



Information on national and urban adaptation strategies and actions in Europe

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The interest in monitoring, reporting and evaluation (MRE) of adaptation policies and actions has grown during the past years at all governance levels. This is related among others to the 2013 EU climate adaptation strategy and the growing number of countries and cities that are developing adaptation strategies and have begun to implement adaptation actions. The demand to understand to what extent these strategies and actions work, in which contexts, and why, has increased. According to an EEA report on 'National monitoring, reporting and evaluation of climate change adaptation in Europe' (Dec. 2015) 14 countries have systems for monitoring, reporting and/or evaluation of adaptation in place or under development. The report is based on information provided voluntarily by EU member states to EEA and on reporting by countries under the EU monitoring mechanism and presented in country pages on Climate-ADAPT, updated in 2015. The report covers topics such as drivers and purposes of MRE, governance and participation, methodological approaches, informing adaptation policy and practice and future plans. For most of the 14 countries the main aim is monitoring and reporting of the progress achieved in the implementation of actions and policies in national adaptation strategies or action plans. Only few countries are in the stage of evaluation and one of the main reasons is that adaptation is still a new policy area in most countries. A 'mixed methods', which combines quantitative (including indicators) and qualitative information (including process-based indicators), provides a strong basis for assessing adaptation progress and performance. So far only few countries have developed such 'mixed methods' approaches. The indicators developed in these countries measure trends in changes to exposure and vulnerability over time, and observed impacts. It can be expected that in future an increasing number of countries will develop 'mixed methods' approaches and sets of adaptation indicators, while taking into account the national context, including in particular resource and data availability.

EEA will publish a report on urban adaptation in July 2016. It will contain complementary and new information and knowledge after publication of an earlier 2012 report on urban adaptation. The report presents an overview on the state of urban adaptation action at different governance levels in Europe. It also explains interaction with other themes and policies (e.g. climate change mitigation, water management, green infrastructure, nature protection and enhancing biodiversity). The report assesses topics such as the differences and strengths and weaknesses of incremental and transformational adaptation and how adaptation is part of urban development and quality of life. The report is based on information provided voluntarily by EU member states to EEA and from the EU funded initiative MayorsAdapt.

Furthermore complementary online information on urban vulnerability to climate change in Europe is available on various maps in Climate-ADAPT.