



The EU Adaptation Strategy and its urban dimension

Dr. Alexander Ferstl
Directorate-General for Climate Action
Unit C.3: Adaptation to Climate Change

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An issue for Europe?

➤ 2003 heatwave

- 1 in 500 year event, by 2050s could be 1 in 2 year event

- ✓ economic damage of more than €8.7 billion

- ✓ dis

- ✓ str

- ✓ Arc

2013 floods

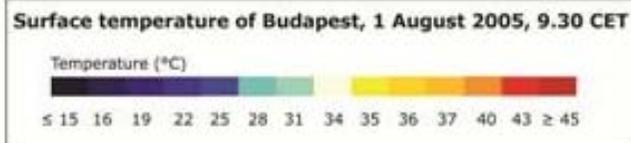
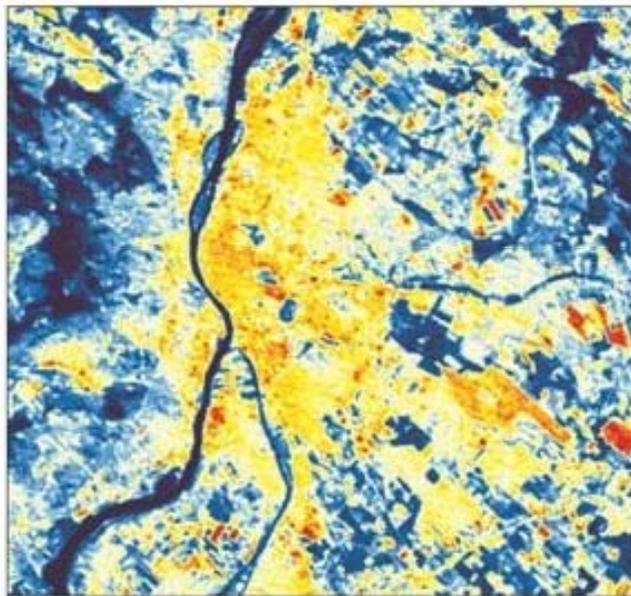
- 1 in 500 year event, by 2050s could be 1 in 50-year event

- ✓ Total damage costs in Germany of around €8.1 billion

- ✓ large damages to infrastructures, buildings, transport networks

- ✓ > 100 000 people evacuated

Why cities matters?



- **Cities and urban areas are particularly vulnerable**
- **Impacts are often stronger and more costly:**
 - High share of population concerned (e.g. heat waves)
 - Different magnitude of damages due to concentration of infrastructure/assets (e.g. cost of floods in cities; port cities)
 - Co-location of network infrastructure and possible cascade failure (e.g. energy, ICT)
 - Urban Heat Island effect
- **Coherence between national, regional and local strategies is vital!**

Main challenges for urban areas



Map of how and where high tides of 226cm over sea level will flood Inner Copenhagen (2110).
©City of Copenhagen

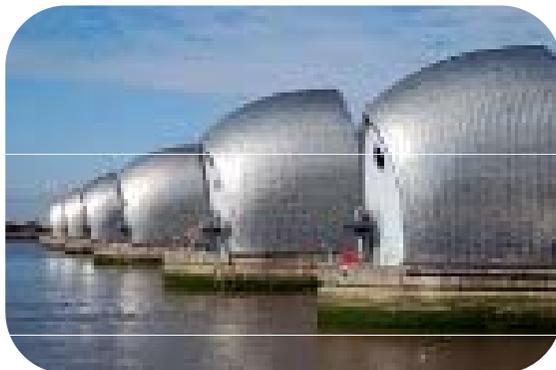
- **High investment needs**
 - Adaptation of existing infrastructure (e.g. buildings, canalisation, electricity distribution)
 - Protective measures (e.g. flood protection in built environment)
 - Climate resilience of new infrastructure (e.g. new construction/planning parameters)
- **Governance issues**
 - Long-term impacts vs. short-term political cycles (political commitment)
 - Integrated nature of adaptation (many sectors)
 - Geographical scope and co-operation (e.g. river basins)
 - Risk awareness across policies and adaptive capacity of stakeholders



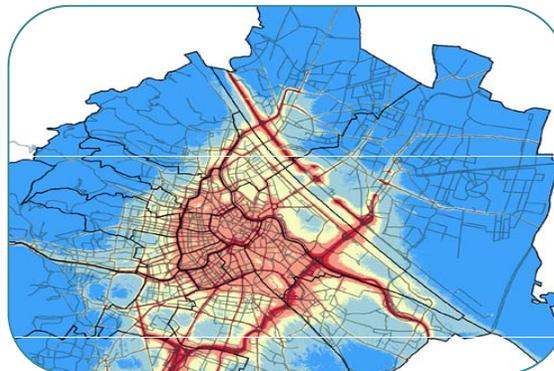
EU Adaptation Strategy (2013)

Contributing to a more climate-resilient Europe

Priority 1:
**Promoting
action by
Member States**



Priority 2:
**Better informed
decision-
making**



Priority 3:
**Key vulnerable
sectors**



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Priority 1: Promoting action by Member States

Action 1. Encourage MS to adopt Adaptation Strategies and action plans

- Guidelines on adaptation strategies
- Check in 2017 coverage & quality of NAS

Action 2. LIFE funding, including adaptation priority areas

- cross-border floods management, cross-border coastal management
- urban environment
- mountain and island areas
- drought-prone areas (water, desertification, fire risks)



Action 3. Promoting adaptation action by cities along the Covenant of Mayors initiative

