



## **Stakeholder Consultation Strategy**

### **Evaluation of the EU Adaptation Strategy**

#### **1. Consultation Scope & Objectives**

Adaptation is an area in rapid development, increasingly gaining attention and political priority as demonstrated by the Paris Agreement. The current EU Adaptation Strategy was published in April 2013. The Strategy is a response to the climate hazards that Europe is and will increasingly be facing. It demonstrates a dedicated long-term commitment to increase the resilience of the EU territory by enhancing the preparedness and capacity of all government levels to respond to the impacts of climate change. The Strategy commits to delivering 3 Objectives, through the implementation of 8 Actions. The Strategy also has a strong focus on sector aspects as well as actions taken at different levels (e.g. international, EU, national and sub-national action).

As indicated in the Strategy, “the European Commission will report to the European Parliament and the Council on the state of implementation of the EU Adaptation Strategy, and propose its review, if needed”. Hence, in order to assess and measure the progress made since 2013 and to prepare the ground for the possible review of the Strategy, an evaluation is needed.

The aim of the stakeholder consultation in relation to the EU Adaptation Strategy evaluation is to draw upon existing evidence to deliver a high quality and credible evaluation study by allowing interested parties to provide their feedback and experiences of implementing the Strategy thus far. This includes identifying specific case studies or further evidence, lessons learned, knowledge, financing and capacity gaps, obstacles and factors of success, and suggestions for improvement.

In the context of the EU Adaptation Strategy evaluation, a broad scope for the stakeholder consultation will be necessary to ensure that all relevant and interested stakeholders are given an opportunity to express their opinions and to contribute to the evaluation.

Results of the evaluation are planned to be published in May 2018.

#### **2. Stakeholder Mapping**

A mapping of stakeholders identified the following groups and assessed their level of interest:

- a) EU-level: European Parliament, European Commission, Committee of the Regions, Economic and Social Committee, European Environment Agency (High interest)
- b) National competent authorities involved in the implementation of EU or national adaptation strategies in Member States (e.g. ministries of environment and other competent authorities for sectors vulnerable to climate change such as agriculture, forestry or water, including experts dealing with the Water Framework Directive's Common Implementation Strategy) (High interest)
- c) Regional and local public bodies involved in the implementation of EU or subnational adaptation strategies in Member States, including those bodies dealing with natural resource management and spatial/land use planning (High interest)
- d) International organisations dealing with adaptation to climate change, e.g. various United Nations bodies, World Bank, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, International Energy Agency, International Organisation for Migration (High interest)
- e) Interest groups who professionally deal with adaptation to climate change, e.g. insurance companies, academia, think tanks, green NGOs (High interest)
- f) Wider interest groups who may have an interest in implementation of the EU Adaptation Strategy including civil society, private sector, small and medium enterprises, trade associations (Moderate interest)

### 3. Consultation Methods & tools

A combination of in-depth surveys, interviews of interested stakeholders, public consultation and stakeholder workshops will be used.

Consultation work during the first semester of 2017 will focus on complementing the desk research with targeted surveys and interviews collecting missing information from specific stakeholders who are deemed to have high interest according to the stakeholder mapping:

- a) **Stakeholder surveys** - Questionnaire surveys will be used to gather data that is not available from the published literature or targeting some stakeholder groups that respond to a shorter, more-focused survey than an interview. The questionnaires will be tailor made to the stakeholder type and knowledge gap to be filled in. They will be made available online in English, where the targeted stakeholders will be invited to fill them in. It is intended to target primarily representatives of the stakeholder groups identified under points a), b) and c) in section 2, complemented as appropriate by a selection of representatives from groups under d) and e). Stakeholders not targeted in this phase will have the opportunity to fill in the expert part of the public survey later (see below).
- b) **Stakeholder interviews** - The interviews will be targeted at around 50 stakeholders who have been actively involved in different aspects of the implementation of the strategy. The interviews will be carried out by telephone. However, if there is an identified need and the opportunity to target multiple stakeholder representatives within a short time period for more in-depth discussions, a limited number of the interviews will be carried out in-person. In addition to filling in gaps in available evidence, the interview process will also feed into the development of four case

studies. These will focus on implementation issues, including examples of specific actions taken in response to the Strategy, and key lessons learned to date.

- c) **Public survey** – A 12-week internet-based public consultation is intended to reach a broad audience and will be launched in early October 2017. The focus of the public consultation survey will be to elicit feedback on the draft recommendations prepared in the evaluation study based on the first phase of consultation in the first half of 2017. The consultation will include two main parts, one containing questions for individuals and entities with general interest in adaptation, and the other with more specific questions suitable for stakeholders with greater knowledge, so as to gather input from experts who were not subject to the targeted surveys or interviews. The first part will be a multiple choice questionnaire available in all EU languages, while the expert survey will include free-text fields and will be available in the six largest EU languages (DE, EN, ES, FR, IT and PL) so as to allow a swift processing of the free text answers. The contributions made to the online consultation will be made public through the consultation webpage in the language they were submitted.
- d) **Stakeholder workshops** – Two workshops will be organised to gather new evidence and to elicit further feedback on draft conclusions. The first workshop will target a broad audience including climate change adaptation experts, Member State authorities responsible for a range of policy areas for which adaptation is of particular relevance (e.g. energy; agriculture; health; construction etc.), other public actors, Committee of the Regions, European local and regional authorities networks, NGOs and private businesses. The list of invitees will be compiled from existing mailing lists under the different adaptation aspects. Outcomes of the workshop will be critically assessed, taking account of different stakeholder categories, consultation topics and relevance of collected inputs. The second workshop will be publicised on the CLIMA website and will be an opportunity to any interested party to participate and comment. The two workshops will be as follows:
  - i. 5th April 2017 in Brussels full-day workshop – To briefly present the EU adaptation strategy and obtain feedback on its implementation and also to guide the further development of the evaluation.
  - ii. September/October full-day workshop – To discuss the preliminary results of the evaluation study and to collect further inputs.

A 10-page synopsis report will be developed bringing together the results of all consultation activities.

#### **4. Consultation Webpage**

A public consultation web-page will be developed by the Commission Services with all relevant background and guidance information and will be used to publish the results of the evaluation. The online public consultation will also be published in Your Voice in Europe in October 2017.

The public consultation will be promoted on the DG Climate Action ([https://ec.europa.eu/clima/index\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/index_en)) and Climate-ADAPT websites (<http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/>)