/2013 - SWD (2013) 136 - Adaptation to climate change impacts on human, animal and plant health [354 KB]
- 16/04/2013 - SWD (2013) 137 - Adapting infrastructure to climate change [494 KB]
- 16/04/2013 - SWD (2013) 138 - Climate change, environmental degradation and migration [286 KB]
- 16/04/2013 - SWD (2013) 135 - Technical guidance on integrating climate change adaptation in programmes and investments of Cohesion Policy [228 KB]
- 16/04/2013 - SWD (2013) 139 - Principles and recommendations for integrating climate change adaptation considerations under the 2014-2020 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund operational programmes

Read more

Publications

Climate-ADAPT

Related news

27 September 2013: IPCC science report: climate change unequivocal, human influence at least 95% certain

30 August 2013: Climate Action Commissioner to participate in Pacific Island Forum meeting, visit Philippines

16 April 2013: Strengthening Europe's preparedness against natural and man-made disasters

Related events

MEMO/13/334 - Questions and Answers: EU strategy on adaptation to climate change

MEMO/13/335 - EU strategy on adaptation to climate change - Media resource sheet

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/what/documentation_en.htm