

Background document

Break-out group discussions – part 2 (7 June): Adaptation in transnational regions in Europe

Recent policy and knowledge developments

At EU level the *2013 EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy* has framed the adaptation policy for European transnational regions with the aim to contribute to a more climate-resilient Europe. This coherent approach is being implemented by promoting action in member states, improving the knowledge base (including *Climate-ADAPT*, **EU funded research** and the *Copernicus Climate Services*), and providing financial support for adaptation. The *European Structural and Investment funds*¹ as well as the *Horizon 2020* and the *LIFE programme* should provide significant support also to transnational regions to invest in adaptation programmes and projects, especially in the framework of the dedicated Investment Priorities on adaptation of the *ERDF* and *Cohesion Fund*.

Background information EEA and ETC CCA activities

There are 12 regions² in Europe for transnational co-operation in the context of EU policies. In addition, specific EU agreed strategies exist for four macro-national regions: Baltic Sea³, Danube⁴, Alpine⁵, and Adriatic and Ionian⁶ regions (see the *Transnational pages* on Climate-ADAPT⁷). Furthermore there are various regional conventions and related activities on adaptation in place (e.g. Alpine Convention, Carpathian Convention and UNEP/MAP). Trends of climate change impacts and vulnerabilities in relevant European macro-regions (Arctic, Northern Europe, North-western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe, Mediterranean region and Mountain regions) are summarized in the recent EEA report "*Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2016. An indicator-based report Impacts*".

The transnational regions are included in various EEA dissemination and networking activities regarding adaptation knowledge (e.g. Eionet meetings, expert meetings, Climate-ADAPT Webinars, bi-monthly newsletter).

Some analyses of transnational climate change impacts and vulnerability have been produced by EU funded projects, but further analyses are needed of transnational level adaptation actions across Europe.

In 2017 EEA, with the support of *ETC/CCA (European Topic Centre on Climate Change impacts, vulnerability and Adaptation)*, started a scoping project to review the state of adaptation actions in transnational regions in Europe. The project analysed EU cooperation programmes and initiatives (*Interreg Cross-border, Interreg Transnational, Interreg IPC Cross-border* and *ENPI/ENI Cross-border*) for 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 periods and macro regional Conventions, and as well as other available literature. The collected information was used to develop factsheets for the transnational regions.

In 2018 these factsheets will be further improved and will be used for updating the Transnational Pages on Climate-ADAPT. Furthermore, based on these factsheets, and analysis of additional information being collected in 2018, EEA (with support of ETC/CCA) will compile an **ETC/CCA Technical Paper**

¹ The Cohesion Fund, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

² http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/trans-national/

³ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/baltic-sea/

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/danube/

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/alpine/

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/adriatic-ionian/

⁷ <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/>

“Adaptation and knowledge base in European transnational regions” and an **EEA briefing**, to be published by the end of 2018.

The annotated outline of the ETC/CCA Technical Paper is provided as a separate document.

Questions for the discussion

- Taking into consideration the annotated outline of the ETC/CCA Technical Paper, what are your views on the focus, objectives and approach of the EEA work on this topic?
- Which EEA activities within this topic have a high priority from your perspective?
- Are you interested to provide some support (e.g. reviewing the outline and Technical Paper) to this EEA work?

Additional document:

The annotated outline of the ETC/CCA Technical Paper: https://forum.eionet.europa.eu/nrc-climate-change-adaptation/library/workshops-meetings/2018-eionet-workshop-climate-change-impacts-vulnerability-and-adaptation-6-7/meeting-documents/background-documents/4b_annotated-outline-adaptation-transnational-regions-europe