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# Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network (ECRAN)

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## Report on ECRAN Regional Closing High Level Seminar on Climate Change Adaptation

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6 September 2016, Skopje

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**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE REGIONAL ACCESSION NETWORK - ECRAN**

**SEMINAR REPORT**

**Activity 4.1c**

**NATIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION POLICIES AND LEGISLATION**

**REGIONAL CLOSING HIGH LEVEL SEMINAR ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION**

**6 September 2016, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	
AST	Adaptation Support Tool
BUR	Biennial Update Report
CA	Climate Adaptation
CAMP	Coastal Area Management Programme of Montenegro
CBA	Cost Benefit Analysis
CBCCAM	Coordination Board on Climate Change and Air Management
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCIV	Climate Change, Impacts and Vulnerability
CCS	Climate Change Strategy
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DG	Directorate-General
DG NEAR	Directorate General European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECRAN	Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network
EEA	European Environment Agency
EIONET	European Environment Information & Observation Network
ESD	Effort Sharing Decision
ETC/CCA	European Topic Centre on Climate Change Impact, Vulnerability and Adaptation
ETS	Emissions Trading System
EU	European Union
EWS	Early Warning System
GEF	Global Environment Fund
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ICJ	International Court of Justice
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LCAP	Local Climate Action Plan
LED	Low Emissions Development
MMR	Monitoring Mechanism Regulation
NAP	National Action Plan
NAS	National Adaptation Strategy
NCCC	National Climate Change Committee
NEAS	National Environmental Approximation Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPAA	National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals



#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

SECAP	Sustainable energy and climate action plans
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
WBIF	Western Balkans Investment Framework
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



## I. Background/Rationale

### *General*

Today, all countries recognise the reality and the challenges caused by global warming and its effects. Two subsequent World Bank 'Turn down the Heat' Reports confirm climate change as a fundamental threat to development.

Many countries are already affected by climate change including the Western Balkans and Turkey. These countries are considered to be highly vulnerable and have started to experience the effects of rising temperatures and disruption to their precipitation regimes, along with more extreme events, including droughts, floods, heat waves, windstorms and forest fires. Water availability and quality will be affected, energy supply and road infrastructure 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 planning means anticipating the adverse effects of climate change and taking the appropriate action in order to prevent or minimise the damage that the effects of disrupted climate regimes can cause, or taking advantage of opportunities that may arise, such as e.g. through an increase in wind and solar options, adjustment of agricultural production practices, water farming and others. Identification of vulnerabilities and risks is at the forefront of adaptation action.

### *Climate Change Vulnerability*

There are different ways in which vulnerability and risk can be defined and analysed. Vulnerability is often defined as a function of the character, magnitude, and rate of climate variation and change to which a system is exposed, together with its sensitivity and adaptive capacity. Humans can increase their vulnerability by e.g. urbanisation of coastal flood plains, by canalisation of rivers, the way energy production and supply has been shaped, deforestation of hill slopes or by constructing buildings in risk-prone areas.

In the framework of the UNFCCC seven criteria are distinguished to identify key vulnerabilities:

- magnitude of impacts;
- timing of impacts;
- persistence and reversibility of impacts;
- likelihood (estimates of uncertainty) of impacts and vulnerabilities and confidence in those estimates;
- potential for adaptation;
- distributional aspects of impacts and vulnerabilities;
- importance of the system(s) at risk.

Key vulnerabilities are associated with many climate-sensitive systems, including food supply, infrastructure, health, water resources, coastal systems, ecosystems, global biogeochemical cycles, ice sheets and modes of oceanic and atmospheric circulation.



During the regional ECRAN Adapt Seminar in Skopje in July 2014, the ECRAN beneficiaries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia<sup>1</sup>, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo\*<sup>2</sup>, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey) have identified the sectors in the Western Balkans and Turkey that are most vulnerable to climate change.

Measures have been discussed for effective adaptation. However, the key to adaptation to climate change is the integration of the issue of climate change in all relevant strategic, planning and programme documents both at national and regional levels as well as the local level.

The EU's Adaptation Strategy provides a framework for a more climate-resilient Europe by enhancing the preparedness and capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change at local, regional, national and EU levels. The Strategy consists of three priorities: (1) Promoting action by Member States, (2) Better Informed Decision making and (3) Climate proofing EU action.

Proper information about climate vulnerabilities is an important starting point for any form of adaptation action. Detailed understanding of vulnerable areas brings focus to the adaptation priorities and the tools to be used.

### *ECRAN Support*

Within its Climate Component, ECRAN promotes 'climate-proofing' action by further encouraging adaptation in key vulnerable sectors ensuring that the infrastructure is made more resilient, and will support better informed decision-making by addressing gaps in knowledge about adaptation. ECRAN addresses adaptation action by optimizing the coordination of adaptation activities with the European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) as the 'one-stop shop' for adaptation information in Europe. Inter alia the Adaptation Support Tool (AST)<sup>3</sup> and the framework of the European Commission's Adaptation Preparedness Scoreboard are offered as tools that can be of potential support to the adaptation work of the beneficiary countries.

In October 2014 the ECRAN Environment Ministers/Climate Coordinators have been requested by the European Commission to nominate NATIONAL ECRAN ADAPTATION TEAMS which, with the assistance of EU Member States experts, have worked together on the following:

- Prioritisation of Adaptation Needs
- Identification of Adaptation Options
- Selection and Prioritisation of Adaptation Options
- Policy and Legal Changes

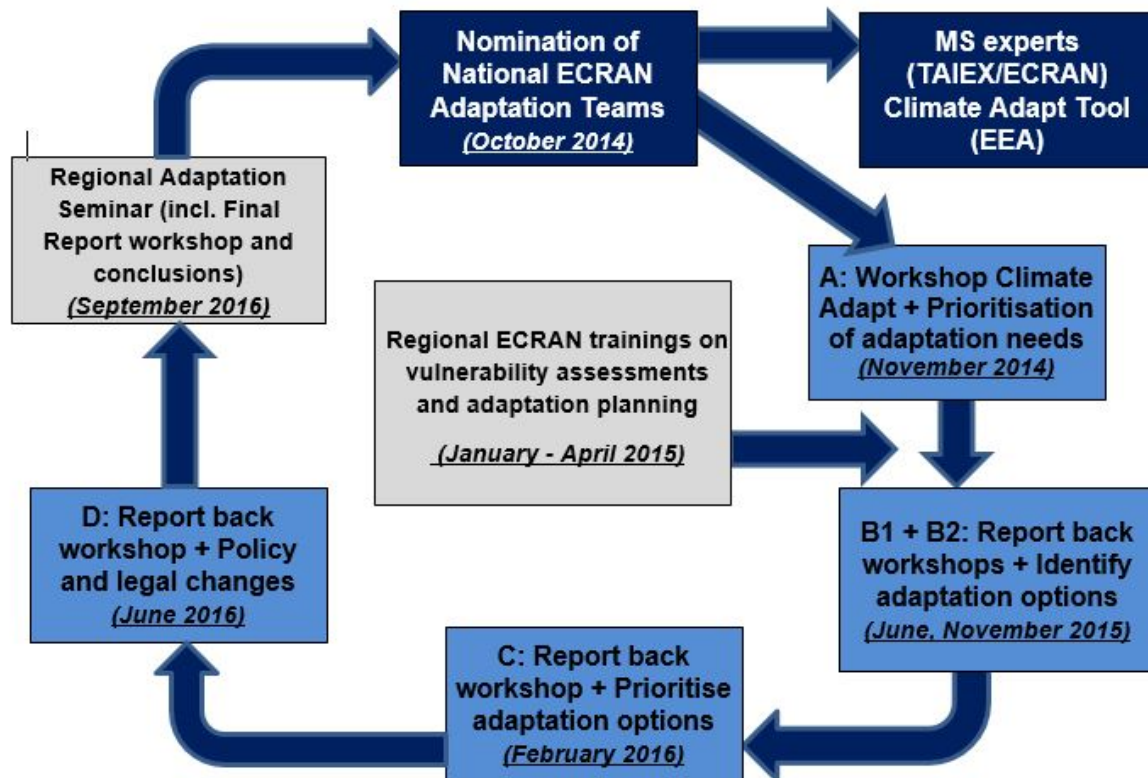
<sup>1</sup> Croatia has joined the EU and is currently no longer an ECRAN beneficiary

<sup>2</sup> 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. Further indicated in this report with an asterisk (\*).

<sup>3</sup> <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/adaptation-support-tool>



**Working Group 4: ECRAN Adaptation work  
2014 – 2016**



Training and Workshops Programme outline

### General considerations

The ECRAN Adaptation Programme included a series of workshops guiding the National ECRAN Adaptation Teams through the different stages towards developing national climate adaptation policies and legislation, combined with regional technical training sessions that support Beneficiary Countries' experts from selected technical areas to carry out risk and vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning.

The programme delivered three regional technical training workshops on vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning, each lasting two days. The three priority fields that were selected for the training are:

- Water Management;
- Urban Planning and Development;
- Energy Planning.

Each of these fields relates to a large variety of other (non-)selected fields, calling for strong cooperation among stakeholders in general and public administration sectors more in particular. The overall theme for the training included aspects of cooperation and collaboration, mainstreaming, and inter linkages. These are aspects that are key for successful (adaptation) responses to climate vulnerabilities in each of the selected (and other) fields. In this context there is a link with disaster risk management, as disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation and adaptation share common



goals. Both fields aim to reduce the vulnerability of communities and achieve sustainable development. The training incorporated options for reducing disaster risks related to climate change.

The overall programme outline is as follows:

First Regional ECRAN Conference on Climate Change Adaptation		2-3 July 2014
<b>Step A</b>	Climate Adapt Tool - Prioritisation of adaptation needs	24-25 November 2014
<p><i>Technical experts that will contribute to the step-by-step process carried out by the ECRAN ADAPTATION TEAMS have received <b>specific technical training</b> after Step A. This is expected to enhance Beneficiary Countries' adaptation skills securing a harmonised approach among all participants in the National Teams and thus contribute to adaptation practice coherence and effectiveness.</i></p> <p><b>3 targeted training programmes on vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning (Water Management, Urban Planning and Development, and Energy Planning) have been provided</b></p>		
		19-20 January 2015
		23-24 February 2015
		16-17 April 2015
<b>Step B1</b>	Report back workshop + Identification of adaptation options	3-4 June 2015
<b>Step B2</b>	Identification of adaptation options (continued)	9-10 November 2015
<b>Step C</b>	Report back workshop + Prioritisation of adaptation options	18-19 February 2016
<b>Step D</b>	Report back workshop + Introduction of Policy and legal changes	9-10 June 2016
Final Regional Closing High Level Seminar on Climate Change Adaptation <sup>4</sup>		6 September 2016

As shown in the outline the National Teams' workshops and development actions were supported through targeted training on vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning for selected categories of technical experts (January – April 2015). The first of these three training sessions was on Water Management (held in Ankara on 19 and 20 January 2015), the second on Urban Planning and Development (held in Podgorica on 23 and 24 February 2015), and the third on Energy Planning (held in Tirana on 16 and 17 April 2015).

ECRAN assisted the Beneficiary Countries in further enhancing their knowledge and understanding of their climate vulnerabilities and thus prepared them to take better adaptation actions<sup>5</sup>. The training also drew on the EU Guidelines for National Adaptation Strategies and strengthened regional climate

<sup>4</sup> ECRAN Climate Work Programme, Activity 4.1.c

<sup>5</sup> ECRAN Climate Work Programme, Activity 4.1.b



adaptation networking. The outline of the trainings was basically identical for all three training sessions. However, the technical area to be addressed differed per training.

### ***National ECRAN Adaptation Teams Workshops***

As indicated above the National Adaptation Teams have, supported by EU Member States experts, carried out their activities in 4 steps. These were addressed in 5 consecutive workshops: Steps A to D. Due to administrative reasons Step B was offered through 2 workshops (Step B1 and Step B2), thus allowing involvement of a broader audience with enhanced coverage of the topics at stake.

The Teams consisted of representatives of public administration sectors that are relevant for climate change adaptation. Their composition differed per country depending on the most important adaptation aspects and current possibilities to mobilise sectors.

The Steps A to D workshops accommodated up to 10 National Team members per country. The workshops programme basically built on the Adaptation Support Tool and drew from the framework of the Adaptation Preparedness Scoreboard, to establish a common framework among climate adaptation practitioners in the region, and allowed sufficient space until the next workshop for the teams to carry out the national policy development activities that are required in each phase of the process, while inter alia supported by country experts that attended the technical training programme, building up their knowledge and skills that can feed into the policy development process.

The entire training programme was rounded off with the concluding regional conference held in Skopje on 6 September 2016.



## II. Objectives of the training

### *General Objective*

To keep the steady progress that already started on climate adaptation action in the Western Balkan countries and Turkey.

### *Specific Objective*

To enhance the understanding about climate adaptation action among a core of Beneficiary Countries' representatives, creating climate adaptation policies and planning as a basis for action.

### *Results/outputs*

The expected results are:

- Awareness of the need to pursue follow-up action to ECRAN's climate adaptation activities among relevant public administrations in ECRAN beneficiary countries and donor institutions;
- Insight in further steps that may be taken at the national and international levels to keep momentum for climate adaptation action;
- Agreement on the need to consolidate and broaden the network of climate adaptation professionals that was built up under ECRAN's climate adaptation interventions and to strengthen their focus on implementing action.



### III. EU policy and legislation covered by the training

#### *EU Adaptation Strategy*

Adaptation means anticipating the adverse effects of climate change and taking appropriate action to prevent or minimise the damage they can cause, or taking advantage of opportunities that may arise. It has been shown that well planned, early adaptation action saves money and lives later.

Examples of adaptation measures include: using scarce water resources more efficiently; adapting building codes to future climate conditions and extreme weather events; building flood defences and raising the levels of dykes; developing drought-tolerant crops; choosing tree species and forestry practices less vulnerable to storms and fires; and setting aside land corridors to help species migrate.

Adaptation strategies are needed at all levels of administration: at the local, regional, national, EU and also the international level. Due to the varying severity and nature of climate impacts between regions in Europe, most adaptation initiatives will be taken at the regional or local levels. The ability to cope and adapt also differs across populations, economic sectors and regions within Europe.

