



Introducing Climate Change Adaptation across governance levels: From the EU to experiences in Austria

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EU strategy on adaptation to climate change

Adopted: European Commission on 16 April 2013

Overall aims: Make Europe more climate-resilient - enhance the preparedness and capacity of all governance levels to respond to the impacts of climate change

Three key objectives:

- 1. Promoting action by Member States:** The Commission encourages all Member States to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies and will provide guidance and funding to help them build up their adaptation capacities and take action.
- 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.
- 3. Promoting adaptation in key vulnerable sectors** through agriculture, fisheries and cohesion policy, ensuring that Europe's infrastructure is made more resilient, and encouraging the use of insurance against natural and man-made disasters.



The EU Adaptation Strategy package 1/3

<p>Communication: “An EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change”, COM (2013) 216</p>	<p>To present the main challenges and the suggested policy orientations to address them</p>
<p>Impact Assessment (vol. I and II), SWD (2013) 132 and SWD (2013) 133</p>	<p>To prepare evidence for political decision-makers on the advantages and disadvantages of possible policy options by assessing their potential economic, social and environmental impacts</p>
<p>Green Paper on the prevention and insurance of disasters, COM (2013) 213</p>	<p>To evaluate and report on the potential for the EU to support increased coverage of appropriate disaster risk insurance and financial risk transfer markets, as well as regional insurance pooling, in terms of knowledge transfer, cooperation, or seed financing</p>
<p>Guidelines on developing adaptation strategies, SWD (2013) 134</p>	<p>To help prepare or revise climate change adaptation strategies. To build on and make more operational the Adaptation Support Tool available on Climate-ADAPT</p>

The EU Adaptation Strategy package 2/3

Climate change adaptation, marine and coastal issues, SWD (2013) 133

To provide further background material supportive of the Communication on adaptation challenges for marine and coastal issues. To present the outline of actions that the Commission is undertaking in the area of coastal zones, marine issues and climate change adaptation

Adapting to climate change impacts on human, animal and plant health, SWD (2013) 136

To emphasise the social and environmental implications of climate change and climate change adaptation on health issues, as well as highlighting most recent initiatives in the area

Adapting infrastructure to climate change, SWD (2013) 137

To provide further background material supportive of the Communication on adaptation challenges in three key economic sectors: energy, transport and construction/buildings

The EU Adaptation Strategy package 3/3

Climate change, environmental degradation and migration, SWD(2013) 138

To provide an overview of the research and data on the inter-linkages between migration, environmental degradation and climate change. To review initiatives of relevance for the topic which are already being taken by the EU in various policy fields. To analyse on-going debates on policy responses at EU and international level

Technical guidance on integrating climate change adaptation in programmes and investments of Cohesion Policy, SWD (2013) 135

To provide advice, methods, tips and examples to understand and integrate climate adaptation needs and priorities into Operational Programmes for the next programming period (2014-2020)

Principles and recommendations for integrating climate change adaptation considerations under the 2014-2020 rural development programmes, SWD (2013) 139

To provide advice, methods, tips and examples to understand and integrate climate adaptation needs and priorities into Member States' Rural Development Programmes (RDP) for the next programming period (2014-2020)

Other related documents and studies

- ❑ **Guidelines for Project Managers: Making vulnerable investments climate resilient**, non-paper
-> To provide support to developers of physical assets and infrastructure on the steps they can take to make investment projects resilient to climate variability and change.
- ❑ **Methodologies for climate proofing investments and measures under cohesion and regional policy and the common agricultural policy** – Final report; Identifying the climate risks related to rural areas and adaptation options; sectoral fiches Cohesion policy and adaptation
- ❑ **Background report to the preparation of the Impact assessment on the EU adaptation strategy** – part I+II
- ❑ Report analysing the **results of the public consultation** on the preparation of the EU Adaptation Strategy

The EU Adaptation Strategy package: http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/what/documentation_en.htm

Related studies: http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/what/studies_en.htm

Results of the public consultation: http://ec.europa.eu/clima/consultations/articles/0015/report_en.pdf

