

Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

Summary for Bulgaria

Disclaimer

Based on the scoreboard in Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2018)460 accompanying the evaluation of the EU's strategy for adaptation to climate change. For referencing this Commission analysis from June 2018, please use the full version in the SWD.

Overall progress

On May 4, 2018 Bulgaria published its draft National Adaptation Strategy (NAS), with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) being presented as a chapter within the draft NAS. The drafts are currently being reviewed by the National Expert Council on Climate Change and the National Coordination Council on Climate Change. Remaining issues in the implementation of adaptation policy relate to a lack of human and financial resources, and a lack of sufficient academic research on climate change impacts to support the implementation of adequate adaptation measures.

Adaptation strategies

The draft NAS "Proposal for a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan"¹ was published on the website of the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water on May 4, 2018. The document is currently subject to review. A Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for Sofia Municipality has been developed under the EU funded project "Transitioning towards Urban Resilience and Sustainability "TURAS". The strategy covers 18% of the Bulgarian population.

Adaptation action plans

The draft NAP was published as a chapter within the draft NAS on May 4, 2018 and is currently being reviewed. Adaptation is mainstreamed in all regional development plans developed under the EU Cohesion Policy (100% of population). However, no designated regional adaptation policy plans have been developed at this stage. The NAP lists planned adaptation actions for 9 economic sectors, but these have not yet been implemented. However, in 2011 a forestry adaptation plan was adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation

1 Coordination structure

The Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW)'s Climate Change Directorate is responsible for the transposition of all EU climate change legislation to national law, and for the policy-making process of the NAS. The Climate Change Expert Council and the Climate Change Coordination Council include representatives from all key stakeholders

¹Proposal for a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, URL: [http://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/%D0%9F%D0%98%D0%9A/%D0%9C%D0%9F%D0%90/Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan%20-%20Full%20Report%20-%20Draft%20\(2018-05-03\)%20-%20EN%20V4.EM.pdf](http://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/%D0%9F%D0%98%D0%9A/%D0%9C%D0%9F%D0%90/Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan%20-%20Full%20Report%20-%20Draft%20(2018-05-03)%20-%20EN%20V4.EM.pdf)

and are responsible, respectively, for consultation and co-ordination. The former has representatives from NABRM – an association with vertical coordination functions that represents the interest of municipalities in all policy-making.

2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development

Stakeholders were involved in the preparation of the planned adaptation actions in the draft NAS for each sector using a multi-criteria analysis approach, following Climate-Adapt guidance. A list of key stakeholders for each sector is presented within the draft NAS. The transboundary nature of adaptation is recognised in the NAS, but no specific actions are outlined, except in forestry. Adaptation issues have been addressed in other transboundary agreements such as EU Strategy for the Danube Region and several IPA cross-border cooperation programmes.

Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change

3 Current and projected climate change

Observation systems are in place to monitor climate and hydrological changes, and to detect forest fires early. No monitoring of extreme weather events and their impacts is currently in place. The most recent IPCC AR5 scenarios are used for climate projections. Several sectoral vulnerability assessments have been produced – a comprehensive assessment by MoEW in 2014, and 9 draft sector-specific assessments developed by the World Bank as a part of the NAS development process. The 2014 assessment contains a chapter on transboundary issues.

4 Knowledge gaps

The draft NAS contains a chapter on the knowledge gaps regarding climate change impacts and adaptation options within each the 9 sectors of interest. These knowledge gaps are considered in the development and prioritisation of adaptation actions. An overarching gap relevant to all sectors is the limited academic capacity in the field of climate change. Sectoral measures relating to research have been outlined for all sectors.

5 Knowledge transfer

Currently, all adaptation-related policy information, including vulnerability assessments, is published on the website of MoEW. However, no climate data, projections or explanations of the science are available. Capacity-building activities are planned within the draft NAS but there is no detailed information on what those activities will be.

Step C: Identifying adaptation options

6 Adaptation options' identification

Priority sectors identified in the NAS include: agriculture, biodiversity, forestry, energy, health, water, tourism, transport and urban planning (including urban infrastructure and construction). An options prioritisation exercise took place for each sector; this included organising stakeholder meetings and considering vulnerability assessments. Some sectors also provide additional assessment/ranking of priority options based on expert judgment and/or additional stakeholder feedback. A disaster risk management report was taken into consideration when developing the NAS, and disaster risk reduction is planned for all sectors.

7 Funding resources identified and allocated

Adaptation policy relies on both EU and national funding. There is a potential for further funding from the private sector (e.g. energy companies). Currently, there is no specific budget line for adaptation but the draft NAS gives examples of EU programmes and national projects that have previously taken place as potential sources of funding.

Step D: Implementing adaptation action

8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes

Adaptation is not explicitly mainstreamed in EIA/SEA, but the provisions have a wide scope for "environmental impact" that could include climate change. The Risk Disaster Reduction Strategy recognises the impact of climate extremes, but there is no evidence that climate projections are considered. Adaptation has been mainstreamed in all planning policies except maritime. Actions in priority sectors have not yet begun (the NAS is still under review). Insurance options have been assessed in the NAS and will be further mainstreamed in all sectoral policies after the adoption of the NAS.

9 Implementing adaptation

The implementation of adaptation actions and policies has not yet begun, as the draft NAS is under review. No clear mechanisms have been set out to foster adaptation at various levels. No guidelines are currently available at national level other than the ones issued by the European Commission; but the NAS includes plans for development of sectoral climate change adaptation guidelines. No mechanism for stakeholder involvement in implementation has been developed at this stage.

Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities

10 Monitoring and reporting

At this stage, it remains unclear how implementation is planned to be monitored in general, at overall, regional, or sectoral level.

11 Evaluation

Regular five-yearly updates of the strategy are foreseen in the draft NAS as a check on the direction that has been taken, together with a review of the actions that are being implemented and a revision of the adaptation action plan as appropriate.