

EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change - evaluation outcomes and latest state of play -

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How cities respond to climate change

Warsaw, 19 September 2018



Climate change is affecting all European regions – but adaptation needs differ across regions

Probable climate change impacts in Poland:

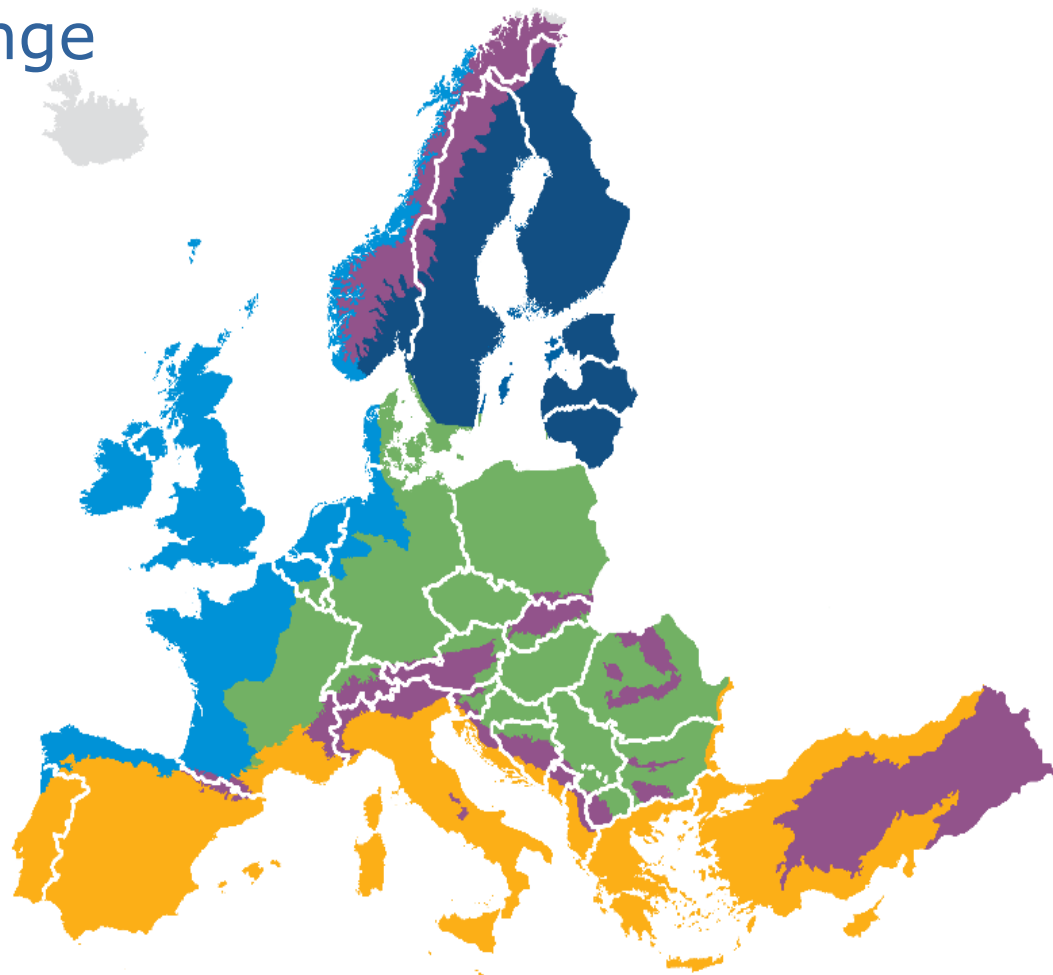
Continental region

- Increase in heat extremes
- Decrease in summer precipitation
- Increasing risk of river floods
- Increasing risk of forest fires
- Decrease in economic value of forests
- Increase in energy demand for cooling

Mountain regions

- Temperature rise larger than European average
- Decrease in glacier extent and volume
- Upward shift of plant and animal species
- High risk of species extinctions
- Increasing risk of forest pests
- Increasing risk from rock falls and landslides
- Changes in hydropower potential
- Decrease in ski tourism

+ Sea level rise



Source: 2016 EEA report on climate change, impacts and vulnerability

European Environment Agency



Dual challenge

1. We must sharply cut greenhouse gas emissions to prevent unmanageable impacts ('**mitigation**')
2. We must also adapt to climate change to increase society's resilience and manage unavoidable impacts ('**adaptation**')



Both are complementary and can mutually reinforce!