In April 2013 the European Commission adopted an EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change. The strategy aims to make Europe more climate-resilient. By taking a coherent approach and providing for improved coordination, it will enhance the preparedness and capacity of all governance levels to respond to the impacts of climate change.

The EU Adaptation Strategy focuses on three key objectives:

- Promoting action by Member States: The Commission will encourage all Member States to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies and will provide funding to help them build up their adaptation capacities and take action. It will also support adaptation in cities through the Mayors Adapt initiative, a voluntary commitment within the framework of the Covenant of Mayors;
- 'Climate-proofing' action at EU level by further promoting adaptation in key vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, fisheries and cohesion policy, ensuring that Europe's infrastructure is made more resilient, and promoting the use of insurance against natural and man-made disasters;
- Better informed decision-making by addressing gaps in knowledge about adaptation and further developing the European climate adaptation platform (Climate-ADAPT) as the 'one-stop shop' for adaptation information in Europe.

EU adaptation actions include mainstreaming of climate change (mitigation and adaptation) into EU sector policies and funds, including marine and inland water issues, forestry, agriculture, biodiversity, infrastructure and buildings, but also migration and social issues.

The EU also addresses knowledge gaps through research and the European climate adaptation platform (Climate-ADAPT). This platform, launched in March 2012, provides useful resources to support adaptation policy and decision making, such as: a toolset for adaptation planning; a projects' and case studies' database; and information on adaptation action at all levels, from the EU through regional and national to the local level.



Moreover, stakeholders from the local, regional and national level are encouraged to participate in the development of the EU Adaptation Strategy. The EU is providing guidelines on integrating climate into policies and investments and on how to use the instruments and funds provided by the Commission for climate change adaptation.



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#### IV. Highlights from the seminar

The Seminar was held in Skopje on 6 September 2016. The seminar programme and attendance list can be found in the annexes to this report.

#### Key Note Speakers

At its opening three key note speakers addressed the seminar:

1. Mr. Stevo Temelkovski – Deputy Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
2. Mr. Lukaš Holub – Head of the Political Section of the EU Delegation in Skopje;
3. Mrs. Beatriz Yordi – Head of Adaptation Unit (A3), Directorate-General Climate Action, European Commission.



**Mr. Stevo Temelkovski**

Deputy Minister Temelkovski welcomed all present and expressed his pleasure to host this Conference on climate change adaptation.

He noted the evidence that climate change is happening today, pointing to the latest report of the IPCC and the main challenges for the European Region. Heavy floods and extreme weather events confirm the vulnerability of the Western Balkan region and reaffirm the need for common action to achieve the global target of temperature raise below 2°C by the end of the century.

Reaching such target demands countries to move towards low-carbon emissions or 'green' economies, which matches with the country's targets. However, apart from emission reduction, it should be realised that the Western Balkan countries belong to the world's most sensitive regions in terms of climate change effects. Therefore, analyses shall cover the sectors that are most sensitive to climate change in order to formulate recommendations for abatement of their vulnerability. The most vulnerable sectors include water resources, biological diversity, agriculture, forestry, tourism, cultural heritage, and human health.

The key point in climate change adaptation is its integration into relevant sectoral strategic, planning and programme documents both on national and regional level. Planning of the development in all mentioned sectors should also take into account the aspect of future potential climate changes. Inter-sectoral impacts (e.g. among water-agriculture-energy) should as well be observed from a climate change perspective. Cost aspects of the actions involving measures for bigger climate resilience should be a criterion in assessing the feasibility of proposed measures. In order to make all of this function in a sustainable manner, a multi-sectoral approach and science based smart policy decision making are needed. Application of the principle of broad participation of all stakeholders in the process of decision making is crucial in taking proper decisions and securing sustainability of the development.

Adoption of EU climate change legislation is a particular challenge as it requires significant strengthening of the capacity on all levels and involvement of all stakeholders. The national capacity to introduce the European Emissions Trading Scheme and the system for management of greenhouse gas emissions data is gradually built up.

As EU law with regard to climate change is ambitious, new and strengthened capacities are required. Prioritisation of needs is essential. The country will, with the support of the EU, prepare a long-term Strategy for Climate Action. To achieve common climate priorities the country counts on continued EU support that will help the country to continue its fight against climate change to secure a safer future for the generations to come.



**Mr. Lukaš Holub**

After welcoming all present, Mr. Holub recalled the dreadful floods that hit Skopje and Tetovo on 6 August, including the increase in awareness of the risks that climate change brings. Life, health, property, infrastructure, power supply, all were affected by a storm that brought more water in two hours than normally as an average in the whole month of August. In recent years, also other countries represented at this seminar suffered from the effects of climatological change experiencing the devastating effects of a changing climate.

More than many other areas in Europe, the Western Balkan are sensitive to climate change, and a change that already started. Climate Change has become a reality; it is here, in the ECRAN countries and cities and it is getting worse. At European and global levels efforts are made to reduce and prevent greenhouse gas emissions in the knowledge that this will help in mitigating the climate effects they cause. However, results will not be immediate, as critical levels of greenhouse gases have built up in the atmosphere in too big quantities and for too long time.

There seems to be no other choice than to adapt to the changed climate conditions. For sure, delay of adaptation action will cause more damage and suffering. Everything possible should be done to prevent that. The question is whether there is adequate political will to take that action.

The December 2015 Paris Conference on Climate Change sent a strong signal about what good adaptation practice is about, by including - and thereby strengthening - key adaptation principles in its conclusions. The European Union has a role in the world as front-runner in the area of climate action! Such position comes with a cost, but in the long run doing nothing will be far more expensive, both in terms of financial loss and human hardship.

To respond to challenges and investment needs related to climate change, the EU dedicates at least 20% of its budget for 2014-2020 – as much as €180 billion – to climate change-related action. Climate change adaptation strategies are needed at all levels of administration: at the local, regional, national, EU and also the international level. Due to the varying severity and nature of climate impacts between regions in Europe, most adaptation initiatives will be taken at the regional or local levels. The ability to cope and adapt also differs across populations, economic sectors and regions within Europe.



In April 2013 the Commission adopted an EU adaptation strategy which supports action by promoting greater coordination and information-sharing between Member States, and by ensuring that adaptation considerations are addressed in all relevant EU policies.

Also, in 2013 the Commission established the Emergency Response Coordination Centre. This Centre has already more than once shown its value for the region, most recently in relation to the 6 August floods, when it provided Copernicus satellite imagery to the emergency services operating in the flood affected areas. It also deployed a team of experts to assess the damage of the floods. But actually, we should strive, by taking adaptation measures, for a situation where the need for support of the Centre could as much as possible be avoided. Well-planned and implemented adaptation can contribute to preventing or controlling the effects of climate change. In specific cases climate change may open opportunities, e.g. by the possibility to grow new kinds of crops or to increase yields as a consequence of a climate that is more suitable to a specific crop. Threats can thus be turned into opportunities.

Concerning EU cooperation with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in the 2015 EU Country Report it is noted that '*... The country still needs to develop a comprehensive policy and strategy on climate action, consistent with the EU 2030 framework. More efforts are needed to integrate climate action into all relevant sectoral policies and strategies. [.....] The country needs to continue to pay attention to adaptation to climate change....*'

In this context, it is positive and encouraging to see that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia submitted its First Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC and its intended nationally determined contribution (INDC), and adopted it as an input to the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. The Roadmap that was developed for achieving long term climate action objectives is an important tool in planning climate action.

The EU will remain committed in offering substantial financial and technical assistance to all the candidate countries and potential candidates in order to achieve all those objectives which will make the economic sectors more modern and more efficient for its citizens and for its economy in order to combat climate change.



**Mrs. Beatriz Yordi**

After welcoming all present and thanking Mr. Temelkovski for hosting the conference, Mrs. Yordi notes that it is key for Western Balkan countries to be better prepared to respond to climate impacts to avoid high economic and human costs. Strong political and public commitment and effective governance systems are needed to continue the recently started work on the climate adaptation.

It is evident that there is a need to continue to address the nexus between climate, natural resources, economic and social stability. Climate change is a powerful 'threat multiplier' that calls for common action to address its direct and indirect effects. Working at local (cities), national as well as regional level (like ECRAN did) is of great importance, to allow sharing of lessons and good practices.

The European Commission is keen to keep working in making Europe and its neighbours more resilient to climate change impacts. The EU's 2013 Adaptation Strategy was developed exactly with this aim: build a more resilient Europe by promoting the development of adaptation strategies and plans, by





mainstreaming climate change adaptation in EU funds and programmes, and in policies concerning vulnerable sectors. Currently, more than 20 EU Member States have an Adaptation Strategy. And more are working towards one.

The EU is engaged to commit, by 2020, 20% of its budget to climate action. This includes also the funds for neighbouring countries; such as the IPA funds for the Western Balkans and Turkey.

In 2017 the European Commission will evaluate the implementation of the EU's Adaptation Strategy.

On the basis of this evaluation, a review of the EU adaptation strategy will be prepared by 2018. The adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015 and the prominence it gives to adaptation, on equal footing with climate change mitigation, provides a further drive for the revision of the Adaptation Strategy. In the review, it should be assured that the international dimension of adaptation is well integrated with the work that is carried out in the EU.

Next month ECRAN comes to an end. It is very important to make sure that the good work done over the past years does not get lost. Adapting to climate change takes time, effort, commitment; it takes a change in our way of planning and making policies for every single sector of the economy. The EC will continue supporting the Region in these efforts. DG CLIMA has secured €500,000 from IPA 2016 programming for a bridging action to continue work done by ECRAN – primarily on MMR, ETS and climate policy and with an objective to assist with the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Moreover, a proper multi-annual regional climate change follow-up to ECRAN (€2 to 3 M) will be financed from IPA 2017 to further support transition towards a low-emission and climate resilient economy.

Beyond this, climate action can be and is supported also through national IPA funds. Mrs. Yordi strongly encouraged the seminar audience to make sure that climate change adaptation is well addressed and mainstreamed in the country specific IPA programmes to ensure a more resilient development.

### Press Moment, group photo





## Domestic Adaptation Action and Views on Follow-up Action

The Seminar took stock of the adaptation action developments of the ECRAN beneficiaries and their implementation, including the need for further action and potential views on cooperation with the EU and donors. Each of the ECRAN beneficiary countries presented its position.

### **Albania** ((Laureta Dibra)

Key elements that can be recognised with regard to adaptation are provisions for adaptation (e.g. engagement in the National Action Plan – NAP process, implementation of adaptation actions, and monitoring and evaluation), adaptation communication (periodic communication updates: priorities, implementation, support needs, plans, actions), and support (continuous and enhanced international support).

Albania mainstreams climate action in the EU accession process, which includes relevant aspects such as financing (IPA 2014-2020), and the cross-sectoral character of climate action notably to transport, energy, agriculture, rural development and disaster risk management.

In carrying out its climate action work, the country faces a number of challenges, such as:

- Getting information and knowledge;



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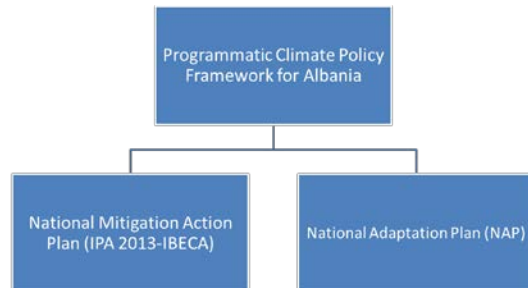


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- Getting resources needed for climate action (money and people);
- Getting political support;
- Cooperating with others and coordinating climate actions.

The Albanian Climate Change Law includes the framework for climate adaptation. It prescribes the obligation to adopt a National Adaptation Plan (NAP), as well as its content areas. Furthermore, it provides the basis for climate mainstreaming, monitoring and evaluation and a four-yearly reporting obligation.

GIZ supports the country with developing its NAP. Input and participation of the sector ministries is considered vital. A so-called parallel approach is applied by (i) preparing an NAP document, and (ii) implementing for the first time in the country the logic of mainstreaming climate change into relevant developments and sectoral strategies.



In the course of 2016, the NAP document will be developed, summarizing the vulnerabilities in Albania based on work that UNDP has done on climate information and vulnerability. The document will lay out priority areas, some of which are process-related, like overall steering or capacity development, whereas others are sector-related. It also includes a part that explains different mainstreaming instruments which may be a very good policy orientation tool for other sectors.

The NAP process is also seen as a catalyst for participation and awareness rising. It is supposed to bring existing initiatives together and make these available for stakeholders outside the environment community. Relevant stakeholders already participated and contributed to the process by establishing the implementation framework and specifically through deciding and developing the priority actions of the NAP document. During 2016 line ministries and institutions showed increased interest on the topic, whereas awareness for the importance of climate change still needs to be raised at political level, which is important to get the NAP-document approved.

### **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (Senad Oprašić)

After intensive discussion the political leaders in Bosnia & Herzegovina have agreed on a coordination mechanism that includes all stakeholders in decision making. The next step is to work on adopting of the approximation strategy at the state level as well as on entities and district Brčko level, which is a precondition to be included in the IPA 2018 – 2020 funding period.

The ratification process of the Paris Agreement is in its final stage and can be expected in the next few months, hopefully before COP22 in Marrakesh.

Drafts have been prepared of the Nature Conservancy and the Second Biannual Update Report on Climate Change (2014). Several projects are in place with funding of GEF and GIZ. Meetings take place with implementing agencies (UNDP, UNEP, WB, GIZ) on climate change adaptation activities.



As already defined in the ECRAN workshops in Ankara, Zagreb and Podgorica there are a number of gaps to overcome:

1. Lack of capacities (human, institutional, knowledge, etc.);
2. Lack of funding;
3. Lack of technologies;
4. Very ambition strategic document (CCA & LED strategy).

Bosnia & Herzegovina has the following country needs:

- Paris agreement implementation strategy (feasible);
- Close collaboration with the EU and countries in the region;
- More synergy and cooperation within the sectors (agriculture, energy, transport, industry, tourism, financial, education, ...);
- Public awareness and transparency;
- Transfer of knowledge and technology;
- Increase renewable resources in energy production;
- Clear connection between climate changes and SDG's;
- Work on adaptation measures defined by CCA & LED strategy;
- Increase a regional cooperation;
- Create local climate action plans (LCAP).

