

Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

Summary for Slovakia

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

Slovakia adopted a National Adaptation Strategy in 2014 and an Action Plan on drought and water scarcity in 2018. Preparation of the National Action Plan (NAP) on adaptation has been launched in 2018. According to the overall adaptation scoreboard, the country has been positively evaluated for preparing the ground for adaptation, identifying adaptation options. As regards the assessment of risks and vulnerabilities, Slovakia should address knowledge gaps and knowledge transfer issues. Regarding implementation, further progress should be made under national disaster risk management and procedures to assess the potential impact of climate change.

Adaptation strategies

Slovakia adopted its National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) in March 2014; it examines climate impacts and proposes a coordination framework for implementation of adaptation measures. In 2017, the Slovakian Ministry of Environment launched the revision of the NAS, and the updated version is expected to be approved by the government towards the end of 2018. Currently, there are two regional adaptation strategies, both of which include an action plan and a catalogue of adaptation measures; they cover around 12% of the Slovak population.

Adaptation action plans

The Action Plan 'HODNOTA JE VODA', tackling impacts of drought and water scarcity, was adopted by the government in March 2018; however, a NAP that addresses climate change adaptation more generally is only in preparation. There are no regional action plans, but, at a city level, Bratislava has adopted an Adaptation Action Plan in March 2017. Moreover, there are no sectoral adaptation plans, although adaptation actions are included in the existing sectoral strategies for water management, agriculture, forestry, and disaster risk management.

Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation

1 Coordination structure

The central body coordinating climate adaptation policy-making is the Ministry of Environment (MZP SR). A High-Level Committee for Coordination of Climate Change Policy was established before the adoption of the NAS, through which a working-group on adaptation, including representatives from a number of ministries and institutions, was

created. The Association of Towns and Municipalities and the Union of Slovak Cities are members of this working group.

2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development

In the preparation of the NAS an adaptation working-group involving multiple stakeholders from different government levels, institutions, public bodies, research organizations, and NGOs, was involved. The wider public was also consulted. In practice, Slovakia is involved in transnational cooperation among the Carpathian and the Danube countries, and in other EU funded projects.

Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change

3 Current and projected climate change

The Slovak Hydro-meteorological Institute (SHMU) provides data and research for adaptation to climate change. The Climatological Information System (part of SHMU) contributes to implementation of the National Climate Program, under which climate monitoring tasks are carried out.

Sub-regional and national climate change scenarios use the outputs of several global and regional General Circulation Models. The SHMU reports, which analyse key sectors in terms of their vulnerability, feed into decision making via the NAS. Transboundary risks are taken into account through the existing cooperation initiatives of the Danube and Carpathian countries.

4 Knowledge gaps

Knowledge gaps are not considered in the current NAS, but are expected to be addressed in the updated NAS. Research institutes and other organisations that participate in the adaptation working group provide their expertise in the preparation of the NASs. Moreover, the Slovak Environmental Agency initiated in 2018 a project that focuses, among other things, on adaptation to climate change and risk management.

5 Knowledge transfer

The Ministry of Environment website hosts a section dedicated to climate change, including general information, documents, and links that are relevant for adaptation, but this information is basic as there are no data or projections presented. More technical information is available at the SHMU website. Capacity building, education, and training activities in climate change adaptation are not implemented systematically.

Step C: Identifying adaptation options

6 Adaptation options' identification

The current NAS presents adaptation options and measures for almost all sectors analysed, for example biodiversity, built environment, and public health, and the revised NAS aims at adding the soil, energy and industry, and tourism sector. The selection of the adaptation measures included in the NAS are based on objective methods such as expert judgement, consultations among organisations or with stakeholders, and guidelines. Strategies and actions regarding disaster risk management and adaptation are coordinated by working groups.

7 Funding resources identified and allocated

The financial instruments (national and EU) that could be and are used to fund adaptation measures are discussed in the NAS. These include the national revitalisation and integrated management of floods programme, EU Operational Programmes, European Economic Area and Norway grants, the LIFE programmes, and transnational cooperation programmes.

Step D: Implementing adaptation action

8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes

The revised Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive have been transposed by Slovakia, and climate change, including adaptation, is considered in the assessment of projects. A national framework for single and multi-hazard risk assessment, which considers some current climate-related risks, is in place. Sectoral strategies that take climate change adaptation into consideration include sectors such as biodiversity, water, urban development, health, agriculture, and forestry. However, no evidence could be found that adaptation is mainstreamed in insurance policies.

9 Implementing adaptation

An analysis of progress in implementing adaptation measures from 2014 to 2016 was published in a report showing that the situation has improved and adaptation concerns were included in several sectoral strategies and plans. The Ministry of Transport and Construction published guidance on how to implement adaptation options of the NAS at local level. Other guidelines are not yet available. The main stakeholder category that participates in the implementation of adaptation policies is NGOs, especially at the local level; stakeholders from the energy and industry sectors are involved through the SEA and EIA consultation processes.

Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities

10 Monitoring and reporting

In 2016, the government adopted the progress report mentioned above, "Information on the progress made in implementing adaptation measures in the Slovak Republic", which analyses the process of adaptation in Slovakia between April 2014 and April 2016. In this report, two short chapters on adaptation actions in key sectors and in the local level are presented as well. No subsequent reports are available in respect of the current NAS.

11 Evaluation

The results of the review of the current NAS are described in the draft version of the updated NAS. This includes information on the progress made in the implementation of adaptation measures and the strategy update on the new scientific knowledge on climate change. The current NAS will be updated later in 2018 and the new strategy is planned to be evaluated in 2023. The stakeholders involved in the review the current NAS were the adaptation working group. NGOs and the general public were invited to provide their input on the draft revised NAS.