



# **An EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change**

## **Delta Knowledge Conference**

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# **An EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change**

- Strategy Adopted 16/04/2013
- Will be Launched 29/04/2013 in Brussels
- Delta Programme Conference, 1st event where it is publicly presented

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## The Challenge

### The EU is already facing impacts of climate change

- ❑ **Sea** level rise in across most coasts, ocean acidification, increase of **ocean** heat content and surface temperature.
- ❑ **Freshwater**: changes in river flows, frequency and intensity of floods and droughts
- ❑ Changes of **species'** ranges, many phenology changes, species migration unable to cope with CC speed, habitats more endangered
- ❑ **Agriculture**: changes in yields and water demand, expansion of central crops
- ❑ **Forests**: increase in n° forest fires, forest growth reduction due to pests, storms, disease.
- ❑ **Health**: effects of heatwaves, climate disasters, new vector-borne diseases

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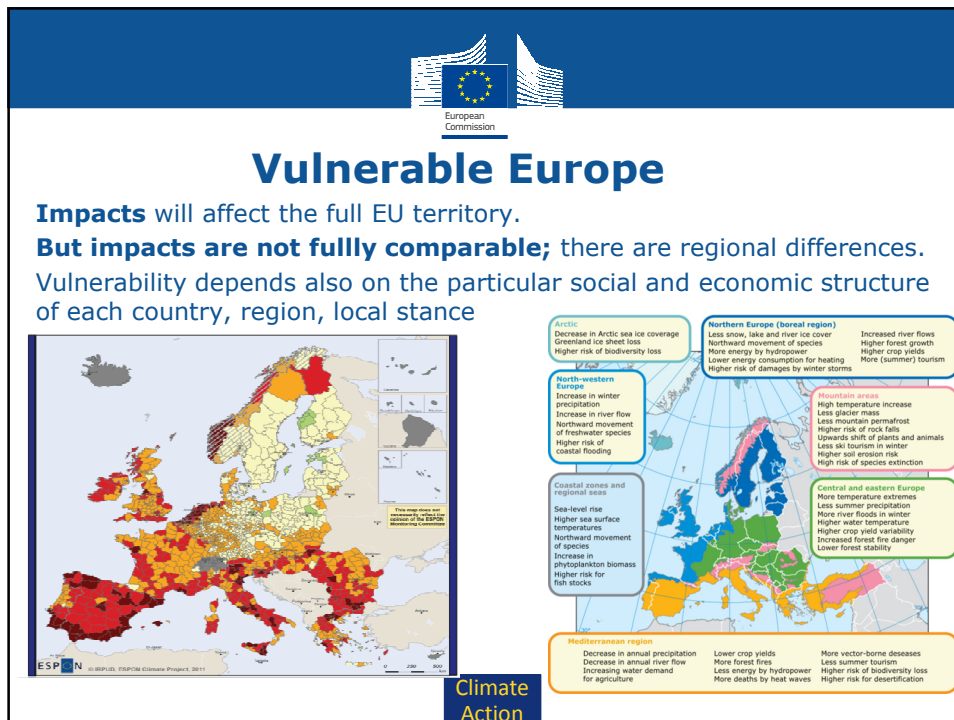



## The Challenge

### Projected effects of Climate Change:

- ❑ More frequent droughts, heat waves, floods, forest fires.
- ❑ Impacts on health: heat, vector-borne diseases.
- ❑ Extreme weather events threatening lives and increasing the risk of damage to infrastructure
- ❑ Decline of biodiversity, and the goods and services it supplies
- ❑ Lower crop-yields
- ❑ Impacts on Tourism: modified summer seasons in southern Europe, reduced viability of skiing facility in Mountains
- ❑ Wider social and regional inequalities

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-   
 European Commission
- ## Climate Action
- **Mitigation and Adaptation** are both necessary and complementary.
    - ❑ **We need to increase mitigation efforts.** If the 2°C target is missed, adaptation increasingly costly.
      - Mitigation means GLOBAL commitments & action
    - ❑ **We need to adapt.** Adaptation is inevitable even with successful mitigation(delayed impact of emissions). Adaptation is cheaper than BAU (e.g. 1€ invested in flood protection saves 6 € damage costs).
    - ❑ Postponed adaptation and maladaptation will lead to higher damage costs. (e.g. ≥ 100 bn/year by 2020; 250 bn/year by 2050 for the EU)
      - Adaptation means SPECIFIC action tailored to policy-making
- Climate Action



## What have we done so far?

- **EU**

- Knowledge sharing –  
Climate-ADAPT platform (see next)
- Mainstreaming  
e.g. MFF - Mainstreaming into funding proposed by the Commission and agreed by the European Council: 20% of EU funds will be dedicated to climate related action
- Research  
EU Framework Programmes greatly contributed to expand knowledge base  
Horizon 2020 to dedicate 35% of budget to climate
- Monitoring:  
Progress developing indicators - EEA reports on impacts & vulnerability

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The screenshot shows the CLIMATE-ADAPT European Climate Adaptation Platform website. The header includes the European Commission logo, the title 'CLIMATE-ADAPT European Climate Adaptation Platform', and navigation links like 'Sign In', 'Glossary', 'Contact', 'Sitemap', 'Legal notice', and 'About'. A search bar is also present.

Annotations on the website include:

- Country-level information, contributed by MS**: Points to the 'Countries and other areas' section, which features a map of Europe and a list of countries.
- 3 key tools have been developed for CLIMATE-ADAPT:**
  - Adaptation support tool
  - Case study search tool
  - Overview of countries activities
- Adaptation resources for EU policy Sectors.**: Points to the 'EU sector policies' section, which lists sectors like Agriculture & Forestry and Water management.

