

WS Briefing Note

SHARE Workshop “Supporting the development of the EU strategy for adaptation to climate change – Views and Challenges in Eastern Europe”

Date: 27-28 of June, 2012

Venue: ZAMG – Hohe Warte 38, 1190 Vienna, Austria



Organisers:

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA **umweltbundesamt^U** - Environment Agency Austria

Supported by:

Austrian Ministry of Research and Science –

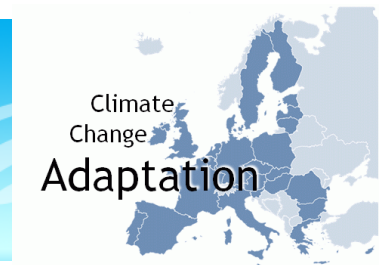
BM.W.F^a

TABEL OF CONTENT

1. PARTICIPANTS REGISTERED TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP.....	3
2. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING?	4
3. LOGISTICS	4
4. DRAFT AGENDA AND BRIEFING FOR SPEAKERS	6
4.1. DRAFT AGENDA.....	6
5. PARTICIPANT PREPARATION	6
5.1. INTRODUCTION	6
5.2. EASTERN EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES EXPERIENCES AND NEEDS	7
5.3. EU GUIDANCE FOR NATIONAL ADAPTATION POLICIES.....	7
5.4. DEVELOPING NATIONAL ADAPTATION POLICIES: PRACTICAL EXAMPLES.....	7
6. WHY ATTEND THIS WORKSHOP?	9
7. WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS AFTER THE WORKSHOP?	9
8. CONTACT NUMBERS	10
9. GENERAL INFORMATION	10

1. PARTICIPANTS REGISTERED TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP

PARTICIPANTS			
LAST NAME	First Name	Country	Organisation
AUER	Ingeborg	Austria	ZAMG (Met Service Austria)
DWORAK	Thomas	Austria	Fresh Thoughts
LEITNER	Markus	Austria	Environment Agency Austria
MCCALLUM	Sabine	Austria	Environment Agency Austria
PRUTSCH	Andrea	Austria	Environment Agency Austria
NIKOLOVA	Mariyana	Bulgaria	National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy
TODOROVA	Diana	Bulgaria	Ministry of Environment and Water
KORTROSOVA	Jana	Czech Republic	Ministry of the Environment
JAKOBI	Reeli	Estonia	Estonian Ministry of the Environment
HASSE	Clemans	Germany	UBA, Germany
SZALAI	Sandor	Hungary	Szent Istvan University
BRUNENIECE	Ieva	Latvia	University of Latvia, Faculty of Geography
ROMANCZAK	Anna	Poland	Institute of Environmental Protection - National Research Institute
SADOWSKI	Maciej	Poland	Institute of Environmental Protection- State Research Institute
CAPELA LOURENÇO	Tiago	Portugal	(Foundation) Faculty of Sciences
BOJARIU	Roxana	Romania	National Meteorological Administration
STASTNY	Pavel	Slovakia	Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute
SIMONIC	Barbara	Slovenia	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment
STANICA	Cristina	Romania	Ministry of Environment and Forests
NILSSON	Carin	Sweden	Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute
ISOARD	Stephane	International	European Environment Agency
PÉREZ LORENZO	Juan	International	DG CLIMA



2. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING?

This workshop will supply one of the activities and areas of interest of the ERA-Net (European Research Area-Network) CIRCLE-2 (an FP7 coordination action, consisting of research funding and managing institutions across Europe) and is a joint activity with the DG CLIMA project "Support to the development of the EU strategy for adaptation to climate change" (CLIMA.C.3/SER/2011/0026).

Within the frame of CIRCLE-2, a successful Workshop "Supporting the exchange about and development of National Adaptation Strategies (NAS) across Europe"¹ was held in Budapest, 2009. This was followed by a Workshop "From National Adaptation Strategies to concrete Adaptation Actions"² held in Vienna, 2011.

The coming workshop provides an arena to share knowledge and experience on adaptation policy and practice with the focus on Eastern Europe. More specific, the objectives of the workshop are:

- Share the current state of work on adaptation strategies and activities in Eastern European Countries;
- Collect and share good practice examples on adaptation;
- Discuss needs and expectations of potential European guidance to support the elaboration of national adaptation strategies and their action plans accompanying the EU Adaptation Strategy;
- Foster the exchange of experiences on various adaptation challenges (e.g. impact assessments; vulnerability studies, prioritizing adaptation options; monitoring and evaluation);
- Identify knowledge gaps and national needs in support of policy development on EU and national level and identify specificities and challenges for adaptation in Eastern European countries.

