

ROADMAP	
TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE	<b>Communication on the EU Adaptation Strategy</b>
TYPE OF INITIATIVE	X CWP      • Non-CWP      • Implementing act/Delegated act
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	CLIMA – C3
EXPECTED DATE OF ADOPTION	Month/Year: Q1 2013
VERSION OF ROADMAP	No: 2      Last modification:      Month/Year: September 2011

This indicative roadmap is provided for information purposes only and is subject to change. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content and structure.

A. Context, problem definition
<p>(i) What is the political context of the initiative?</p> <p>(ii) How does it relate to past and possible future initiatives, and to other EU policies?</p> <p>(iii) What ex-post analysis of the existing policy has been carried out and what results are relevant for this initiative?</p>
<p>(i) This initiative builds upon the White Paper "Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action" (COM(2009) 147 final) adopted on 1st April 2009. The White Paper foresees the development of a comprehensive EU adaptation strategy by 2013.</p> <p>(ii) The strategy relates to the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy and in particular to the resource efficiency flagship as well as to the implementation of the post 2013 Multiannual Financial Framework. Adaptation to climate change is a crosscutting issue and will affect key EU policies including: Cohesion policy, Common agricultural policy, policies related to disaster risk management, maritime policy and environmental policies.</p> <p>(iii) The White paper contains over 33 actions, which have already been implemented or are being currently implemented. A corresponding "Joint Action Plan" has been drawn up and is frequently updated and discussed with other relevant services.</p> <p>A number of studies have also been launched, which help with the assessment and mainstreaming of relevant policies. A list of these studies can be found in section E.</p>
<p>What are the main problems which this initiative will address?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are still a number of knowledge gaps on addressing the adverse effects of climate change in Europe. This concerns, in particular, the generation and sharing of sound data and modelling results essential for assessing climate related risks, potential damages and cost-efficient adaptation options.</li> <li>- A number of EU policies are or will gradually be affected by the adverse effects of climate change but often do not sufficiently take into consideration the need to adapt to those negative effects.</li> <li>- Need for awareness raising. Not all Member States, regions, cities are at the same level of knowledge, development or capacity to respond to the adverse effects of climate change. Some are not considering how to respond/deal with the adverse effects of climate change, vulnerabilities and adaptation needs.</li> <li>- The private sector, including insurance and finance markets, is not yet fully delivering the right products and services to help private agents in increasing their resilience to climate risks.</li> </ul>
<p>Who will be affected by it?</p>
<p>National, regional and local authorities as well as private sector and citizens in general.</p>
<p>(i) Is EU action justified on grounds of subsidiarity?</p> <p>(ii) Why can Member States not achieve the objectives of the proposed action sufficiently by themselves? (Necessity Test)</p> <p>(iii) Can the EU achieve the objectives better? (Test of EU Value Added)</p>
<p>As part of the preparation of the EU Adaptation Strategy, due consideration will be given to the issue of subsidiarity in order for the initiative to focus on the areas of actions with an EU value added including the following:</p>

- An EU Adaptation Strategy would help sharing information, good practices, address knowledge gaps and take measures consistent with the vulnerabilities and risks faced by different regions/cities that might face the same impacts even if they belong to different countries.
- When it comes to making EU policies climate resilient, this can only be done at EU level. This equally holds for devising effective approaches for dealing with the frequent impacts of climate change, which have a transboundary dimension (cross-border effects on flooding, sea-level rise, etc).
- In relation to the mobilization of the private sector's role in enhancing the EU's resilience to climate change, prevailing market failures and lacks of incentives need to be addressed mostly at EU level, due to the regulatory responsibility for the relevant legislation and for the sake of avoiding the distortions of the single market.

## B. Objectives of the initiative

What are the main policy objectives?

The main policy objectives are: to have a more resilient Europe at national, regional and local level; to facilitate the exchange of good practices and co-ordination. The objective is also to strengthen the knowledge base on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation and to mainstream adaptation into policies, strategies and programmes at EU level (and develop dedicated adaptation action where needed).

Do the objectives imply developing EU policy in new areas?

In principle no.

## C. Options

- (i) What are the policy options being considered?
- (ii) What legislative or 'soft law' instruments could be considered?
- (iii) How do the options respect the proportionality principle?

Policy options will be further developed. At this stage, options around the following three categories are under consideration: (1) filling the knowledge gaps and facilitating exchange of best practices between Member States and actors concerned, (2) further developing adaptation mainstreaming into relevant EU policies and strategies, (3) capturing the potential of the market for enhancing the EU's resilience to climate change.

With regard to knowledge strengthening and dissemination, a major focus will be the development of the EU Clearinghouse Mechanism on Adaptation. The Clearinghouse is currently under development and will be launched in spring 2012. The Clearinghouse will be an electronic portal, providing information, analytical tools and guidance documents on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to policy makers at all levels (EU, national, regional and local). It will also be accessible to the scientific community and the public at large. It will, inter alia:

- Disseminate the best scientific information on current and projected climate change impacts and vulnerabilities;
- Provide guidelines and tools to develop adaptation strategies;
- Provide intelligent search functions for adaptation related information, including publications, research projects, adaptation measures, case studies, datasets and guidance documents; and,
- Facilitate the establishment of networks among stakeholders facing similar adaptation challenges and facilitate exchange of information across the EU.

