

The EU strategy on adaptation to climate change

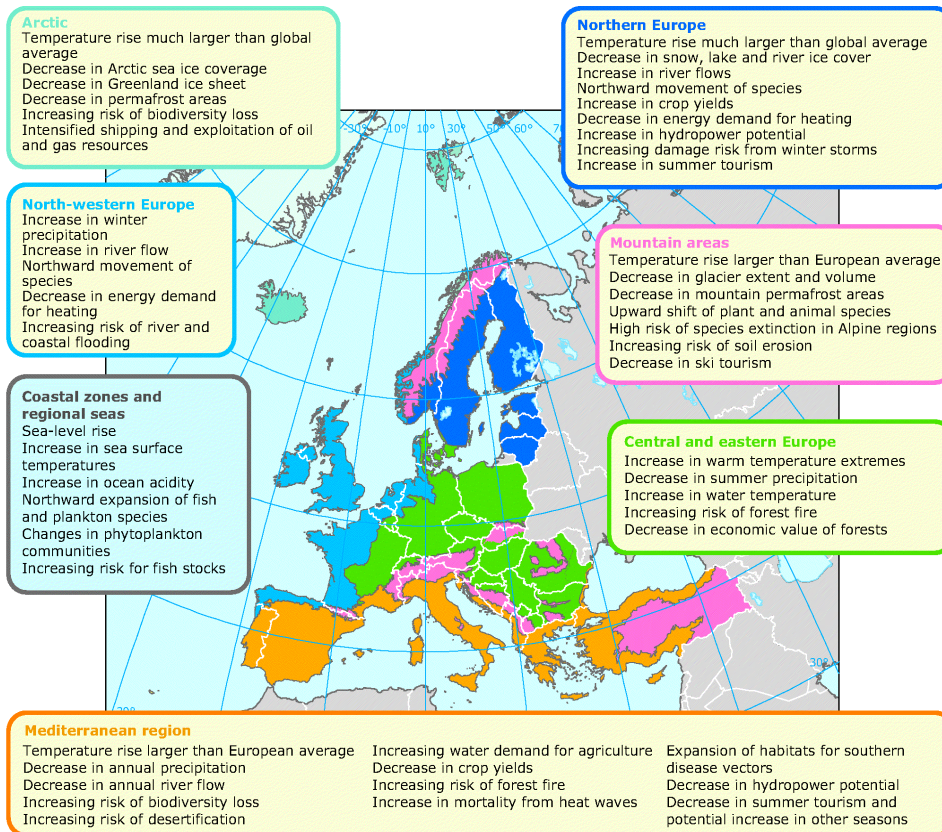
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Territorial climate impacts



Most vulnerable areas in Europe:

- Southern Europe and the Mediterranean basin
- Mountainous areas
- Coastal zones, floodplains, islands
- Arctic region
- Cities

Mitigation and adaptation are both necessary and complementary

- **We need to increase mitigation efforts.** If the 2°C target is missed, adaptation increasingly costly.
- **We need to adapt.** Adaptation is inevitable (delayed impact of emissions). Adaptation is cheaper
 - 1€ invested in flood protection saves 6 € damage costs.
- **We need to act now.** Postponed adaptation and maladaptation will lead to higher damage costs.
 - ≥ 100 bn/year by 2020; 250 bn/year by 2050 for the EU
- **We need to prioritise actions :**
 - that can address current climate variability → **synergies climate change adaptation / disaster risk reduction**
 - that create benefits no matter what the climate scenario is: e.g. **ecosystem-based adaptation**
 - influencing long term investment decisions (e.g. infrastructure, forestry)

Overall objective

Contribute to a more climate-resilient Europe

Priority 1:
**Promoting
action by
Member States**

Action 1. Encourage MS to adopt Adaptation Strategies

Action 2. LIFE funding adaptation priority areas

Action 3. Promoting adaptation action by cities along the Covenant of Mayors initiative

Priority 2:
**Better informed
decision-
making**

Action 4. Knowledge-gap strategy

Action 5. Climate-ADAPT as the "one-stop" shop for adaptation information

Priority 3:
**Key vulnerable
sectors**

Action 6. Climate proofing the CAP, Cohesion Policy, and the CFP

Action 7. Making infrastructure more resilient

Action 8. Promote role of insurance and finance markets

Where to find more information?

Factsheet →

Climate-ADAPT



EU adaptation Strategy package



Strengthening Europe's resilience to the impacts of climate change

The EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change, adopted by the European Commission in April 2013, sets out a framework and mechanisms for taking the EU's preparedness for current and future climate impacts to a new level.

To avoid the most serious risks of climate change, particularly large-scale irreversible impacts, the international community has agreed that global warming must be kept below 2°C compared to the pre-industrial temperature. International action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will therefore be needed for decades to come. But however successful these mitigation efforts prove to be, the impact of climate change will increase in the coming decades: due to the delayed impacts of past and current greenhouse gas emissions.

Europe and other parts of the world therefore have no choice but to take adaptation measures to deal with the unavoidable climate impacts and their economic, environmental and social costs. By prioritising coherent, flexible and participatory approaches, it will be much cheaper to take early, planned adaptation action than to pay the price of not adapting to climate change.

The EU Adaptation Strategy has three objectives.

1. Promoting action by Member States:

The Commission encourages all Member States to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies (15 had strategies as of mid-2013) and will provide guidance and funding to help them build up their adaptation capacities and take action. The Commission will also support adaptation in cities by launching a voluntary commitment based on the Covenant of Mayors initiative.

2. Promoting better informed decision-making by addressing gaps in knowledge about adaptation and further developing the European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) as the 'one-stop shop' for adaptation information in Europe.



Climate Action

Climate Change Adaptation in Europe

The European Climate Adaptation Platform (CLIMATE-ADAPT) aims to support Europe in adapting to climate change. It is an initiative of the European Commission and helps users to access and share information on:

- Expected climate change in Europe
- Current and future vulnerability of regions and sectors
- National and transnational adaptation strategies
- Adaptation case studies and potential adaptation options
- Tools that support adaptation planning

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Climate Action

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Publications

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Related news

27 September 2013: IPCC science report: climate change unequivocal, human influence at least 95% certain

30 August 2013: Climate Action Commissioner to participate in Pacific Island Econ. meeting, visit Philippines

16 April 2013: Strengthening Europe's preparedness against natural and man-made disasters

Related events

29 April 2013: Launch event: EU strategy on adaptation to climate change

Related consultations

20 August 2012: Consultation on the Preparation of the EU Adaptation Strategy

Other related documents

- 16/04/2013 - Non-paper Guidelines for Project Managers: Making vulnerable investments climate resilient [1,43 MB]
- IP/13/329 - Strengthening Europe's preparedness against natural and man-made disasters
- MEMO/13/324 - Questions and Answers: EU strategy on adaptation to climate change
- MEMO/13/335 - EU strategy on adaptation to climate change - Media resource sheet

Thank you!

For more information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation>

