



# The European Climate Adaptation Strategy: status and challenges

Sic adapt! 2<sup>nd</sup> cluster expert board  
25 June 2012

**Rosario Bento Pais**  
Head of Unit Adaptation  
*DG Climate Action*

Climate  
Action



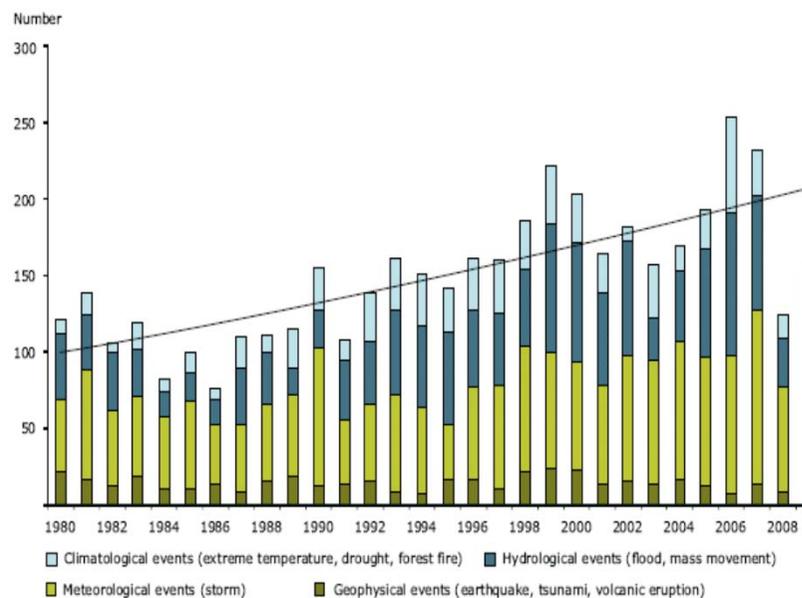
## What is the issue at stake?

- **Fight for 2° C, prepare for worse**
- **Adaptation and mitigation are complementary**
- **Adaptation action is required now**
- **Yet, a number of barriers still prevent effective adaptation**
- **Some of these barriers are best addressed at EU level**

## Evidence of current impacts

- The number and impacts of weather and climate - related events increased significantly between 1998 and 2009 (EEA, 2010).
- The SREX report (IPCC 2012) finds with a high level of confidence that economic losses from weather- and climate-related disasters have increased in the long-term, as people and economic assets have been increasingly exposed to risks.

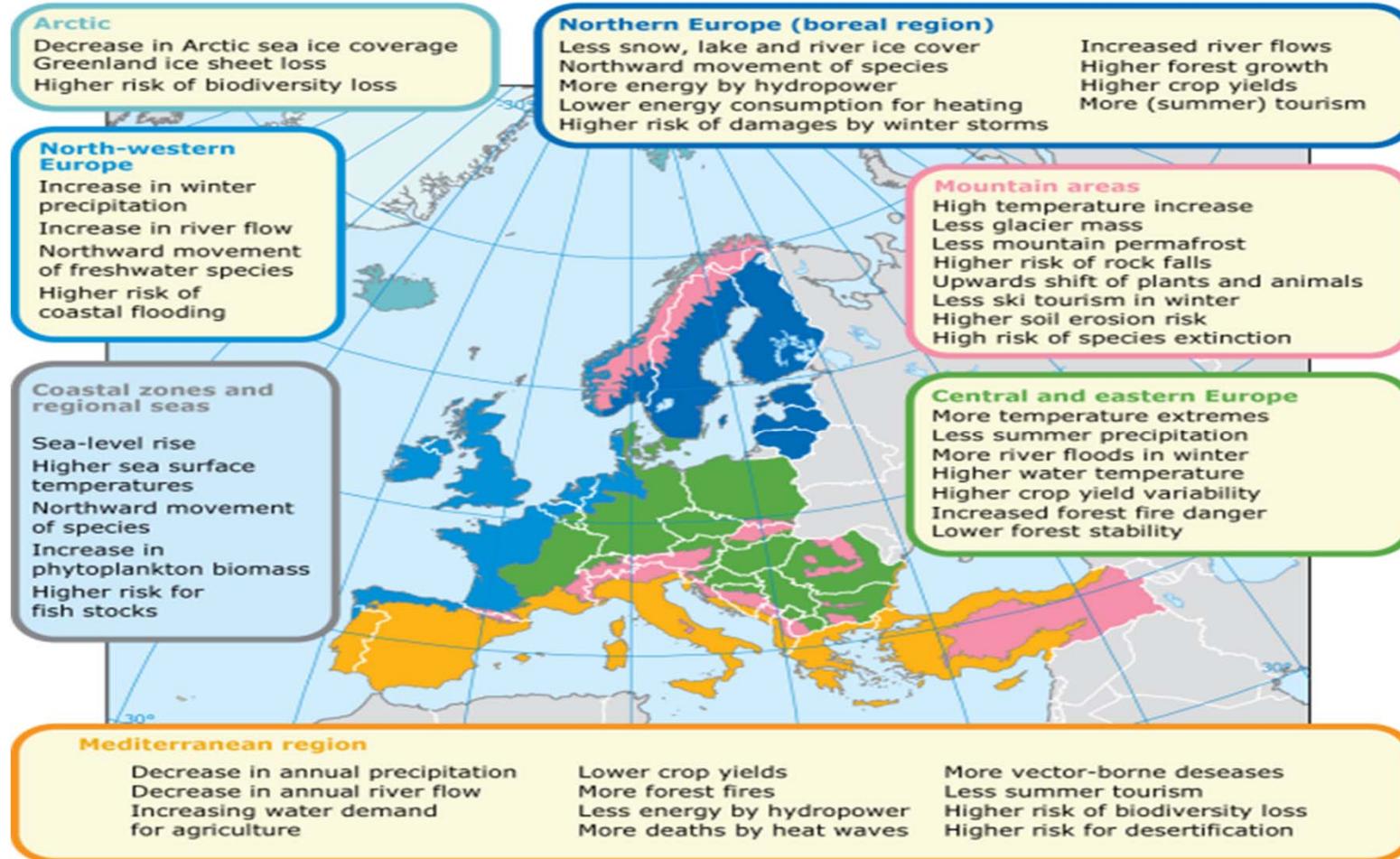
Figure 2.3 Disasters due to natural hazards in EEA member countries, 1980–2009