## D. Initial assessment of impacts

What are the benefits and costs of each of the policy options?

Still to be developed based on the on-going studies and assessment being carried out (see section E)

Could any or all of the options have significant impacts on (i) simplification, (ii) administrative burden and (iii) on relations with other countries, (iv) implementation arrangements? And (v) could any be difficult to transpose for certain Member States?

Detailed assessment is still required on these issues.

(i) Will an IA be carried out for this initiative and/or possible follow-up initiatives? (ii) When will the IA work start? (iii) When will you set up the IA Steering Group and how often will it meet? (iv) What DGs will be invited?

An Adaptation Steering Group (ASG) was created in September 2010 to assist the Commission in developing its approach to dealing with adaptation. The Steering Group brings together Member States and a diverse range of stakeholders. It contributes to the preparatory work of the Adaptation Strategy. The next meeting is on 8 November 2011.

In addition, an Inter-service group on adaptation has been set up, which meets once every 2 months. It discusses progress on mainstreaming adaptation into the EU policies and how to ensure effective synergies between adaptation strategy with other relevant work being undertaken by the Commission.

Timeline foreseen for the preparation of the IA:

2011-2012 background studies; informal stakeholder consultations; targeted, close cooperation with key Commission services; regular presentations on state of play during the inter-service group meetings

2nd quarter 2012 formal stakeholder consultation

2nd quarter 2012 start drafting the impact assessment

3rd quarter 2012 formal launch of ISG on IA; start to drafting the communication 4th quarter of 2012  
IA Board

March 2013 Adoption of the Strategy

DG's participating in the inter-service group on adaptation will be invited to the IA steering group. These will be: AGRI, BUDG, DEVCO, EAC, EEAS, ECFIN, ECHO, ELARG, EMPL, ENER, ENTR, ENV, ESTAT, INFSO, JRC, HOME, MARE, MARKT, MOVE, REGIO, RTD, SANCO, SG, TRADE.

(i) Is any of options likely to have impacts on the EU budget above €5m?

(ii) If so, will this IA serve also as an ex-ante evaluation, as required by the Financial regulation? If not, provide information about the timing of the ex-ante evaluation.

Still to be considered

## E. Evidence base, planning of further work and consultation

(i) What information and data are already available? Will existing impact assessment and evaluation work be used?

(ii) What further information needs to be gathered, how will this be done (e.g. internally or by an external contractor), and by when?

(iii) What is the timing for the procurement process & the contract for any external contracts that you are planning (e.g. for analytical studies, information gathering, etc.)?

(iv) Is any particular communication or information activity foreseen? If so, what, and by when?

(i) Information on climate change impacts, costs and adaptation options are available from the FP7 research projects such as ClimateCost, CLIMSAVE and RESPONSES. Currently several studies are being carried out for CLIMA on climate proofing of EU policies and on applying economic instruments for adaptation. The first prototype of the Clearinghouse mechanism for climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation has been developed. Through a web based user interface, the clearing house will provide a unique access point on information on adaptation and tools to support adaptation policy making. Finally, various DG's are conducting a number of studies on adaptation in their respective policy areas.

(ii) An adaptation strategy support contract will be launched by the end of 2011. In addition, a study on climate proofing Cohesion and Agricultural policies and a project on Adaptation strategies for European cities will be launched simultaneously to complement the adaptation strategy support contract. These projects are listed below.

§ Technical support for development of comprehensive EU Adaptation Strategy for 2013

§ Methodologies for climate proofing investments under cohesion policy and CAP

§ Adaptation strategies for European Cities

(iii) All contracts are expected to be signed by the end of 2011 and deliver results by the end of 2012. (The cities project will have delivery later, but interim results should be available in 2012).

Which stakeholders & experts have been or will be consulted, how, and at what stage?

It is foreseen to organise a number of stakeholder consultations involving stakeholders from local, regional and national levels as well as from the private sector.

The Adaptation Steering Group, consisting of Member States, research institutions, business associations, NGO's and other organisations, is already being consulted on adaptation mainstreaming issues and the development of the EU Clearinghouse Mechanism and will play an important role in the development of the adaptation strategy.

There is also a Working Group on the Knowledge Base (WGKB). Its work feeds into the Adaptation Steering Group. It consists of researchers, scientists, academia and other stakeholders. The WGKB will share knowledge, experiences, information and research on climate impacts, vulnerability and adaptation and provide advice on research needs. The WGKB meets periodically, in particular to steer the development phases of the Clearinghouse. Next meetings are foreseen in October 2011 and January 2012.

Consultation, including in a written form, will take place according to the rules established to be reflected as part of the Impact Assessment. For the indicative timetable, see section D above. A more detailed timetable on the stakeholders' consultation will be available in 2012 as a result of the call for tender in "support of the strategy", which will be launched by the end of 2011. Proposals under this call are currently under evaluation.