### **Kosovo\*** (Nezakete Hakaj)

Climate change adaptation activities are taking place in the following areas:

- Legislation
- Climate Change Strategy
- Draft Action Plan on Climate Change

#### Legislation

The legal grounds for climate change adaptation are to be found in the Law on Environmental Protection and the Law on Air Protection from Pollution. This provides the basis for Administrative Instructions:

- on Mechanism for Monitoring Greenhouse Gas Emissions;
- for Monitoring Greenhouse Gas Emissions;
- for Substances that deplete the ozone layer and fluorinated greenhouse gases.

#### Climate Change Strategy

Kosovo\* has a Climate Change Strategy (CCS) 2016-2025, that will be reviewed in 2016. It contains a component dealing with low emission development (LED) and a component dealing with adaptation (NAS).

The **vision** of the Strategy is to establish '*a climate-resilient Kosovo\*, which is effectively mitigating the causes of climate change, and is effectively anticipating on, and responding to, the impacts of climate change, taking into account internationally endorsed principles for sustainable development*'.



The **mission** is 'to reduce the risk and damage from current and future impacts of climate change in a cost-effective manner and to exploit potential benefits stemming from climate change.'

The Adaptation Component of the CCS formulates three objectives:

- Introducing new and improving existing mechanisms for disaster risk reduction;
- Enhancing adaptive capacity of natural systems;
- Capacity building.

The strategic areas in the Adaptation Component of the Strategy are:

- Flood protection;
- Drought, addressing water scarcity and securing environmental (ecological) minimal flow;
- Forest and biodiversity management;
- Public health;
- Information management and exchange;
- Capacity building, training and awareness raising;
- Finances, cost recovery and risk management;
- Establishment of adequate cooperation mechanism.

#### Draft Action Plan on Climate Change

The Action Plan on Climate Change provides a detailed sequence of actions and steps, summarizing priorities and providing for better strategic planning in various sectors, especially when it comes to financial (budgetary) and investment planning.

The general objective of the Action Plan is to ensure the integration of national climate change policies into relevant sector policies, either existing or planned to be developed in accordance with the CCS goals.

Apart from common strategic interventions related to LED and NAS, the adaptation component recognizes the following interventions:

- ***Development of a Platform for Risk Management***
- ***Reducing flood risk***
  - ***Step 1*** - Creating registry database for river flows
  - ***Step 2*** - Mapping of flood prone areas
  - ***Step 3*** - Development of flood risk management plans – Kosovo\* wide
- ***Preparation of a National Drought Management Plan***
- ***Development of a Groundwater Management Strategy***
- ***Public health related interventions***
  - ***Step 1*** - Conduct Vulnerability Health Impact Assessment
  - ***Step 2*** - Develop Adaptation plan for health sector

Regarding the above, Kosovo\* faces a number of challenges. Climate change adaptation requires adaptive approaches for resources management such as water, agricultural land, forestry,



biodiversity, and others. This is achieved with involvement of all institutions at all levels and of civil society. Furthermore, governance has to be adapted to the context and capacity, to the size and nature of the problem as well as to the objectives targeted.

The main constraint related to the rather ambitious Action Plan is to ensure funds both from domestic and international resources in order to implement the Plan. Furthermore, for measures and interventions which do not require significant financial investment (e.g. administrative measures) it is necessary to obtain a high level of commitment of decision makers in order to facilitate capacity building, the law-making process, and timely implementation of measures.

Additionally, constraints recognized by the CCS and NAP have to be taken into account. It must be noted that Kosovo\*, due to its status, is not yet a party to the UNFCCC.

Next steps to be taken are:

- Adoption of the Climate Change Strategy by the Government;
- Adoption of the National Action Plan on Climate Change by the Government;
- Organization of a Donor Conference.

### **Montenegro** (Djordjije Vulikic)

The **policy framework** on climate change in Montenegro recognises three important elements.

1. On 17 September 2015 the Montenegrin Government adopted the National Climate Change Strategy by 2030. This Strategy
  - defines the long term strategic framework with an action plan;
  - contains limited consideration of adaptation to climate change due to strong focus on mitigation and EU acquis;
2. The UNFCCC process generated the Second National Communication (May 2015) and the First Biennial update report (January 2016);
3. A National Environmental Approximation Strategy (NEAS) was adopted in July 2016 as an obligation for opening of the Chapter 27 negotiations (Environment and Climate Change).

Following the **Paris Agreement** and Montenegro's INDC, the country signed this agreement in April 2016 in New York. The next step to be taken will be its ratification which is planned to be done in 2017. Montenegro's contribution to the international effort to combat climate change is set as 30 % emission reduction by 2030 compared to the 1990 base year. This is ambitious and in line with the EU efforts. The INDC does not include an adaptation component.

The **institutional framework** is formed through a number of institutions of which the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism: Directorate for Climate Change, is the leading policy entity. Other competent institutions are the:

- Institute for Hydrometeorology and Seismology which functions as IPCC focal point;
- Ministry of Economy;
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Environment Protection Agency of Montenegro;
- Statistical Office of Montenegro- MONSTAT;



- Local governments and municipalities.

Another important role is fulfilled by the National Council for Sustainable Development and Climate Change, more in particular through its working group on mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

A number of climate change **adaptation actions** are or have been taking place in Montenegro:

- Climate change vulnerability and impact assessments are done through two National Communications to the UNFCCC which are the main source of knowledge in this field. The development of the Third National Communication started in June 2016;
- Coastal Area Management Programme of Montenegro (CAMP) – Climate change vulnerability assessment of the coastal region of Montenegro;
- Climate Change Adaptation in the Western Balkans (GIZ project) – Strategy for adaptation to climate change for Podgorica, completed in May 2016 and covering:
  - Vulnerability and impact assessment for relevant sectors on municipal level;
  - Action plan for adaptation to climate change;
  - Concrete, on the ground, climate change adaptation action – 4 drinking water fountains across Podgorica;
- ECRAN – Working group on Adaptation to Climate Change;
- Climate change adaptation in the Western Balkan Mountains (UNEP) – Vulnerability and impact assessment for mountains region

Currently the following **gaps and needs** can be identified:

- There is a need to formulate a National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change with Action Plan;
- Local plans for Adaptation to Climate change with integration of Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil protection;
- Introduction of financial support mechanisms to drive concrete and timely adaptation action in the most vulnerable sectors;
- Continuous mainstreaming and integration of adaptation actions into sectoral policies and strategies;
- Improving institutional and administrative capacities for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- Increasing public awareness and participation in policy development;
- Enhancing linkages between science (knowledge)-policy-implementation framework.

### **Serbia** (Danijela Božanić)

Since 2000 Serbia faced several extreme climate and weather events, causing significant materials and financial losses, as well as human lives. Most prominent were the drought in 2012 and floods in 2014. The total estimated investment in implementation of projects that can be considered as adaptation measures in the period 2000 - 2015 amounts to approximately € 60 million.

According to the analysis made in the framework of developing Serbia's **First and Second National Communications to the UNFCCC**, the country, as well as the South-East Europe region, is highly exposed to climate change impacts. Depending on the scenario, a rise in temperature in the range of



3.2 to 4°C can be expected by the end of the century with precipitation deficits up to 20%, combined with the intensification of extremes, particularly temperature. Most impacted may be the sectors of agriculture, hydrology, forestry, human health and biodiversity.

Under the **Second National Communication** a list of adaptation measures and actions was prepared for three of the most vulnerable sectors: hydrology, agriculture and forestry. Under the draft **National Adaptation Plan**, which will be completed by the end of 2016, financial needs will be assessed and actions will be prioritized. Main goals are:

- A synthetic review of the proposed adaptation measures in sectors that have been identified as the most vulnerable;
- The assessment of loss and damage as a result of long-term changes in climate conditions in Serbia, and as a result of weather and climate extremes;
- Proposal for priority adaptation measures and corresponding analysis of their successful implementation in the future;
- Identification of opportunities and constraints for the integration of adaptation measures in the applicable sectorial strategies, but also in other relevant national plans;
- Potential financial needs and time frame for the implementation.

**Local communities'** involvement was realised through the GIZ project 'Adaptation to climate change in the Western Balkans' that developed a climate change adaptation action plan and vulnerability assessment for Belgrade. This action plan includes a list of measures and activities / short-term (until 2017), medium-term (until 2020) and long-term (until 2025), and prioritization of measures. Adequate financial resources are needed, as single disasters may burden generations of inhabitants.

**Ongoing activities** include the development, under IPA 2014, of a '*Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan*'. This Strategy shall at least include: long term goals and objectives for the policies to be implemented, greenhouse gas mitigation: potentials and related impact, Climate Change adaptation: priorities and main measures, institutional framework, and proposed priorities. The draft Strategy is expected by the end of 2018. The National Adaptation Plan, combined with the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, will provide a basis for the development of a comprehensive National Adaptation Strategy.

Furthermore, the IPA 2013 twinning project '*Establishment of mechanism for the implementation of MMR*' is ongoing. This 2-years project started in May 2015 and aims at transposing and preparing for the implementation of the MMR Regulation, i.e. the establishment of institutional and procedural arrangements, legal framework and administrative and institutional capacities of relevant bodies for the implementation of MMR and ESD.

Regarding **plans and needs** the following can be reported:

- Preparation of a National Adaptation Strategy as part of the above IPA 2013 project;
- National Adaptation Strategy – IPA 2017;
- Local Communities - Regional Economic Development Agency for Šumadija and Pomoravlje (19 municipalities) - development and implementation of adaptation plans and measures;
- Vulnerability assessment for new sectors;
- Cross sectoral analysis (mitigation and adaptation);





- Regional cooperation.

### **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** (Teodora Grncarovska)

Adaptation is not addressed in INDCs, which is a challenge for the future. Apart from the UNFCCC obligations, the status of candidate country to the EU brings obligations.

The National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) was adopted in April 2005. It comprises the plans for harmonization of national legislation with EU law, the necessary dynamics of institutional strengthening for implementation of the legislation, the necessary resources for realization, and an Action Plan. Chapter 27 of the NPAA addresses the achievements and the remaining obligations in the field of environment and climate change.

As part of its international obligations towards the UNFCCC, the country submitted 3 NCCC and its First BUR. In preparation of the NCCC, the country followed the international guidelines.

The objective is to incorporate as much as possible the reporting principles adhered to by the EU Member States. This may be achieved by developing national plans on climate change and biennial update reports. Until now, reporting was project based with financial and technical support from GEF and UNDP. In December 2014 the First Biennial Update Report on climate change was finalized which additionally harmonized reporting as per the EU climate acquis.

Reporting and other requirements stipulated in EU legislation will be institutionalized by determining a future strategic and legal framework.

Developing a National Plan on Climate Change (including a chapter on vulnerability and adaptation) is an obligation from the Law on Environment which, in future, will be replaced by the Law on Climate Action. Gaps identified will be filled by the new Law. A Chapter on adaptation can be part of Law. The Law is expected to give responsibilities to governmental institutions in providing data for vulnerability assessment with a possibility to outsource this work. Also, the way in which information will be exchanged between institutions and the possible creation of web platform can be legally formalized. Vulnerable sectors and climate change adaptation shall be subject to a more detailed analysis in the future, from the point of view of INDC needs

As a result of the vulnerability assessment, different adaptation measures should be put in a matrix going further into detail, like WHO will do WHAT and HOW? Ideally, potential adaptation measures are mainstreamed into other sectoral policies. Examples of mainstreaming are:

- National Strategy on adaptation in the Health Sector to Climate Change (2010);
- National Strategy on Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020 (2015);
- National Strategy on Waters (2010);
- Action Plan on sustainable development goals (under preparation).

The goals that are eventually to be achieved include:

- Full transposition and implementation of the Climate Acquis;
- Low carbon economy;



- Climate 'resilient' society.

Current work focuses on setting the strategic and legal frameworks for coordinated climate action. This includes a legal base for institutional responsibilities, their roles and ways to exchange information. Incorporation of climate action in relevant sector strategies (e.g. energy, agriculture) and cross cutting strategies (e.g. research and development) are at the heart of attention. The country is optimising the benefits of and costs for the country, related to mitigation and the negative impacts of climate change. Inter-sectorial mechanisms are developed, awareness is raised and cooperation among stakeholders strengthened, while securing a participatory approach in policy development and implementation.

The needs that are currently the most prominent are:

- Preparation of a comprehensive adaptation strategy accompanied by a financial action plan;
- Preparation of sectoral adaptation action plans;
- A clearing-house (web platform for sharing information on adaptation).

### **Turkey** (Uğur Karakoç)



Regarding International Climate Change Negotiation it can be reported that Turkey is party to the UNFCCC since 2004 and that it signed the Paris Agreement in April 2016. The country has made a commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions with up to 21% by 2030.

The policy making process in Turkey with regard to climate change is done through the 'Coordination Board on Climate Change and Air Management' (CBCCAM). The Ministry of

Environment and Urbanisation coordinates the board.

Under the CBCCAM 7 working groups can be distinguished, one of which is the Working Group on 'Impacts of Climate Change and Adaptation'.

Turkey has developed a 'National Climate Change Strategy 2010-2020' and a 'National Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2023'. The vision in the Strategy is to:

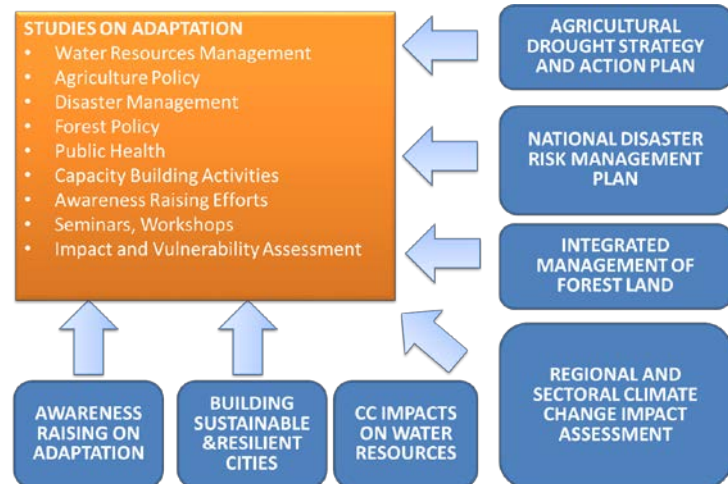
- become a country, fully integrating climate change-related objectives into its development policies;
- disseminate energy efficiency;
- increase the use of clean and renewable energy resources;
- actively participate in the efforts to tackle climate change within its special circumstances;
- provide its citizens with a high quality of life and welfare.



