



Regional Conference on Climate Change Adaptation

ECRAN - 56890

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Venue : Hotel Aleksandar Palace *****

Bul. Oktomvriska Revolucija br.15, Skopje

2-3 July 2014

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this event, please go to : <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taieux>.**

Aim of the meeting :

Background

Climate change mitigation measures alone are not sufficient to stop all the adverse effects of climate change. The delayed impacts of past and current greenhouse gas emissions make that additional action is required.

The Western Balkan countries and Turkey are considered highly vulnerable to climate change. They are particularly expected to experience the effects of rising temperatures and disruptions in the precipitation regimes, along with more extreme events, including droughts, floods, heat waves, windstorms and forest fires. Water availability will be affected, energy supply disturbed, food production will come under pressure and food prices will rise while biodiversity will decline.

This makes it a must to manoeuvre economic, environmental and social interests and costs to safe havens through adaptation measures. Adaptation means anticipating the adverse effects of climate change and taking the appropriate action in order to prevent or minimise the damage they can cause, or taking the advantage of opportunities that may arise. It has been shown that well planned, early adaptation action saves money and lives later.

Since the introduction of climate adaptation in 2001¹, the global community has worked on its development, with the 2006 Nairobi Work Programme² and the 2010 Cancun Adaptation Framework³ as the important landmarks. The EU, involved in these developments, not only contributed to global level progress but also developed the EU perspective in its 2013 'EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change'⁴.

A first round of climate adaptation initiatives, both donor and non-donor driven, has taken place in the Western Balkans and Turkey. The initiatives developed a first wave of interest in the topic establishing professional contacts between a modest number of professionals, mainly in the public administrations of the countries involved. A foundation for greater coordination and information-sharing is now in place and the moment to develop a more critical mass for adaptation action has arrived.

Adaptation actions in ECRAN beneficiary countries

Activities under this ECRAN project focus on the ECRAN beneficiaries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey). Several initiatives and projects related to climate change adaptation in Turkey and the West Balkans have already been taken and implemented over the past years. Regional

¹ COP7 (Marrakesh), Least Developed Countries Work Programme

² COP12 (Nairobi)

³ COP16 (Cancun)

⁴ COM(2013) 216 final, 16 April 2013

* this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

political interest in adaptation to climate change was for instance demonstrated by regional initiatives such as the 2007 Belgrade Initiative, resulting in the Regional Forum for Climate Change and the Southeast European Virtual Climate Change Centre, as well as by the 2012 Ministerial meeting⁵ that agreed on regional cooperation in the area of climate change.

In November 2008 the Environment Ministers of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia supported the Southeast European Climate Change Framework Action Plan for Adaptation. This Plan aims to ensure that the Southeast European population build their resilience capacity to the risks and impacts of climate change through the implementation of adaptation actions; the improvement of understanding of climate change and its effects; education and awareness raising; the improvement of decision making and good governance; and the development and strengthening of partnership and cooperation.

Two other important initiatives have contributed to shaping progress in adaptation in the West Balkans. The EU funded UNISDR project 'Building resilience to disasters in the Western Balkans and Turkey' implemented from April 2012 to April 2014 focuses on capacity building in disaster risk reduction, knowledge management, risk assessment, early-warning systems and other. Simultaneously, the EEA funded project on 'Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation (CCIVA) in West Balkan countries' has organised two workshops in Belgrade in 2013, bringing together experts from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro and Serbia to enhance the knowledge base in these countries on both the assessment of climate change impacts and the development of national strategies and policies. This opportunity was also used to share information and knowledge through the Climate-ADAPT platform, to also be used in the future to provide and maintain information on the countries' national profiles.

The EU Stabilisation and Association Process and its ECRAN structure offers a logical place for the stocktaking of the past adaptation initiatives, in developing the future regional work towards adaptation strategy development, and in promoting involvement of and cooperation with the EU Member States in this area while simultaneously enhancing the coordination of the ongoing and regional adaptation initiatives in the region.

Focus of ECRAN adaptation work

The ECRAN activities follow up to the work of the preceding Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA). ECRAN will shape its work such that it will:

- Promote action by ECRAN beneficiaries - the ECRAN Adaptation Working Group will support the Western Balkan countries and Turkey in developing and adopting comprehensive adaptation strategies and will provide assistance in building up their adaptation capacities and take the appropriate action;
- Promote 'climate-proofing' action by further encouraging adaptation in key vulnerable sectors ensuring that the infrastructure is made more resilient;

⁵ Ministerial meeting in Tirana on 21 September 2012 with attendance of Albania, Turkey, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo

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- Support better informed decision-making by addressing gaps in knowledge about adaptation. ECRAN will address adaptation action by coordinating adaptation activities with the European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) as the 'one-stop shop' for adaptation information in Europe.

