

## **The municipalities of the Northwest region of the Czech Republic adapt to climate change: overview of barriers and challenges**

Adam Emmer, Eliška Krkoška Lorencová, and David Vačkář

Department of Human Dimensions of Global Change, Global Change Research Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno, Czech Republic (emmer.a@czechglobe.cz)

The municipalities of the Czech Republic have been facing negative impacts of changing climate in the past decades – especially floods (1997, 2002, 2010, 2013), droughts and heat waves (2013, 2015), claiming lives, material damages and economic losses up to several % of GDP. Reflecting these events, climate change adaptation should represent major issue in strategical planning on all administrative levels, which is actually not fully met nowadays. Sectoral National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) was approved by the Government of the Czech Republic in autumn 2015 and the implementation action plan is currently being approved. Adaptation strategies on lower administrative level (adaptation strategies of individual municipalities) are, however, still quite rare.

In this contribution, we analyse barriers and challenges for: (i) the development of climate change adaptation strategies on administrative level of individual municipalities in the Northwest region, Czech Republic; and (ii) implementation of adaptation measures into the decision-making processes. Based on participatory seminars with key stakeholders organised in pilot municipalities, it was shown that municipalities are (at least partly) able to cope with existing risks such as floods, but are not well-prepared for expected regionally “new“ risks such as long lasting heat waves, insufficient water retention and flash floods. Linking the goals of adaptation strategy with urban planning seems to be challenging task but also potentially powerfull tool to implement specific adaptation measures. It emerged, that complicated ownership relations often cause obstacles for implementation of adaptation measures, highlighting the potential of stimulation and motivation tools from the side of the municipality. On the other hand, it was also shown that despite experiencing its negative impacts, climate change is often neglected or perceived as a marginal issue by some municipalities and developing adaptation strategy is considered needless, referring to another burning issues such as socioeconomic situation. The role of information campaigns and education of stakeholders as well as public regarding climate change and possible future climate change impacts is, therefore, considered highly important task.