

Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

Summary for Finland

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

Finland's Climate Act¹ (approved in 2015) stipulates that the Government approves a national plan on adaptation at least every ten years. The National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022 was published in 2014 replacing the National Adaptation Strategy from 2005. Many sectors have climate change adaptation plans and actions, the water sector being the most advanced. Adaptation related research is being conducted through various research programmes. The scale of finance is challenging to estimate because adaptation actions are financed from line ministries' budgets and are not necessarily earmarked as adaptation.

Adaptation strategies

The new framework for climate change adaptation, the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022², was published in 2014, replacing the National Adaptation Strategy (NAS). At local level, 125 municipalities (approximately 40%) have a climate strategy and 60% of those reported that both mitigation and adaptation are part of the climate measures in municipalities. By the end of 2012, 16 out of 18 regions had published a climate strategy, including at least some recognition of adaptation.

Adaptation action plans

Some ministries have published already action plans. Sub-national or sectorial action plans are not necessarily called adaptation. For example, by the end of 2015, regional flood risk management plans were published for every significant flood risk areas (21 areas), and currently the implementation of identified measures is ongoing.

Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation

1 Coordination structure

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is in charge of adaptation policy-making and coordination. The National Adaptation Plan 2022 was prepared in a coordination group appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, with representatives from the Prime

¹ In Finnish: <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/esitykset/he/2014/20140082.pdf>

² Finland's National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022, available at: http://mmm.fi/documents/1410837/5120838/MMM-193086-v1-Finland's_National_Climate_Change_Adaptation_Plan_2022.pdf/582041ee-3518-4a63-bf60-7133aed95a9c/MMM-193086-v1-Finland's_National_Climate_Change_Adaptation_Plan_2022.pdf.pdf

Minister's Office and key sectorial ministries (covering environment, education, national safety, economy and employment, research institutes and regional actors). The ministries are responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plan within their respective administrative branches.

2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development

Practical work in preparing the National Adaptation Plan was steered by a broadly-based coordination group. In addition, stakeholders were consulted through open seminars and e-participation forum. The draft plan was commented on by administrations (national, regional), research institutes and universities, NGOs and interest groups. Transnational co-operation is one of the actions included in the Plan focusing on the development of Finnish, Norwegian and Russian nature conservation cooperation.

Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change

3 Current and projected climate change

Observation systems are in place to monitor climate change, extreme weather events and their impacts led by the Finnish Meteorological, Environmental and Natural Resources Institutes. Climate change projections based on scientific evidence and data are available and in use. A comprehensive study of the impacts of the climate change has been completed for water, indirect economic effects of floods, forestry, biodiversity, agriculture, transport, health, and for the Arctic Region Vulnerability assessments have also been conducted for the Barents Region, the Arctic and the Baltic Sea.

4 Knowledge gaps

The National Adaptation Plan 2022 emphasizes the role of practical research for implementation of adaptation measures. The knowledge gaps identified earlier through the policy process have triggered periodic research through programmes and projects. The research has produced comprehensive knowledge on e.g. the impacts of climate change and vulnerability in different sectors that have further helped the planning of adaptation measures.

5 Knowledge transfer

Adaptation data and information is available to all stakeholders on a web portal called 'Climateguide'³, available in Finnish, Swedish and English. It offers research information including mapping tools, data and infographics; case studies; observational data; climate scenarios; impacts; step-by-step guidance to support both mitigation and adaptation actions; and information on upcoming events. In addition, capacity building activities take place for organisations and businesses.

Step C: Identifying adaptation options

6 Adaptation options' identification

In the water resources, agriculture, land use, energy, health and tourism sectors the impacts of climate change are relatively well known, including quantitative information, and options are also identified and implementation started. Adaptation options are usually selected using expert judgement and participatory processes. Regarding actions on Disaster Risk Reduction (RDD), the national monitoring group for adaptation also acts as

³ www.Climateguide.fi

a coordination mechanism with disaster management authorities at national and sub-national level.

7 Funding resources identified and allocated

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry carries out the coordination duties as part of its regular work or through projects. Climate change adaptation is integrated into the key sector activities and ministries are responsible for providing funding to increase climate resilience in their administrative branches. All the research projects have been funded by project funding from the Academy of Finland, among others.

Step D: Implementing adaptation action

8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation from 2017 requires an assessment of environmental risks, including vulnerability to climate change. Disaster risk management plans do not generally consider future climate extremes expected for flood risks. The national land-use guidelines from 2008 mentions the need to consider storms, heavy rains and urban flooding. Water management is a priority sector where adaptation has already been integrated into decision making through digital monitoring and risk management processes. Consumers can insure against floods, but compensation applies only to floods above a pre-defined threshold.

9 Implementing adaptation

Implementation of the adaptation actions in most of the sectors has started and priority sectors have made good progress in implementation. Implementation of the National Adaptation Plan 2022 is monitored and promoted by a National Monitoring Group for Adaptation to Climate Change, which is steered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. This group is the main mechanism for both horizontal and also vertical coordination. There are also projects that foster the cooperation between municipalities, regional authorities and other key stakeholders and sector-specific groups such as the flood groups.

Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities

10 Monitoring and reporting

In line with the Climate Act from 2014 the implementation of the adaptation plan is monitored and reported to the Parliament once during the electoral term as part as the annual climate report. The section on adaptation shall include a review on the adequacy and effectiveness of the adaptation actions. Sectors publish updates on the state of implementation through sectorial actions plans, updates and evaluations. Helsinki Metropolitan Area has its own monitoring and reporting framework for its adaptation strategy.

11 Evaluation

The Government adopts the adaptation plan at least once every ten years. The plan contains a risk and vulnerability assessment and sector-specific action programmes for adaptation, as considered necessary. The mid-term evaluation of the National Adaptation Plan is expected to be published early in 2019. Stakeholder engagement is organised mainly through the monitoring group. The NAS from 2005 had a mid-term and end-term evaluations.