

Background document
**Break-out group discussions – part 2 (13 June): Monitoring and evaluation
of adaptation strategies and plans**

Recent policy and knowledge developments

In 2018 the European Commission evaluated the [2013 EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change](#). This Commission [evaluation report](#) and the more detailed [staff working document](#) are accompanied by [country fiches](#) which outline the climate change adaptation preparedness of each EU Member State (with key process-based indicators for measuring Member States' level of readiness) and a [horizontal assessment](#) (as Annex IX of the staff working document). The country fiches cover the main steps in adaptation policy making: preparing the ground for adaptation, assessing risks and vulnerabilities, identifying adaptation options, implementing adaptation action, and monitoring and evaluation.

On 24 December 2018, the [Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate action](#) entered into force. Amongst the goals is the implementation of strategies and measures to ensure that the objectives of the Energy Union are consistent with the Paris Agreement, and to stimulate cooperation between EU Member States. It will replace the existing monitoring and reporting system (as described in the [Monitoring Mechanism Regulation](#)) from 2021 onwards.

In March 2019 Member States provided reports to the Commission and EEA on their adaptation activities (including on MRE) under Article 15 of the [Monitoring Mechanism Regulation](#) (2013) using ReportNet. A [reporting tool](#) was developed by EEA. At the beginning of May, 21 out of 28 EU Member States reported their information using this tool, as well as one non-EU EEA member country. Four EU countries reported in a different format. The reported information has been incorporated into the [country pages of Climate-ADAPT](#). New country submissions will be added to Climate-ADAPT when they arrive.

At the global level, key developments with MRE aspects also relevant for European countries are the indicator developments for the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 \(SFDRR\)](#), the [UNFCCC Paris Agreement \(PA\)](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

Globally, an Inter-agency and Expert Group has developed a [SDG indicator set](#) by end of 2016. In September 2018 the European Commission (ESTAT) published a second [EU SDG monitoring report](#) and a dedicated [website](#). Various Climate Impacts (and Climate Mitigation) indicators of SDG13 Climate Action are based on EEA indicators.

Globally the [UNFCCC process in 2018](#) adopted at COP24 the “rulebook”, where the focus is on climate mitigation in terms of reducing emissions, adaptation and finance, implemented by the transparency framework and the global stock-take. The rulebook provides and will provide further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication and on the developments of modalities and procedures for the operation and use of a public registry, related to Art. 7.

The [fourth UNEP Adaptation GAP report \(2018\)](#) has two parts. The first part examines the main gaps regarding laws and policies, adaptive capacity, and the costs of and finance needed for adaptation. The second part of the report focuses on the adaptation gap in the health sector. The [2017 GAP report](#) looked at the interlinkages of the SFDRR, SDGs and PA in terms of goals, methodologies and data.

Background information EEA and ETC/CCA activities

The EEA, supported by European Topic Centre on Climate Change impacts, vulnerability and Adaptation (ETC/CCA), published a report on ‘[National adaptation policy processes in European countries](#)’ in 2014 and a report on ‘[National monitoring, reporting and evaluation of climate change adaptation in Europe](#)’ (MRE) in 2015. The 2016 work focused on a [working paper](#) on identifying

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further how evaluation processes can be utilised to identify lessons learnt and improve adaptation practices in particular in the countries that have been implementing evaluation activities.

In 2017-2018, an ETC [technical report](#) “Indicators for adaptation to climate change at national level – Lessons from emerging practice in Europe” was published. A [related database](#) with examples of indicators from five countries (Austria, Finland, Germany, Scotland and the United Kingdom) shows the variety of indicators for adaptation in terms of sectors, main impacts, presentation and visualisation, data collection, etc. It describes the links between indicators for adaptation and the global frameworks presented above, as well as the limitations of adaptation indicators.

EEA is preparing a report on “Monitoring, reporting and evaluation (MRE) of national climate change adaptation policies” during 2018-2020. The report’s objective is to share experiences, knowledge and lessons learned across countries. The content will take into account recent key policy developments and is structured along the adaptation policy cycle, with of focus on the steps on implementation and monitoring, reporting and evaluation. It will include sections on:

- Progress of National Adaptation Strategies and Plans development in Europe, their implementation, evaluation and revision;
- Adaptation and MRE in a transnational context;
- Experiences of mainstreaming adaptation and financing the adaptation implementation;
- MRE of ecosystem-based adaptation options
- Stakeholder engagement in adaptation policy development, implementation and evaluation;
- Lessons learned and knowledge gaps on Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation.

Questions for the discussion

1. Which methods are used for monitoring and evaluation of national climate change adaptation policies in your country?
 - a. How is MRE organised for your NAS and NAP?
 - b. How is this MRE framework build-up during the implementation of the actions described in the adaptation policies and/or used in the evaluation and revision phase of NAS/NAP?
 - c. Do you have good examples of recent MRE activities?
 - d. Do you have good examples of mainstreaming of adaptation that supported implementation?
2. Are you using national adaptation indicators to monitor, report and evaluate your adaptation policies and plans? If not, do you plan to do so in future?
Do you make use of other indicators available on global or European level (e.g. developed in the context of the SDGs or Sendai Framework)?
3. How do you involve stakeholders in the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of you adaptation policies and plans?
4. What is your view on the EEA report on MRE of national climate change adaptation policies?