Mitigation: EU climate and energy targets

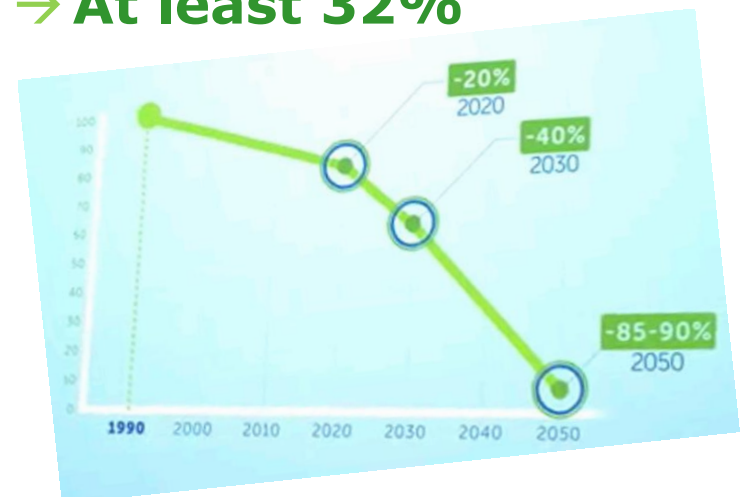
2020 targets:

- * **20% cut** in **GHG emissions**
(compared to 1990 levels)
- * **20%** improvement in **energy efficiency**
- * **20%** of energy from **renewable sources**

✓ *Good for the climate, energy security, innovation, growth, clean jobs and competitiveness!*

2030 targets:

- **At least 40% cut**
- **At least 32.5%**
- **At least 32%**



Poland – a solid stance on adaptation

- ✦ National Strategy for Adaptation (2013)
- ✦ "Soft-coordination model" (no national action plan on adaptation)
- ✦ Substantive action at sub-national level
- ✦ One of the first EU MS undergoing an evaluation of its adaptation strategy



Multi-level action in full stride

- * MPA – the flagship initiative of Poland on (urban) adaptation
- * CLIMCITIES
- * ADAPTCITY
- * Guidance documents on:
 - * urban adaptation plans (2014)
 - * Preparing investments that considers climate change mitigation and adaptation, including resilience to natural disasters

EU adaptation strategy (2013)

Under evaluation!

1. Promote action by all member states

- ✓ Encourage all MS to adopt adaptation strategies
- ✓ Provide funding to help them build resilience
- ✓ Launch voluntary adaptation initiative for towns and cities - **Covenant of Mayors**

2. Make EU-level action 'climate-proof'

- ✓ Further integrate climate adaptation needs into key vulnerable sectors eg agriculture, fisheries, energy, regional development
- ✓ Make infrastructure more resilient
- ✓ Promote insurance against disasters




3. Make decision-making better informed

- ✓ Address knowledge gaps through research
- ✓ Develop European climate adaptation platform as 'one-stop shop' for adaptation information in Europe - **Climate-ADAPT**



National Adaptation Strategies overview

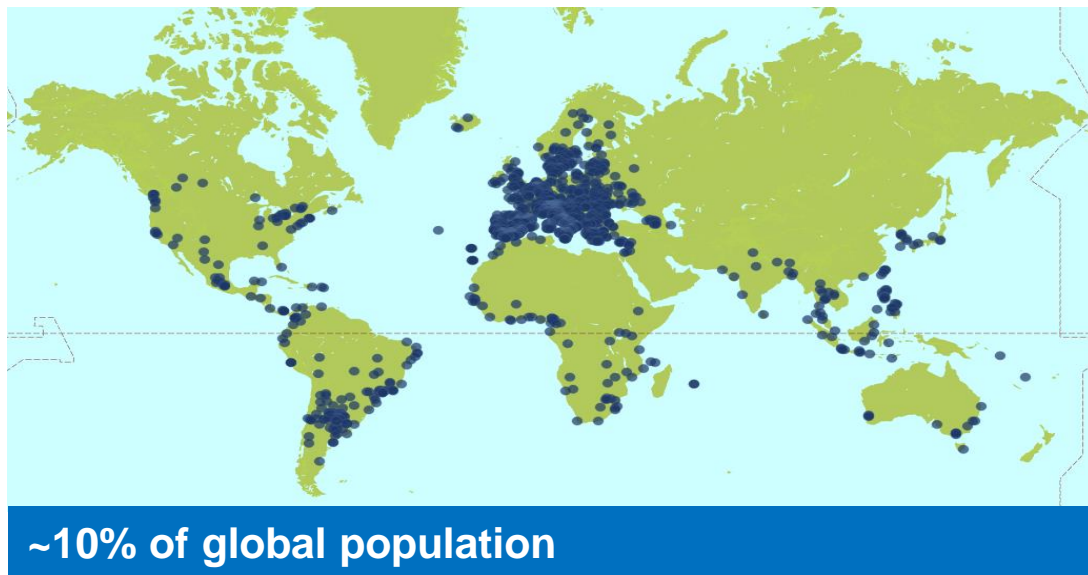


-  **National Adaptation Strategy Adopted**
-  **National Adaptation Strategy under development**
-  **Outside coverage**