**Note:** Definition loss events, events can occur in several countries, events are counted countrywise.

**Source:** NatCatSERVICE, 2010; © 2010 Münchener Rückversicherungs-Gesellschaft, Geo Risks Research, NatCatSERVICE – as at August 2010.

# Expected future impacts





## Adaptation can reduce overall damage costs

*Microeconomic evidence exists on the benefits of adaptation: for instance database in Climate-ADAPT on adaptation options*

*Sectoral evidence exists on the net benefits associated with adaptation action. For instance:*

- **The avoided costs from the impacts of sea level rise in the EU are estimated, depending on the scenario, around EUR 1.5bn (A1B) and 7.3bn (E1) per year in the 2020's, around EUR 4.4bn (A1B) and 16.3bn (E1) per year in the 2050's, and around EUR 18.4bn (A1B) and 47bn (E1) per year in the 2080's. (source: ClimateCost Project).**

*Work on-going on the macroeconomic implication of adaptation at EU level, under no mitigation as well as when including mitigation policies*



# Who is affected, in what ways, and to what extent?

*Respective significance of the impacts of climate change per policy area/sector will be presented.*

- **Agriculture, Rural development;**
- **Forestry;**
- **Ecosystems / Biodiversity;**
- **Soil;**
- **Water;**
- **Marine;**
- **Construction/Buildings;**
- **Transport;**
- **Energy**

*Cross-sectoral issues*

- **Social dimension**
- **Key geographical dimensions: coastal areas, mountain regions, cities**



## We identified the need for additional EU action

- Knowledge gaps remain, at all levels.
- Mainstreaming adaptation into EU policies remain undertaken on an ad hoc basis
- Not all Member States, regions, cities are at the same level of knowledge, development or capacity to respond to the adverse effects of climate change (→ consequence for transboundary issues)
- The private sector, including insurance and finance markets, is not yet fully delivering the right products and services to help private agents in increasing their resilience to climate risks.

