

Climate adaptation in coastal zones opportunities for support from the EU

Willem Jan Goossen, European Commission (DG Climate Action)

The future of Coasts and Ports in a changing climate: needed actions and opportunities for a Sustainable Blue Economy | 7th November 2023 | Blue Economy room | Ecomondo

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Coastal areas & climate change

- Coastal climate change hazards:
 - Sea level rise
 - Coastal floods & storm surges
 - Ocean warming/heat waves
 - Acidification
- Coastal stressors:
 - Land degradation
 - Water pollution
 - Land subsidence
 - Habitat destruction



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Coastal flooding and adaptation

	Today	High emissions	
		No adapt	Adapt
Damage (€ billion/year)	1.4	239	23
People exposed (million/year)	0.1	2.2	0.8



© picture: OECD

Adaptation leads to

- 90% reduction in damage
- 63% reduction in people exposed



The European Climate Law

- The [European Climate Law Regulation](#) of 30 June 2021
- Climate-neutrality objective 2050 & 55% GHG-reduction by 2030
- Towards **climate-resilience** by 2050

- Art.5 'Adaptation to climate change'
 - Commission and MS shall adopt adaptation strategies
 - Commission shall adopt guidelines for projects
- Art. 6 & 7 Assessment of Union and MS measures progress
 - 2023 & each 5 yrs: assess progress EU, collective and individual MS

A new EU strategy on climate adaptation

- Vision: by 2050 the EU will be a climate-resilient society, fully adapted to the unavoidable impacts of climate change
- Objectives:
 - **Smarter adaptation**
 - **More systemic adaptation**
 - **Faster adaptation**
 - **Stepping up international action for climate resilience**
- [COM\(2021\)82 Final](#), 24 February 2021



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Smarter adaptation

improving knowledge and managing uncertainty, by

- Pushing the frontiers of **knowledge** on adaptation
 - Horizon Europe, LIFE, Interreg, internal
 - International: OECD (2021), **Adapting to a changing climate in the management of coastal zones**, OECD Environment Policy Papers, No. 24,
- More and better climate-related **risk and losses data**
- Making **Climate-ADAPT** the authoritative European platform for adaptation knowledge

→ Climate Adapt portal <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu>



© picture: NOAA

More systemic adaptation

support policy development at all levels and sectors, by:

- Improving **adaptation strategies and plans**
- Fostering **local, individual, and just resilience**
- Integrating climate resilience in **macro-fiscal policy**
- Promoting **nature-based solutions** for adaptation



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Faster adaptation

speeding up adaptation across the board, by:

- Accelerating **the rollout** of adaptation solutions
- Reducing **climate-related risk**
- Closing the **climate protection gap**
- Ensuring the **availability** and **sustainability** of **freshwater**



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Stepping up international action

For climate resilience, by:

- Increasing support for **international climate resilience and preparedness**
- Scaling up **international finance** to build climate resilience
- Strengthen **global engagement** and **exchanges** on adaptation



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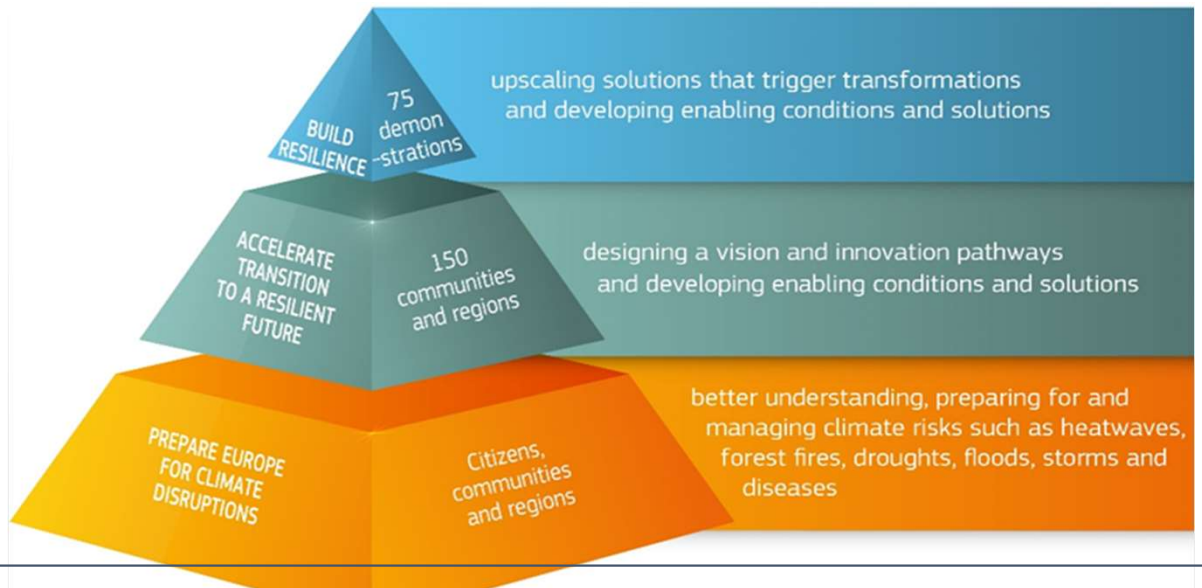
EUROPEAN UNION