Source: EEA (2018)

Covenant of Mayors for climate and energy

- * **7,755** signatories, **1,000+** committed to 2030 targets and adaptation



- * **6,000+** Sustainable Energy Action Plans developed, with a total greenhouse gas reduction of **23%** achieved to date
- * **40% emissions** reduction by **2030**, and development of **local adaptation plan**



Covenant of Mayors
for Climate & Energy



GLOBAL COVENANT
of MAYORS for
CLIMATE & ENERGY



European
Commission



The Covenant of Mayors in Poland



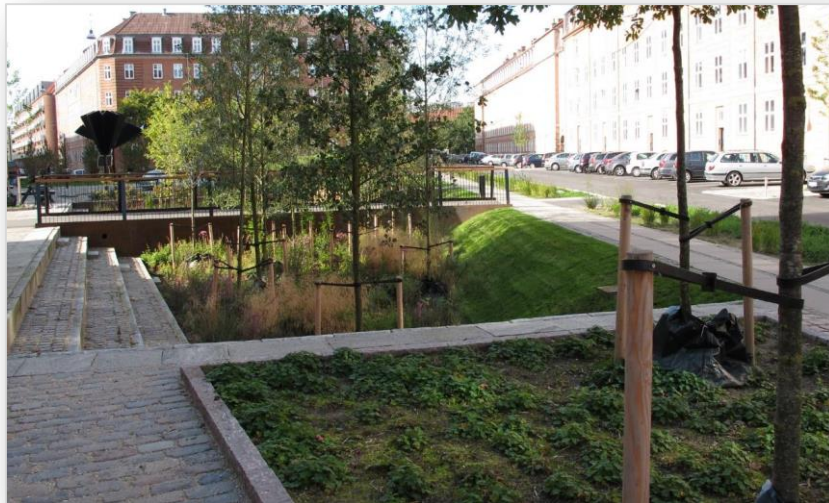
40 signatory cities (including Warsaw, Wrocław, Bydgoszcz, ...),

2 signatories to 2030 Covenant targets (Warsaw?)

39 Action Plans developed & **7** monitoring reports

7 supporting structures: funds, city networks & Regional Energy Agencies (incl. National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, Association of Polish Cities, Baltic Energy Conservation Agency)

Local level action examples



Systemic solutions in Copenhagen, Denmark



Adaptation Plans for 44 cities in Poland



Reopening a canal for storm water management in Växjö , Sweden



Scheme for the purchase of rainwater management installations in Bratislava, Slovakia

EU Urban Agenda – working together for better cities

- * [12 Partnerships](#)
- * [One stop shop](#)
- * [Urban data platform](#)
- * [Urban Innovative Actions](#)
- * [Urban Investment and Advisory Platform \(URBIS\)](#)



EU funding for climate action

- * **Budget focus: at least 20%** of EU budget 2014-2020 to climate-related action, including development cooperation (€180 billion)
- * Integrating climate considerations into **all main spending areas**, e.g. regional spending, agriculture, R&D
- * **European Investment and Structural Funds** – 25% or € 115 billion in support of climate change objectives
- * **Horizon 2020** - 35% of its € 70 billion budget for climate-related projects
- * **LIFE Programme** - more than €800 million for climate projects in 2014-2020 (split between mitigation and adaptation)

Resilient Infrastructure



http://ec.europa.eu/clima/publications/docs/major_projects_en.pdf

- * Climate proofing of (major) projects;
- * Revising standards: transport, energy and buildings

Regional & macro-regional cooperation

- ✳ We promote climate action in the four EU level macro regional strategies: **Baltic Sea, Danube, Alpine, Adriatic and Ionian**
- ✳ **The European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)** programmes successfully integrate climate action - >20% or nearly €2 bn
- ✳ Focus on **'soft'** measures



Evaluating the EU Adaptation Strategy

- ✳ Assessing relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, and EU value added
- ✳ Actual state and progress in the implementation of the 8 actions against what could reasonably expect to have been achieved by 2017

