

## **Background document** **Break-out group discussions – part 1 (12 June): Climate change impacts and risks**

### **The EU policies and knowledge base**

In November 2018, the Commission published its evaluation of the [2013 EU Adaptation Strategy](#). The [evaluation package](#) includes a [Report from the Commission](#), a [Commission Staff Working Document](#), the [Adaptation preparedness scoreboard country fiches](#), and the [reports from the JRC PESETA III project](#). This evaluation includes recommendations for the further development and implementation of adaptation policies at all levels. With regard to the further development of the knowledge base for adaptation, the evaluation

- States that ‘it may be time now to switch focus from generating knowledge to applying it for decision-making under uncertainty, particularly in economic sectors or regions that are potentially more vulnerable’, including by establishing ‘structured science-policy dialogues’ and an ‘adaptation analysis and modelling forum’;
- Recommends the integration of adaptation perspectives in methodologies and indicators for disaster risk reduction;
- Promotes ‘the assessment and mapping of social vulnerability to climate-related events’; and
- Recommends improving cross-sectoral cooperation on risk assessment between public health and adaptation.

New and relevant information sources for climate change adaptation in Europe include the [Copernicus Climate Change Service \(C3S\)](#), which has recently published the [European State of the Climate 2018](#) report, the [JRC PESETA III project](#) and various research and development projects funded through Horizon 2020 (see this [booklet by DG RTD](#) for a recent overview). In October 2021, the IPCC will publish the [Working Group II contribution](#) to its [Sixth Assessment Report](#), which includes again a chapter on Europe. (A zero-order draft for informal expert review was prepared in May 2019.)

### **Background information**

The EEA has regularly published extensive reports on climate change, its impacts and vulnerability (CCIV) in Europe since 2004 (in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016). The EEA CCIV reports are based on about 35 [EEA indicators](#). These indicators are published independently on the EEA website where they may be updated more frequently than the printed report. Increasingly, these indicators use data from the Copernicus climate change service (C3S) and the Copernicus marine service (CMEMS). Many of the indicators are also used in other EEA reports, including the SOER.

The EEA CCIV reports have grown in scope and length over time, reflecting the increasing availability of relevant knowledge as well as the development of adaptation policies at European and national level. In addition to indicator-based information on climate change and specific impacts, the [2016 EEA CCIV report](#) also includes information on multi-sectoral vulnerability and risks, on the relevant policy landscape at international, EU and transnational level, and on the development of the relevant knowledge base.

The four EEA CCIV reports have provided input to EU policy making on adaptation, in particular to the [2007 Green Paper](#), the [2009 White Paper](#), the [2013 EU Adaptation Strategy](#), and most recently the [2018 evaluation of the EU Adaptation Strategy](#). They have also informed the development of national adaptation strategies and plans, and of related indicator sets. According to an EEA analysis, the 2016 EEA CCIV report (published in January 2017) was among the three EEA reports published that year

*13<sup>th</sup> EIONET workshop on Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation,  
12-13 June 2019, EEA, Copenhagen*

with the largest media outreach. The CCIV reports are also regularly used and cited by other public and private adaptation stakeholders, including sector associations, research projects, and IPCC reports.

The development of the CCIV reports is a complex undertaking. The 2016 EEA CCIV report included contributions from about 70 authors from three EEA programmes, two ETCs, JRC, WHO, ECDC and various other organisations. This work was supported by an external Advisory Group and many additional experts. It took about 2.5 years to develop and publish this report, which included three rounds of reviews (limited internal review, external expert review, combined Eionet and expert review).

EEA is in 2019 internally discussing various options for future work in the area of climate change, impacts and vulnerability (CCIV) indicators and assessments. We have not yet decided whether to produce another comprehensive CCIV report, and what the scope, institutional setup and exact timing of such a report would be. Relevant factors to consider in this discussion are the evolving information needs from the Commission, other EU institutions and EEA member countries; the evolving knowledge landscape; and the resource needs and availability for developing such a report and/or the related indicators.

EEA and C3S have agreed to cooperate closely in the production of some climate change and impact indicators. Cooperation for a potential future CCIV report (and/or other products) is still under discussion.

The session at the Eionet workshop on CC IVA intends to collect feedback from EEA member countries and the Commission on the future EEA work in the area of CCIV indicators and assessments.

### **Questions for the discussion**

1. How relevant were past EEA CCIV reports –and the online updates of selected EEA CCIV indicators– for your work, including for awareness raising and outreach? Did you find the combination of indicator-based information, multi-sectoral climate vulnerability and risks and policy background in the 2016 CCIV report useful?
2. Are you actively making use of the C3S, in particular the European State of the Climate reports and the Climate Data Store?
3. How have your information needs on CCIV from EEA evolved since 2016? How could EEA work on CCIV support your national activities in the future, considering the increasing availability of information at European and national level from other organisations?