Attention will be paid to best practice on adaptation (through training) and to supporting the identification and prioritisation of adaptation options and to the required policy changes, structures and processes for adaptation. This work will build on the results of previous activities undertaken; most in particular those of the UNISDR and EEA projects, as a starting point. Close coordination and cooperation will be sought with other adaptation initiatives such as the one from the World Bank.

In practical terms this means that emphasis will be put on the adaptation aspects in such sectors as civil protection and disaster risk management. Disasters caused by climate change – droughts, floods, storms, and other - not only capture people's imagination, but also form a serious point of interest and concern from a political point of view and therefore are, sadly enough, probably the best ambassadors for adaptation awareness and action; with effects that may even reach far beyond these disasters.

High Level Conference and Seminar

The High Level Event aims at bringing together leaders and policy makers of the ECRAN beneficiaries, in order to share the available experience and lessons learned - including on the role that the framework offered by the EU's 2013 Climate Adaptation Strategy may play - to present and discuss the actions that climate adaptation incites in their countries, the regional approaches and cooperation, and to prepare for creating the governance systems that ensure participation of stakeholders and a balance between the top-down and bottom-up processes.

The emphasis during this High Level Conference and the Seminar will be on the future ECRAN action in the field of adaptation needs, adaptation options and the required policy changes, structures and processes that are at the same time cost effective and tangible.

Furthermore the Conference and the Seminar will enhance the coordination and cooperation between the ongoing adaptation activities in the region, such as the Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt Initiatives, including the EU Cities Adapt project, the GIZ initiative on '*Climate Change Adaptation in the Western Balkans*', the UNISDR and WMO's joint programme '*Building resilience to disasters in the Western Balkans and Turkey*', the World Bank's work '*Turn Down the Heat III*', and others.

Participation of international, national, as well as regional/local political and public administration representatives to the Conference and the Seminar is therefore welcomed and will provide an excellent window of cooperation, coordination and networking between the existing adaptation initiatives.

The High Level Conference and Seminar are expected to plant the seeds for development of national institutional structures and to start a process of increased interest for adaptation among the local and regional authorities in the ECRAN countries, eventually resulting in adaptation planning and action.

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Beneficiaries:

Albania, Croatia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey

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WEDNESDAY 2 JULY 2014

Start	Finish	Topic	Speaker	Sub topic/Content
09:00	09:30	Registration		
09:30	09:45	Welcome and Introduction	Nurhan Izairi , Minister, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (Host country)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word of welcome • General introduction to the occurring and expected effects of climate change • How to adapt until mitigation measures bear fruit?
09:45	10:00	Climate adaptation cannot be delayed	Aivo Orav , Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation (Host country)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate effects have become visible • Adaptation as a political assignment • Enhanced intensity and integration of actions needed
10:00	10:30	Major developments in climate areas in the enlargement countries – Challenges and opportunities ahead in the field of adaptation.	Short statements of the beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National, regional and local risks at stake • Consequences from a social, economic and environmental perspective • Cost-benefit aspects • Political options for action

10:30	10:45	The local context of climate adaptation action	Koce Trajanovski , Mayor of Skopje, member of the Covenant of Mayors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local adaptation planning • Perceived challenges and obtained achievements • Inter-municipal and international cooperation • Possible role of the Covenant of Mayors
10:45	11:30	EU Strategy on Adaptation and ECRAN beneficiaries ; Mayors Adapt Initiative	Rosário Bento Pais , European Commission, DG Climate Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline of the EU Adaptation Strategy 2013 • The 2017 review of the Strategy • Promoting urban leadership to climate change adaptation • Building on the “EU Cities Adapt” project
11:30	12:00	<i>Coffee break and Press conference (parallel location)</i>		
12:00	12:20	Climate change adaptation action in a regional perspective	Gazmend Turdiu , Deputy Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SEE 2020 strategy and climate change • Role of local authorities in the context of climate change adaptation • Cooperation mechanisms among authorities
12:20	12:40	Cooperation with the Climate Adaptation Platform and using adaptation tools	André Jol , European Environment Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts and vulnerabilities • Adaptation strategies and policies • Climate-ADAPT and its relevance for the region
12:40	14:00	<i>LUNCH</i>		
14:00	14:20	Working with ECRAN Climate	Imre Csikós , ECRAN Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key achievements • Lessons learned • Opportunities and benefits ahead
14:20	14:40	Climate resilience – ‘Turn down the Heat III’	Philippe Ambrosi , World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate vulnerability and development impacts in water, energy, agriculture in the Western Balkans • World Bank climate support

