

# Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

## Summary for Greece

### **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.

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Overall progress**

The Greek National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) is the principal policy document defining the goals, principles and priorities for climate adaptation; it lists potential adaptation measures for all environmental and socio-economic sectors that are likely to be significantly affected by climate change in Greece. Its implementation process is at an early stage and sectoral, regional and local level adaptation measures are on-going. A detailed vulnerability assessment covering all priority sectors has been conducted and valuable material thus exists which can be used as a basis for adaptation.

#### **Adaptation strategies**

The Greek NAS<sup>1</sup> was finalised in April 2016 and formally endorsed by the Greek Parliament in August 2016. It has a 10-year implementation horizon, followed by a review. The draft NAS was open to public consultation before its finalisation. The NAS is a strategic document which provides guidance for climate change adaptation and lists potential adaptation measures for all potentially vulnerable sectors in Greece. Greece considers that there is no need for regional (sub-national) adaptation strategies; although (see below) the planning of adaptation action is at the regional level.

#### **Adaptation action plans**

It was decided that the National Action Plan would be developed in the form of 13 Regional Adaptation Action Plans (RAAPs) instead of a centralised document. Thus, the 13 Regional Authorities of Greece are currently developing their RAAPs, with a 7-year planning cycle. It is expected that the majority will be finalised by mid-2019. Each RAAP will include potential adaptation measures at regional level, taking into account regional specificities, and indicating specific actions per sector or sub-regional area wherever necessary.

#### **Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation**

##### **1 Coordination structure**

The Ministry of Environment & Energy (MEEN) is designated by law as the national competent authority to draft the NAS, and to oversee its evaluation and revision process. A National Climate Change Adaptation Committee (NCCAC) was formed consisting of representatives from different levels of government, as well as academia, industry and non-governmental bodies, which are involved in developing and supporting adaptation

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ypeka.gr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=crbjkilcLIA%3d&tabid=303&language=el-GR>

policies. The Committee will act as the formal advisory body of the MEEN for adaptation policy monitoring, evaluation and design.

## **2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development**

The draft NAS was subject to public consultation (e.g. Academia, Ministries, Hellenic National Meteorological Service, NGOs, etc.) prior to its finalisation. The draft RAAPs will be subject to public consultation and to an opinion-giving procedure by the existing Regional Consultation Committees, consisting of relative municipalities, regional representatives of the government authorities, regional stakeholders, and citizens' representatives.

The NAS includes specific transboundary actions for developing common policies, shared data collection stations, capacity building, etc. The RAAPs will include international cooperation and will undergo transboundary public consultation where relevant. Bilateral, trilateral and sectoral programmes between Greece and its neighbouring countries already exist.

### **Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change**

## **3 Current and projected climate change**

There are many climate observation systems in Greece operated by the Hellenic National Meteorological Service, the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, the Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems and Forest Products Technology, the National Observatory of Athens and a number of national research centres; oceanic observation is also very developed in Greece.

The NAS was built on a national multi-sectoral climate change impacts and vulnerability assessment developed by a Committee in 2011. This assessment used model simulations to project future climate changes and to assess climate change impacts. The vulnerability assessment covered 11 priority vulnerable sectors. RAAPs will include regional CCIV assessments which will take into account any transboundary risks.

## **4 Knowledge gaps**

The NAS outlines sectoral knowledge gaps that need to be addressed. In addition, it is intended that the RAAPs should identify additional regional/and or sectoral knowledge and information needs, arising from the regional climate change vulnerability and impact assessments.

## **5 Knowledge transfer**

Currently, adaptation-related data are not publicly available but the need for an online National Adaptation Knowledge Hub has been identified and the MEEN is looking for the necessary funding. The NAS does not include a clear approach on how adaptation relevant capacity-building activities are going to be addressed, but funding is being sought to provide capacity building and training programmes for regional and national key stakeholders.

### **Step C: Identifying adaptation options**

## **6 Adaptation options' identification**

A detailed risk assessment for all priority sectors at national level has been performed by the Climate Change Impacts Study Committee (CCISC) in 2011 which provided background evidence for the development of the NAS, covering water resources, coastal

zones, fisheries and aquaculture, agriculture, forest ecosystems, biodiversity and ecosystems, tourism, built environment, transport, health, and the mining industry. The NAS lists potential adaptation actions per sector based on best available scientific knowledge, international and European practice. The MEEN is represented within the structure of the Hellenic National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which is coordinated by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection.

## **7 Funding resources identified and allocated**

The 'Transport Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainable development' Sectoral Operational Programme and the 13 Regional Operational Programmes of the National Strategic Reference Framework 2014-2020 for European Structural and Investment Funds, together with the Rural Development Programme, are the main EU funding sources of adaptation actions at national and regional level. No specific national funding sources have been identified.

### **Step D: Implementing adaptation action**

## **8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes**

The recent transposition of the revised EIA directive includes a requirement to consider climate change adaptation. The RAAPs are intended to provide the necessary information to support mainstreaming of adaptation, including for example in disaster risk management plans. Land use and spatial/urban/maritime planning policies refer indirectly to climate change adaptation; but RAAPs should propose ways to integrate adaptation into existing urban and spatial policies/plans. Four national priority sectors (agriculture, forests, biodiversity, health) include mainstreaming of adaptation in policy documents. There is no evidence that adaptation is mainstreamed into insurance sectors.

## **9 Implementing adaptation**

Implementation of adaptation actions is on-going at sectoral, regional and local levels. However, coordinated implementation of the NAS has only recently begun. The MEEN is seeking funding to coordinate cross-regional and enhance national-regional-local adaptation action. No specific guidelines are issued by the Greek authorities for assessing the impact of climate change on major projects. Regional stakeholders (public authorities, scientific community, business and industry, civil society, etc.) will be invited to identify measures and support their implementation.

### **Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities**

## **10 Monitoring and reporting**

There is not yet an established monitoring process in Greece. However, a monitoring system will be developed for each RAAP, with the aim of continually monitoring both the progress and the effectiveness of implemented actions. Sector-specific adaptation actions foreseen in RAAPs will be monitored through the respective regional monitoring plans. Finally, the Central Union of Greek Municipalities and the Union of Greek Regions will provide feedback to the NCCAC referred to above.

## **11 Evaluation**

The NAS and RAAPs will be subject to evaluation and revision at least once every ten years and at least once every seven years, respectively. In addition, the NCCAC will regularly monitor and evaluate the national adaptation policy and suggest necessary policy, legislative or other measures and arrangements. The development of the NAS and RAAPs

involve the engagement of stakeholders, and they will also be involved in their evaluation and review.