3. LOGISTICS

Format: A 2-day international workshop on adaptation and knowledge sharing in support of the development of the EU Adaptation Strategy. This event is jointly organized with the DG CLIMA project "Support to the development of the EU strategy for adaptation to climate change" (CLIMA.C.3/SER/2011/0026).

¹ [http://www.circle-era.eu/np4/%7B\\$clientServletPath%7D/?newsId=252&fileName=CIRCLE_NAS_Workshop_Outcomes.pdf](http://www.circle-era.eu/np4/%7B$clientServletPath%7D/?newsId=252&fileName=CIRCLE_NAS_Workshop_Outcomes.pdf)

² <http://www.circle-era.eu/np4/409.html>

Organizers: Markus Leitner (Environment Agency Austria; EAA), Carin Nilsson (SMHI), David Avelar (FFCUL)

Advisory Committee: Tiago Capela Lourenço (FFCUL/CIRCLE-2), Sabine McCallum (EAA), Stéphane Isoard (EEA).

Participants: Approximately 30 participants from Eastern European countries working in the field of adaptation to climate change; EU and national level adaptation stakeholders and research funders and -managers. By invitation only.

Background material: CIRCLE-2 materials and selected references.

Outputs: Proceedings of the meeting and Policy Brief with a set of recommendations for EU adaptation activities

Venue: ZAMG - Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik, Hohe Warte 38, 1190 Vienna

Detailed Agenda: Can be viewed at <http://www.circle-era.eu/np4/409.html>

4. DRAFT AGENDA AND BRIEFING FOR SPEAKERS

4.1. Draft Agenda

See <http://www.circle-era.eu/np4/409.html>

5. Participant preparation

All participants – we kindly ask you in advance to reflect on the following issues.

5.1. Introduction

The European Commission intends to develop a comprehensive EU Adaptation Strategy with the general aim to enhance the preparedness and capacity to effectively address the impacts of climatic change in the EU, its Member States, regions and cities, down to the local level by:

- providing clear advice and a coherent framework for adaptation policy;
- ensuring a common understanding of “good adaptation”;
- supporting measures to be taken by public and private sector at all levels;
- focusing in specific on transboundary issues and certain sectors that are closely integrated at EU level through common policies.

The EU Adaptation Strategy will give high consideration to the issue of subsidiarity and will not reinvent the wheel, but mainly focuses on using existing mechanisms to mainstream adaptation.

The preparation of the EU Adaptation Strategy is supported from December 2011 until February 2013 by the project contract “Support to the development of the EU strategy for adaptation to climate change” (CLIMA.C.3/SER/2011/0026). The project team include:

- Environment Agency Austria (EAA, Austria): Project Lead
- Fresh Thoughts Consulting (FT, Austria): Project Co-Lead
- AEA Technology plc (AEA, UK)
- FEEM Servizi Srl (FEEM, Italy)
- Alterra (The Netherlands)

One of the project’s objectives is to support and facilitate exchange between Member States (MS) and identified the need and opportunity to engage with the different regions of Europe. In order to achieve this objective, three meetings have been planned in specific regions – Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, and Southern Europe. The meetings will be structured in a similar way to gain comparable results and provide good coverage for feedback on the needs and expectations from Eastern, Southern and Northern Europe.

5.2. Eastern European Member States experiences and needs

During the workshop, the project team is interested in finding out from you:

- What is the state of action on adaptation in your Member State?
- What adaptation activities are you currently undertaking/planning?
- What kind of support is needed/desired from the EU level?
- Which success factors for adaptation processes can be shared?
- What are the current known barriers to adaptation?
- How can mal-adaptation (increasing irrigation, desalination etc.) be avoided and taken into account?
- Where are the main knowledge and resource (e.g. human, financial) gaps?

5.3. EU Guidance for national adaptation policies

The guidance aims to support policy makers and decision makers in EU countries in the process of developing, implementing and reviewing adaptation policies to be able to cope with a changing climate. Taking into account that a number of European countries have their national adaptation strategy and/or plan documents already in place, the guidance shall build on experiences and lessons learnt and provide recommendations for all steps of adaptation processes.