Other visible content includes a 'New to adaptation? Use the Adaptation Support Tool' section, a 'What are European countries doing?' section with a country selection dropdown, a 'News' section with articles about adaptation in Scotland and the Environment Agency, and an 'Events' section.



## What have we done so far?

- *Member States:*
  - ❑ National Adaptation Strategies (**15** EU MS), plans
  - ❑ Some mainstreaming in regulations and activities (e.g. Delta Programme)
  - ❑ Vulnerability assessments (few)
  - ❑ Knowledge platforms (some) & Research (most)
  - ❑ Monitoring, evaluation (starting)
- *Subnational & Cities (some):*
  - ❑ Adaptation strategies
  - ❑ Sector-specific action
  - ❑ Small-scale local adaptation projects

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## What gaps are there?

- MS action to cover **consistently** the whole EU territory
- Knowledge gaps
  - Impacts, vulnerabilities, **costs**
  - Regional & local level analyses and risk assessments
  - Models and tools to support decision making
  - Monitoring & evaluation past adaptation efforts
  - Adaptation on the ground
- Adaptation in most cases still at an **early stage**, with relatively few concrete measures on the ground
- **Mainstreaming** gap (e.g. CAP, CP, Energy, Transport, Health)
- **Private** sector activity and products (**Stakeholders!**)

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## Why an EU strategy?

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

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## An EU adaptation strategy

- A **strategic approach** is needed to:
  - ❑ Ensure *timely* and *effective* adaptation
  - ❑ Increase coherence *across* regions, sectors, levels of governance
  - ❑ Tackle transboundary issues
  - ❑ Consider global issues
  - ❑ Consider adaptation across policy areas:  
Environment, health, agriculture, social issues,  
disaster risk management, energy, transport
- **Need to face uncertainty - Win-win, low cost, low-regret action:** e.g. Ecosystem-based approaches

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## Strategy package

### Communication

- Staff Working Documents:

- marine and coastal areas	- Health (human, Animal, plant)
- Infrastructure	- Migration
- Guidelines Adaptation strategies	

- Green paper on insurance and prevention of disasters
- Non-papers on:
  - *Mainstreaming into Rural Development Programmes*
  - *Mainstreaming into Cohesion*
  - *Guidelines on making vulnerable investments climate resilient*
- Impact assessment

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## Objectives

**Overall objective:** Contribute effectively to a more climate-resilient Europe

### 3 priorities:

1. Promoting and supporting **action by Member States**
2. Better **informed decision-making**:  
Filling knowledge gaps on adaptation
3. Promoting adaptation in **key EU vulnerable sectors**

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## Priority 1. Promoting action by MS

- ❑ **Action 1.** Encourage MS to adopt **Adaptation Strategies** and action plans
  - Guidelines on adaptation strategies:
    - > transboundary;
    - > coherence national disaster risk reduction plans
  - Check coverage & quality of NAS (adapt. *scoreboard*; *MMR reports*)
  - By 2017 - Legally binding?
- ❑ **Action 2.** **LIFE funding** to support capacity building and adaptation action in Europe
  - Cross-border action
  - Awareness raising, risk communication, indicators
  - Vulnerable areas incl. Floods, Coastal areas (deltas, cities), Urban planning, Water management
- ❑ **Action 3.** Introduce adaptation in the **Covenant of Mayors** framework

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## Priority 2. Better Informed Decision-Making

- ❑ **Action 4.** **Knowledge-gap** strategy
  - Work with Member States and stakeholders
    - Identify and prioritise knowledge gaps
    - Better interfaces science/policy/business
    - EU-wide vulnerability assessments: JRC (economic costs of cc); Integrated threat and risk assessment reports (2015).
  - **Feed into the programming of Horizon 2020**
- ❑ **Action 5.** **Climate-ADAPT:**
  - Improve access to information
  - Enhance information (particular attention to cost-benefit assessment and funding)
  - Develop interfaces with other databases and climate services
  - Inclusion of **Copernicus** (GMES) climate services

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### Priority 3. Key vulnerable sectors

- ❑ **Action 6.** Climate proofing of the **Common Agricultural Policy, Cohesion Policy** and **Common Fisheries Policy**
  - Guidance
  - Capacity building (resources and thematic guidance)
- ❑ **Action 7.** Making **infrastructure** more resilient
  - Mapping standards through CEN/CENELEC
  - Guidelines for project developers
  - Guidance for green infrastructure, (potentially for Ecosystem-based Approaches)
- ❑ **Action 8.** Promote products & services by **insurance and finance markets**
  - Green paper prevention & insurance disasters

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### Meaning for the Netherlands

- ❑ Adaptation Action to be scrutinized (comparable NAS)
  - ❑ Adaptation Preparedness Scoreboard
  - ❑ MRR
- ❑ EU policies will progress in mainstreaming – will affect the Netherlands
- ❑ Climate action to be streamlined into all EU Funds for the Netherlands
- ❑ Funding opportunities (e.g. LIFE), with priorities linked to the Netherlands' priorities (flooding, coastal, freshwater...)
- ❑ Guidance
- ❑ Opportunities to cooperative action, avoid duplication, learning (cost-effectiveness)
- ❑ Enhancement of common knowledge base & mutual learning
- ❑ Worldwide visibility on EU and MS Adaptation Action...

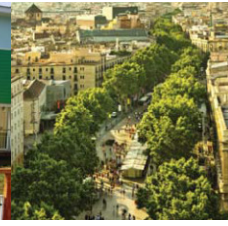
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## Thank you!

For more information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/change/>



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