

**Background document**  
**Break-out group discussions – part 1 (6 June): Monitoring and evaluation  
of adaptation strategies and plans**

**Recent policy and knowledge developments**

In 2015 Member States provided reports on their adaptation activities (including on MRE) under Article 15 of the [Monitoring Mechanism Regulation](#) (2013). The reported information, as well as subsequent voluntary updates, has been incorporated into the [country pages of Climate-ADAPT](#). The reporting guidelines will remain unchanged for the 2019 MMR Art. 15 submission. The EEA, together with the European Commission and Member States, is preparing a reporting tool that will replace the upload of text documents on Reportnet.

At the end of 2017 and during the first quarter of 2018, the EU and 30 out of 33 EEA member countries submitted their [7<sup>th</sup> National Communication to the UNFCCC](#).

In 2018 the European Commission evaluates the [2013 EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change](#). This Commission evaluation report will be 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. Draft versions of the country fiches were available during the [public consultation for the evaluation of the EU Adaptation Strategy](#), and 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 30 November 2016, the Commission proposed a Regulation on the [Governance of the Energy Union](#), followed by Amendments from the [European Parliament](#) and a negotiation position of the [Council of the EU](#). Trilogue negotiations started in February 2018 and are ongoing, with the aim of reaching a provisional agreement between EU institutions during the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council.

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 \(SDGs\)](#).

For the Sendai Framework at the global level, a [Resolution](#) is adopted by the General Assembly on 2 February 2017. It endorsed the recommendations of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction. At the European level, a Commission Staff Working Document “[Action Plan on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 – A disaster risk-informed approach for all EU policies](#)” was published in June 2016.

Globally, an Inter-agency and Expert Group has developed a [SDG indicator set](#) by end of 2016. In November 2017 the European Commission published an [EU SDG monitoring report](#). The Climate Impacts (and Climate Mitigation) indicators of SDG13 Climate Action are based on EEA indicators.

Globally the UNFCCC process in 2017 worked on the roadbook, to be adopted at COP24 in December 2018 and the Talanoa Dialogue process. As the Paris Agreement, the roadbook focus is on climate mitigation in terms of reducing emissions, adaptation and finance, implemented by the transparency framework and the global stock-take. It will provide further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication and the on the developments of modalities and procedures for the operation and use of a public registry, related to Art. 7.

The [2017 UNEP Adaptation GAP report](#) deals with the question: “What are the ways forward to assess progress towards the global goal on adaptation?” and looks 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 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, a [working paper](#) “Indicators for adaptation to climate change at national level – Lessons from emerging practice in Europe” was drafted, went into EIONET consultation and was revised based on the comments from countries at the beginning of 2018. A [related database](#) with examples of indicators from four countries (Austria, Finland, Germany 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. Furthermore the database with country examples of indicators for adaptation will be extended and the technical paper will be revised accordingly, with the aim to make a final version of the paper and database available on the ETC/CCA web site end of 2018.

EEA is proposing to develop an assessment report on “Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of national climate change adaptation policies” during 2018-2020. Such a report’s objective is to share experiences, knowledge and lessons learned across countries. The content and structure should be discussed with countries further, while also taking into account the abovementioned key policy developments. An annotated outline will be prepared during 2018 for this potential assessment report. Different elements suggested to be covered are:

- NAS/NAP and their update processes (policy frameworks);
- Knowledge generation and use, transfer and dissemination;
- Stakeholder involvement;
- Implementation of adaptation;
- Monitoring, reporting and evaluation;
- International aspects of adaptation;
- Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA);
- Climate services / Adaptation services;
- Land-use, urban and maritime planning and adaptation.

The intention is to base the potential report on the existing available information (e.g. in Climate-ADAPT and the 7<sup>th</sup> national communications to UNFCCC) and the upcoming reporting by countries under the MMR (March 2019). This means the content and structure of the report will only be decided and finalised during 2019, while building blocks are being developed in 2018. The Eionet consultation probably will take place in mid/end 2019, with potential publication in Q1 of 2020.

### **Questions for the discussion**

1. What phase are you in for MRE for adaptation nationally?
  - a. In which stage is the monitoring and reporting for adaptation in your country: not foreseen, in its initial steps, under development or finalised and fully operational?

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- b. In which stage is an explicit evaluation of your countries' NAS/NAP, based on monitoring and reporting: not foreseen, foreseen and under development or implemented?
    - c. Which methods are used for the evaluation of national climate change adaptation policies in your country?
  2. Are you contributing to the coordination between national climate change adaptation indicators and the indicators required to report for the SDGs, the Sendai Framework, ...?  
Do you have good examples of how this cooperation and coordination can be organised and how stakeholder involvement can be streamlined and increased?
  3. What is your view on the EEA work on MRE and more specifically on adaptation indicators?  
Which elements are the most important for the potential report from the list mentioned above and are some elements missing?