

# Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

## Summary for Portugal

### Disclaimer

Based on the scoreboard in Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2018)460 accompanying the evaluation of the EU's strategy for adaptation to climate change. For referencing this Commission analysis from June 2018, please use the full version in the SWD.

### SUMMARY

#### Overall progress

At the national level, Portugal is in the process of implementing an updated NAS, and a NAP is currently under development. At the sub-national level, plans are under development for approximately 80% of the country, but with very few moving onto implementation stage. While Portugal is strong in key indicators such as preparing the ground for adaptation, assessing risks and vulnerability to climate change and identifying adaptation options, the latter parts of the process are weaker. The mainstreaming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies are still either in progress or not begun, particularly at sub-national levels.

#### Adaptation strategies

The second National Adaptation Strategy (NAS), the ENAAC 2020, was adopted 30 July 2015<sup>1</sup> and is under implementation. At the sub-national level, 27 municipal adaptation strategies were finalised in 2015 through the European Economic Area funded project ClimAdaPTLocal. The Operational Programme for Sustainability and Efficient Use of Resources (PO SEUR) is funding the development of strategies (and plans) at the inter-municipal level, covering about 80% of the country. At the regional level, the Azores adopted a strategy in 2011 and Madeira in 2015.

#### Adaptation action plans

The National Program of Action for Adaptation to Climate Change (the National Adaptation Plan, NAP) is currently undergoing internal consultation before being submitted for policy validation and public consultation. At the municipal and inter-municipal level, plans either exist or are under development (funded through PO SEUR) for 80% of the country, although the majority have not been finalised. At the regional level, the Azores finalised its plan in 2017, while no plan is currently being developed for Madeira.

#### Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation

##### 1 Coordination structure

The Coordination Group is chaired by Environment Agency, which operates under the political approval of the Ministry of the Environment. The Coordination Group includes representatives of working groups in 6 horizontal thematic areas (Research and innovation; Financing adaptation; International cooperation; communication and

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<sup>1</sup> Portugal, Resolução do Conselho de Ministros n.º 56/2015, URL: <https://dre.pt/application/file/69906414>

promotion; integrating adaptation into spatial planning policy; integrating adaptation in water management) and 9 sectors (Agriculture; Biodiversity; Economy; Energy; Forests; Health; safety of people and assets; transport and communications; Coastal areas), and representatives of the Azores and Madeira and of the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities.

## **2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development**

Sectoral and Thematic Area working groups were responsible for engaging with relevant stakeholders at the national and subnational level in order to develop the NAS / NAP. In addition, a scientific panel and the Inter-ministerial Commission on Air and Climate Change were consulted. Portugal's main partner for transboundary cooperation is Spain and a collaboration platform was established through the LIFE SHARA project. Other transboundary partners include Portuguese speaking African countries.

### **Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change**

## **3 Current and projected climate change**

The Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere is responsible for climate observation, monitoring of extreme events, maintaining national databases and participating in European monitoring. The SIAM project from 2001 and 2006 was the most comprehensive assessment of climate impacts to date, involving scenarios and projections. Along with the 2003 CLIMAAT project, they assessed transboundary risks in the Iberian Peninsula and Atlantic Archipelagos. Finally, as part of the 2013 progress update for ENAAC 2010, 7 sectors developed risk and vulnerability assessments.

## **4 Knowledge gaps**

One of the objectives of the second NAS (EN AAC 2020) is to "improve the level of knowledge about climate change". Sectoral working groups must report progress against this objective and identify remaining knowledge gaps. A dedicated horizontal working group on "Research and Innovation" also exists, and is focused on creating opportunities for Portuguese scientists to participate in national and international research projects.

## **5 Knowledge transfer**

Historical and current climate data, as well as future projections are made available through the Environment Agency's website and IPMA's easy access platform. Capacity building is a specific objective in the EN AAC, and several awareness raising activities and workshops have taken place, including the INTERREG IVC project Facts!. Further, the ClimAdapt.Local project has created a wealth of guidance material for developing adaptation strategies at sub-national level.

### **Step C: Identifying adaptation options**

## **6 Adaptation options' identification**

The sectors covered by the sectoral working groups have all had risk assessments and adaptation measures identified. Building on the long list of adaptation measures identified in the first NAS and further stakeholder engagement, the second NAS provides a prioritised shortlist of sectoral measures. Measures proposed are consistent with the results of risk assessments for the sectors. Finally, the national authority for civil protection, which coordinates one of the sectoral working groups, liaises directly with the national platform for DRR on matters of climate change adaptation.

## **7 Funding resources identified and allocated**

There is a dedicated “funding and implementing adaptation” working group under the ENAAC 2020. To date, adaptation policy has been funded primarily through EU programmes including European Economic Area Grants, the Structural and Investment Funds, research funds under Horizon 2020, and the environment programme LIFE. Recently, the Portuguese Environmental Fund made EUR 1,000,000 available for funding implementation of sub-national adaptation plans.

### **Step D: Implementing adaptation action**

## **8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes**

EIA procedures in Portugal require consideration of climate change mitigation and adaptation at project screening and scoping phases. The national disaster risk assessment includes climate risks and mitigating measures. The NAS working group on “spatial planning policy” has integrated the outputs of adaptation plans into the national spatial policy. The priority sectors are represented through sectoral working groups, some of which have taken forward adaptation mainstreaming through the NAS process. Finally, although academia has engaged the insurance sector in research projects, no evidence has been found of adaptation mainstreaming in insurance or alternative policy instruments.

## **9 Implementing adaptation**

The NAP is currently under development, and will consider the prioritised adaptation measures identified through the sub-national action plans. Plans covering approximately 80% of the national territory are under development, with very few finalised and implemented. Implementation at a national level is supported by a Coordination Group chaired by the Environment Agency and composed of representatives of the Autonomous Regions, National Association of Portuguese Municipalities, sectoral and horizontal working groups, and include relevant stakeholders. No specific guidance to assess climate impacts on major projects has been found.

### **Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities**

## **10 Monitoring and reporting**

As part of the implementation of the NAS, the coordination group has the responsibility for preparing progress reports, which monitor progress against the NAS objectives. The first interim report of ENAAC's coordination group lists the progress by sectoral working groups towards the objective of mainstreaming adaptation in sectoral policy. Regarding indicators of regional/local progress, while the development of monitoring indicators is being planned under the PO SEUR project, this appears to not yet have been implemented.

## **11 Evaluation**

Three evaluations of the strategy were foreseen in the ENAAC implementation process through the development of progress reports in 2016; 2018 and 2020. The first interim progress report was published in 2016, and was based on the working group contributions, which in turn involved their sectoral stakeholders. As such, stakeholders are involved in the monitoring of the implementation of adaptation measures.