Although there is no “one-size-fits-all” framework for adaptation in place, certain aspects of good adaptation are in common. The guidance aims to highlight key issues to give direction on how adaptation policy processes could be carried out to be successful. In addition, it presents various approaches taken across Europe in order to foster knowledge transfer and lessons learnt among EU Member States. To allow a wide uptake of the guidance among European policy and decision makers, a pragmatic approach for adaptation will be presented.

At the workshop in Vienna, we would like to discuss the current approach with stakeholders in order to improve the guidance and its practical applicability.

5.4. Developing National Adaptation Policies: Practical examples

As part of the process of developing a guidance to support Member States in the process of developing a National Adaptation Strategy, the project team is interested in collecting some practical examples from stakeholders such as yourself, who have been involved in adaptation policy making in your Member State.

The purpose of this activity is to share experiences so that others can gain a better understanding of some of the approaches that are used when thinking about adaptation at the national level, some of the steps taken, challenges faced, and so forth.

These practical examples are not intended to be anything formal or official – they are simply illustrations intended to help other Member States learn from your experiences. Your Member State does not need to have a completed National Adaptation Strategy in place in order to answer some of the questions below – examples are useful from any Member State that has taken some steps along the process of developing an adaptation policy.

Please help improve this guidance by providing a short (1 – 2 paragraphs) example under any or all of the three questions below as relevant, based on your experiences in developing an adaptation policy at the national level.

We will not quote your name, but it would be useful if we could include the name of your Member State. If your example is chosen to be included in the guidance document, we will contact you with the final version to confirm that you are happy with the wording and content.

Please send your practical examples to markus.leitner@umweltbundesamt.at (preferably prior to the workshop).

1) Please provide an example of an important activity or process that took or is taking place in your Member State prior to actually developing a national adaptation policy that you feel was or is a particularly important first step.

This could include a stakeholder engagement activity, a piece of scientific research, an awareness raising activity, or something completely different. Is there something that happened at the early stages of the adaptation policy process that worked particularly well? How did you gain political commitment? Were there any specific challenges you encountered at this stage? Were you able to secure sufficient resources (human and financial)? Did you have enough information about weather events and climate impacts to begin the process of developing an adaptation policy?

2) Please provide an example of an important activity that took place during the development of your Member State's national adaptation policy.

This could focus on an activity that helped your Member State to develop an adaptation action

plan or strategic framework. Instead of an activity, you could also provide an example of a particular barrier that you encountered. For example, was it a challenge to move from a strategic vision to implementation? Was it difficult to agree on priority sectors and adaptation actions? What are your experiences in using criteria for ranking and prioritisation of adaptation options? How do you deal with uncertainty and knowledge gaps? Were you able to identify roles and responsibility for implementing selected adaptation measures?

3) Please provide an example of your country’s plan to monitor and evaluate adaptation.

Is a monitoring plan in place? If so, what are its critical elements? Are you using indicators to monitor progress? Is there a certain aspect of the plan that is working particularly well? If not, were there any barriers that you encountered when trying to agree a monitoring plan?

6. Why attend this workshop?

We hope to create an environment in which we all will be able to move from a technical exchange of ideas into a real dialogue. This requires a team effort, built on trust and mutual interest. In order to set us all off in this direction we would kindly ask you all to think in advance about how the meeting is useful for you and what your expectations of the meeting are.

7. What are the next steps after the workshop?

After the workshop the organizing committee will prepare and distribute the proceedings of the workshop. Other possible outputs are:

- one policy brief highlighting the key outcomes of the workshop,
- uptake of workshop information into the potential European guidance to support the elaboration of national adaptation policies accompanying the EU Adaptation Strategy



- ➔ set of recommendations for EU and national impacts, vulnerability and adaptation research programmes,
- ➔ continuing possible networks created at the Workshop

Please, reflect on which outcomes would be of particular use to you, and if you would like to be part of a continued dialogue.

8. Contact numbers

Markus Leitner E-Mail: markus.leitner@umweltbundesamt.at and phone: + 43-(0)6991-7212942

9. General information

How to find your way to the Meeting and the Recommended Hotel

This information is available at the CIRCLE-2 webpage:

[http://www.circle-era.eu/np4/%7B\\$clientServletPath%7D/?newsId=409&fileName=CIRCLE 2 CEE WS How to get to the Venu.pdf](http://www.circle-era.eu/np4/%7B$clientServletPath%7D/?newsId=409&fileName=CIRCLE%20CEE%20WS%20How%20to%20get%20to%20the%20Venu.pdf)

Looking forward to welcoming you to our Meeting!

See you and Servus in Vienna

For the organizing committee, Markus Leitner