14:40	15:00	Disaster Risk Reduction in South Eastern Europe	Demetrio Innocenti , UNISDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building institutional capacities • Regional data and knowledge sharing • Awareness raising
15:00	15:20	The Role of Early Warning Systems as an Adaptation measure to Climate Change	Sari Lappi , WMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meteorological and hydrological hazards in the region • Concept of Early Warning System • Role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services related to Early Warning Systems • Possibilities and needs in the region
15:20	15:40	Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation	Carlo Giupponi , University of Venice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The path from vulnerability to adaptation • Pitfalls in the adaptation process • Methods and tools supporting decision making
15:40	16:00	Climate Change Adaptation in the Western Balkans	Jakob Doetsch , GIZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change adaptation strategies • Local flood and drought management plans • Climate change adaptation in urban areas
16:00	16:20	Coffee Break		
16:20	16:50	Forum Discussion: <i>'Where to go, what to do...?'</i>	Moderated by Rob Bakx , ECRAN Climate <u>Forum members:</u> André Jol, Jakob Doetsch, Demitrio Innocente, Philippe Ambrosi, Louisa Whitlock, Sari Lappi, Carlo Giupponi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectation of benefits of climate adaptation action, from the perspective of the EU accession process, domestic and international policy developments • Next steps to increase the cooperation between the EU and the ECRAN beneficiaries on climate adaptation action • Inter-Institutional cooperation and challenges • Needs for institutional strengthening and awareness raising • Cooperation between the regional adaptation initiatives
16:50	17:00	Conclusions and wrap-up		

17:00

END OF DAY 1

THURSDAY 3 JULY 2014

Start	Finish	Topic	Speaker	Sub topic/Content
08:45	09:00	Registration		
09:00	09:20	Adaptation Action in the Western Balkans and Turkey	Vladan Ščekić , South East European Forum for Climate Change Adaptation (SEEFCCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate consequences and public opinion • Education and awareness raising among the public • CSO partnership and participation in climate change adaptation planning
09:20	09:40	Adaptation Strategic Planning process in Italy	Sergio Castellari , IPCC focal point, CMCC, Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a national adaptation strategy • Pitfalls and bottle-necks • Cooperation among authorities: national, regional, local
09:40	10:00	Adaptation Strategic Planning process in Lithuania	Jurga Rabzauskaitė-Survilė , Ministry of Environment, Lithuania (TBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a national adaptation strategy • Pitfalls and bottle-necks • Cooperation among authorities: national, regional, local
10:00	10:20	Adaptation Strategic Planning process in Belgium	Johan Bogaert , Coordinator Climate Adaptation, Belgium (TBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a national adaptation strategy • Pitfalls and bottle-necks • Cooperation among authorities: national, regional, local
10:20	10:50	Coffee break		
10:50	11:10	Adaptation Strategic Planning process in Finland	Jaana Kaipainen , Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a national adaptation strategy • Pitfalls and bottle-necks; 2014 update

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation among authorities: national, regional, local
11:10	11:35	Adaptation Strategic Planning process in Austria	Markus Leitner , Umweltbundesamt, Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a national adaptation strategy Pitfalls and bottle-necks Cooperation among authorities: national, regional, local
11:35	12:00	Introduction to 'Adaptation Clinics' (Spatial Planning, Agriculture, Disaster Risk Management, Urban Adaptation, Water, Energy)	Rob Bakx , ECRAN Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explanation of Clinics programme Division of conference participants in 6 Clinic Groups (Spatial Planning, Agriculture, Disaster Risk Management, Urban Adaptation, Water, Energy) Start of the Clinics
12:00	13:00	LUNCH		
13:00	14:00	CLIMATE ADAPTATION CLINICS (Round 1)	Facilitators: t.b.a. Rapporteurs: t.b.a.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Clinic Specific Programmes Facilitator and rapporteur per Clinic Group
14:00	14:10	Change rooms		
14:10	15:10	CLIMATE ADAPTATION CLINICS (Round 2)	Facilitators: t.b.a. Rapporteurs: t.b.a.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Clinic Specific Programmes (continued) Facilitator and rapporteur per Clinic Group
15:10	15:30	CHANGE ROOMS AND COFFEE BREAK		
15:30	16:45	Plenary feedback by Clinic rapporteurs	Rob Bakx , ECRAN Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rapporteurs of each Clinic Group provide conclusions and recommendations to plenary

16:45	17:00	Conclusions and wrap-up		
17:00		<i>END OF ADAPTATION SEMINAR</i>		

**This meeting is being organised by the
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