In 2011 the National Climate Change Action Plan was published. In the preparatory process 180 institutions and 500 experts participated. No less than 25 workshops were organised and 541 actions were defined, covering the areas of energy, construction transportation, industry, waste, agriculture, land use and forestry, and adaptation.

Vulnerable areas that were identified are:

- water resource management;
- agriculture sector and food security;
- ecosystems services, biological diversity and forestry;
- natural disaster risk management;
- public health.



In the field of water resource management, a project is ongoing that aims at determining the impacts of climate change scenarios on surface and groundwater in all river basins in Turkey and to identify the necessary adaptation actions. The implementation period of the project is 2013-2016. Expected outputs include:

- climate change projections 2015 – 2100;
- surface and groundwater potential;
- total water demand, specific to the 25 river basins;
- sectoral impact assessment in 3 pilot basins;
- adaptation activities.

Under IPA II a project proposal has been prepared for ‘Strengthening Implementation Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation and Development of Incentive Mechanisms’. This project is expected to be implemented from 2017 to 2020. Indicative activities are impact assessment, capacity building/awareness raising/gap analysis, updating the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, and implementation of pilot adaptation interventions at community urban and regional scales.

Currently, the following needs exist:

- Sectoral impact assessment study;
- Sectoral vulnerability assessment study;
- Analysing costs of adaptation;
- Update of the National Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan;
- Monitoring of adaptation activities;
- Improving database on adaptation;
- International cooperation and support.

## Update on Climate Adapt and EEA developments – Kati Mattern (EEA)

The main relevant EU policies with regard to climate change adaptation can be found in the 2013 EU 'Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change'. This Strategy aims at:

- Promoting national and urban adaptation strategies and actions (priority 1);
- Better informed decision-making (EU funded research, sharing through Climate-ADAPT) (priority 2);
- Mainstreaming in EU environmental, sectoral and other policies and funding actions in vulnerable sectors (priority 3).

Some examples of EU policies that are relevant for mainstreaming include the:

- Water Framework and Floods Directives;
- EU Civil Protection Mechanism;
- Biodiversity strategy, Green infrastructure (ecosystem-based solutions);
- Common agricultural policy.

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has created a network with its member countries through EIONET which:

- Has as partners: **33 member** and 6 collaborating **countries** (ministries, **environment agencies**);
- Has as main target audience: **policy makers** at European and national levels;
- Supports and informs policy development and implementation by **data, indicators and assessments**;
- **Networks**: annual EIONET workshop, expert meetings;
- Is supported by **European Topic Centres**, e.g. on CC impacts, vulnerability and adaptation.



The EEA has a number of products and services available on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. Apart from the extensive Climate ADAPT website, this concerns a number of reports (see picture of cover pages below). Additionally, there are two upcoming reports; one on climate change, impacts and vulnerability (to be completed in 2016), and one on linkages between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (to be completed in 2017).



The 2014 report on 'National adaptation policy processes in Europe' contains a self-assessment by 30 EEA member countries. Key findings have been clustered around 8 key topics:

- Public and policy awareness of the need for adaptation;
- Knowledge generation and use;
- Planning adaptation;
- Coordination of adaptation;
- Stakeholders involvement;
- Implementation of adaptation;
- Transnational cooperation;
- Monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

The report informs that 23 countries have a national adaptation strategy and 12 also have action plans (national and/or multi-sectoral), whereas some countries report they are in the implementation or monitoring and evaluation stage.

The **2015 report** on '*National monitoring, reporting and evaluation climate change adaptation in Europe*' presents how MRE can inform policy making and facilitate learning on national level across member countries. 14 countries have systems for monitoring, reporting and/or evaluation of adaptation in place or under development.

Most countries focused on monitoring and reporting. Evaluation of adaptation policies is at an early stage because the implementation of adaptation has only just begun.

Key topics in the report include drivers and purposes of MRE, governance and participation, methodological approach, informing adaptation policy and practice, and reflection and future plans.

The **2016 report** on '*Climate change, impacts and vulnerability*', which previous such reports in 2004, 2008 and 2012, discusses the assessment of impacts of past and future climate change; climate impacts on socio-economic sectors, ecosystems, and health; and vulnerability to climate change.

The report provides an update and extension of the 2012 EEA report, with new or substantially expanded indicators, more focus on impacts and vulnerability at transnational level, and vulnerability to climate change impacts outside Europe.

Indicators in the 2016 CCIV report can be found in the table below.





Topic	CC Indicators	Topic	Impact Indicators
<b>Atmosphere</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global and European temperature</li> <li>• Heat extremes</li> <li>• Mean precipitation</li> <li>• Heavy precipitation</li> <li>• Wind storms</li> <li>• Hail</li> </ul>	<b>Economic impacts of extreme events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage from extreme weather and climate events</li> </ul>
<b>Cryosphere</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arctic and Baltic sea ice</li> <li>• Greenland and Antarctic ice sheet</li> <li>• Glaciers</li> <li>• Snow cover</li> </ul>	<b>Human health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floods and health</li> <li>• Extreme temperatures and health</li> <li>• Vector-borne diseases</li> <li>• Water- and food-borne diseases</li> </ul>
<b>Oceans and marine environment, coastal areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ocean acidification</li> <li>• Ocean heat content</li> <li>• Sea surface temperature</li> <li>• Distribution shifts of marine species</li> <li>• Ocean oxygen content</li> <li>• Global and European sea level rise</li> </ul>	<b>Agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing season</li> <li>• Agrophology</li> <li>• Water-limited crop productivity</li> <li>• Crop-water demand</li> </ul>
<b>Freshwater</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River flow</li> <li>• River floods</li> <li>• Meteorological and hydrological droughts</li> <li>• Water temperature</li> </ul>	<b>Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heating and cooling degree days</li> </ul>
<b>Terrestrial ecosystems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil moisture</li> <li>• Animal and plant phenology</li> <li>• Distribution shifts of animals and plants</li> <li>• Forest composition and distribution</li> <li>• Forest fires</li> </ul>	<b>Transport</b>	No indicators
		<b>Tourism</b>	No indicators

Another important issue is urban adaptation action, which has evolved over time. In brief the developments are as show in the following figure:



The **July 2016 EEA Report 'Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe'** is based on information that was provided voluntarily by Member States to the EEA and that comes from Climate-ADAPT and Mayors Adapt/Covenant of Mayors sources. The report gives an overview on the state of action and progress achieved since the first EEA report of 2012. It explains interaction with other policies (e.g. climate change mitigation, water management, biodiversity) and includes an assessment whether incremental adaptation is effective and if/when transformational adaptation may be needed. Furthermore, it provides analyses on (multi-level) governance, knowledge base, awareness, planning, economics, monitoring and reporting.

**Climate-ADAPT** (<http://climateadapt.eea.europa.eu>) was launched in 2012, supporting the development and implementation of adaptation strategies policies and actions. Its intended users are experts and decision makers on EU, transnational, national, and sub-national levels, as well as research institutes.

Climate Adapt is funded and carried out by the EEA with DG CLIMA, supported by ETC/CCA. Its key features have been indicated in the picture to the right. Climate Adapt presents European countries' adaptation policies. This concerns

official information based on country reporting (Art. 15 EU MMR). It gives a unique summary of national policies, assessments, sectors and actions, and stakeholder involvement with descriptive information with links to key national documents and official web-pages. Information is accessible via a map-based search tool and via many other entry points on Climate-ADAPT.

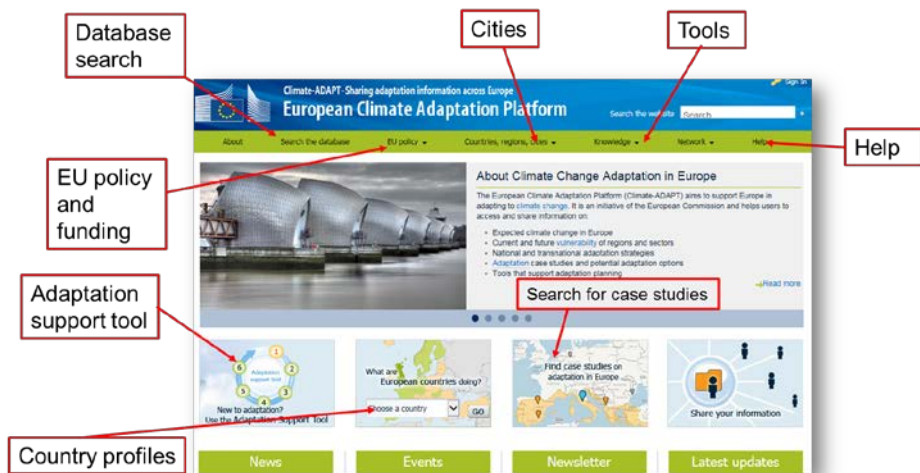
Other content of Climate Adapt relates to:

- Interactive urban vulnerability maps and city information with an interactive map book based on European data presenting urban climate change threats (heat waves, urban flooding, water scarcity, forest fires), and city profiles (see also the Covenant of Mayors, <http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/>);
- Inspiring case studies that contain successful and verified implemented adaptation actions, and metadata sheets with easy access to all aspects of planning and implementation. The study information allows direct exchange via contact data and are searchable via filter criteria and/or an interactive map based search tool.

The **May 2015 report** '*Overview of climate change adaptation platforms in Europe*' aims to share experiences and learn from existing practices. It contains an overview of existing adaptation platforms in 14 countries, transnational (Pyrenees, Alpine region, Baltic Sea Region), and European (Climate-ADAPT).

Lessons learned are reported and relate to funding, engaging with users, identifying relevant information, presenting the information, design and technical aspects, linking across sectors and scales, monitoring and evaluation, and links with disaster risk reduction platforms and climate change services. The information basis for the report is in expert meetings and workshops held in 2013 and 2014.

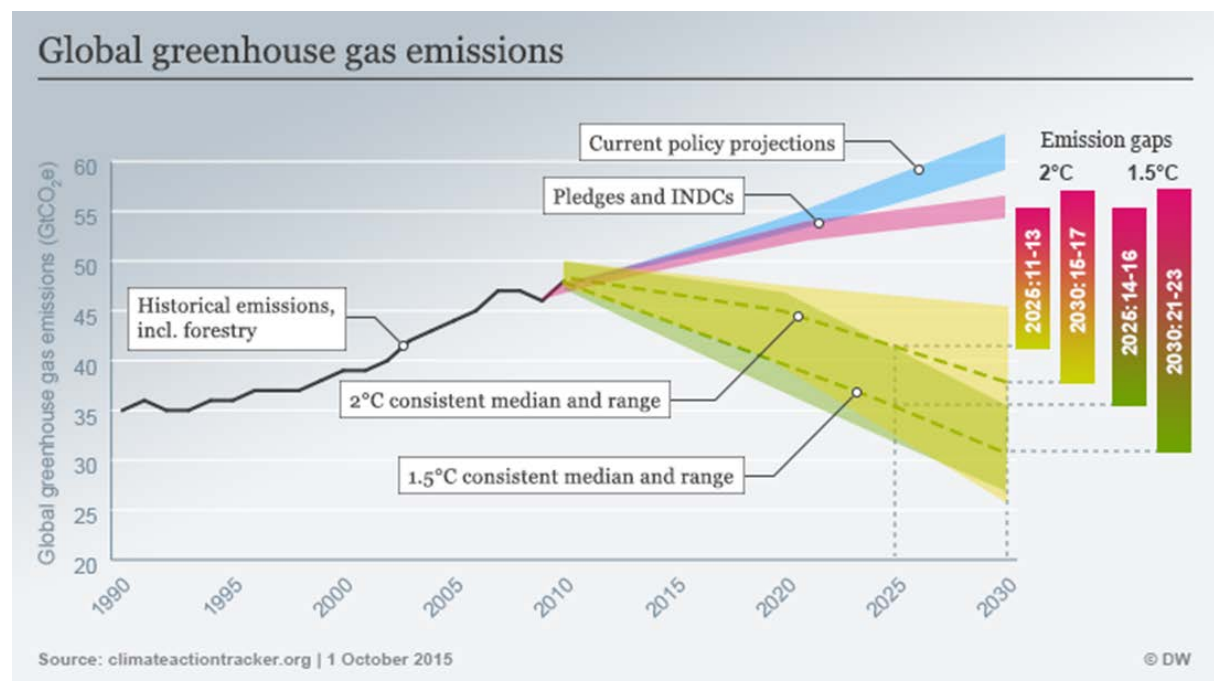
With regard to adaptation, approaches and actions will change over time.



- **Policymakers (EU, national, cities):** *from strategies towards implementation and monitoring/evaluation;*
- **Research organisations:** *from climate change and impacts observations and projections towards vulnerability/risk assessments, climate and adaptation services and co-creation of knowledge;*
- **Practitioners and businesses:** *from awareness raising towards innovative solutions and investments (green and blue measures, enhancing quality of life and protecting ecosystems);*
- **Collaboration and partnerships:** *from meetings towards a community and linking different networks, sharing of knowledge and experiences e.g. by platforms.*

## ECRAN Climate Results – Imre Csikós (ECRAN)

The Paris 2015 Conference made the world safer but not safe! The probability that temperature increases with 4°C has been reduced by 80%. The likely outcome is now 2.7 to 3.5°C. It is obvious that mitigation action alone is not sufficient and that adaptation action is required.



The European Commission developed its Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change with the overall objective to contribute to a more climate-resilient Europe. The Strategy describes three priority areas.

For the Western Balkans and Turkey, the European Commission initiated and financed the ECRAN project, developing a network of professionals and building up their capacities in the areas of environment and climate change, while stimulating political support including for climate change adaptation.