Support to the preparation of the EU strategy

- ❑ From December 2011 until February 2013 by the service contract “Support to the development of the EU strategy for adaptation to climate change” – [EU AdaptStrat](#) (CLIMA.C.3/SER/2011/0026)
- ❑ Project team:
 - Environment Agency Austria (EAA): Project Lead
 - Fresh Thoughts Consulting (FT): Project Co-Lead
 - Ricardo - AEA
 - FEEM Servizi Srl (FEEM)
 - Alterra
- ❑ Main Tasks
 - ✓ Compile [comprehensive background information](#) to inform the Impact Assessment
 - ✓ [Consolidate current knowledge](#), identify [knowledge gaps](#) and develop a strategy for closing them
 - ✓ Identify and assess [policy options](#)
 - ✓ Review existing EU policies and elaborate concrete [options for mainstreaming adaptation](#)
 - ✓ Facilitate [exchange between and cooperating with Member States, regions, cities and all other relevant stakeholders, including EC internal exchange](#) through lunch seminars with COM services
 - ✓ Elaborate [guidelines for adaptation](#)



Selected areas of support for the EU Adaptation Strategy:

The cascade of mainstreaming 1/7

□ Mainstreaming concept

- ✓ 'Mainstreaming', 'climate proofing' and 'integration' of adaptation are increasingly important in policy making, reflecting the view that adaptation to climate change cuts across various policy areas/sectors that are affected by climate change
- ✓ The objective of mainstreaming climate change adaptation is to ensure that relevant policies take due account of climatic changes they are concerned with and thus help increasing societal and ecosystem resilience
- ✓ Mainstreaming efforts need to be coherent across various levels of governance
- ✓ Policy mainstreaming also has the potential to tackle specific bottlenecks like inconsistencies in policy and market beyond introducing adaptation considerations -> cross-sectoral policy integration



Selected areas of support for the EU Adaptation Strategy: **The cascade of mainstreaming 2/7**

□ Mainstreaming efforts at EU level

- ✓ The EU White Paper on adaptation (EC, 2009) already strongly recommended climate proofing of key EU policy areas
 - ✓ Mapping the status-quo of mainstreaming efforts at EU level mid-2012 showed that:
 - Integration of climate change considerations in some key EU sectors has been achieved **in line with** what was proposed in the **White Paper** and beyond
 - However, only a limited number of legislative acts are considering climate change with **varying level of detail**
 - **Several policy areas are not at all addressing climate change**
- ➔ Mainstreaming adaptation into a much wider set of policies and legal actions is needed

Selected areas of support for the EU Adaptation Strategy:

The cascade of mainstreaming 3/7

□ Mainstreaming efforts at national level

16 EU Member States have adopted a national adaptation strategy (NAS) so far:

- ✓ Each of the NAS has been developed with **sectoral focus**
- ✓ **Integration and mainstreaming** adaptation with existing national programmes and policies is **central to all NAS**
- ✓ Some NAS set out concrete **action plans** (Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Malta and Spain)
- ✓ **Only two** of the NAS in place (Belgium and Ireland) **consider transboundary issues**, i.e. those issues affecting neighbouring countries (linking to EU projects and/or requirements for transposing EU legislation into national law)
- ✓ **None** of the NAS make direct **links to macro-regional perspectives** and **interregional coordination**

Selected areas of support for the EU Adaptation Strategy:

The cascade of mainstreaming 4/7

- ❑ Mainstreaming efforts at transnational level
 - ✓ Many transnational cooperation projects on adaptation have been initiated over the last years (majority financed by EU-funds, e.g. LIFE+/INTERREG)
 - ✓ INTERREG activities are taking place in all regions in Europe (most focus on North-West Europe and the Alps while less adaptation projects address the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe) that:
 - differ in scope and focus, but share the advantage to deal with regional specifics
 - focus on stakeholder involvement at regional and local level to gather knowledge and specific needs from the regional and local communities and develop jointly feasible adaptation responses
 - are set up with case study regions within the greater transnational cooperation area, where project results can be tested and discussed with regional and local stakeholders towards their practical applicability

Selected areas of support for the EU Adaptation Strategy:

The cascade of mainstreaming 5/7

□ The hierarchy of mainstreaming across governance levels

Adaptation mainstreaming cuts across different jurisdictional levels, from the EU via the national to the sub-national and local levels of policy making

- ✓ **EU:** Institutionalise mainstreaming for amendments and new EU policies
- ✓ **National level:**
 - Implementation of EU policies under further refinement in various affected sectors
 - No legal requirement to develop national adaptation strategies (NAS), but requests from UNFCCC and the EU Adaptation Strategy
 - **NAS** should provide **framework for mainstreaming**, following a systematic approach of coordinating adaptation needs horizontally across sectors
- ✓ **Sub-national/regional/local level:** Sub-sequent activities and concrete adaptation measures following national requirements and interregional or cross-border cooperation

Selected areas of support for the EU Adaptation Strategy: **The cascade of mainstreaming 6/7**

□ BUT:

No linear policy and decision making in practice due to:

- ✓ Differing timeframes (e.g. set policy revision cycles)
- ✓ Governance and institutional structures
- ✓ Lack of political will
- ✓ Level of understanding and acceptance for the need to take action (if legal requirements are missing)
- ✓ Degree of being directly concerned with climate change impacts triggering action
- ✓ Lack of sufficient data and information in some sectors for evidence based decision making



Selected areas of support for the EU Adaptation Strategy: The cascade of mainstreaming 7/7

- How to ensure coherence of mainstreaming efforts?
 - ✓ Stakeholder involvement is key!
 - ✓ Identify the right entry point and make use of existing instruments and processes
 - ✓ Establish a well defined mechanism for coordination, provide necessary guidance, capacity building and resources
 - Vertical integration requires not only hierarchical mainstreaming, but also engagement with the private sector and making use of existing networks
 - Active information sharing and guidance will enhance integration adaptation across all levels of decision making
 - ✓ Foster Science – Policy interfaces (SPIs)
 - Establish/Make use of existing processes for an active exchange of science and policy communities
 - Influence the set-up of research funding introducing requirements for policy-relevant outcomes and “end-user” involvement



Selected areas of support for the EU Adaptation Strategy: EU guidelines on developing adaptation strategies 1/4

Methodological Approach

❑ Step 1: Screening existing guidelines/guidance

- ✓ Keyword-internet research to identify guidelines in the form of written reports or online toolkits (mostly in English language, but also in German and French)

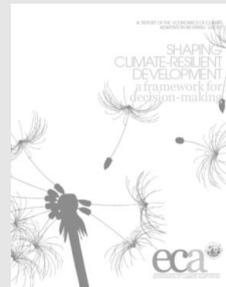
Result = 55 guidelines

Guidelines available ...

... for certain countries

... for certain sectors
...or cross-sectoral

... for certain levels
...or multi-level



Selected areas of support for the EU Adaptation Strategy: **EU guidelines on developing adaptation strategies 2/4**

❑ Lessons learned from screening:

- ✓ Build on **existing evidence base** from a wide range of disciplines, expertise and practical experiences
- ✓ Address adaptation as an **dynamic process** and as a result of mutual learning
- ✓ Establish a clear link to **real policy process** and existing structures, activities, etc.
- ✓ Follow a **pragmatic** approach
- ✓ **Involve target groups** activity in the development process
- ✓ Address **possible barriers** in adaptation proactively
- ✓ Suggest a simple and widely applicable **monitoring and evaluation system**

❑ Further relevant issues:

- ✓ Present **case studies and good practice examples** across Europe
- ✓ Highlight the **European context** with implications on the national level (e.g. transboundary issues)

Selected areas of support for the EU Adaptation Strategy: **EU guidelines on developing adaptation strategies 3/4**

❑ Step 2: Develop draft guidance

- ✓ Based on existing work and practical experiences with other guidance development processes (e.g. for the national level, EU RAS)

❑ Step 3: Discuss outline and key issues with national policy and decision makers

- ✓ EEA EIONET meeting (22-23 May 2012, Brussels)
- ✓ Member State Meeting for Southern Europe (29 May 2012, Rome)
- ✓ CIRCLE-2-Share workshop - Views and Challenges in Central and Eastern Europe (27-28 June 2012, Vienna)
- ✓ Second Nordic International Conference on Climate Change Adaptation (29-31 August 2012, Helsinki)

