

Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

Summary for Slovenia

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

Slovenia adopted the Strategic Framework for Climate Change Adaptation (NAS) in December 2016. A national adaptation plan (NAP) is intended, although drafting hasn't yet started as vulnerability assessments for the sectors and municipalities are still underway.

Agriculture, forestry and water management are the only sectors with active action plans containing adaptation. There is no systematic approach or coordination of local/regional adaptation, although guidance documents exist on integrating adaptation into spatial planning and impact assessments.

Adaptation strategies

Slovenia adopted the Strategic Framework for Climate Change Adaptation¹ in December 2016, setting an objective of being fully adapted by 2050. The Strategic Framework includes a plan for analysing climate impacts until 2100 and vulnerability indicator methodology for Slovenian regions.

Sub-nationally, adaptation is based on participation in ad hoc projects, e.g. the first regional adaptation strategy is the one for agriculture sector adaptation to climate change in the Vipava Valley 2017-2021. New legislation requires adaptation to be integrated in the local and regional development processes.

Adaptation action plans

NAP drafting hasn't yet started, as vulnerability assessments for the sectors and municipalities are still underway. Currently, regions are only required to develop regional spatial plans that include vulnerability assessments.

Sectoral plans which address adaptation include: the Strategy for Adaptation of Slovenian Agriculture and Forestry to Climate Change (2008) with an action plan implemented within the national Rural Development Programme; the River Basin Management Plans for the Danube and Adriatic Sea Basins 2016–2021, which focus on drought, and the Flood Risk Mitigation Plan on flood protection projects.

¹ http://www.mop.gov.si/fileadmin/mop.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocja/podnebne_spremembe/SOzP_ang.pdf

Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation

1 Coordination structure

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning is in charge of adaptation policy-making. It coordinates the Inter-ministerial Working Group on Climate Change Adaptation, which has members from all concerned sectoral ministries, agencies and government offices, supports adaptation policy-making (and implementation) by contributing to strategy, action planning and public involvement.

There is no active vertical coordination mechanism specific for adaptation; however there are such mechanisms in place in development planning and SEA, as well as in wider legislation and policy-making.

2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development

Stakeholders were extensively involved in preparation of the Strategic Framework. This included hearings for the general public, targeted consultations with NGOs, sectoral experts and researchers, e-consultation and a presentation to the Council for Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection.

Based on shared transboundary watercourses and mountains, Slovenia participates in 2 international river commissions, three EU regional strategies and the Alpine Convention, with a number of relevant projects; but transboundary cooperation hasn't yet resulted in specific adaptation on the ground.

Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change

3 Current and projected climate change

The Meteo-service and the Civil Protection and Disaster Relief Administration collect data on climate and extreme weather events, issuing information and warnings. Long-term assessments of climate change impacts until 2100 are based on new IPCC RCP emission scenarios. Tailored climate services are used for risk assessment upgrades, project vulnerability assessments and long-term planning.

A national climate risk assessment in 2014 included all sectors. Agriculture and forestry analysed vulnerability in 2004, and the water sector did preliminary risk assessments for river basin and flood risk management planning. Vulnerability assessments do not identify transboundary risks.

4 Knowledge gaps

The Strategic Framework identifies the importance of improved knowledge and knowledge transfer. Adaptation-related research was mainly carried out in forestry and agriculture, and the Drought Management Centre for South-eastern Europe, which monitors and assesses drought risks and vulnerability.

5 Knowledge transfer

There is no dedicated portal on adaptation; capacity building and education materials are limited. The Slovenian Environment Agency runs an information website on climate change, including public alerts for hazardous climate events. Limited information is available on ministries' websites, including promotional and educational material disseminated through participation in European projects. Slovenia plans to develop a capacity building and communication programme funded by Climate Fund.

Step C: Identifying adaptation options

6 Adaptation options' identification

Slovenia is yet to start working on an action plan of adaptation measures. Adaptation options are only defined for the agriculture, forestry and water management sectors, based on autonomously implemented sectoral risk and vulnerability assessments.

The Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief is the national coordination body for risk assessment and for national emergency response plans; it coordinates its work with adaptation policies through the Interministerial working group on Disaster Risk Assessments.

7 Funding resources identified and allocated

Funding for cross-cutting climate adaptation actions is available within Climate Change Fund, for development of local/regional adaptation strategies, training, awareness-raising and research, without sector-specific allocations. Through EEA and Norway grants mechanism EUR 14,500,000 has been recently allocated for climate change mitigation and adaptation actions until 2021.

Step D: Implementing adaptation action

8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes

Assessment of climate change impacts is a requirement in EIA, and guidance documents are available. New disaster risk management plans are under preparation; current plans do not specifically mention climate impacts, although plans exist for floods, fires, epidemics, landslides. Adaptation considerations are included in water management (floods and droughts), and the forestry and agriculture sectors. A recent Spatial Planning Law integrates climate change adaptation, as well as EIA/SEA/appropriate assessment, in spatial/urban/land use planning processes at all levels. Adaptation is not mainstreamed in insurance policies, however there are incentives for investments in risk prevention in agriculture.

9 Implementing adaptation

Adaptation actions are carried out in agriculture, forestry and water management, in line with the Action plan, and the River Basin Management and Flood Risk Mitigation plans. Implementation in the water sector started recently; agriculture and forestry reports annually within agricultural development monitoring. Stakeholder involvement in these sectors includes public hearings and consultation with experts, institutions, associations.

Specific cooperation mechanisms supporting local/regional adaptation are expected to be detailed in the NAP.

Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities

10 Monitoring and reporting

NAS implementation is not yet monitored, although a qualitative and quantitative monitoring process is being set up, including a vulnerability indicator, that will be detailed in the NAP.

Monitoring of water sector plans is disseminated in annual reports; and monitoring of adaptation in forestry and agriculture is part of national annual agricultural development reports. No other sectors or sub-national plans explicitly focus on climate adaptation.

Indicators and a periodic adaptation review system are due to be developed in the framework of NAP.

11 Evaluation

Although monitoring and evaluation are activities envisaged in the Strategic Framework, no evidence on the planning of a periodic review of the Strategic Framework is yet available.

The Strategic Framework envisages involvement of stakeholders in future evaluations of adaptation policy through efforts of the Inter-ministerial Climate Change Adaptation Working Group, in coordinating themes among and within sectors and involving general public and experts in the process.