

Break-out group 2: Links between disaster risk reduction and adaptation

*10th EIONET workshop on Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation,
14-15 June 2016, EEA, Copenhagen*

Background information:

It is a high priority at global and European level to implement a comprehensive and integrated approach to risks from natural hazards by considering the *full disaster cycle* (prevention, preparedness, response and recovery) and also recognising the importance of *climate change* as a *driver of risk*.

Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)¹ and **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**² provide a range of complementary approaches for managing the risks of climate and weather-related extremes and disasters. CCA and DRR address common challenges in most countries, but are covered by different sets of policies and are under the responsibility of different institutions, which often collaborate at varying levels (from consultation to full integration).

At global, EU and national level there is recognition that there are benefits of linking and integrating the knowledge base, as well as policies, between the two CCA and DRR areas (see the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2020* and the *Paris Agreement* under UNFCCC). This has been also confirmed by national reference centres on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation at the *EEA EIONET workshop* held in June 2015.

Hence, EEA has included in its *Annual Work Programme for 2016* the development and preparation of a new report covering the linkages and synergies between CCA and DRR CCA (hereafter **2017 EEA CCA/DRR report**), regarding both the knowledge base and the policies, to be published in mid-2017 (for further information see Annex 1)..

The preparation of the EEA 2017 CCA/DRR report has started in January 2016 and involves a team of European experts³ developing the contents and an Advisory Group providing views on the scoping of the report. In addition EEA has organised an **expert meeting (11-13 April 2016)**, inviting experts from various countries and international organisations, to review and discuss several parts of the report (in particular sections on policies, practices and case studies).

¹ **Climate Change Adaptation** - The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate change and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In some natural systems, human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects.

² **Disaster Risk Reduction** - Denotes both a policy goal or objective, and the strategic and instrumental measures employed for anticipating future disaster risk; reducing existing exposure, hazard, or vulnerability; and improving resilience.

³ These experts are from EEA, JRC, the European Topic Centre on Climate Change impacts, vulnerability and Adaptation (ETC/CCA), the European Topic Centre on Inland, Coastal and Marine waters (ETC/ICM) and other institutions.

EEA is progressing in the elaboration of this new report and will prepare the report 1st draft by end of June 2016. The final draft report will be provided for the regular EIONET review in January/February 2017.

Questions:

Question 1: CCA/DRR Integration

Which is the real added value to have efficient integration of climate change adaptation in the existing national and subnational DRR plans and actions (e.g. flood management, forest fire protection, drought management, heat waves planning and storm emergency planning) at national and subnational level?

Question 2: Views on new EEA 2017 CCA/DRR report

What specific topics could the EEA 2017 CCA/DRR report cover in order to support the respective activities at national or subnational level in your country?

Annex 1: The EEA 2017 CCA/DRR report

This new EEA 2017 CCA/DRR report, termed “*Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Europe - Synergies for the knowledge base and policies*”, aims to foster a better awareness and exchange among decision-makers, policy and science experts and practitioners regarding potential synergies between DRR and CCA in terms of knowledge base, policy developments and implementation. This report aims to be of use for national policy development and implementation in EEA member countries and for the European Commission’s report on the EU adaptation strategy, due in 2017.

The report main contents are the following:

- *Overview of the policies and practises at European and national level on CCA and DRR with particular focus on opportunities and synergies between DRR and CCA policies and measures;*
- *Observations and projections at European scale of extreme weather and climate related events: heatwaves, hail, heavy precipitation events, storms, droughts (meteorological, soil moisture and hydrological driven), floods (by means of river discharge data), forest fires, landslides and avalanches);*
- *Observations and projections of impacts of extreme weather and climate related events and other geophysical hazards (landslides and avalanches) and risks on society, e.g. ecosystems and human health (including economic damage costs and losses, fatalities and insurance coverages);*
- *Case studies on policies and practises (at national or subnational level).*

The **target audience** of this report will be **decision-makers in EU institutions and in EEA member countries**, both at national and subnational level, who are involved in the development and implementation of DRR and/or CCA policies. The report can also be useful to **policy advisers** and **scientific/technical experts**, who are advising decision-makers.