→ *Impact on economic imbalances and social vulnerabilities across the EU*



# Objectives and policy actions of the EU Adaptation Strategy

## (1) Knowledge

- *Improve and widen the knowledge base and identify gaps*
- *Further the understanding of vulnerabilities and adaptation options*
- *Facilitate knowledge use and exchange*

## (2) Policy and markets

- *Mainstream adaptation into policies at EU level, including revision of legislation to include climate adaptation*
- *Identify potential adaptation actions to make markets work more efficiently*

## (3) Cooperation and facilitation

- *Facilitate cooperation with and between Member States, regions, cities and other relevant stakeholders*
- *Provide guidelines for adaptation*

➔ **Overall approach: considering a range of options addressing the "what" and "how"**

**Climate  
Action**

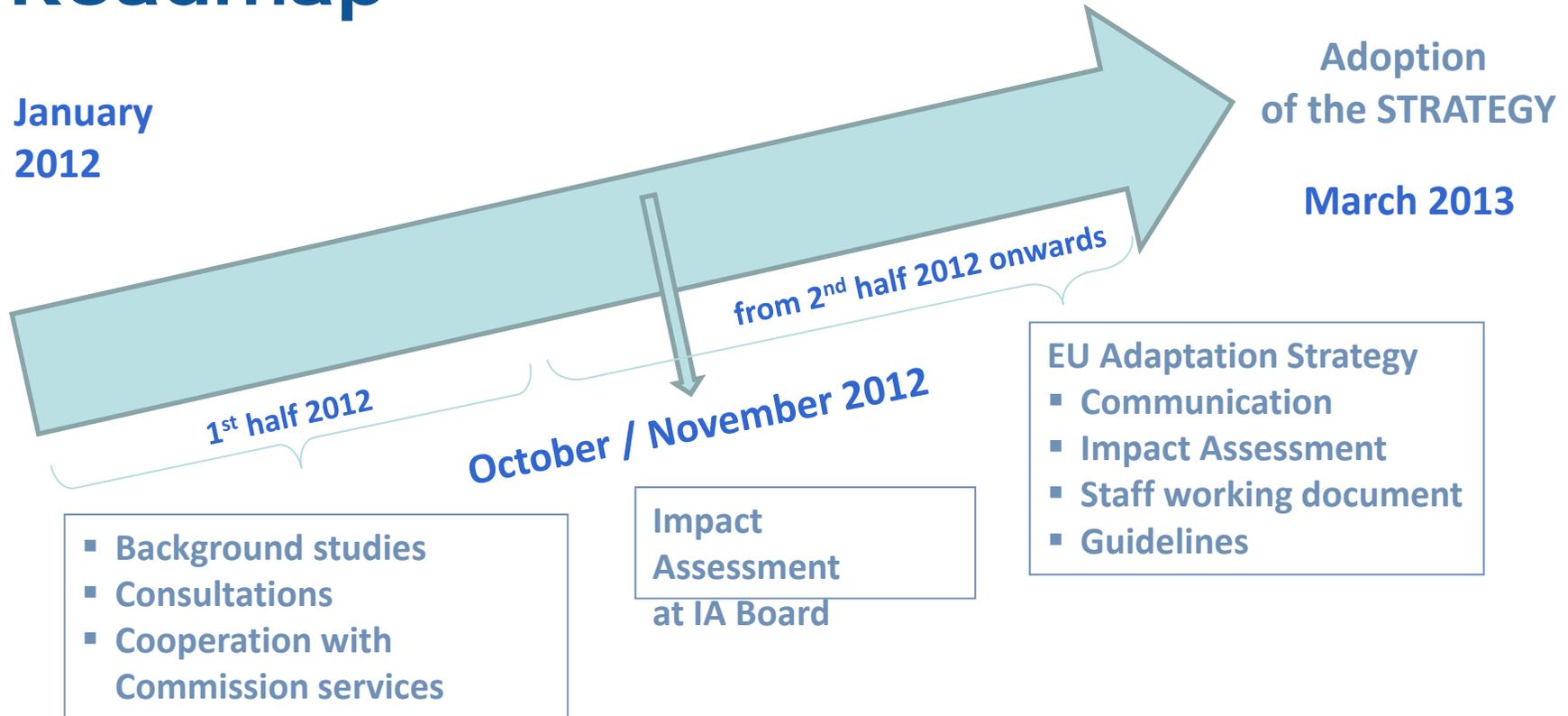


# In sum, EU added value on adaptation

- **Contribute to a climate resilient EU, by recognising the role and expertise of local, regional and national authorities**
- **Promote cooperation among Member States on best climate proofing practice**
- **Better balancing the mitigation with the adaptation agenda**
- **At international level it demonstrates what the EU is doing practically on climate change adaptation**
- **Address knowledge gaps at EU level**
- **Address transboundary issues**
- **Impact upon internal market policy**
- **It represents good EU citizenship, solidarity and leadership (e.g., for vulnerable groups)**

# Roadmap

January  
2012



***Thank you!***

*<http://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/change/>*

