

# Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

## Summary for Luxembourg

### 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

Luxembourg adopted a "National Adaptation Strategy on Climate Change" (NAS) in June 2011<sup>1</sup>, as part of a wider package of climate policies. The strategy is currently being revised and is expected to be published by the end of 2018. Areas for future improvement include implementing adaptation and monitoring and reporting.

#### Adaptation strategies

Luxembourg's Council of Ministers adopted the "National Adaptation Strategy on Climate Change" (NAS) in June 2011<sup>2</sup>. A Climate Pact between central government and the communes entered into force in January 2013<sup>3</sup> and engages and supports (financially) all *communes*. However, overall, adaptation policy is entirely driven at the national level. A preliminary draft of the revised NAS is available in German; it is expected that it will be finalised by the end of 2018. Despite a breadth of sub-national climate change adaptation activities, including for example through the Climate Pact with the communes, there are no coordinated strategies at this level of governance.

#### Adaptation action plans

A specific adaptation action plan has not been adopted.

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

##### 1 Coordination structure

The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, (Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures)<sup>4</sup> and within it the Department of the Environment, is in charge of adaptation policy-making. There is no formal intersectoral or interministerial committee in Luxembourg, although the 7<sup>th</sup> Communication to the

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1 Europaforum, 2011, Claude Wiseler et Marco Schank ont présenté le "paquet climat" luxembourgeois qui doit permettre d'atteindre l'objectif européen de réduction de 20% des émissions de CO2 d'ici 2020, URL:

<http://www.europaforum.public.lu/fr/actualites/2011/05/parteneriat-paquet-climat/index.html>

2 Europaforum, 2011, Claude Wiseler et Marco Schank ont présenté le "paquet climat" luxembourgeois qui doit permettre d'atteindre l'objectif européen de réduction de 20% des émissions de CO2 d'ici 2020, URL:

<http://www.europaforum.public.lu/fr/actualites/2011/05/parteneriat-paquet-climat/index.html>

3 Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures, undated, Pacte Climat, URL:

<http://www.pacteclimat.lu/fr>

4 Portail du Développement durable et des Infrastructures - Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, URL:

<http://www.developpement-durable-infrastructures.public.lu/fr/index.php> Date accessed: May 2018

UNFCCC<sup>5</sup> includes a sector-based assessment, which is also expected in the final version of the NAP. With regard to vertical coordination mechanisms within the governance system, these are not evident in Luxembourg.

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

Although there is not a structured approach to the involvement of stakeholders in adaptation policy making, and there was no stakeholder consultation as part of the 2011 NAS, a public consultation is expected for the next iteration of the NAS (expected in 2018). Transboundary cooperation takes place predominantly through the BENELUX cooperation framework<sup>6</sup>.

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

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

Climate observation systems are in place through MeteoLux, the national weather service, which also produces monthly summaries. There is also a hydro-climatic monitoring network involving the Water Agency, the Civil Defence Service and the Agriculture Technical Services Administration, for use in the design of flood protection measures. Global Climate Models are used analysing (environmental) impacts on the basis of the Ensembles project funded under the EU research budget. Transboundary risks/impacts are taken into account with regard to the water/floods sector.

## **4 Knowledge gaps**

Although a comprehensive assessment of existing knowledge and related gaps on climate change and climate change adaptation is planned, according to the 7<sup>th</sup> Communication to the UNFCCC, currently there is a lack of discussion on the topic between key stakeholders such as research groups and the private sector.

## **5 Knowledge transfer**

Some bodies e.g. the Centre for Ecological Learning in Luxembourg (CELL) have committed to citizen participation in the context of climate change, although not explicitly on adaptation. However, Luxembourg does not boast an adaptation-focused information source (e.g. dedicated website). Regular capacity-building and dissemination activities concerning climate change adaptation concepts and practices are not in place, despite some ongoing efforts for example through the CELL Resilience Research project.

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

## **6 Adaptation options' identification**

Although priority sectors were identified as part of the NAS and are planned to be included in the updated NAS (expected in 2018), the range and number of measures identified under each sector varies and it is not possible to conclude whether risk assessments or prioritisation exercises have been carried out. A High Commissioner for National Protection (HDPN) is in charge of disaster risk management, but there is no evidence of an institutionalised coordination mechanism between disaster risk reduction and adaptation actions.

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<sup>5</sup> UNFCCC, 2018, Seventh National Communication of Luxembourg under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, URL: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/39752148\\_Luxembourg-NC7-1-LU\\_NC7\\_180212.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/39752148_Luxembourg-NC7-1-LU_NC7_180212.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Personal communication with a Member State contact.

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

Although there does not seem to be a specific funding allocation for climate change adaptation, there have been some recent developments in funding efforts, for example the allocation of funding for the Forestry and Climate Change Fund (focused on development assistance) as well as the availability of funding for the development of green infrastructure.

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

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

Climate change has not been specifically mentioned in the law on environmental impact and strategic environmental assessments. The Flood Risk Management Plan (2015-2021) takes climate change scenarios into account<sup>7</sup>. Furthermore, the National Nature Protection Plan was updated in 2017, including emphasis on green infrastructure<sup>8</sup>. In 2012, a document was published on climate change for spatial planning, although it has not been updated<sup>9</sup>. There is no indication that other national policy instruments promote adaptation.

## **9 Implementing adaptation**

Although the third Climate Plan is being developed, and the second national action plan for climate change has been in place since 2013, it is difficult to conclude on the level of implementation of adaptation policies and measures in Luxembourg from the information available. Stakeholder cooperation is expected to take place as part of the 2018 update of the NAS and was used to collaboratively influence the third national climate plan. Furthermore, climate change impact assessment is not formalised. Furthermore, although there are policy and funding efforts towards resilience through green infrastructure<sup>10</sup>, it is unclear whether specific procedures or guidelines are available to assess the potential impact of climate change on the resilience of infrastructure. Finally, and more broadly, there are no guidelines available on assessing climate impacts on major projects.

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

## **10 Monitoring and reporting**

Monitoring and reporting of climate change adaptation does not take place in a formalised manner in Luxembourg, either at the sectoral or at the regional/local level.

## **11 Evaluation**

Although the current NAS is undergoing final review, expected to be completed in 2018, there is no formalised periodic review schedule. Nevertheless, stakeholders are expected

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7 Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, 2015, Flood Risk Management Plan, [https://eau.public.lu/directive\\_cadre\\_eau/directive\\_inondation/1er-cycle/HWRML-PL\\_final/HWRM-PL\\_2015\\_final\\_FR\\_1609201.pdf](https://eau.public.lu/directive_cadre_eau/directive_inondation/1er-cycle/HWRML-PL_final/HWRM-PL_2015_final_FR_1609201.pdf)

8 Biodiversity Information System for Europe, 2018, Green Infrastructure in Luxembourg. URL: <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/countries/qi/luxembourg>

9 ESPON, 2012, Adaptation to climate change – strategies for the spatial planning in Luxembourg, URL: <http://www.espon-usespon.eu/library/adaptation-to-climate-change-strategies-for-the-spatial-planning-in-luxembourg-c-change-changing-climate-changing-lives-2012>

10 Biodiversity Information System for Europe, 2018, Green Infrastructure in Luxembourg, URL: <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/countries/qi/luxembourg>

to be involved in the finalisation of the NAS and have been involved in the past in the development of the Climate Action Plan, for example.