Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

Summary for Latvia

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

Latvia has not yet adopted its National strategy on climate change. The Draft National Adaptation Strategy up to 2030, together with the Action Plan, is currently in the process of inter-ministerial consultation, and is expected to be adopted by Cabinet of Ministers by the end of 2018.

Latvia either fully or partially meets scoreboard criteria 1-7 (steps A: Preparing the ground for adaptation; B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change; C: Identifying adaptation options); but has not made considerable progress with criteria 8 -11, (steps D: Implementing adaptation action and E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities).

Adaptation strategies

The draft NAS is not yet available to the public. At the moment, there are no sub-national or regional adaptation strategies and plans. Traditionally, the regional level has not been very relevant in Latvia. Three Latvian municipalities - Valka, Daugavpils and Smiltene - have signed up to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy initiative committing to develop local adaptation strategies or plans.

Adaptation action plans

The national adaptation plan is as noted above currently (with the national strategy) in an inter-ministerial consultation process, and is expected be approved during 2018. Some municipalities, such as Riga and Ventspils have drawn up their local action plans for minimising the greatest risks (e.g. flood boundaries, flood construction level) and these actions are included in flood risk management plans.

Modelling of possible climate change impacts on internal waters of Latvia was carried out in framework of State Research programme during 2010, and results are integrated in water basin management plans[1].

[1] https://www.meteo.lv/lapas/vide/udens/udens-apsaimniekosana-/upju-baseinu-apgabalu-apsaimniekosanas-plani-/upju-baseinu-apgabalu-apsaimniekosanas-plani-un-pludu-riska-parvaldiba?id=1107&nid=424

Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation

1 Coordination structure

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (MoEPRD) is responsible for preparing the NAS and coordinating implementation. MoEPRD has established interministerial and expert working groups; both have received a draft of the NAS for comment. The interministerial group involves the ministries for Health, Finance, Agriculture, Transport, Economics, Welfare, and state civil defence, coordination, and military bodies. Coordination of sub-national government adaptation takes place in the context of Latvia's involvement in Covenant of Mayors.

Different levels of administration, such as municipalities and planning regions are involved in the development of climate change adaptation policy in relation to the following sectors: civil protection and emergency planning, building and infrastructure, biodiversity and ecosystem services, agriculture, fishery and forestry sector.

2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development

Cooperation with stakeholders takes place through the working groups mentioned above (intergovernmental and experts). The main tasks of both groups are information exchange, including on policy planning documents, legislation, scientific research, events, fostering implementation of adaptation policies, and integrating adaptation aspects in different legislative proposals.

Latvia takes active part in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR, 2009)[2] and is a member of the Baltic Sea Region Climate Dialogue Platform[3]. The Baltic Sea Region Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and the action plan covers the issue of ever stronger rainfalls and urban planning, as well as practical solutions.

No particular actions are included in NAS in transboundary cooperation (as NAS targets mainly national level), but cooperation is envisaged in the fields of research about impacts of climate change, risk and vulnerability assessments, and adaptation to climate change.[4].

Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change

3 Current and projected climate change

The Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre (LEGMC) is responsible for climate data collection, monitoring extreme events, and analysis. Scenarios and projections are used for impact and vulnerability and adaptation assessments. In 2015 detailed assessments of climate change risk and vulnerability, cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness for adaptation measures in vulnerable sectors were prepared. Transboundary risks are not explicitly included in the draft National Adaptation Strategy, but are taken into account in water and flood risk management.

4 Knowledge gaps

During the development of the NAS, knowledge gaps were identified and prioritised for sectors regarding data collection, monitoring, and research. These knowledge gaps

[2] http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/
[3] http://www.cbss.org/strategies/horizontal-action-climate/
[4] Information received in personal communication with Ilze Pruse, Director of Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environment and Regional Development, on June 1,2018,

regarding climate change impacts, risks and adaptation, and the need for information exchange between national and international institutions, is included in the NAS and NAP. Seminars were organised in 2016 for exchange of knowledge and experience on climate change scenarios. Furthermore, at the end of May 2018, MoEPRD organised a visit of the IPCC to Latvia.

5 Knowledge transfer

There is a dedicated website (in Latvian and English) available via the website of the MoEPRD, which provides information about the development of NAS[5].

In addition, capacity building action has taken place, including training activities and education materials on climate change adaptation (such as projects "Climate education for all" and "Climate Change in Latvia- challenge or opportunity").

Step C: Identifying adaptation options

6 Adaptation options' identification

Comprehensive analysis of possible adaptation options has been conducted for the most vulnerable sectors, as part of the assessment of risk and vulnerability and cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness for sectoral adaptation measures referred to above. These assessments are expected to be used for the identification of options included in the NAS and AP. There is a mechanism in place for coordinating DRR and climate change adaptation: the risk assessment and prevention, and disaster management is prescribed in Civil Protection and Catastrophe Management Law (2016).

7 Funding resources identified and allocated

Different funding resources per sector are specified for adaptation to climate change, such as the general state budget, municipal budget, insurance, EU funds. Within the European Structural and Investment Funds for 2014-2020 funding for measures related to adaption to climate change amounted to more than 63 million EUR.

Step D: Implementing adaptation action

8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes

The national law on EIA, as amended in 2017, does not include climate change considerations. Climate change impacts and extremes are taken into account in State Civil Protection Plan (2014). There are several regulations under development that are relevant to climate change, to implement the new Law on Civil Protection (2016).

Climate change impacts, risks and adaptation measures are addressed in several national documents, including: the Coastal Spatial Development Programme, the Long-term Thematic Plan for Baltic Sea Coast Public Infrastructure, and the National Development Plan.

The draft NAS defines a specific action on insurance under the second strategic priority (adapting the national economy and reaping the benefits), in particular, to strengthen the

[5] http://www.varam.gov.lv/eng/par_ministriju

insurance market through effective schemes and instruments to cover and compensate the losses from climate and natural catastrophes.

9 Implementing adaptation

In the absence of the adopted NAS, autonomous adaptation actions in some sectors (agriculture, civil protection, forestry, public health, building and construction, water management, etc.) are under implementation. Some analysis of the efficiency and sustainability of adaptation measures was made for six sectors, including cost-benefit analysis of adaptation measures6.

Some activities related to climate adaptation have taken place in several municipalities. Some municipalities, such as Riga and Salacgriva, which have been suffered extreme weather conditions (storm surges, floods) have implemented adaptation measures.

Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities

10 Monitoring and reporting

No systematic reporting has taken place, since the NAS and NAP have not yet been adopted. There was no evidence found that adaptation is included in other sectoral reporting mechanisms; and that local adaptation reporting is taking place.

11 Evaluation

Processes for evaluation of the NAS and NAP have yet to be determined.

[6] http://varam.gov.lv/lat/publ/petijumi/petijumi_klimata_parmainu_joma/?doc=23668