

Break-out group 2, 15 June: Urban adaptation

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

Background information:

Climate-resilient cities matter for climate-resilient Europe. Thereby, regional, national and European institutions set the framework in which cities can act. Urban adaptation to climate change is thus a task for all governmental levels. The EU, its Member States and regional authorities are supporting cities to varying degree.

Climate change impacts are of systemic nature. The climate system interacts with socio-economic and demographic factors like demographic structure, work patterns, income levels or lifestyle. This systemic nature raises questions about conventional solutions to problems that often focus on tackling the direct impacts only. Transformative adaptation tries to tackle the root causes of our sensitivity to climate change – factors in the socioeconomic and the demographic domain. In combination with conventional approaches, transformative adaptation enables a long-term, systemic approach that not only offers solutions for adaptation, but also boosts city transformation overall. It can create resilient as well as highly attractive places for people and businesses.

The new EEA report *Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe 2016 – Transforming cities in a changing climate* (launch on 5 July 2016) builds on and complements existing products and initiatives. It focusses on the state of actions in the field and progress achieved since the first EEA report in 2012. In relation to current challenges and request for more transformative approaches the questions is: Do existing actions lead to attractive, climate-resilient cities and if not yet, what needs to be changed? The report aims to broaden perspectives and provide input to a review and subsequent adjustment of urban adaptation to climate change by local governments and by supporting regional, national and European institutions, researchers and other relevant stakeholders. It will also form the basis for further EEA activities in this area.

Questions for the discussion:

- **Which type of support do you provide to cities? Which degree of responsibilities do cities have in your country? What are success / limiting factors / lessons to learned? Also:** Which experience do you have with Mayors Adapt and similar European or international initiatives? Do you consider them as useful and in which regard?
- **How do you / cities in your country approach the systemic challenges of climate change impacts? Is the framework supportive for transformative adaptation that follows a systemic, long-term approach, and involves (profound) changes in the approach to tackle climate change impacts?**
- **Which topics should EEA pick up over the next years? What can we (EEA and Member States) do together?**

Annex 1: Current EEA activities on urban adaptation

Launching and afterwards promote the EEA report 12/2016 *Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe 2016 – Transforming cities in a changing climate* (5 July 2016)

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/urban-adaptation-2016>

Organise together with ICLEI Europe the Third Open European Day at Resilient Cities 2016, 5 July 2016 in Bonn, Germany <http://resilientcities2016.iclei.org/open-european-day/>

Brochure: 10 business cases on financing urban adaptation action

Updating the interactive map book urban vulnerability to climate change <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/tools/urban-adaptation/introduction>

Updating city-related content on Climate-ADAPT: <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/cities>

Supporting the Commission on Mayors Adapt / Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy <http://mayors-adapt.eu/>