Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

Summary for Hungary

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

Hungary's first climate change strategy, which has been in place since 2008, puts more emphasis on mitigation than adaptation objectives, which are limited in scope. Only one action plan was adopted for 2009-2010. In 2017, the Government published a draft revised climate strategy which puts in place a more robust adaptation policy framework; however, it has not yet been adopted by Parliament. This summary therefore focuses on the first strategy. While implementation of some adaptation actions is already taking place these are limited in scope and not necessarily driven by the first strategy.

Adaptation strategies

Hungary adopted its first National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS-I)[1] in 2008; it covers mitigation and adaptation, and identifies objectives up to 2025. In May 2017, a revised strategy – (draft NCCS-II) - was published by the Government, but it has not been adopted by the Parliament yet.

The development of county-level adaptation strategies was supported by EU Structural and Investment Funds, and strategies have been adopted in 18 out of 19 counties, plus in the capital. There are twelve signatories to the adaptation actions under the Covenant of Mayors.

Adaptation action plans

In 2010, Hungary adopted its first National Climate Change Programme (NCCP) for 2009-2010[2]. While the NCCS-I planned to adopt a NCCPs every two years to implement the NCCS-I's objectives, no more NCCPs have been adopted since 2010.

The county-level adaptation strategies mentioned above also serve as sub-national adaptation action plans.

Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation

1 Coordination structure

Coordinating bodies include the Ministry of Innovation and Technology and the National Adaptation Centre (NAC), which are respectively responsible for adaptation policy making

[1] Nemzeti Éghajlatváltozási Stratégia (NÉS) 2008-2025, URL: http://www.kvvm.hu/cimg/documents/nes080214.pdf

[2] 1005/2010. (I.21.) Korm. határozata Nemzeti Éghajlatváltozási Programról, URL: http://klima.kvvm.hu/documents/103/N_P_v_gleges_honlapra.pdf

and implementation of the adaptation policies, and for providing background research and supporting the development of adaptation policies.

A Climate Change Policy Working Group was intended to support coordination between ministries, but does not appear to be in place. Coordination between governance levels is supported by county-level climate change platforms and a partnership initiative, the Hungarian Alliances of Climate-Friendly Cities.

2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development

An open public consultation was in place for providing comments on the draft NCCS-II and discussion were also held within the National Environmental Protection Council and the National Council for Sustainable Development, which incorporate NGOs, academia and governmental authorities.

Transboundary cooperation is not addressed by the NCCS-I; nevertheless, Hungary is part of some international/EU initiatives which cover adaptation, including EU and international cooperation on the Danube.

Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change

3 Current and projected climate change

The Hungarian Meteorological Service (HMS) operates the network for meteorological observations and measurements and tracks primary climate change impacts. Secondary climate change effects are tracked by a wide range of institutes. The HMS applies two regional climate models.

The NCCS-I's vulnerability assessment was built on the VAHAVA project which covered the priority sectors. In 2014, the National Adaptation geo-information System (NAGiS) was established which provided background to the vulnerability assessments within the draft NCCS-II. Transboundary risks are not covered by assessments for the NCCS-I and the draft NCCS-II.

4 Knowledge gaps

While the NCCS-I identifies a set of areas for future R&D no systematic assessment is done on adaptation related knowledge gaps. In contrast, the draft NCCS-II identifies and prioritises key areas of R&D for short-, mid- and long-term timescales.

5 Knowledge transfer

The Government operates a dedicated website on climate change which provides detailed information about Hungary's climate change policy and some general information on climate change science. Furthermore, dedicated websites are in place for the NAC, the HMS and the NAGiS. While capacity building is described in the NCCS-I and the draft NCCS-II systematic action is not in place.

Step C: Identifying adaptation options

6 Adaptation options' identification

The NCCS-I identifies a set of adaptation options within the identified priority sectors (natural resources, agriculture, forestry, water, energy, transport, spatial planning, tourism, human health and insurance), however it is unclear what process was used to identify these options or how they were prioritised.

Disaster risk management is not discussed in detail in the NCCS-I. However, in 2014 Hungary published its risk management approach which covers climate change. The draft NCCS-II plans to put in place more coordinated action on disaster risk reduction.

7 Funding resources identified and allocated

The European Structural and Investments Funds (ESIF) serve as an important source of funding for adaptation in Hungary. Adaptation actions are supported by the Operative Programmes (OPs), in particular the 2014-2020 Environment and Energy OP. There are also national sources of funding. Nevertheless, there was no evidence found on the funding of cross-cutting adaptation action.

Step D: Implementing adaptation action

8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes

In 2017, an amendment was made to the Governmental Decree transposing the EIA Directive which now includes specific adaptation related requirements. In 2014, Hungary published a report on its risk management approach which considers climate change impacts. Climate change adaptation is also considered within Hungary's National Development and Spatial Development Concept Note. Key sectors covering climate change adaptation within the main sectoral strategies include agriculture, forestry, nature and biodiversity, environmental technology and innovation, water, tourism, and spatial planning. No evidence could be found that adaptation is mainstreamed into insurance policies.

9 Implementing adaptation

As indicated above no progress reports have been published since 2012 and therefore assessing implementation is challenging. Implementation of adaptation actions at the sub-national level is supported by county-level climate change platforms which include a wide range of stakeholders.

A number of guidance documents on assessing vulnerability have been published targeting major projects (i.e. projects supported by the EU Cohesion Policy). A Climate Change Committee to support implementation of NCCS-I includes relevant ministries, academia and environmental NGOs.

Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities

10 Monitoring and reporting

Progress on implementing the objectives of the NCCS-I were included in the progress report of the 1st NCCP in 2012; however, no further reports have been published, and monitoring does not appear to have been in place since then. No evidence was found on the existence of sectoral and sub-national level monitoring of adaptation actions.

11 Evaluation

The NCCS-I was scheduled to be reviewed first after two years of its adoption (in 2010) and then every five years (2015, 2020 and 2025). A first evaluation was started in 2013 which eventually led to the drafting of the draft NCCS-II in 2017. No description is provided in the NCCS-I and the draft NCCS-II on the planned involvement of stakeholders in the evaluation processes.