



# EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change

Forging a climate-resilient Europe

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# Climate change

- Impact are already there ...
- and even in a best case scenario (+ 1,5°C) ...
- Hazards will increase considerably ...



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# In mountains, climate change is now

ENVIRONMENT

## Landslides and less snow. Climate change is altering the Bavarian Alps

Germany's Alps are already contending with climate change and locals are feeling the effects. Jennifer Collins reports from the country's highest peak on disappearing glaciers, less snowfall and increased landslides.



# IPCC report 1.5°C

Already 1°C global warming

“Specially affected”

- Small islands
- Megacities
- Coastal regions
- **High mountain ranges**



### Arctic region

- Temperature rise much larger than global average
- Decrease in Arctic sea ice coverage
- Decrease in Greenland ice sheet
- Decrease in permafrost areas
- Increasing risk of biodiversity loss
- Some new opportunities for the exploitation of natural resources and for sea transportation
- Risks to the livelihoods of indigenous peoples

### Atlantic region

- Increase in heavy precipitation events
- Increase in river flow
- Increasing risk of river and coastal flooding
- Increasing damage risk from winter storms
- Decrease in energy demand for heating
- Increase in multiple climatic hazards

### Mountain regions

- Temperature rise larger than European average
- Decrease in glacier extent and volume
- Upward shift of plant and animal species
- High risk of species extinctions
- Increasing risk of forest pests
- Increasing risk from rock falls and landslides
- Changes in hydropower potential
- Decrease in ski tourism

### Coastal zones and regional seas

- Sea level rise
- Increase in sea surface temperatures
- Increase in ocean acidity
- Northward migration of marine species
- Risks and some opportunities for fisheries
- Changes in phytoplankton communities
- Increasing number of marine dead zones
- Increasing risk of water-borne diseases

### Boreal region

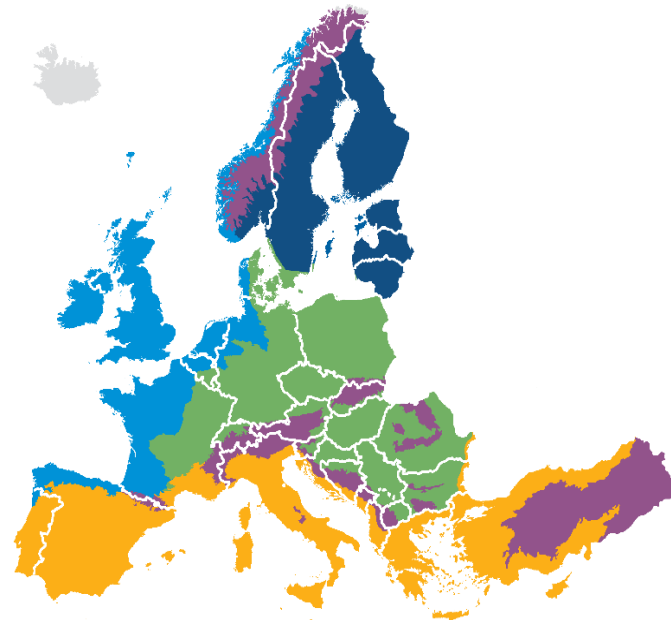
- Increase in heavy precipitation events
- Decrease in snow, lake and river ice cover
- Increase in precipitation and river flows
- Increasing potential for forest growth and increasing risk of forest pests
- Increasing damage risk from winter storms
- Increase in crop yields
- Decrease in energy demand for heating
- Increase in hydropower potential
- Increase in summer tourism

### Continental region

- Increase in heat extremes
- Decrease in summer precipitation
- Increasing risk of river floods
- Increasing risk of forest fires
- Decrease in economic value of forests
- Increase in energy demand for cooling

### Mediterranean region

- Large increase in heat extremes
- Decrease in precipitation and river flow
- Increasing risk of droughts
- Increasing risk of biodiversity loss
- Increasing risk of forest fires
- Increased competition between different water users
- Increasing water demand for agriculture
- Decrease in crop yields
- Increasing risks for livestock production
- Increase in mortality from heat waves
- Expansion of habitats for southern disease vectors
- Decreasing potential for energy production
- Increase in energy demand for cooling
- Decrease in summer tourism and potential increase in other seasons
- Increase in multiple climatic hazards
- Most economic sectors negatively affected
- High vulnerability to spillover effects of climate change from outside Europe



# Policy context

- The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
- The **Paris Agreement**
- The **European Green Deal**:
  - European **Climate Law**,                      • **2030 Climate Target Plan**
  - European **Climate Pact**                      • **EU Biodiversity strategy**
  - **Farm to fork strategy**                      • **Forest strategy**
  - Renewed **sustainable finance strategy**
  - ... and more!



# A new EU strategy on climate adaptation

## **“Forging a climate-resilient Europe - The new EU strategy on adaptation to climate change”**

Adopted by European Commission on 24 February 2021

- 2020: Blueprint, open public consultation, and expert reviews
- 2018: Evaluation of the first EU Adaptation strategy (2013)

# Vision & Objectives

- Vision: by 2050 the EU will be a climate-resilient society, fully adapted to the unavoidable impacts of climate change
- Objectives:
  - **Smarter adaptation** – improving knowledge and managing uncertainty
  - **More systemic adaptation** – support policy development at all levels and sectors
  - **Faster adaptation** – speeding up adaptation across the board
  - **Stepping up international action** for climate resilience



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# Smarter adaptation

*improving knowledge and managing uncertainty, by*

- Pushing the frontiers of **knowledge** on adaptation
- More and better climate-related **risk and losses data**
- Making **Climate-ADAPT** the authoritative European platform for adaptation knowledge

Year	Area coastal erosion
2050	2000 - 2300 km <sup>2</sup>
2100	3800 - 5000 km <sup>2</sup>



© picture: NOAA

# More systemic adaptation

*support policy development at all levels and sectors, by:*

- Improving **adaptation strategies and plans**
- Fostering **local, individual, and just resilience**
- Integrating climate resilience in **macro-fiscal policy**
- Promoting **nature-based solutions** for adaptation



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# Faster adaptation

*speeding up adaptation across the board, by:*

- Accelerating **the rollout** of adaptation solutions
- Reducing **climate-related risk**
- Closing the **climate protection gap**
- Ensuring the **availability** and **sustainability** of **freshwater**



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# Engagement with Member States

- Based on subsidiarity and local nature of adaptation
- Support MS, subnational authorities, business & individuals
- Financially, with knowledge & tools
- Invitation to work together



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# Thank you



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