❑ Step 4: Finalise guidance

- ✓ Published with the Adaptation Strategy package as Staff Working Document (SWD)

Selected areas of support for the EU Adaptation Strategy: EU guidelines on developing adaptation strategies 4/4

□ Structure

- ✓ Organized along the **six steps of the adaptation support tool** provided under Climate-ADAPT
- ✓ New step 1: **Preparing the ground for adaptation**
Introducing key elements important to build the basis for a successful adaptation process
- ✓ Remaining five steps should be **considered as iterative and closely interlinked phases**

□ Content

- ✓ **Recommendations** for each step plus concluding step
- ✓ **Examples** from Member States for each step
- ✓ **Further information:** key principles, self-check, glossary, EU support, funding instruments



Austrian Adaptation Policy Process

Start: 2007

Political mandate: Development of National Adaptation Strategy is included in the federal government program 2008-2013

Main responsibility: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

Coordination: Support from Kyoto-Forum (= cooperation between all federal Ministries and representatives from all nine provinces)

Adopted: Council of Ministers in October 2012



Austrian Adaptation Policy

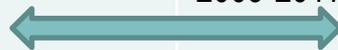
Overall aim

- ❑ to reduce anticipated **negative impacts** of climate change on Austria's society, economy and environment
- ❑ to use **positive effects** of climate change and allow synergies
- ❑ to provide an **overall framework** in which adaptation should take place

Characteristics of the development process

- ❑ **Sectoral** (14 sectors addressed) and **iterative approach**
- ❑ National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) and National Action Plan (NAP) **jointly developed**
- ❑ close collaboration with **science**
- ❑ broad **stakeholder engagement** to support the development of the NAS

NAS/NAP Process	Facilitating activities
<p>Start: 2007 Responsibility: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management</p>	<p>Website www.klimawandelanpassung.at with comprehensive information about climate change/adaptation in Austria and activities towards the development of the NAS</p>
<p>Support: “Kyoto-Forum” (cooperation between the aforementioned Ministry and representatives from all nine Austrian provinces)</p>	<p>Database providing adaptation examples with search option by sector, governance level, spatial patterns and research vs. practical example</p>
<p>Political support: Federal government program 2008-2013</p>	<p>Newsletter on climate change adaptation for Austria</p>
<p>Development process: Gradual development of a “Policy Paper” as basis for the final strategy</p>	<p>Accompanying participation process - involving all relevant stakeholders from government, business and public – 2009-2011</p>
<p>(Scientific) Expert studies on the identification of first recommended adaptation actions for different sectors to be included in “Policy Paper”</p>	<p>Identification of first recommended adaptation actions to be discussed in the participation process and integrated into the strategy (“Policy Paper”)</p>



Website: www.klimawandelanpassung.at

Main content

Climate change in Austria

Adaptation to climate change

Austrian adaptation strategy:
background, content and
participation process

Research projects

Database: adaptation measures

Links/Glossary/Newsletter

The screenshot shows the website interface with the following elements:

- Navigation:** Home, Kontakt, Impressum
- Left Menu:**
 - Klimawandel in Österreich
 - Anpassung an den Klimawandel
 - Österreichische Anpassungsstrategie
 - Forschungslandschaft
 - Datenbank
 - Links
 - Glossar
 - Newsletter Registrierung
- Main Content:**
 - Header: Klima | Wandel | Anpassung
 - Section: **Klimawandel-Anpassung in Österreich**
 - Text: "In Wissenschaftskreisen wird an einem menschenverursachten Klimawandel nicht mehr gezweifelt. Aktuelle Studien zeigen, dass selbst durch einen vollständigen Stopp des Ausstoßes von Treibhausgasen eine Temperaturerhöhung unvermeidbar ist. Deshalb wird in den letzten Jahren auch vermehrt über notwendige Schritte zur Anpassung an die nicht mehr abwendbaren Folgen des Klimawandels diskutiert."
 - Text: "Diese Web-Seite bietet Ihnen eine Fülle an Information zum Thema Anpassung an den Klimawandel."
 - Image: Three men in suits holding a document.
 - Text: **Österreich bereitet sich auf den Klimawandel vor: Pressekonferenz am 12. Juni 2013 in Linz**
 - Text: "Bei einer Pressekonferenz in Linz wurde am 12. Juni 2013 die erste Klimawandel-Anpassungsstrategie auf regionaler Ebene vorgestellt: die des Landes Oberösterreich. Erstellt wurde sie auf Basis des durch den Klima- und Energiefonds finanzierten und vom Umweltbundesamt in Kooperation mit der Universität für Bodenkultur durchgeführten Projektes "FAMOUS"."
 - Section: **Weitere Informationen**
 - Section: **6. Call des Austrian Climate Research Programme (ACRP) bis zum 5. 9. 2013 offen**
 - Text: "Der inhaltliche Schwerpunkt der mittlerweile sechsten Auflage des Klimafolgenforschungsprogrammes „ACRP“ liegt weiterhin in der Erforschung nationaler Ausprägungen und Auswirkungen des Klimawandels und der sich daraus ergebenden Verwundbarkeit"

Participation process

- ❑ Environment Agency Austria carried out the participation process in close cooperation with responsible Ministry and Kyoto Forum (= steering group)
- ❑ 106 institutions (e.g. federal and provincial Ministries, interest groups, NGOs) were actively involved in the participation process

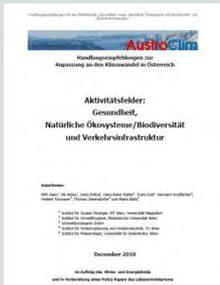
Financed by	Duration	Sectors discussed
Climate- and Energy Fund Austria	1.phase: January 2009 – September 2010	Agriculture, Forestry, Water, Tourism, Energy
	2.phase: October 2010 – July 2011	Biodiv., Natural hazards, Buildings, Health, Transport infrastructure

Objectives

- ✓ Raise awareness
- ✓ Provide a platform for exchange
- ✓ Foster transparent decision-making
- ✓ Improve the NAS/NAP quality
- ✓ Enhance acceptance
- ✓ Facilitate the implementation



Close cooperation between science and policy makers

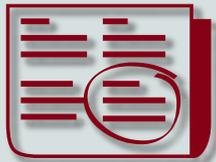


Scientific studies on adaptation options

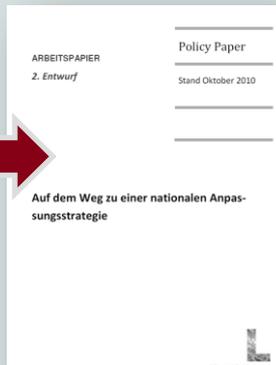
for each sector addressed in the NAS/NAP such as agriculture, water, health, etc.



3 stakeholder consultation rounds



Policy Paper
= „working paper“



Participation process

Results

Austrian Adaptation Strategy (+ NAP)

Lessons Learned



- ❑ Sharing information and engaging stakeholders and scientists was a resource-intensive process...
... **BUT** absolutely worth the effort!
- ❑ Other ministries and provinces were involved via various formats of engagement ...
... **BUT** a formal institutional set-up is missing!
- ❑ Engagement in the development process was crucial...
... **BUT** it should continue when implementing!
- ❑ Every adaptation process is very context specific...
... **BUT** transnational exchange of experiences is very inspiring and helpful!

Ongoing activities for implementation

- ❑ Informal workshops with policy makers in provinces
- ❑ Brochure to introduce adaptation to the broad public
- ❑ Translation of NAS and parts of website into English
- ❑ Research studies dealing with questions such as cost of inaction, costs of adaptation measures, adaptation support for sub-national level, communication of adaptation, etc.
- ❑ Monitoring and evaluation approach
- ❑ ...



Source: Linux Solution Austria

Context of the NAS available in english at:

http://www.lebensministerium.at/dms/lmat/umwelt/klimaschutz/klimapolitik_national/anpassungsstrategie/strategie-kontext/AustrianAdaptationStrategy_Context_FINAL_25092013_v02_online.pdf



THANK YOU!

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