

Climate change adaptation plans

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Rationale

The [White Paper 'Adapting to Climate Change'](#) was issued by the European Commission in April 2009 to encourage and guide Member States in the development of national climate adaptation strategies and action plans. Phase 1 (2009-2012) would prepare a comprehensive EU adaptation strategy to be implemented after 2013. However, several countries are much more advanced, already have established a strategy, and are committed towards a plan (to be formally adopted by 2011). The White Paper aims at adapting economic and social activities and equipment to a changing climate, with little attention to disaster risks: although the threat of increased intensity and frequency of some extreme events is mentioned, the reduction of disaster risk is not clearly identified as part of a coping strategy.

It is therefore highly desirable that countries like France, Germany, United Kingdom, and others, could compare their methods used for assessing, consulting about and developing of their adaptation plan: principles for selecting activities, for designing and structuring adaptation policies. The links with European institutions, the sharing of responsibilities between officials and the civil society, as well as education methods, deserve to be reviewed in order to derive practical lessons. Several issues would be identified and a joint investigation for ways to solve them could be undertaken, possibly with some European support.

In France, a strategy was established in 2006, an evaluation was conducted from 2007 to 2009, and an adaptation plan is being developed in 2010. The Directorate General for Energy and Climate is the prime contractor, with ONERC. The AFPCN is associated to this work, and presented in Copenhagen the publication named "[French Studies Related to Climate Change Adaptation](#)", presenting various options studied in France. The consultation will be following a model called "Grenelle", involving all forces.

Objectives

- 1 Exchanges on strategies and plans development process at national and local levels. Relative weight and place of adaptation plans in comparison with mitigation plans. Harmonization between national plans (or strategies) national and the forthcoming European strategy.
- 2 Identification and succinct comparison of actions promoted by different adaptation plans
 - a. Governance: stakeholders involved in the development of the plan
 - a1. Governance at national level
 - a2. Governance at the territorial level (region, district, city, river basin, risk basin, etc.)
 - b. Risk assessment, early warning
 - b1. Forecast: Which IPCC scenario should be used as reference? Capacity for downscaling from global models? Treatment of uncertainties. Impacts (water, ecosystems and biodiversity....). Taking into account the dynamic nature of vulnerability. Use of economic models. Extreme events and disasters risks prospects.
 - b2. Early warning
 - c. Education; Intervention human sciences for social awareness and vulnerability-specific adaptation measures
 - d. Planning economic and social activities (agriculture and forests, energy, tourism...), infrastructures, urban planning, coastal areas...
 - e. Emergency preparedness
- 3 Finding solutions to selected problems encountered in the development, financing or implementation of these plans.
- 4 Exchanges with developing countries

Provisional calendar for outcomes

| Jan-June 2010 | Jul-Dec 2010 | Jan-June 2011 | After July 2011 |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Table of comparison and identification of choices made by some countries</i> | <i>Detailed examination of some issues and expansion of the panel. Meeting with the European Commission</i> | <i>Symposium to present results, summary and recommendations</i> | <i>Follow-up of recommendations</i> |

Participants and links with ongoing/planned initiatives

Coordination: ONERC & AFPCN

Contributing agencies/programmes/experts in France: Météo-France, INRA, CEMAGREF, two communities (region, city)

Contributing agencies/programmes/experts in Europe: Focal Points proposed by members of the network and then by other European countries, and according to the subjects, experts proposed by these focal points.

1. **National governance.** What is the agenda of the national process and its prospects? Integration into a climate policy? Which executive institutions are involved? Intervention by the parliament? How are coordination, decisions, monitoring supported? Resources available for developing the plan?
2. **Local governance.** Same questions at the local level according to entities' competences and structures (communities, risk basins, etc.). How much support is made available for these levels?
3. **Climate change documentation databases available:** scenarios, models, change assessments. Publications. Are there any documentation databases on social issues and future vulnerabilities? Socio-economic models used?
4. Have **hazards and extreme events** been considered, disaster scenarios developed? Are vigilance and warning systems adequate for a multi-hazard approach?
5. **Structure of adaptation plans,** areas covered. Action methods, types of measures engaged, budget. What is the role of incentives for sectoral adjustments? Place of disaster risk reduction in this regards? Synergy with mitigation?
6. **Communication, education,** involvement of the population and civil society
7. **Harmonisation** envisaged in Europe
8. Are **exchanges with developing countries** envisaged?