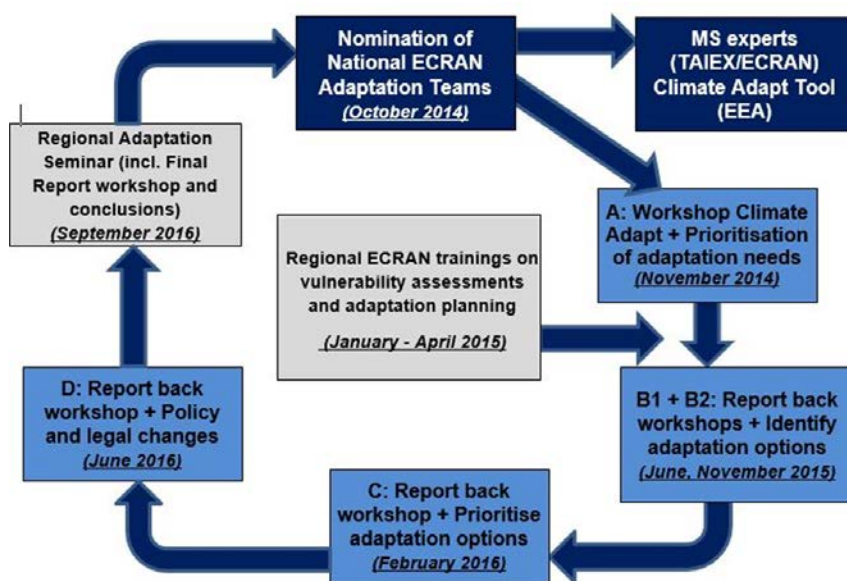
With regard to the EU Adaptation Strategy ECRAN focused on a number of key issues, such as encouraging the adoption of adaptation strategies (under priority 1 of the Strategy), bridging knowledge gaps/vulnerabilities, and the Climate Adapt tool (both under priority 2 of the Strategy).

In the period 2014-2016 ECRAN organised a series of conferences and workshops that covered a number of technical areas, such as energy, urban planning and water management. Furthermore, the country adaptation teams, nominated by their own leadership at the request of the Commission, were supported through the workshops Step A to D in going through all the steps of Climate Adapt.

**Priority 1: Promoting Action**  
**Action 1:** Encourage to adopt adaptation strategies  
**Action 2:** Provide LIFE funding to adaptation action in Europe  
**Action 3:** Introduce adaptation in the Covenant of Mayors framework  
**ECRAN Working Group 4**

**Priority 2: Informed Decision making**  
**Action 4:** Bridging knowledge gap / vulnerability assessments  
**Action 5:** Climate – adapt tool

**Priority 3: Climate-proofing action**  
**Action 6:** Climate-proofing of the key CAP, Cohesion policy and CFP  
**Action 7:** Promote insurance and other financial products for investment



These workshops dealt with climate modelling, vulnerabilities, adaptation needs, identification of adaptation options, prioritisation of adaptation options, and implementation, monitoring and evaluation. All ECRAN countries developed position papers with regard to their climate modelling, vulnerabilities and adaptation needs, and

stepwise carried out self-assessments with respect to their steps made so far in the process of developing adaptation strategies. Apart from the Climate Adapt tool, also the Adaptation Scoreboard and a large number of practical exercises were used to further strengthen countries' understanding of the adaptation process.

All-in-all the **central theme** of the adaptation programme was **capacity building and information exchange**, covering:

- Sharing beneficiary countries' experience
- Sharing EU Member States' experience
- Climate Adapt Tool
- Self-assessments
- Strategy development
- Position Papers
- Sharing of countries' progress
- Inventory of countries' needs

The **methodologies** that were **used** included:

- Network development

- Interactive approach
- Coaching
  - Linking with and integrating in beneficiaries' daily work
  - Self-assessment
  - Stepwise process of developments

The **results** of the **ECRAN** work can be summarised as follows:

- Networking - National and international: Adaptation Teams established
- Regional information exchange commenced
- Enhanced insight through self-assessments
- Strategic planning process supported
- Knowledge and skills strengthened
  - The evaluations of the different steps and training confirm that the training achieved its set goals; results contributed to improved understanding of and capacities on the training subject.
  - Croatia confirmed they apply methods learned from the ECRAN support for their National Adaptation Strategy. Other ECRAN beneficiaries confirmed the AST tool is or will be applied.
  - Position papers on climate modelling, vulnerabilities, and adaptation.

The table below provides an overview of the workshops participants' evaluation scores. The scores should be read as on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 as the lowest and 10 as the highest possible score.

Workshop	No. of participants	Time well spent	Facilitators	Relevance
<b>Water</b>	49	8.3	8.7	8.0
<b>Urban</b>	55	9.5	9.4	8.7
<b>Energy</b>	31	9.2	9.0	8.6
<b>Step B1</b>	34	8.5	8.8	8.3
<b>Step B2</b>	55	9.0	9.5	8.7
<b>Step C</b>	57	8.6	9.4	7.9
<b>Step D</b>	52	9.1	9.3	9.7
<b>Average</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.6</b>

An important element in the workshops programme was the country self-assessments regarding country progress made with the development of Adaptation Strategies. The self-assessments were



carried out along the structures of the Climate Adapt tool and the Commission's Adaptation Preparedness Scoreboard.

AST STEP 1 – 6	AL	BA	KS	MK	MNE	SR	TR	Av.
1. Preparing the ground for adaptation	42	54	72	67	81	60	88	66
2. Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change	50	82	66	73	89	76	73	73
3. Identifying adaptation options	33	63	83	90	67	61	70	67
4. Assessing and prioritising adaptation options	47	58	48	48	34	59	65	51
5. Implementation	35	55	60	73	40	8	68	48
6. Monitoring and evaluation (June 2016 meeting)	4	45	3	52	11	41	95	36
<b>Overall per country</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>57</b>

Countries scored their own progress in percentages of full completion. The table above shows the scores that were given. It should be noted that these scores represent the professional and sincere judgement of the workshops participants, but do not present the official position of the ECRAN countries. Furthermore, the first scores date back to 2015. Developments may in the meantime have caught up with (some of) the above figures.

The **main successes** to date that were reported by the beneficiary countries include:

- Communication/decision making structures in place (AL, MK, MNE, SR, TR);
- Adaptation Strategy approved-almost ready (BA, KS, TR);
- Legal requirements established (MNE);
- Adaptation projects implemented (BA, SR).

As **main weaknesses** to date countries mentioned:

- Adequate level of human resources (AL, BA, MNE)
- Financial issues, funding (AL, BA, KS, MK, MNE, SR, TR)
- Cooperation/coordination issues (AL, KS, MNE)
- Availability of data (AL, KS, MNE, SR)

As important but not exclusive, country needs that were reported with regard to each of the 6 steps of the Adaptation Support Tool the following needs were reported, as per table below.

AST - STEPS	Needs for training and TA	
1. Preparing the ground for adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law drafting</li> <li>• Project development</li> <li>• Defining human resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding options</li> <li>• Workshops, training, twinning</li> <li>• Open forum; web based platform</li> </ul>
2. Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved observation network</li> <li>• Awareness raising</li> <li>• Developing legislation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training, research, computers</li> <li>• Information sharing platform</li> <li>• Project development</li> </ul>
3. Identifying adaptation options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise institutional awareness</li> <li>• Implementation aspects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tools and models to overcome data gaps</li> </ul>
4. Assessing and prioritising adaptation options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost-benefit analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtaining political commitment</li> </ul>
5. Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration within and among sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritisation and action planning</li> <li>• Law development</li> </ul>
6. Monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M&amp;E practice – learning by doing</li> </ul>	

ECRAN has achieved a state of play in which:

- Critical mass of adaptation knowledge and action in the region is at the point of being achieved;
- Awareness of public administration sectors and citizens is in place but needs to be further enhanced;
- It is crucial to hold the momentum. The Adaptation Network is not (yet) self-sufficient;
- There is an ongoing need for cooperation and coordination at 2 levels: build on regional action and strengthen the national 'fabric'.

Therefore, considerations for the next cycle of ECRAN are:

- Direction:
  - Supporting development of national adaptation strategies and legislation;
  - Shift from knowledge transfer to implementing action;
  - Continued harmonisation and collaboration between ECRAN and EU countries;
  - Enhanced cross-border cooperation in the ECRAN region;
- Activity areas:
  - Regional / National Adaptation Planning;
  - Tools for Regional Adaptation Options in selected sectors;
  - Promoting cooperation with Mayors Adapt;
  - Active donor engagement;
  - Regional cooperation on Disaster Risk Management;
- Tools:
  - Workshops, training;
  - Expert missions;
  - Networking events.



## **DONOR PANEL**

The donor panel delivered short presentations from representatives of donor organisations with a focus on available and foreseen support for countries in the Western Balkans and Turkey and the key focus areas. The session also allowed for interaction between donor representatives and the audience. Donor organisations that were represented included the European Commission, the World Bank, GIZ, USAID, Austrian Development Agency, UNDP, and SIDA.



## Presentations



### **Mr. Nicholas Cendrowicz**

With the 2015 Paris agreement, Governments agreed to:

- strengthen societies' ability to deal with the impacts of climate change;
- provide continued and enhanced international support for adaptation.

The EU leads in global mobilisation on climate change, including spending at least 20% of its 2014-2020 budget on climate change-related actions globally. This commitment also applies to EU funding in NEAR countries. Adaptation and mitigation are counted cumulatively, not separately.

The climate focus in current EU assistance tends to be on mitigation actions, which highlights the need to scale up assistance on adaptation. Potential beneficiaries of EU funding have an important role to play with regard to defining their needs. Climate mainstreaming requires the introduction of climate criteria in the entire intervention logic and over the complete life cycle of EU funding programmes.

EU support is to be understood broadly, not only from a financing perspective; political dialogue and capacity building are also essential. Complementarity to national level action is a key criterion.

The main instrument to support the ECRAN countries is IPA, in various ways and at various levels. Adaptation strategies are needed at all levels of administration: local, regional and national. IPA offers complementarity among all these levels. Actions could be funded either through the national or the multi-country programme (particularly for capacity building or investment preparation).

In the field of environment, the Western Balkan Investment Framework's main sector priorities are water and wastewater, solid waste, river basin management and flood protection in densely populated and industrialised areas and environmentally sensitive areas.

In the Western Balkans, the EU support on disaster reduction has focused on floods. The September 2015 Sarajevo donor conference inter alia resulted in a list of short, medium and long term objectives that the Western Balkans countries would need to achieve in order to ensure a sound flood prevention management system. This is definitely to be taken into account for future programming in ECRAN countries, especially the so-called 'no-regret' investments which will have the greatest impact and efficiency in hot spot areas.

Climate action is inscribed in the enlargement process aiming at the adoption and implementation of the EU acquis on climate. The acquis such as the adoption of adaptation strategies or the implementation of the floods directive is closely followed up.

Actions regarding flood prevention and river management in Bosnia and Herzegovina currently include support to improvements to hydrological forecasting systems as well as the re-construction of priority river infrastructure in critical locations. Also in Serbia river infrastructure reconstruction is supported. Furthermore, support is given to awareness raising, advocacy and recovery assistance to flood affected areas and will be rendered to development of integrated flood risk management, preparation of flood hazard and flood risk maps.





Also support is foreseen under Multi-Beneficiary Programmes, such as a follow-up of ECRAN.

The role that TAIEX can play in the area of capacity building is considerable due to the extensive budget available under this instrument. Events and all forms of exchange of expertise can be covered.

Under IPA there is only a limited number and scope for 'climate only' programmes. Therefore, increasing programming of climate activities should be done through better mainstreaming climate action into our existing priorities rather than earmarking specific funds for this objective. Most pertinent sectors: disaster risk reduction, agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure, energy efficiency.

Political dialogue may be demanding, but also provides the support that helps to access funding. Funding is often provided regionally, but to unlock it national level priority setting and political support are needed. Identifying and mainstreaming climate issues in projects are a key task on national level. IPA is a demand-driven programme and the demand for climate change projects needs to come from the beneficiary countries.

### Conclusions

- EC support is to be understood broadly: different levels and means, not only financial ones;
- Assess your specific adaptation needs and mainstream them into all potential sectors;
- IPA remains a demand-driven programme;
- The key for obtaining funds is in the hands of the beneficiaries!

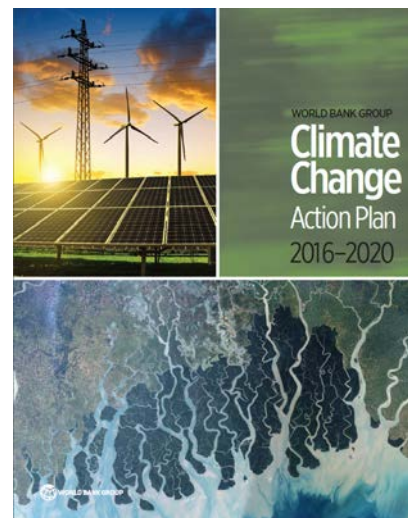


Climate change is seen as a major challenge for development. The World Bank Group adopted a Climate Change Action Plan in April 2016 aiming to help countries to deliver on their INDCs and tackle climate change impacts. The key sectors for development and climate change recognised by the Plan include clean energy, green transport, climate-smart agriculture, urban resilience, and climate finance.

The World Bank negotiates with country governments on partnership reports and key areas for investment; they include climate change mitigation, adaptation as well as disaster risk management.

Analytical work helps countries to become ready for climate action. Energy and agriculture are the main sectors. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia more sectors have been covered.

The World Bank also works on the level of water basins, like the Sava river projects that support water management. Another initiative concerns the Disaster Risk Financing Strategies that also involve adaptation.



There are three possible directions for future work that will be supported by the World Bank:

- 1) In May 2016 a workshop was held in Vienna for Western Balkan countries to understand their needs and to provide capacity building. Countries requested to move from strategic planning



to implementation and specific measures. Currently the type of technical assistance that could be best is being considered: regional or country-based;

- 2) Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction – has already been used to recover from floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia. Assists in developing disaster risk management financing strategies, including insurance and other national instruments;
- 3) Focus on the transport sector. Two national projects in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina on modernisation of the road sector; roads are built to be climate resilient. First a vulnerability assessment is done; which sections of road can be made resilient by management or building measures. An action plan for better transport in the region was developed and funding will be provided to implement it, including climate resilience considerations.

A strong request from a country can be key to help raise the funding.



Implemented by giz

**Mrs. Dubravka Bosnjak**

GIZ connects institutions and their needs with funding providers, including support through knowledge transfer and capacity building. The funding is mostly coming from the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. But also other German ministries, the European Commission, the World Bank and other governments contribute. 70% of GIZ staff are employed locally.



