Consultation on the preparation of the EU Adaptation Strategy

Personal information

Please select your country of residence -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Belgium
Please select the option which best describes your organisation/institution -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Other
Please enter your name/the name of your organisation -open reply-(compulsory)	Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) ASBL
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Unless you specify otherwise, your contribution will be published on the Commission's website together with your identity. Please indicate here if you wish your contribution to be anonymous -single choice reply-(optional)	You can publish this contribution under the name given
How would you rate your expertise in climate change adaptation? (From 1 to 5, with 5 being expert and 1 being novice) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3

Problem definition

Which of the following adverse effects of climate change concern you most? (Please select a maximum of 3) -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	Air quality - Heat waves - Vector-borne diseases
In your opinion, which populations/groups are the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change? (Please select a maximum of 2 populations/groups) -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	Low-income households - Others
Please specify -open reply-(compulsory)	Patients with chronic disease, especially cardiovascular and respiratory
Lack of awareness of climate-change related risks -single choice reply-(compulsory)	4
Uncertainty of the impacts and modelling tools -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Short-term vs. long-term horizons -single choice reply-(compulsory)	5
Policy and regulatory weaknesses and change -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Cost and reversibility of adaptation action -single	5

choice reply-(compulsory)	
Lack of available funding for adaptation measures -single choice reply-(compulsory)	5
Lack of understanding of potential adaptation measures -single choice reply-(compulsory)	5
Agriculture and rural development -single choice reply-(compulsory)	4
Cities -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Civil protection -single choice reply-(compulsory)	5
Construction/buildings -single choice reply-(compulsory)	4
Employment -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No opinion
Energy -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No opinion
Forestry -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No opinion
Health -single choice reply-(compulsory)	5
industry / SMEs -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No opinion
Maritime affairs -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No opinion
Migration -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No opinion
Nature conservation -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No opinion
Transport -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No opinion
Water -single choice reply-(compulsory)	4
Create or secure jobs and growth in the European economy -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	In the short term (2020) - In the medium term (2030-2040) - In the longer term (2050 and beyond)
Contribute positively to the EU's social objectives -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	In the short term (2020) - In the medium term (2030-2040) - In the longer term (2050 and beyond)
Make the EU's economy more resilient to climate change and extreme events -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	In the short term (2020) - In the medium term (2030-2040) - In the longer term (2050 and beyond)
Make the EU's environment more resilient -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	No opinion

In your opinion, in order for adaptation policies and measures to be effectively implemented, what are the three most pressing issues to be addressed by the EU? (Maximum 1000 characters) -open reply-(optional)
Secure funding for adaptation through mainstreaming of adaptation into all policies/sectors, which requires sectoral programmes to distribute part of their funding to CC adaptation. Set cross-sectoral objectives for adaptation: for example, air pollution or water quality control should be joint objectives of adaptation in the environmental and health sector. Raise awareness on how mitigation will support adaptation and how both mitigation and adaptation can contribute to sectoral targets.

Knowledge

Impacts (consequence of climate change on human and natural systems) -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	At European level - At interregional level - At national level - At regional/local level - At sectoral level
Sensitivity (degree to which a system is affected by climate related impacts) -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	At interregional level - At national level - At regional/local level - At sectoral level
Adaptive capacity (ability of a system to adjust to climate change) -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	At interregional level - At national level - At regional/local level - At sectoral level
Adaptation options including their likely effectiveness as well as costs and benefits -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	At European level - At regional/local level - At sectoral level
Decision-making under uncertainty -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	At European level - At national level - At regional/local level - At sectoral level
Monitoring and evaluation -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	At European level - At national level - At regional/local level - At sectoral level
Communication and awareness raising -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	At European level - At interregional level - At national level - At regional/local level - At sectoral level
More support of coordination between national and international research programs -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Increased direct funding for adaptation-related research and other projects (via e.g. the EU R&D Framework Programmes, LIFE programs etc) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	5
Better involvement of the adaptation policy-making community in the definition of research programmes and better uptake of research results in the decision making (strengthening the science/policy interface) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	4
Increased support for pan-European Climate Services based on satellites and other observation infrastructures -single choice reply-(compulsory)	4

