

Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

Summary for Poland

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

The "Polish National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change by 2020 with the perspective by 2030" (NAS 2020) was adopted in October 2013. Both horizontal and sectoral actions are being implemented, with funding provided from national and European sources. As Poland has opted for a "soft-coordination model" for implementation, the evidence on the progress with implementation of adaptation measures has not been systematically collected by the Ministry of Environment. Data collection from regional and local authorities began in December 2017 and will inform monitoring of the implementation of the strategy.

Adaptation strategies

The "Polish National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change by 2020 with the perspective by 2030" (NAS 2020)¹ was adopted in October 2013. It provides the high-level framework that is referred to when planning adaptation action at national, regional and local level. The local and regional (voivodeship) authorities are free to shape their adaptation policies. While no regional climate change adaptation plans have been identified, the Ministry of Environment is currently coordinating development of urban adaptation plans in 44 cities.

Adaptation action plans

Poland has not developed a National Adaptation Action Plan, and does not plan to do so. The most prominent initiatives at the local level are the projects "Development of Urban Adaptation Plans for cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants in Poland", and CLIMCITIES, providing training on climate change adaptation to local authorities and other stakeholders in municipalities with population from 50,000 to 99,000 inhabitants. Sectoral strategies and plans considering climate change adaptation have been developed in coastal protection, water management, rail and forests.

Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation

1 Coordination structure

The Ministry of Environment prepared the NAS and is the coordinator of adaptation action in Poland. The NAS 2020 did not envisage the creation of new institutions dedicated to coordinating implementation of the strategy. Implementation is supported by a multi-level and cross-sectoral Working Group on Climate Change Adaptation. The Ministry of

¹ URL: https://klimada.mos.gov.pl/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/ENG_SPA2020_final.pdf

Environment published a guidance document on the preparation of urban adaptation plans in 2014, and is coordinating preparation of adaptation plans in 44 cities.

2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development

No evidence of significant stakeholder involvement could be found with respect to the preparation of the NAS 2020. An example of structured stakeholder engagement was the public consultation undertaken for the Warsaw's Adaptation Strategy. Training and guidance provided to local administration highlights the importance of involving all relevant stakeholders during preparation and implementation of adaptation actions. There is no evidence of cross-border cooperation on climate change adaptation in Poland.

Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change

3 Current and projected climate change

The Institute of Meteorology and Water Management is in charge of collecting data on the state of the atmosphere and hydrosphere. Additionally, monitoring of selected climate variables is carried out by a number of research institutes and universities. Climate change scenarios and projections underpin the strategy; however these are now outdated. Risk and vulnerability assessments were undertaken for agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, human health, water, coastal areas, mountain areas, transport, energy, built environment, and spatial /urban planning. Transboundary risks are taken into consideration in selected areas, such as flood risk management.

4 Knowledge gaps

The NAS 2020 does not mention any processes to tackle or identify knowledge gaps, but does include some recommendations on research priorities. Funding for improving knowledge base and increasing competences regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation is provided by the Infrastructure and Environment Operational Programme, under EU structural funds. A new project aimed at improving knowledge of climate change adaptation will be launched in June 2018.

5 Knowledge transfer

A few websites created for the purposes of climate adaptation projects in Poland provide relevant information. The knowledge base project referred to above will further support information dissemination. There are some systematic actions on capacity building through projects such as CLIMCITIES, MPA and ADAPTCITY. The Ministry of Environment has also published guidance on considering adaptation when preparing investments as well as a city adaptation handbook.

Step C: Identifying adaptation options

6 Adaptation options' identification

Climate risk and vulnerability assessments were undertaken for water management, agriculture, forestry, biodiversity and protected areas, health, energy, building industry, transport, mountain areas, coastal zone, spatial development and urban areas. Priority actions are determined on the basis of cost-effectiveness, prioritising threats to health and life of humans and permanent loss and damages. No evidence was found that a mechanism coordinating disaster risk management and climate change adaptation is in place.

7 Funding resources identified and allocated

NAS 2020 provides an overview of funds available for adaptation to climate change in the 2014-2020 period including domestic, EU and international sources. EU funds are major contributors to adaptation action in Poland. The Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment 2014-2020 has to date financed 47 projects (in vulnerable sectors and cross-cutting actions) under the priority measure on adaptation to climate change and increased resilience to disasters.

Step D: Implementing adaptation action

8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes

NAS 2020 includes specific objectives for sectors such as water management, coastal zone management, energy, biodiversity and forest management, spatial development and construction, health protection and rural areas. In 2015 the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment was updated to reflect climate change adaptation needs. Consideration of future climate impacts do not feature in the latest National Risk Management Plan. The national spatial development strategy includes an aim to provide space for climate change adaptation. At sectoral level adaptation is promoted by the 2014-2020 Partnership Agreement with the EU for the use of structural funds. Adaptation's integration into sectoral policy making is included in the Government's 2017 "Strategy for Responsible Growth". No evidence was found on adaptation being mainstreamed in insurance or alternative policy instruments.

9 Implementing adaptation

Horizontal and sectoral actions are being implemented as part of the NAS 2020, but there are no published reports summarising progress in implementation. Information on actions implemented locally was being collected by the Ministry of Environment at the time of scoreboard preparation. A "Guide to investment preparation respecting climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as resilience to natural disasters" has been published by the Ministry of Environment and must be followed when applying for EU funds. Best practice in stakeholder engagement has been demonstrated in preparation of Warsaw's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy; but at national level there is little evidence of stakeholder involvement.

Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities

10 Monitoring and reporting

No monitoring reports have been published to date. Monitoring and evaluation of the NAS 2020 implementation process started in December 2017 and is coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment. As part of that task a questionnaire on implementation has been forwarded to other sectoral Ministries and regional administrations.

11 Evaluation

Only one review of the NAS 2020 is planned. Monitoring of actions implemented under the NAS 2020, conducted at the level of Voivodeship Marshals and Provincial Governors, commenced in 2017. Further adaptation measures and actions will be included in the document "National Environmental Policy 2018 – 2030" which is currently being prepared by the Ministry of the Environment.