GIZ is very active in South-East Europe through the Open Regional Funds for South East Europe, which started in 2009. All projects are demand-driven. There are no specific deadlines. GIZ can be approached any time by sending an email or making a phone call. For projects at least three country-partners from the region are needed, but often all seven countries are involved. The activities are adjusted to the needs of all partner countries.

In 2008-2016 GIZ worked extensively on energy efficiency, including a Monitoring and Verification of energy savings Platform.

The next financing phase of the Open Regional Fund will start at the beginning of 2017. Currently, the plans for the next three years are being finalized. Energy Efficiency will be a core topic. Three intervention lines (Ministries/energy community, Parliamentarians/NGOs, Municipalities) will be eligible for support. The scope of work will possibly be broadened by including the GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation.

In future, GIZ will also cooperate with the Covenant of Mayors to support the development of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) in cities and towns. Climate Change Adaptation and flood risk management in the Western Balkans has just started and will run until 2018.



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GIZ is interested to hear the country needs.



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**Mrs. Margareta Lipkovska**

The office is focused on energy and infrastructure, working on diversifying energy imports, harmonising legislation to promote gas supply diversification, to develop a competitive and transparent regional electricity market. Promoting transition to low emission energy sources is built into all facilities. Each country can also have bi-lateral activities that can focus on adaptation.

For example, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: a project for developing local adaptation strategies is utilizing the green agenda method in design of the strategy, building capacity of local governments and other stakeholders and identifying pilot projects that the community sees as priority projects. This work will end in 2016. 10 municipalities have developed strategies and action plans and have implemented 20 adaptation measures, e.g. reconstruction of river beds, landslide prevention measures, water catchment restoration, and tree planting.

Another example in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: adaptation to climate change in agriculture. Promotes simple, adaptive measures. 17 beneficiary farmers were testing the practices, such as installation of UV nets, modification of irrigation, new pruning and mulching techniques, etc. Also, reports and video material were produced for wider capacity building.

A regional initiative that has just started concerns the Europe and Eurasia Regional Platform, part of the LEDS global partnership. Practices include bringing together a community of practitioners in climate change and low emissions development. USAID will fund the European Platform for a certain period of time. Services that will be provided: peer to peer learning, training, technical resources, expert advisory support. Countries in the region will drive the agenda and identify the priorities.



There are many energy intensive economies. Activities to decrease this intensity have potential. National representatives, NGOs, business associations, utility companies, etc. will be the representatives in the Platform. LEDS side event in COP22, Marrakesh, will be presented. Donors can support this Platform by participation and sharing practices as well as funding specific working groups.

 Austrian  
Development Agency **Mr. Markus Leitner**

ADA is currently negotiating a budget which is expected to be finalised by September 2016.

A national project supported by Austrian Ministry of Environment will allow to provide capacity building support for mitigation and adaptation. ECRAN countries can approach freely.

Through the available budget technical support for adaptation planning can be provided until the end of 2016. This includes support to development of proposals for the funding by other donors.



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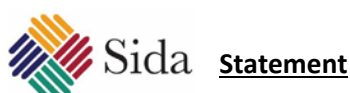


**Mr. Dimitrija Sekovski**

Engaged with the topic in the region since 2000, UNDP helps to develop the national communications to the UNFCCC, including the vulnerability assessments in key sectors. This provides backing to adaptation strategies as well as various UNDP projects.

UNDP works together with other funding providers and is implementing several major projects, e.g. the Prespa Lake Basin water and flood risk management plan. Support tries to improve the resilience of the area to human pressures, but also global change. The activities are aligned with EU Water Framework Directive legislation.

Floods are a growing issue in the countries in the region – both river floods and flash floods. UNDP is working to analyse these flooding events; why did damage happen, could it be prevented, analysis of economic events as well as management scenarios for the future. The EU flood recovery programme helps to recover infrastructure after flooding events, incorporating climate change aspects in infrastructure planning. UNDP also works with institutions on developing better management and maintenance of existing infrastructure.



The SIDA representative could not be present and therefore submitted a brief that was shared with the audience by Mr. Bakx (ECRAN). The brief described SIDA's environment and climate cooperation with each of ECRAN countries.

In the area of climate SIDA's focus is on climate change mitigation. The main part of the cooperation runs through an Environment and Climate Fund with SIDA and the EBRD. As concerns the ECRAN countries the Fund is open for Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia. Since it was initiated in 2009, approximately € 40 M were spent. Support is for investments in water supply, wastewater treatment, solid waste management, district heating, public transport and energy efficiency in public buildings. The support involves financing of Technical Assistance and grant funding to investments, linked to a loan from the EBRD.

Similarly, SIDA contributes to Western Balkans Investment Framework, WBIF, a joint fund for several bilateral contributors and the EU, also for support to investments in environment, energy (and also transport and social infrastructure) and around half of the activities funded by WBIF target climate change mitigation.

Furthermore, SIDA funds a regional programme for the Western Balkans (through WWF), concerning management of nature reserves – Dinaric Arc. (2015-2019). This programme could be relevant from a climate change adaptation perspective.

In the foreseeable future SIDA will channel its support to regional work related to climate change through the above-mentioned existing programmes. Partner countries are encouraged to seek cooperation and investment support / loans through the WBIF and the EBRD (e.g. through the countries single project pipelines national investments committees).



## Interaction with the audience

During interaction between donor representatives and the audience a suggestion from one of the participants was to hold a donor conference at the regional level. The conference should focus on regional priorities and also invite the national Ministries of Finance.

From the side of the World Bank it was emphasized that some form of coordination among donors is a good idea. An assessment of the status quo is in any case necessary when starting activities.

A representative from Turkey mentioned the need to update earlier needs assessment documents to highlight the current needs for support to adaptation activities.

A Serbian representative clarified that, without donors, achievements would have been far less. However, the coordination between the donors is not sufficient. Countries can provide inputs, but have limited resources to coordinate. Sometimes, by chance they find climate relevant projects funded by donors and implemented by other institutions on internet. They are normally not informed when they are being planned and implemented. Cross-checking, coordination and involvement of all relevant stakeholders would be important.

The ADA representative responded that a national information portal can contribute to having a good overview of projects and information in the country.

From the side of GIZ it was stated that donor coordination meetings had started with UNDP to coordinate the work in Serbia. It came out that it is best to have a ministry responsible for the topic and task them to inform other institutions on the developments within the activities. That helped to avoid double work and enhanced awareness.

The response of the DG NEAR representative was that donor coordination for large projects normally works well. The difficulties are with the smaller projects. The Ministries or departments responsible for climate change are small and lack resources to take on their full coordination role. This needs more thought and setting up information exchange mechanisms.

The representative of USAID sees that formal and informal coordination is happening in the countries, but that it is true that it is not perfect, inter alia caused by the high number of donors that are present in the region. Everyone should take the responsibility and act.

## BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

By the end of the programme, break-out sessions were held on five topics:

1. Anchoring ECRAN achievements, cross-border cooperation and networking;
2. COP21 – Adaptation Action and required first steps in the region;
3. Possible presentation of ECRAN countries on Climate ADAPT;
4. How to best fit in donor support;
5. Civil society involvement and raising public awareness.



Each group consisted of a mix of participants originating from different ECRAN countries. The sessions were facilitated by experts in each of the present areas. Each group was supported by a rapporteur who minuted the session (minutes can be found in Annex and provided feedback (on flipchart) to the plenary after the break-out sessions.

Plenary participants were then invited – through stickering – to score the importance of the findings/actions that were identified by the groups.

The actions identified by the break-out group are presented below, together with their scores and ranking obtained from the audience.

Rank	Action	Break-out group	No. of points
1	At local level there are problems with implementation expertise – support needed with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimising action plans to a level feasible for monitoring</li> <li>• Developing practical indicators (adopting sustainable development goals)</li> </ul>	2	23
2	Use the country information developed under ECRAN to develop country profiles of ECRAN countries in Climate ADAPT (voluntary reporting according to MMR template)	3	21
3	Focus on implementation and monitoring	1	20
4	Financing campaigns, local projects by local authorities to support NGOs, capacity building civil society, eco-friendly businesses, research projects	5	19
5	Set up a platform with centralised information on funding opportunities; establish a 'One Stop Shop' for funding information	4, 1	12
6	Use the December 2016 Vienna workshop to discuss open questions from the (MMR) template	3	12
7	Coordination among governments and donors (high level intergovernmental platform) including regional organisations ( <i>see parallel with ranks 8, 20 and 22</i> )	4	9
8	Coordinate state and local level with regard to funds, resources, legislation, coordination mechanisms ( <i>see parallel with ranks 7, 20 and 22</i> )	2	9
9	Secure a triangle of countries, experts and donors	1	8
10	Through regional networks inform, involve and establish cross-border cooperation	5	8
11	Establish further coordination with donors & follow-up of projects, e.g. EPA	4	6
12	Media support very important; provide training for journalists on climate adaptation	5	6
13	Submit proposals for the Climate ADAPT newsletter	3	6
14	Submit MMR template for inclusion of information in Climate ADAPT	3	5
15	Focus on Water energy, agriculture etc.; establish specific working groups on specific topics	1	4
16	Sectoral thinking is not sufficient – cross sectoral issues!	2	4

17	Focus on early warning systems	4	4
18	Provide technical capacity building	4	4
19	Set priorities in climate action, e.g. involving technical staff but also communities	4	4
20	Network – overarching platform for contacts and cooperation ( <i>see parallel with ranks 7, 8 and 22</i> )	1	3
21	Spatial plans, political will	2	3
22	Coordination with other institutions at different levels (regional, national, supra-national) ( <i>see parallel with ranks 7, 8 and 20</i> )	4	3
23	Share best practices, transfer knowledge	5	3
24	Submit database proposals for Climate ADAPT	3	3
25	European Environment Agency or European Commission to send an official letter to countries to submit data for Climate ADAPT	3	2
26	Produce leaflets, materials for the general public	5	1
27	Develop a harmonized framework for monitoring and reporting	1	0
28	Ensure stability of technical staff and managers	4	0
29	Provide additional support for engineering based solutions	4	0

## CONCLUSIONS

By the end of the seminar and with a view to the future, seminar participants drew conclusions regarding the seminar's results and the Climate Adaptation activities undertaken by ECRAN over the past two years.

Through a **JOINT STATEMENT** (full text in **Annex 2** to this report) they acknowledged the urgency of addressing climate change to avoid the damage it causes. ECRAN was acknowledged to have stimulated and strengthened in-country as well as regional cooperation and strengthened public administration staff capacities in the field of climate change adaptation action.

Follow-up to ECRAN and any donor possibilities were strongly welcomed to keep the momentum that has been achieved and that will be crucial in support of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the EU Adaptation Strategy.

The Joint Statement recommended on the character of further work; on alignment of national and regional action with EU policies; on the institutionalisation of cooperation, information exchange and capacity building structure; and on the development of climate adaptation action.



## V. Evaluation

### Statistical Information

87% of the evaluating participants indicated that their expectations were fully met as concerns the workshop objective on ‘awareness of the need to pursue follow-up action to ECRAN’s climate adaptation activities among relevant public administrations in ECRAN beneficiary countries and donor institutions’. The remaining 13% indicated that expectations in this area were partially met.

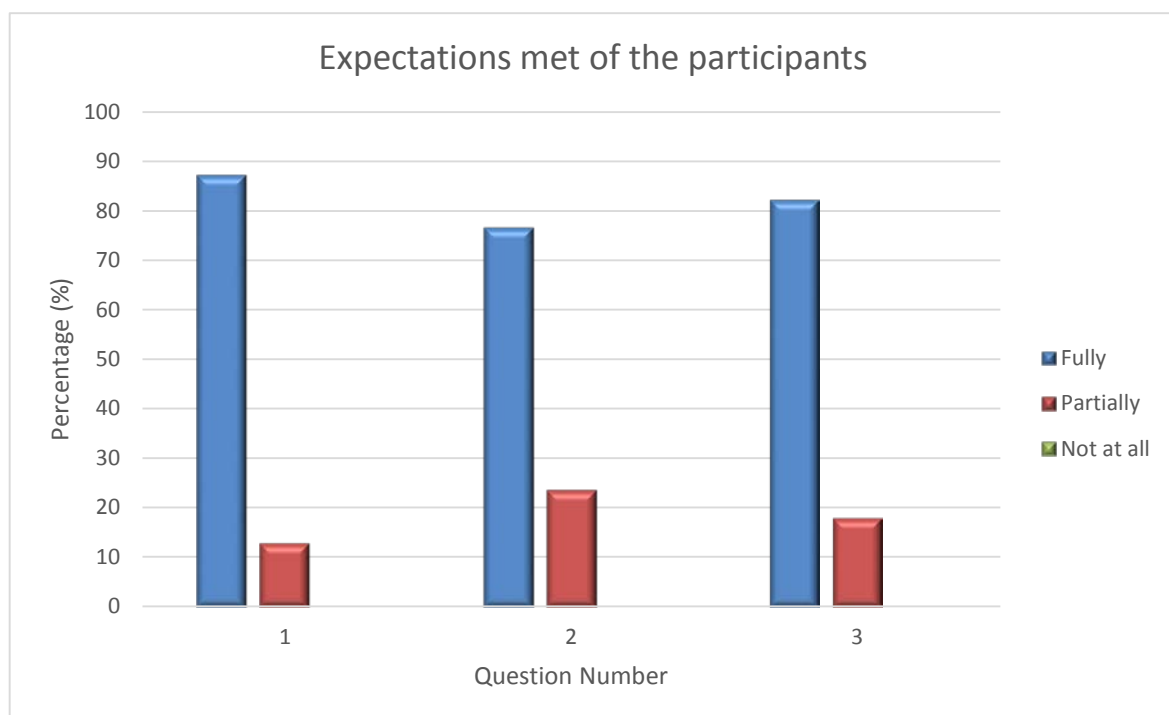
With regard to ‘insight in further steps that may be taken at national and international levels to keep momentum for climate adaptation action’, 77% of the evaluating participants were of the opinion that their expectations were fully met. The remaining 23% indicated that expectations in this area were partially met.

In 82% of the received evaluations participants reported that the objective of ‘agreement on the need to consolidate and broaden the network of climate adaptation professionals that was built up under ECRAN and to strengthen their focus on implementing action’ was fully achieved, with 18% reporting it to be partly achieved.