Support study

Stakeholder consultations

- ✳ 2 stakeholder workshops (April 2017, Jan 2018)
- ✳ Interviews and surveys with stakeholder groups
- ✳ On-line public consultation
- ✳ 381 responses, 40 position papers

Findings – Relevance

With increasing evidence of climate change, the EU Adaptation Strategy **continues to address real needs. However:**

1. New **international** agreements (Paris, Sendai, Sustainable Development Goals) created new need for alignment
2. Need to implement the adopted **National** Adaptation Strategies (NAS)
3. Reinforced need for **sub-national** action
4. New **knowledge** about high-end climate change creates more need of sectoral climate proofing and disaster risk reduction
5. Further need to involve **business and insurers** to ensure investments

Findings – Effectiveness

1. We are **on track** to achieve the specific and operational objectives by 2020.
2. **25** EU Member States have **National Adaptation Strategies** in place (but implementation/monitoring lagging behind)
3. **60** ongoing adaptation **projects under LIFE** covering a total area the size of Germany – disseminating solutions and best practice
4. **27% of EU cities** are estimated to have **local adaptation plans**, while 40% of the cities over 150,000 inhabitants have committed to adopt one.
5. **Knowledge base enlarged**, but gaps not closed and new ones emerged.
6. **Climate-ADAPT successful** in disseminating information

Findings – Efficiency

- 1. Administrative costs low** and mostly limited to the Commission
- 2. Costs for other stakeholders are voluntary** in the majority of cases and linked to access to EU funds
- 3. Benefits clearly outweigh the costs**, the actions appear to be efficient
- 4. No unnecessary burden** or prominent monitoring effort stemming from the EU Adaptation Strategy

Findings – Coherence

1. EU Adaptation Strategy highly **coherent with other EU policies** – but need to better track adaptation specific funding.
2. Coherence **to be improved**:
 - a. **between national and sub-national action**, but the EU Adaptation Strategy alone cannot achieve it through voluntary measures
 - b. **with international frameworks** (Paris, Sendai, SDGs)
 - c. **with international EU policies** such as trade and migration (to tackle spill over effects of climate change in 3rd countries)
 - d. **internally in the EU Adaptation Strategy** to exploit synergies (agriculture/insurance, local/national adaptation)

In summary

The EU Adaptation Strategy has so far been...

- ✱ RELEVANT, but new needs have emerged (high-end CC, spill over effects, Paris Agreement, alignment with DRR, work with private sector)
- ✱ EFFECTIVE, but in the case of MS, mostly in encouraging preparatory action (NAS), less in promoting implementation and review
- ✱ EFFICIENT, light on overall costs
- ✱ COHERENT internally, at EU and at national level, less so at sub-national level
- ✱ showing EU ADDED VALUE, except where little has happened so far (like insurance).

What's next?

- ✱ The Commission **Report** on the implementation of the EU Adaptation Strategy in Autumn 2018
- ✱ **Possible review/revision** of the EU Adaptation Strategy after 2019

Latest state of play (1/3)

Energy Union Governance regulation

- ✳ Political agreement reached by Council and European Parliament on the Governance Regulation on 20 June 2018
- ✳ Replaces the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (Article 15 on reporting on adaptation)
 - ✳ Last round of reporting under MMR by 31 March 2019
- ✳ Adaptation proposals
 - ✳ Adaptation part of the **National Energy and Climate Plans**
 - ✳ Adaptation **reporting every two years** (first round by 15 March 2021)

Latest state of play (2/3)

On Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2021-2027 – proposal from European Commission

- ✳ A new **climate goal of 25%** for EU budget
- ✳ Contributing funding **instruments and programmes to become more ambitious** (e.g. European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund, Common Agricultural Policy, Connecting Europe Facility, LIFE...)
- ✳ **InvestEU**
- ✳ **Strengthened LIFE** programme
- ✳ **Macro-regional strategies reinforced** by a closer alignment of Transnational Cooperation programmes leading to better channeling of funds.

Latest state of play (3/3)

On the EU long-term strategy on emissions reductions

- ✳ Spring European Council 2018: invited the Commission to present by the first quarter of 2019 a proposal for a Strategy for long-term EU greenhouse emissions reduction in accordance with the Paris Agreement, taking into account the national plans.
- ✳ **Adaptation** to current and future impacts of climate change will be part of the EU long-term strategy.
- ✳ Currently **under public consultation** till early October 2018

On sustainable finance

- ✳ The Commission launched a **strategy on Financing Sustainable Growth** in March 2018 with the aim to mobilise private finance towards climate and sustainable objectives



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