Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

Summary for Croatia

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

In response to the lack of an integrated approach to climate adaptation and the absence of climate adaptation mainstreaming in sectoral policies, a draft National Adaptation Strategy for the period to 2040, with a view to 2070 and a draft National Action Plan 2019-2023, were prepared in November 2017, with final adoption expected in 2019. The drafting process relied on climate modelling and development of scenarios, vulnerability assessments in 10 priority sectors and extensive stakeholder consultation. The draft NAS identifies 82 priority measures, with costs of implementation estimated at EUR 3,680,000,000 (EUR 780,000,000 planned for the first five-year NAP).

Adaptation strategies

Adoption of the draft National Adaptation Strategy[1] (NAS) is expected in 2019. NAS covers the period to 2040, focusing on 10 vulnerable sectors: hydrology and water resources; agriculture; forestry; biodiversity; physical planning and coastal zone management; tourism; energy; fisheries; risk management; health; and 2 supra-sectoral measures: strengthening climate modelling capacities; and developing sectoral impact indicators. No strategies exist at subnational level.

Adaptation action plans

Adoption of the first 5-year draft National Action Plan[2] (NAP) is expected in 2019. Local and regional air protection programmes include adaptation measures, and adaptation-related activities exist in housing, spatial planning and civil protection. One county and two towns have started local adaptation planning to increase resilience, data gathering and awareness. Adaptation measures are legally required in 6 sectors, with measures so far limited to river basin/flood risk management, and agriculture (including through the Rural Development Programme).

[1] EPTISA Adria d.o.o.; 2017; Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Republic of Croatia for the period to 2040 with a view to 2070 (White book); URL: http://prilagodba-klimi.hr/wp-content/uploads/docs/Draft%20CC%20Adaptation%20Strategy.pdf

[2] EPTISA Adria d.o.o.; 2017; Draft Action Plan for implementing the Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Republic of Croatia for the period from 2019 to 2023; URL: http://prilagodba-klimi.hr/wp-content/uploads/docs/Draft%20CC%20Action%20Plan.pdf

Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation

1 Coordination structure

The Ministry of Environment and Energy (MZOE) is responsible for climate policy, including adaptation. An Intersectoral Coordination Commission for Policy and Measures for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (CCCCMA), administered by MZOE, monitors and evaluates adaptation policy implementation and planning through adaptation/mitigation technical groups, and a policy-making Coordination group. CCCCMA is intended to lead the NAS/NAP implementation process.

Adaptation is not vertically coordinated, although such mechanisms exist for legislative, spatial planning and SEA procedures.

2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development

Public consultation was part of the NAS/NAP drafting project, including sectoral expert workshops and regional workshops for civil servants and general public. Both the working version of NAS and final draft NAS underwent online consultations, which will also be organised within SEA procedure in 2018.

Transboundary cooperation in climate adaptation is limited to river basin management within international river commissions. Draft NAP addresses it through one water sector measure, related to project cooperation and knowledge exchange within existing international/bilateral processes.

Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change

3 Current and projected climate change

Observation systems are in place to monitor climate change, extreme climate events, and the related health impacts and damage costs. Scenarios and projections take account of geographical specificities, on the basis of IPCC AR5 scenarios RCP4.5 and RCP8.5, with climate simulations at 50km and 12.5km horizontal resolution.

Vulnerability assessments covered 10 sectors/cross-sectoral areas, including socio-economic and environmental impacts, transboundary climate risks and intersectoral impacts. The Risk Assessment for Croatia (2015) considered 11 risks (9 climate related), including analysis of vulnerability of society to disasters, and assessment of risk management capacities.

4 Knowledge gaps

An analysis of research and capacity building needs, conducted within the NAS drafting project, showed that research is fragmentary subject-specific, without a comprehensive analysis of broader climate risks. The analysis includes recommendations to focus on larger geographic areas, better data integration, and increased research on the economic impacts of climate change. Capacity building is planned in order to increase professional/material resources for implementing adaptation at all governance levels, and to inform actors on sector-specific adaptation issues and mainstreaming adaptation into sectoral policies.

5 Knowledge transfer

The project website www.prilagodba-klimi.hr contains reports and documents from the NAS drafting process; and the MZOE webpage on climate adaptation offers general information on policy issues and activities. Climate data are available through the Hydromet Service.

Capacity building within the NAS drafting process included sectoral consultation workshops and regional workshops for civil servants and the public. Capacity building is mainly project-related and uncoordinated, but educational materials and further trainings are envisaged by the draft NAS.

Step C: Identifying adaptation options

6 Adaptation options' identification

The draft NAS proposes 82 measures. Options were identified taking into account climate modelling, scenarios and vulnerability assessment, and were discussed with stakeholders. The resulting measures were categorised in three priority levels using multi-criteria analysis.

The Croatian Disaster Risk Reduction Platform (CDRRP) coordinates between disaster risk management and climate adaptation and handles DRR strategy development. The Ministry of Environment and Energy is a permanent member in the CDRRP Committee.

7 Funding resources identified and allocated

The draft NAS envisages total implementation costs of EUR 3,680,000,000 (with EUR 780,000,000 for the first NAP), with over 50% referring to "structural" measures in agriculture, forestry, energy and tourism. Financing will come mainly from the European Structural Funds. Until the draft NAS is adopted, funding will focus on agricultural measures, research, improvement of climate monitoring and evaluation, the disaster management system and flood management.

Step D: Implementing adaptation action

8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes

EIA/SEA procedures now require consideration of climate adaptation and climate-driven disaster risk assessment. Climate impacts are addressed in the National Disaster Risk Assessment (NDRA) and the ongoing update of intervention plans accounts for current and projected climate extremes.

Adaptation has been mainstreamed in water management, driven by national/EU legislation and international policy recommendations; but it has not been integrated in insurance or alternative policy instruments, although the NAS indicates long-term plans to do this. Consideration of climate issues has recently been required for maritime spatial plans.

9. Implementing adaptation

In the absence of a NAS/NAP, coordinated implementation of adaptation has not yet started; there has been no progress in the water and spatial planning sectors, or any systematic cooperation mechanisms for local/regional adaptation, which is limited to participation in European projects and sub-regional exchanges (for example, in the Sava Basin).

EU guidance documents on integrating climate and biodiversity into EIA/SEA and increasing climate resilience of vulnerable investments are advertised by MZOE to developers and experts. Stakeholder involvement and capacity building will be governed by general public policy laws, systematically applied at all governance levels; no specific measures are envisaged for adaptation.

Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities

10 Monitoring and reporting

No reports on adaptation have been published, pending adoption of the NAS/NAP. Reporting will follow EU formats, with the CCCCMA coordinating monitoring and revisions. Adaptation measures will be coordinated between MZOE and sectoral ministries, as the latter will be required to integrate adaptation in their policies and identify sufficient implementation funding.

All governance levels have a 5-year reporting obligation on implementing adaptation-related actions. It is unclear from the draft NAP/NAS how dissemination of results will be organised.

11 Evaluation

Periodic reviews of adaptation action have not been clearly defined. The first evaluation is planned at the end of the first NAP 2019-2023, and any subsequent reviews will depend on the information generated by the implementation monitoring system and climate change monitoring system.

No evidence of stakeholder engagement in monitoring, evaluation or reviewing is available, since implementation has not yet started. In the draft NAS/NAP, stakeholder involvement is not specifically planned.