An overall total of 90% of the evaluation scores regarding the quality aspects of the workshop such as presentations, facilitators, and logistics, obtained the marks ‘excellent’ (60%) to ‘good’ (30%) with 8% scoring ‘average’, 1% ‘acceptable’, and 1% ‘poor’/‘unacceptable’. No less than 92% of all participants indicated that they found the workshop ‘time well spent’ (scoring ‘excellent’ or ‘good’) with 6% scoring ‘average’.

### Expectations

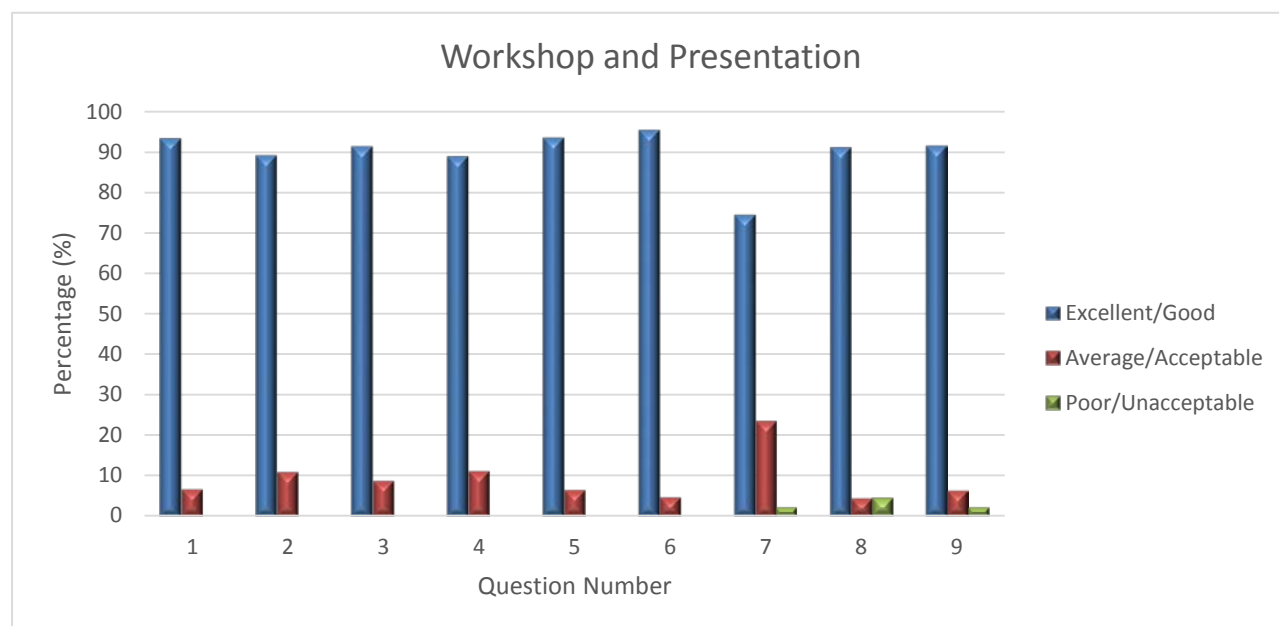
The extent to which specific expectations were met, or not met:





## Workshop and Presentation

Regarding workshop quality and logistical aspects participants scored as follows:



More detailed evaluation results can be found in Annex 3.

## ANNEX 1 – Agenda

**Tuesday 6 September 2016**

Topic: ECRAN Regional Closing High Level Seminar on Climate Change Adaptation				
Moderators: Rob Bakx, Teodora Grncarovska				
Start	Finish	Topic	Speaker(s)	Sub topic/Content
09:00	09:25	Registration		
09:25	09:30	Opening of the Seminar		
KEY NOTE SPEAKERS:				
09:30	10:00	Climate change adaptation	Mr. Stevo Temelkovski, Deputy Minister of Environment and Physical Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Word of welcome</li><li>- Importance of adaptation</li><li>- Steps taken to date</li></ul>
		Two years later; where do we stand?	Mr. Lukaš Holub, EU Delegation, Head of Political Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What more do we know since ECRAN Adapt started in 2014</li><li>- Possible impacts of non-action</li><li>- Has adaptation rooted in the region?</li></ul>
		EU Strategy on Adaptation - global context	Ms. Beatriz Yordi, Head of Unit, European Commission, DG Climate Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Progress EU Adaptation Strategy 2013</li><li>- The 2017 review of the Strategy</li><li>- Adaptation and Paris 2015 (COP21)</li></ul>
10:00	10:45	Press moment, group photo, coffee break		
10:45	11:00	Domestic Actions on Adaptation	Teodora Grncarovska, Climate Envoy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Countries’ state-of-play</li><li>- Gaps to be overcome</li><li>- Country needs</li></ul>
11:00	11:15	Update on Climate-ADAPT and EEA developments	Kati Mattern, European Environment Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Brief update on latest developments regarding Climate-ADAPT and EEA developments</li></ul>
11:15	11:30	Civil Society Organisations’ perspective	Methodija Sazdov, Macedonian Green Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- UNFCCC and EU acquis and policy implications for the region</li><li>- Role of CSOs in adaptation action</li></ul>
11:30	11:45	ECRAN Climate results	Imre Csikós, ECRAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Achievements to date</li><li>- Main conclusions</li><li>- Next steps</li></ul>
11:45	13:00	Roundtable on domestic adaptation action and views for follow-up action		



		<p>The aim of this roundtable is to take stock of adaptation action developments on the ECRAN beneficiaries and implementation, including the need for further action and potential views on cooperation with the EU and donors</p> <p><b>Country presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Countries' state-of-play</li> <li>- Gaps to be overcome</li> <li>- Country needs</li> </ul> <p>Following the contribution by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the 10:45 – 11:00 slot, further contributions by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albania</li> <li>• Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> <li>• Kosovo*</li> <li>• Montenegro</li> <li>• Serbia</li> <li>• Turkey</li> </ul>		
<b>13:00</b>	<b>14:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>		
14:00	15:00	<p>Support for the Implementation of Adaptation Action in the region. Short presentations and Panel discussion</p> <p><b>Representatives of donor organisations:</b> Nicholas Cendrowicz (DG NEAR), Philippe Ambrosi (World Bank), Dubravka Bosnjak (GIZ), Margareta Lipkovska (USAID), Markus Leitner (Austrian Development Agency), SIDA (statement), Maja Handjiska-Trendafilova (RCC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Available and foreseen support for countries in the Western Balkans and Turkey</li> <li>- Key focus areas</li> </ul> <p><u>Rapporteur:</u> Linda Romanovska</p>		
<b>15:00</b>	<b>15:15</b>	<b>Coffee</b>		
15:15	16:30	<p><u>Donors and country break-out sessions</u></p> <p><u>'The path forward'</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anchoring ECRAN achievements, cross-border cooperation and networking</li> <li>- COP21 - Adaptation Action and required first steps in the region</li> <li>- Possible presentation of ECRAN countries on Climate ADAPT</li> <li>- How to best fit in donor support</li> <li>- Civil Society involvement and</li> </ul>	<p><b>Facilitators and Rapporteurs</b></p> <p><u>Facilitators:</u> Ivana Mijatovic Cernos Philippe Ambrosi Kati Mattern Linda Romanovska Methodija Sazdov</p> <p><u>Rapporteurs:</u> Gordana Petković Višnja Grgasović Dionisio Pérez-Blanco Boris Ćosić Markus Leitner Patrycja Enet</p>	<p>Break-out session (5 multi-country groups)</p> <p><u>Per group:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Each group to discuss for 30 minutes one of five key issues for further adaptation action</li> <li>- Facilitators lead discussion</li> <li>- Rapporteurs note down discussion issues and report back to plenary for 5 minutes each</li> </ul>

		raising public awareness		
16:30	16:45	Conclusions of the conference – ‘Supporting the path forward’	<b>Rob Bakx</b> and <b>Imre Csikós</b> Moderators, ECRAN	After the discussion in the previous 2 discussion sessions the audience is asked to score the results of the work session, establishing a priority order
16:45	17:00	Closure of the conference	<b>Rob Bakx</b> and <b>Teodora Grncarovska</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wrap-up</li> <li>- Closure of the conference</li> </ul>
<b>17:00</b>	<b><i>End of the seminar</i></b>			



## ANNEX 2 – Joint Statement

**ADOPTED**

### **Joint Statement by the Delegated Representatives of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey on climate change adaptation in the Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates**

**Skopje, September 6, 2016**

The Delegated Representatives from the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia and Turkey – together with representatives of the EU, donor organisations, and NGOs – met in Skopje to take stock of the state of climate change adaptation action in the region and to discuss the further path forward in this area for the region.

The Delegated Representatives acknowledged that:

- Addressing climate change, which threatens the future well-being of the citizens in the region, is a matter of urgency. Climate change is a powerful threat multiplier increasing frequency, magnitude and damage caused by floods, droughts, forest fires, heat waves and other climate related impacts, resulting in ever increasing instability and vulnerability of countries and regions;
- The Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network (ECRAN) has stimulated and strengthened in-country as well as regional cooperation between the EU Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates on climate change adaptation, and has assisted in better understanding the institutional, legal and implementation challenges that come with adaptation action;
- The support provided by ECRAN has strengthened capacities and understanding of a first layer of public administration staff in their countries. These representatives have a role in further promoting engagement and commitment in the national public administration and raising climate change awareness among citizens. The acquired competences, including the understanding of the Climate ADAPT tool and the Adaptation Preparedness Scoreboard, will support the (further) development of country adaptation strategies and plans, particularly in the framework of the international climate agenda and the EU Climate Adaptation Strategy.

Therefore, the Delegated Representatives welcome the announced follow-up to the ECRAN and any additional donor possibilities that may support and secure continuation and strengthening of the work that has started two years ago and has now caught strong momentum. This is crucial also in supporting

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\* 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



the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the EU Adaptation Strategy which will have to be reflected in all national policies, administrative structures and measures. As in the case of the EU – ambitious climate policy will require action in all sectors of economy.

**Recommendations – key issues to consider in the follow-up programme(s) include:**

- The ECRAN (2013 – 2016) cycle inter alia focused on strengthening knowledge and promoting the development of strategic and legal frameworks with regard to climate change adaptation. Further work should show a clear shift towards the development of national and regional adaptation strategies, speed up implementation, including the role that EU policies will fulfil in this respect.
- Continued alignment with EU climate policies and legislation should be particularly promoted through the cooperation with the EU Member States and be in line with the best implementation modalities and practices. This will help the Beneficiary Countries to develop implementing mechanisms for climate legislation and policies, including peer review structures set up in cooperation with EU Member States.
- The follow up programme(s) should also assist in promoting the institutionalisation of the necessary cooperation, information exchange and capacity building structures among and within the Beneficiary Countries that are pre-requisite for the solid development and implementation of climate adaptation strategies, climate-proof sector policies, legislation and plans, including their convergence with forthcoming EU integrated climate and energy governance.
- A continuous exchange of information and identification of synergies with other ongoing regional initiatives in the field of climate action and energy (such as the bilateral donors, the international donors, the Secretariat of the Energy Community, the Regional Cooperation Council, World Bank, etc.) should be promoted, while the cooperation with civil society organisations and the efforts to raise public awareness should be continued and further supported.
- Special focus should be given to capacity building for the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and countries' obligations under it, including the further development of climate change adaptation action. All countries are encouraged to ratify the Paris Agreement and put emphasis on the implementation of an enhanced transparency mechanism and the ambition mechanism.

The Delegated Representatives expressed their appreciation to the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for hosting this meeting and creating a constructive atmosphere conducive to wide-ranging and thorough discussions.





## ANNEX 3 – Details seminar evaluation

### Your Expectations

Please indicate to what extent specific expectations were met, or not met:

Workshop objectives	My expectations were met		
	Fully	Partially	Not at all
1. Awareness of the need to pursue follow-up action to ECRAN's climate adaptation activities among relevant public administrations in ECRAN beneficiary countries and donor institutions	 (87%)	I (13%)	
2. Insight in further steps that may be taken at the national and international levels to keep momentum for climate adaptation action	I (77%)	I (23%)	
3. Agreement on the need to consolidate and broaden the network of climate adaptation professionals that was built up under ECRAN's climate adaptation interventions and to strengthen their focus on implementing action	II (82%)	III (18%)	

### Workshop and Presentation

Please rate the following statements in respect of this training module:

Aspect of the workshop	Excellent	Good	Average	Acceptable	Poor	Unacceptable
1. The seminar achieved the objectives set	 (62%)	 (31%)	 (7%)			
2. The quality of the seminar was of a high standard	II (59%)	 (30%)	 (9%)	I (2%)		
3. The content of the seminar was well suited to my level of understanding and experience	 (65%)	II (26%)	 (9%)			
4. The practical work was relevant and informative	 (53%)	I (36%)	 (11%)			
5. The seminar was interactive	I (57%)	II (37%)	II (4%)	I (2%)		
6. Facilitators were well prepared and knowledgeable on the subject matter	III (77%)	 (19%)	II (4%)			
7. The duration of this seminar was neither too long nor too short	I (45%)	 (30%)	 (21%)	I (2%)	I (2%)	
8. The logistical arrangements (venue, refreshments, equipment) were satisfactory	III (63%)	 (29%)	I (2%)	I (2%)	I (2%)	I (2%)
9. Attending this seminar was time well spent	 (62%)	 (30%)	 (6%)			I (2%)

### ***Comments and suggestions***

The following comments and/or suggestions were submitted in addition to the questions already answered:

#### **Workshop Sessions:**

- General workshop time is too short according to comprehensive agenda. Sessions time is too long to take attending to all of sesions period
  - Short time
  - Short time
  - Very good
  - No comment
  - No coments
  - Excellent
  - Excellent
- 

#### **Facilitators:**

- Katti Mattern was very informative and helpful
  - Expecting more professional
  - Very good
  - Good
  - Good
  - Excellent
  - Excellent
- 

#### **Workshop level and content:**

- First of all presentations could not be seen from right side of meeting room. Seminar level is average. I would like to see more scientific outcome to understand adaptation and mitigation is exactly important against to climate change
  - Could have been useful to have a 2-day seminar – specially provided many had to spend 2 days here in any case
  - Satisfactory
  - Well structured
  - Seminar is well structured and managed
  - High level
  - Good
  - Excellent
- 



