

# Development of cross-sectoral, measurable targets for climate change adaptation

EEA-Eionet day, 1 March 2023

## Workshop report

Room: Spisehuset, DGI Byen

Number of participants: approximately 50

### Speakers and moderators:

- **Dr Inke Schauser**, Department for Climate Impacts and Adaptation, UBA Germany
- **Clemens Haße**, Department for Climate Impacts and Adaptation, UBA Germany

### Objectives:

Explore and discuss two guiding questions:

- What kind of political processes on developing (cross-sectoral) targets are you familiar with? What are the lessons learned? What are the challenges and success factors?
- What kind of experience do you have with measurable targets in political strategies? Are they easily understandable and used, what are the challenges?

**Description:** To prevent maladaptation it is necessary to establish a cross sectoral approach to defining cross-sectoral targets. The challenges connected with this approach was discussed in this workshop based on input about the process for a new German Adaptation Strategy. The federal government in Germany is preparing a new climate adaptation law and a new adaptation strategy (DAS 2.0) with measurable targets together with the federal states. It will provide for a consistent governance of climate adaptation in Germany through concrete, measurable targets in various fields of action, including the measures required to achieve the targets, which are to be developed through a broad societal discussion process.

### Agenda:

Time	Item	Description
15:00 - 15:05	Welcome and introduction	Welcome, purpose of WS
15:05 – 15:20	Input	Inke presented the presentation.
15:20 – 15:53	Open discussion	Clemens introduced the guiding questions and moderated the discussion
15:53 - 15:55	Thank you	Clemens and Inke thanked everyone for their participation

### Input

The process to develop measurable targets in the German Adaptation Strategy (DAS), Inke Schauser (UBA)

- Background: The mission, intentions, objectives and state of the running process is explained. In brief: the targets shall create reliability in planning, liability, monitoring of progress in DAS fields

of action and departments. They are part of a new precautionary Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (DAS 2.0), which also includes key instruments/measures and replaces the previous DAS with progress reports. The DAS 2.0 is based on the currently developed Climate Adaptation Act.

- Framework of the DAS 2.0: For 7 clusters (water, land & land use, infrastructure, economy, health, urban development, spatial planning & civil protection, cross-sectoral) 2-3 targets each will be developed with measurable and terminated indicators. For each target 2-3 effective policy instruments shall be defined.
- Process of developing the DAS 2.0 shall be finished in autumn 2024. It contains cluster working groups, participation and consultation periods. In the cluster different federal ministries are involved and having the lead. The ministry that is predominantly responsible for one cluster coordinates the targets of that cluster, including all other affected ministries.
- Framework conditions for setting targets: Targets should address the strategic priority areas of climate adaptation as defined in the recent climate risk assessment for Germany, be influenceable (at least in part) through federal measures, focus on the outcome or impact of an adaptation action and be selected based on the (quality) criteria.

### **Discussion:**

In general, CCA had been a neglected area in many countries, but due to recent climate events (forest fires, droughts, floods since 2017) awareness has increasingly risen and the issue is now important on the environmental agenda.

The participants of other European agencies in the area of climate change adaptation (CCA), i.e. Portugal, Ireland, as well as the EEA, stated that UBA's work is interesting for their agencies. Setting goals are an important issue for developing an adaptation roadmap for the 21st century. A systematic and goal-oriented process as presented could be a helpful blueprint.

It was acknowledged that co-creation and cross sectoral efforts to develop indicators are necessary to prevent silo approaches but take a long time.

It was also acknowledged that each cluster would need its own process to establish targets and also the quality and levels of the targets will vary. It is important to distribute the responsibility for the process to the different sectors, including the responsibility for solving conflicts between the targets of different sectors. This should be done already when developing the targets in clusters.

In response to several questions it was explained that in Germany the targets will be not part of the climate change adaptation act proper, which form the framework. Rather they will be a part of the DAS 2.0 Strategy. This allows flexibility so they can be changed over time more easily and would not be legally binding.

The relationship between targets and monitoring indicators was discussed. It is well known that response indicators are difficult to define. However, over time impact indicators might also be influenced by adaptation, so the differentiation between response and impact indicators would eventually diminish. It was pointed out, that not all targets will have to be measured in the same way, i.e. by quantitative indicators.

**Impressions and outlook:**

There was a keen interest by participants to understand the German framework for working across government authorities to establish CCA targets for sectors. Interested experts could benefit from a possible follow-up exchange. In Europe, we are now starting with these kinds of processes and it would be helpful to have an early exchange, for example coordinated amongst experts in the EIONET.