

Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

Summary for Czech Republic

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 Czech Republic is at the implementation phase of its National Adaptation Strategy. According to the adaptation scoreboard, the country has made good progress in preparing the ground for adaptation, assessing the risks and vulnerabilities to climate change, identifying adaptation options, and evaluating the National Adaptation Strategy and actions plans. In terms of implementation, the country was evaluated positively for mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes, except for mainstreaming in insurance. However, gaps remain on implementation of adaptation and monitoring and reporting since the action plan was adopted only in 2017 and the first results will be published in 2019.

Adaptation strategies

In October 2015, the Czech Republic adopted the National Adaptation Strategy (NAS)¹, which assesses the most prevalent climate change impacts on the country and defines appropriate adaptation measures. At sub-national level, there are one regional and six local adaptation strategies adopted, covering 18% of the Czech population. However, more cities are in the process of preparing their adaptation plans and frameworks. Moreover, five Czech cities are signatories to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy with respect to adaptation.

Adaptation action plans

The National Action Plan on Adaptation on Climate Change (NAP)² was adopted in January 2017 aiming to implement the NAS. The NAP contains 33 specific targets, which will be implemented through 52 priority measures. At sub-national level, some of the five signatories to the Covenant of Mayors have now started developing their adaptation action plans. Furthermore, several sectoral strategies include measures for disaster risk reduction connected with climate change impacts, such as extreme meteorological events and droughts and water scarcity.

¹ Ministry of the Environment, Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Czech Republic (2015), available at [https://www.mzp.cz/C1257458002F0DC7/cz/zmena_klimatu_adaptacni_strategie/\\$FILE/OEOK-Adaptacni_strategie-20151029.pdf](https://www.mzp.cz/C1257458002F0DC7/cz/zmena_klimatu_adaptacni_strategie/$FILE/OEOK-Adaptacni_strategie-20151029.pdf) English executive summary: [https://www.mzp.cz/C125750E003B698B/en/strategy_adaptation_climate_change/\\$FILE/OEOK_Adaptation_strategy_20171003.pdf](https://www.mzp.cz/C125750E003B698B/en/strategy_adaptation_climate_change/$FILE/OEOK_Adaptation_strategy_20171003.pdf)

² National Action Plan on Adaptation to Climate Change in Czech Republic (2017), available at https://www.mzp.cz/cz/narodni_akcni_plan_zmena_klimatu

Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation

1 Coordination structure

The national coordinator of the adaptation strategy's development, implementation and evaluation is the Ministry of the Environment. The main stakeholders involved in the preparation of the NAS were relevant ministries and scientific and research institutions covering the sectors of biodiversity, forest, agriculture, water, industry and energy, health and hygiene, crisis management, etc. Through the inter-ministerial consultations, stakeholders from regions and municipalities had the opportunity to participate in the preparation of the NAP.

2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development

The general public was allowed to participate in the formulation of NAS in the form of written comments, and a public hearing through the SEA process. Government and research-related stakeholders participated in the development of the NAP through the inter-ministerial consultations and thematic working groups. The Czech Republic is involved in several transboundary initiatives that address issues related to climate change adaptation and has established frameworks for bilateral cooperation with neighbouring countries.

Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change

3 Current and projected climate change

The Czech Hydro-Meteorological Institute monitors climate change, provides information on weather conditions and alerts on meteorological and hydrological extremes. The main model used in the Czech Republic for climate change scenarios is the ALADIN-CLIMATE/CZ regional climate model the projections of which have been used to screen the environmental impacts of climate change in specific sectors. Research projects have been carried out to assess risks and vulnerabilities in priority sectors, however, transboundary risks have only been assessed in the field of water management.

4 Knowledge gaps

Relevant ministries cooperate with scientific organisations to identify and work on research priorities and the NAS and NAP contain a number of measures to improve the knowledge base on adaptation and research focus areas. Furthermore, there are many Czech institutions that focus on climate change adaptation research, and several funding programmes that indirectly contribute to closing the research gaps.

5 Knowledge transfer

Stakeholders have access to information regarding climate change adaptation through the website of the Ministry of the Environment, and the Czech Hydro-Meteorological Institute also publishes information on current and expected impacts of climate change. To improve capacity-building, the NAS and NAP include a general communication strategy, while the NAS presents a general approach to environmental education.

Step C: Identifying adaptation options

6 Adaptation options' identification

The NAS outlines suitable adaptation measures for ten priority sectors (for examples see section 1) and the NAP analyses the impacts and adaptation measures for each identified

climate risk. The adaptation options were selected by experts and prioritized based on a multicriteria analysis. Officials responsible for disaster risk reduction developed the relevant chapters in the NAS and NAP; and adaptation experts were involved in the preparation of the Strategy of Environmental Safety 2016-2020, ensuring that DRR and adaptation actions are coordinated.

7 Funding resources identified and allocated

Funding for adaption actions is provided through EU funds and national programmes available for specific sectors, such as agriculture, water management, forestry, and biodiversity. However, there is neither a specific budget for financing cross-cutting adaption actions nor a dedicated fund for financing adaptation actions proposed in the NAS and NAP.

Step D: Implementing adaptation action

8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes

The Czech authorities have mainstreamed adaptation in sectoral strategies and plans, such as the national disaster risk management plans, spatial and urban plans. The new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive has been transposed so as to consider climate change adaptation in the national framework for EIA. Similarly, the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) considers climate change adaptation. Although mainstreaming and implementation of adaptation into sectoral policies could be improved, some mainstreaming is identified in agriculture, water management, disaster risk management and education. Limited evidence was found that adaptation is mainstreamed in insurance policies.

9 Implementing adaptation

Some activities of the NAP relevant to water are already implemented, and some sectoral action plans have been undertaken in the area of disaster risk management, regional development and water management. There is no cooperation mechanism in place to support adaptation at local and subnational level; and there are no guidelines on assessment of climate impacts on major projects and programmes. Stakeholders are involved in implementation through the 'National platform MAS' and the 'National platform of healthy cities', and through specific calls of the Ministry of the Environment.

Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities

10 Monitoring and reporting

The overall monitoring of the NAP and the publication of the results will be done in 2019, and, in the same year, the indicators to measure sectoral vulnerabilities to climate change and adaptation measures will be published as well. There is no monitoring and reporting system on regional and local level in place.

11 Evaluation

The NAP is planned to be evaluated in 2019 and this evaluation will be used to revise the NAS, which will be reviewed and updated in 2020. After that, the NAP will be reviewed every 4-5 years and the NAS every 10. Members of the inter-ministerial working group on climate change, including non-government stakeholders will participate in the evaluation and review.