Better dissemination of research results -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Training and awareness raising -single choice reply-(compulsory)	5
What other actions could be considered at EU level to facilitate further knowledge dissemination and sharing? (More than one response is possible) -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	Training/Dissemination activities to stakeholders and decision makers of climate change and adaptation information - Activities to promote the use of CLIMATE-ADAPT, the European Climate Adaptation Platform - Support of pan-European / pan-regional discussion fora on adaptation (workshops, conferences) to share experience and good practice - Direct support to targeted dissemination and awareness-rising campaigns (e.g. local communities, stakeholder groups) - Other
Please specify -open reply-(compulsory)	raise awareness about costs and benefits of adaptation options and synergies with climate mitigation
Working with and facilitating cooperation among Member States / stakeholders	
The immediate impacts of climate change are usually on the local and the regional scale, and therefore the decisions that respond directly to adaptation issues should be taken at national, sub-national, or even local (cities) levels. In your opinion, how can the EU facilitate the work of local authorities in adapting to climate change? (More than one response is possible) -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	Enhance awareness of the actual and potential consequences of climate change and the need and possibilities for adaptation to climate change at regional/ local level - Provide guidance on developing climate risk assessment and adaptation strategies at local level
When the adverse impacts of climate change are transboundary (e.g. vector borne diseases, forest fires, coastal protection, river-basin management), what could be the role of the EU? (more than one response is possible) -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	Facilitate cooperation and coordination among affected countries - Promote the creation of dedicated EU Agencies in charge of managing transboundary risks - Provide EU funding to address transboundary adverse effects of climate change, increase resilience and reduce vulnerability
Mainstreaming adaptation into EU policies and strengthening adaptation by the private sector	
A number of Member States have prepared national adaptation strategies; others have yet to do so. The White Paper states that the EU is well placed to facilitate progress in this regard and that the Commission will support national adaptation efforts. How to further support and incentivise Member States in this context? What type of instruments	All these options together

would bring the most added-value? (More than one response is possible) -multiple choices reply-(compulsory)	
Have you identified other barriers preventing the economy from becoming more climate resilient? -open reply-(optional)	Budgetary constraints; trade-off between long-term and short-term benefits; lack of other incentives and lack of communication on benefits
Improving the climate resilience of infrastructure investments -single choice reply-(compulsory)	5
Promoting and developing green infrastructures -single choice reply-(optional)	4
Reviewing the role and assessing the needs for insurance, as an instrument, to effectively complement adaptation measures -single choice reply-(compulsory)	3
Addressing financing issues, for instance by developing public-private partnerships -single choice reply-(compulsory)	5
Emphasising the role of market-based instruments, such as payment for ecosystem services, habitat banking or water pricing, for providing incentives for adaptation measures -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No opinion
Have you identified other priority actions, at EU level, that could strengthen the adaptive capacity and climate impact preparedness and responses of the private sector? -open reply-(optional)	Make the health care sector more adaptive to CC impacts, raise awareness on benefits, improve access to health care for vulnerable groups

Are there any other issues that should be addressed in the EU Adaptation Strategy and which are not mentioned above? -open reply-(optional)

Health needs to be given a higher priority in adaptation planning, it should be at the heart of the EU Climate Adaptation Strategy. The prerequisite for adaptation in the health sector is the capacity of the health systems to respond to extreme weather events and the overall changing climate. Therefore the existing health systems (national health services) need to be strengthened and access to health services has to be improved, so that especially vulnerable groups will be covered in times of climate-induced events. Health inequalities will be enhanced by climate change and it should be a European priority to reduce it. National health services will face much greater demand during extreme climatic events, for which they need to be strengthened and prepared. In addition, greater coherence with environmental policies is imperative in order to identify and use synergies. Especially coherence with greenhouse gas reduction measures has to be sought for adaptation actions. Lastly, cross-sectoral objectives and actions have to be defined, for example reductions both in energy consumption and improvements in building standards as well as indoor air quality, in order to reap the highest co-benefits from adaptation.