EU MISSIONS
ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Green Deal Missions:



Objective:
 Help at least 150 European regions and communities towards climate resilience by 2030



Technical Guidance on Climate Proofing of Infrastructure

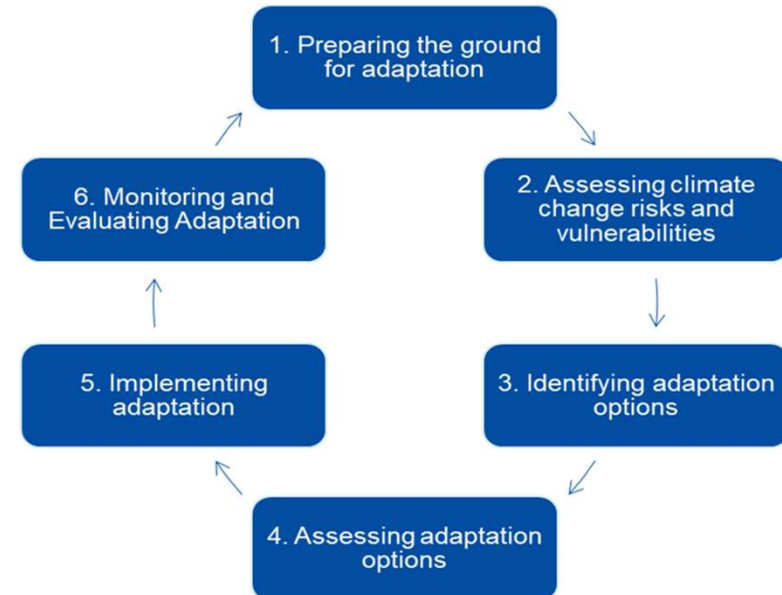
- All projects financed by the EU
- Climate mitigation & **adaptation**
 - Phase 1: Screening
 - Phase 2: Detailed analysis

Climate proofing means a process to

- ***prevent infrastructure from being vulnerable to long-term climate impacts***
- *while ensuring the 'energy efficiency first' principle is respected and the level of GHG emission from the project is consistent with climate neutrality objective in 2050.*

Guidelines on MS' adaptation strategies and plans

- Legal framework duty to adapt
- Regular update NAS and NAP
- Adaptation policy priorities
- Regular updated CC impact and vulnerability assessment
- Stress testing of (critical) infrastructure and systems
- Sufficient personnel and financial resources
- Engagement of relevant stakeholders
- Multi-level coordination and mainstreaming
- Monitoring and evaluation of implementation of actions



Climate Action Progress Report 2023

- Climate Law reporting
- Based on reporting Member States
- Incorporation of climate adaptation in EU policy proposals
- State of implementation of the EU Adaptation Strategy
- Collective progress MS
- Ch. 5 'Climate Adaptation', Annex 10 & Staff working document on EUAS
- NECP – individual MS assessment & recommendations

EU financing options

- 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework
- The Recovery and Resilience Facility
- The European Regional Development Fund
- The Cohesion Fund
- The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
- The EU programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE)
- Research & development (Horizon Europe)

Thank you for your attention

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 https://climate.ec.europa.eu/index_en

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