

ABSTRACT

Adaptation to Climate Change with Emphasis on Spatial Issues

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Climate change is happening now. Hence, the need for adaptation, which means actions to adjust and cope with changing climate conditions.

Current adaptation approaches are poor to non-existent. The necessity to develop a climate change adaptation strategy is imperative, but it should be accompanied with concrete measures and investments.

"Climate proofing" of spatial planning is particularly important, in order to ensure that planning is made with the future and climate change in mind. For the effects of climate change to be "acceptable", space needs to be appropriately adapted.

Inter alia, adaptation measures include: planning with the natural processes; developing local climate impacts profiles and vulnerabilities and risk prevention plans based on risk assessments; managing land as a scarce resource; new types of Local Plans with in-built resistance, resilience and adaptive capacity; establishing an assessment framework for location selection of large-scale projects; financing adaptation measures; protecting coastal infrastructures; enhancing the capacity of urban areas to absorb and remove heat; revising basic rules on construction and design; bioclimatic regulation of buildings; etc.

In Cyprus, we can continue to live in a healthy and safe country, provided we take deliberate account of the effects of climate change. This, however, requires transforming our present attitudes and current passivity.