

EU policy on adaptation & resilience State of play & main criticisms

Input for stakeholders' presentations

CCPIE stakeholders dialogue of 4/07/2023

EU Adaptation and Resilience policy: state of play

- 2021: **EU climate law**
- 2021 **EU climate adaptation strategy**
=> Smarter, faster and more systemic adaptation & stepping up international action
- **8th Environment Action Programme**
=> Adaptation to climate change is a priority objective (but no concrete actions planned)
- **Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 (MFF): 30% EU budget = natural resources and environment** (through various instruments such as LIFE, Horizon, European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund, etc.)



Summary of the main criticisms from stakeholders (NGOs, think tanks, EU institutions)

- Lack of binding EU targets and concrete measures
- Lack of involvement of the local and regional level
- Lack of (public and private) investments for adaptation
- Gaps in insurance in case of climate disasters
- Lack of integration into spatial planning
- Adaptation not sufficiently integrated into sectoral policies
- Social dimension not sufficient in adaptation policies

Governance

- Lack of legally binding, concrete, measurable and time-bound objectives
- Need for stronger regional and local involvement
- Lack of financial support for local level
- Regions should work more together

Funding

- Insufficient funding for adaptation solutions e.g. nature-based solutions
- No distinction between mitigation and adaptation
- Lack of funding based on the "polluter-pays" principle
- Need to phase-out fossil fuel subsidies to free up funding for adaptation
- Lack of private investment to finance adaptation
- Lack of monitoring of European funding spending (no ex-post evaluation of investments)

Insurance & climate related disasters

- Only about a quarter of climate-related catastrophe losses are currently insured in the EU => so-called “climate protection gap”
- Inadequate EU and national adaptation strategies for climate-related disasters (e.g. lack of a rapid response plan for climate-related disasters)
- Lack of budgetary resilience to disaster risks

Spatial planning

- Urban planning, construction, renovation and infrastructure are key to adaptation
- Need for *standards* at EU and national level (how and where to build)
- Need for *policies* at EU and national level (urban planning, renovation and insulation of buildings, make adaptation a condition for obtaining funding, dedicated funding to develop green infrastructures dedicated to adaptation, etc.)

Integration into sectoral policies

- The 2021 EU adaptation strategy recognises the need to integrate adaptation into sectoral policies, but does not propose any concrete measures to do so
- Importance of sectorial policies such as agriculture, fisheries, biodiversity (marine and terrestrial), water, soil, forests, energy, etc.
- Need for more synergies between adaptation and mitigation solutions (e.g. nature based solutions are win-win solutions).

Social dimension & fairness

- The new EU adaptation strategy does not provide concrete measures to combat the social consequences of climate change (e.g. job losses, rising temperatures, population displacement, etc.)
- Need for policies to prevent the social consequences of climate change/environmental inequalities
- Need to identify and protect vulnerable groups
- Social players must be involved in drawing up adaptation policies.

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