- Launch in 2014
- Complements mitigation efforts under existing Covenant





'Mayors Adapt'

Action 3

New EU initiative, launched on 19 March 2014

- Follows the model of the **Covenant of Mayors** (for mitigation)

Approach:

- **Political commitment** to develop/implement local adaptation strategies
- **Direct support for cities** (help-desk)
- **Link to LIFE funding** – 2014 call focussed on urban adaptation, including the development of urban adaptation strategies
- Better access to **urban knowledge** (via Climate-Adapt)
- www.mayors-adapt.eu
- Signatory event in October 2014



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THE COVENANT OF MAYORS INITIATIVE
ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

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Mayors Adapt

Promoting urban leadership in adaptation
to climate change

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In parallel with reducing its greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate climate change, the European Union also needs to strengthen its resilience to the inevitable impacts of climate change, now and for the future. Adapting to climate change is the way to do this.

News

Priority 2: Better informed decision-making

Action 4. Knowledge-gap strategy

- Identify and prioritise knowledge gaps
- Feed this into programming Horizon 2020
- Better interfaces science/policy/business
- EU-wide vulnerability assessments: JRC (economic costs of cc); Integrated threat and risk assessment reports (2015).



Action 5. Climate-ADAPT:

- Develop interfaces with other databases and climate services
- Inclusion of Copernicus (Ex-GMES) climate services





CLIMATE-ADAPT

European Climate Adaptation Platform

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Action 5



Climate Change Adaptation in Europe

The European Climate Adaptation Platform (CLIMATE-ADAPT) aims to support Europe in adapting to climate change. It is an initiative of the European Commission and helps users to access and share information on:

- Expected climate change in Europe
- Current and future vulnerability of regions and sectors
- National and transnational adaptation strategies
- Adaptation case studies and potential adaptation options
- Tools that support adaptation planning

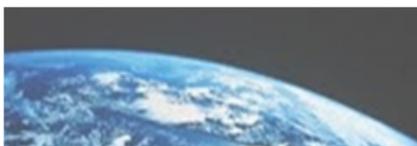
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EU information systems



Priority 3: Key vulnerable sectors

Action 6. Climate proofing of Common Agricultural Policy, Cohesion Policy, and Common Fisheries Policy

- Guidance
- Capacity building



Action 7. Making infrastructure more resilient

- Mapping standards through CEN/CENELEC
- Guidelines for project developers

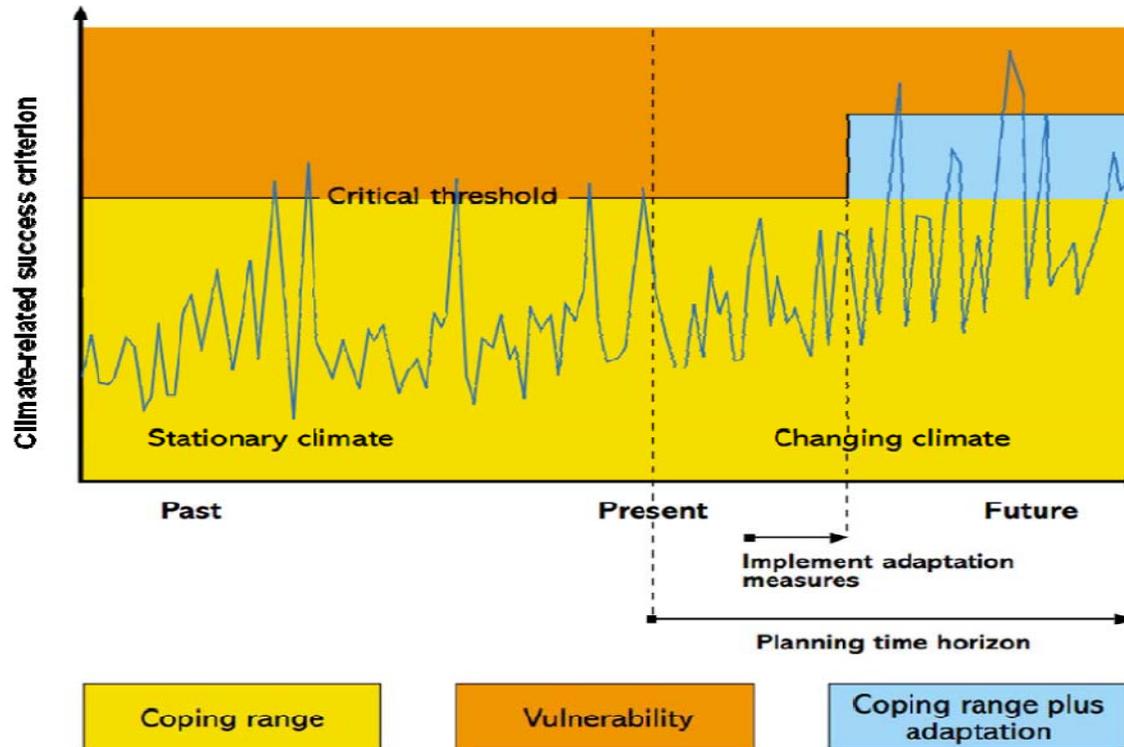


Action 8. Promote products & services by insurance and finance markets

- Green paper insurance of disasters
- Stakeholder dialogue

Standards: Changing critical thresholds

Action 7



Relation between coping range, critical threshold, vulnerability and resilience to climate variability/change

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alexander.ferstl@ec.europa.eu
<http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation>



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