## ANNEX 4 – Minutes break-out sessions

GROUP 1	
Key issues introduced by the facilitator	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which are the preferences of countries about continuation of the network that was established within ECRAN?</li> <li>• DG CLIMA will assign some money for candidate countries, and has to know what countries are in need of.</li> <li>• Usefulness of further project work?</li> <li>• Interest to stay in contacts with colleagues?</li> <li>• What is value of contact with European experts; what is the best way of passing on the knowledge?</li> <li>• What model of support is best? Presentations, working groups, peer reviews, study visits, technical trainings, practical support by expert coming to the country establishing the process?</li> <li>• Which steps in the adaptation process mostly need such support?</li> <li>• Possible teams and topics.</li> <li>• Would be useful to organise study visits to assess the readiness of the countries.</li> <li>• Key sectors, cross sectorial assessment?</li> <li>• Which aspects of AST?</li> </ul>	
Key aspects addressed by the participants	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECRAN is good because experts are in touch, but after the workshops they are not</li> <li>• Good discussion will stay, although there is not enough time to share all information, even though we established connections</li> <li>• Is it easy to establish such network?</li> <li>• Cooperation is not easy; we should find out at which level the countries are now</li> </ul>	
Conclusions, recommendation or solutions, if any, identified by the group	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity building has been achieved in ECRAN; adaptation network is needed, to keep knowledge, good practices. There is a need that experts have direct contacts, and that the same people remain involved, and share their experience at national level</li> <li>• Methodologies: focus on specific topics to be discussed in workshops, and then presented to stakeholders</li> <li>• Organise training of trainers in English; use various tools, and then have workshops in national languages to choose which tool is most appropriate</li> <li>• It is important to involve neighbour countries with similar problems; this helps to better resolve such problems</li> <li>• Could be within a similar project like ECRAN; organize roundtables, put together donors and experts</li> <li>• Establish committees or working groups for specific topics, and organize meetings, study visits to EU countries, and develop projects</li> <li>• Study visits could be organized in the region, in countries that already implement certain measures, or to EU countries</li> <li>• Triangle of country experts, donors and neighbours, and EU experts.</li> <li>• Focus should be on specific problems, floods, neighbour countries, river basins, water scarcity, heat waves</li> <li>• Water sector is more urgent, other sectors are connected to water, agriculture, and energy sector. Action plans are developed, it is important to move to implementation, realisation and technical steps</li> <li>• Implementation and monitoring are the most urgent steps</li> <li>• Common monitoring that could be applied with neighbour countries, harmonization of data. It is more implementable if something is common</li> </ul>	

- At first national data base, and then regional
- Use IT tools, innovations
- Close cooperation with municipalities, Covenant of Mayors
- Financial part; it should be possible to get information on donors in one place - to be possible to present a project and get information on possible financing
- Suggestions to donors and needs on regional level to include in a next project
- Albania; with particular emphasize on flood protection
- Serbia; donors should recognize and have in mind low capacity of beneficiary countries

### Proposed ACTIONS to be taken.....

## GROUP 2

### Key issues introduced by the facilitator

- COP 21: importance, opportunities
- Paris agreement was a huge success, many parties came with their actions plans, many have adaptation
- Adaptation is a very important part, there will be follow-up every 5 years
- Gives the possibilities to work on adaptation – Encourages the development of adaptation strategies and/or refinement of existing strategies.
- Link between risk prevention and management.
- What is the role of the non-state actors: local communities, big cities, municipalities... Things to do that citizens can relate to and can be repeated on other places
- Let's discuss: mainstreaming adaptation as an issue, cooperating with other sectors
- How can the role of "The Covenant of Mayors" be enhanced?
- Transparency of adaptation actions, everything will be monitored and there will be access to financing

### Key aspects addressed by the participants

- Bosnia: strategy and action plans being developed, disaster risk reduction included. Municipality level is included. In many municipalities it has not been implemented. This obliges the state to work together with the municipalities. What are the priorities? (Is it agriculture?) How do we start action? Societies do not have mechanisms to start working on the issues. Example 2: irrigation - lack of funds, Example 3: traffic in cities - progress requires investments. Good ideas are "in the air", but concrete actions are difficult to start. Communities' own funds are not sufficient. Laws are not sufficient either. Example 4: Houses are built in flood-prone areas. You can introduce 'punishments', but that is not efficient in the long run.
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Skopje is part of Covenant of Mayors (only mitigation) and is preparing a strategy for CC, including disaster reduction. Other cities should also benefit from that. Good experiences with municipalities. However – implementation...? Financial support is necessary. Adaptation plans within national communications – 8 sectors included. Lack of financing is a problem. In addition – cross-sectoral action is not given enough priority.
- Turkey: disaster reduction – we manage disaster issues in Turkey – related to extreme weather events. Coordination board on CC, education at local level. NAP is from 2012, a lot of actions from the plan lack indicators for better monitoring of implementation.

### Conclusions, recommendation or solutions, if any, identified by the group

### Proposed ACTIONS to be taken.....



- Coordination between state and local level is needed: streamline money, provide procedures, legislation. Coordination mechanisms should be set up or improved. Important issue: spatial planning.
- Covenant of Mayors is a good idea, a good experience. However, it should also be beneficial to communities outside the network.
- Implementation at the local level is difficult. Financial support is necessary. Adaptation plans within national communications – 8 sectors included. Cross-sectoral issues should be given priority.
- Implementation support is needed: we need to ease monitoring, improve reporting mechanism.
- Indicators of monitoring progress. Can we to a higher degree adopt SDG's instead of new indicators? There is a wish to optimise the number of actions in the plan to be able to monitor progress. Continued support to MRV.
- Political will to invest more in water management, or other issues - following a priority list
- Adaptation seems more 'relevant' on the local scale, whereas mitigation is a global issue.
- Spatial plans important – also at local level

### GROUP 3

#### Key issues introduced by the facilitator

- Showcasing of Climate-ADAPT focusing on EEA Member Countries' information
- Currently all EU Member States (MS) need to provide official information for the country pages of Climate-ADAPT, based on legal requirements, this information is split into the following categories: summary, policy & framework, sector & actions, assessment, engaging stakeholders and contacts
- The map based search tool was presented online and the current information from Turkey looked at, serving as an example

#### Key aspects addressed by the participants

- How can official information be compiled – who decides, if the information is official?
- Who can help the beneficiaries with compiling the information needed for the Climate-ADAPT country pages?

#### Conclusions, recommendation or solutions, if any, identified by the group

- One official representative from each country shall be nominated as a focal point, compiling the relevant information
- The content of the country pages shall be agreed internally via e.g. an 'inter-ministerial working group' or similar, if possible existing format
- Update of the information once per year

#### Proposed ACTIONS to be taken.....

- Use the country information developed in ECRAN to develop a country profile (voluntary reporting according to MMR template)
- Beneficiaries, especially from West Balkans which are not EEA Member Countries shall nominate one person
- An official letter shall be sent by the EEA to the Minister in charge of the adaptation topic
- The existing template from DG CLIMA and EU MS shall be sent with the letter to the Ministers in Charge of Adaptation (information sent by EEA) – support countries to make it a Government document
- Beneficiaries can include information on Climate-ADAPT in English via the Climate-ADAPT web portal (this can be projects, strategies or case-studies and measures taken)
- A regular newsletter is available and also information from the Beneficiaries can be included into the regular newsletter via Climate-ADAPT



- The Environment Agency Austria (Umweltbundesamt) has a small budget available to support West Balkan countries in further developing their adaptation activities and supporting the filling in of the EEA/DG CLIMA template for Climate-ADAPT

## GROUP 4

### Key issues introduced by the facilitator

- Use a two-sided approach to identify priority areas that could potentially receive support from donors.
- Supply based approach - What are donors doing; which of these actions you think are relevant and would you like to exploit?
- Demand based approach - What activities can be interesting for ECRAN partners?
- Gaps - ECRAN has done already some relevant work. What project could you and would you like to prepare? What gaps remain? What key concepts need to be underpinned to increase success rate (e.g. training on CBA)?
- Coordination - ECRAN is one of the major actions for coordination. Do you see any other platforms (e.g. River Basin Authority, Disaster Risk Network?) in which you can collaborate in future?
- Access to finance: GCF, Global Environmental Facility, others.
- Based on all the above, assess readiness.

### Key aspects addressed by the participants

- **Capacity building** - Participants from Kosovo\* highlight the need to expand technical capacity, in particular for CBA at a project level. Participants from Albania underline the role of capacity building at a municipality level, and the problems to capitalize on acquired experience and knowledge due to instability, which often results in people trained being transferred to other departments after elections.  
Training for energy experts has played a key role in the preparation of some laws in Western Balkans, e.g. regulation on renewable energies.  
**Prioritize actions**, in a clear manner, using an action plan.  
Participants from Albania, Kosovo\* and Serbia once again highlight the role of a sound CBA assessment, which is instrumental to achieve this goal. Another option is community-based action; USAID has supported projects at a community level in Albania in which the community is involved and identifies problems and solutions.  
**Key sectors**: Water management (floods, droughts). In Albania, reliance on engineering solutions to manage floods, but it is insufficient to fully prevent events with medium return period. Participants from other countries agree on this diagnosis. Need to adopt complementary actions.
- **Early Warning System (EWS)** is absent in Albania for example. For some areas of the country there are not even studies available on the potential of EWS, so their implementation is challenging. In Albania there was coordination with the EPA to develop an EWS in a specific area, partners are unsure of the status of the application (which was submitted).
- **Information gaps**. It is not straightforward to get information on available calls.

### Conclusions, recommendation or solutions, if any, identified by the group

1. Coordination with other institutions at different levels, including but not limited to donors.
2. High level intergovernmental panel including governments and donors.
3. Further investment on engineering solutions to address climate change challenges
4. Creation of a centralized, easy to use platform where all information regarding calls is available, e.g. online.
5. ECRAN follow-up with a larger focus on funding and participation in other supra-national groups.
6. Prioritization of actions in climate change adaptation plans.
7. Investment in capacity building –and try to focus on those with a higher likelihood of remaining in the office/department.





8. Investment in an EWS –in Western Balkans, the Benefit Cost Ratio of investments in these systems can be as much as 4:1.
<b>Proposed ACTIONS to be taken.....</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The stickering session highlighted the issues of coordination (1), centralized information platform (4) and capacity building (7).</li> </ul>

<b>GROUP 5</b>
<b>Key issues</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various challenges, such as: lack of understanding of the potential impacts of climate change, more urgent issues; lack of capacity at local level, limited resources.</li> <li>Perception, politically sensitive.</li> <li>Lack of specific knowledge.</li> <li>A strong need to raise public awareness.</li> <li>Often lack of developed local adaptation strategies to climate change.</li> <li>Underestimation of the need of civil society involvement/stakeholder engagement and raising public awareness.</li> </ul>
<b>Key aspects addressed by the participants</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PARTICIPATION AND CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT ARE VERY LOW!!! Although they are invited, the participation is still very low.</li> <li>Although there is now a large consensus about importance of actively involving the public, the nature and extent of public/civil society input is generally left to the discretion of local authorities which might be limited. A need to INCREASE AWARENESS from kindergarten!</li> <li>In Turkey the public are invited to participate. In Kosovo* also invited, but also limited participation. Some campaigns took place in Montenegro, e.g. <b>Heat Waves campaign</b>: with 5 groups in total. (GIZ support, Montenegro municipality support); GIZ support, no NGOs, small participation;</li> <li>NGOs participate in the preparation of all documents on all governmental levels. There is understanding of CA of the participants. Communication plans are lacking.</li> <li>Lacking specific knowledge of administration, NGOs, people.</li> <li>Human capacity improvement on different governmental levels.</li> <li>TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE.</li> <li>Education of journalists is lacking in the field of climate adaptation.</li> <li>A strong need <u>to raise public awareness</u>.</li> <li>Building trust.</li> <li>No flood management plans, not following the EU Floods Directive.</li> <li>Lack of GIS data.</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed ACTIONS to be taken, Conclusions, recommendation, solutions:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The local level is often the most appropriate FOR ACTION and implementation.</li> <li>The need for developing of local adaptation strategies to climate change.</li> <li>Call, ask their field of interest, being proactive to find the partners.</li> <li>Engaging stakeholders, NGOs, etc.</li> <li>Lobbying civil societies, NGOs, stakeholders.</li> <li>Financing campaigns, local projects by the local authorities to support NGOs, businesses (eco-friendly).</li> <li>Financing CC research projects.</li> <li>Capacity building of civil societies. Building capacity – events to build local (institutional) capacity to adapt. Trainings.</li> <li><u>Media support</u> is very important for raising public awareness. -&gt; Improve journalists' education and capacity building in the field of Climate Adaptation / Environment.</li> </ul>

- Include in the process of Civil Society involvement: informing the public, involving the public, Building Partnerships, Strengthening Cross-border Cooperation, Introducing Tools to enhance participation.
- Share CA best practices. (Broad dissemination of lessons learned from CA projects/initiatives). -> Transfer of knowledge.
- Producing leaflets, materials for general public.
- Civil Society involvement and raising public awareness through sharing of information, transparent communication, consensus-building under stakeholders, informed decision-making.
- A starting point for the civil society involvement is to discuss the current situation (e.g. the frequency of extreme events, such as precipitation, flooding, droughts, intensity of hurricanes) which gives to people a strong signal. Will flooding and drought be more frequent? To highlight significance of the issues and uncertainty the stakeholders feel regarding the future path.
- Always at all stages: ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS and BUILDING (INSTITUTIONAL) CAPACITY.
- Be clear on how you will engage with communities who have an interest in adaptation of their areas, sectors.
- Ensure that you communicate regularly with partners and communities.
- Ensure that you prepare and practice; use facilitators if you feel you need help.
- Communicate (complicated) information to a wide range of people, do not underestimate this task.



## ANNEX 5 – Participants List

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## **ANNEX 6 – Presentations (under separate cover)**

Presentations can be downloaded from:

[http://www.ecranetwork.org/Files/Presentations\\_Final\\_Adaptation\\_Conference\\_September\\_2016\\_Skopje.zip](http://www.ecranetwork.org/Files/Presentations_Final_Adaptation_Conference_September_2016_Skopje.zip)



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