



To:

- National representatives of EU Member States and Norway to the European Commission's Adaptation Steering Group (ASG)
- EEA's EIONET Primary Contact Points for Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation of EEA member countries and EEA's National Focal Points of Iceland, Lichtenstein, Switzerland and Turkey.

Cc:

- EEA's EIONET Primary Contact Points for Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation of EEA member countries and EEA's National Focal Points of all EEA member countries
- European Commission (DG Climate Action)

27 May 2013

Invitation to respond to survey on climate change adaptation policy processes in EEA member countries (deadline 27th of June 2013)

Dear colleague,

The European Environment Agency (EEA) is undertaking a **survey of climate change adaptation policy processes in its member countries**. Hereby I would like to invite the responsible person in the ministry in collaboration with the EEA Primary Contact Points for Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to respond to this initiative.

The EEA report 'Adaptation in Europe'¹ was published on 29 April 2013 and provides a state-of-play of adaptation in Europe. It also supports the implementation of the EU strategy on adaptation to climate change², which was presented by the European Commission on the same day. The EEA report synthesises the information available on Climate-ADAPT about adaptation initiatives at national and sub-national levels and provides an up-to-date overview of adaptation actions.

The survey the EEA sends you aims at complementing this information and at collecting information in a comparable way across all member countries. This will allow gaining a deeper understanding about processes which led to the current state of action and to learn more about what is being planned across Europe. The objectives of this EEA activity are to cover all 32 EEA member countries, provide in-depth information about national and sub-national adaptation processes, and highlight lessons learned as well as good practices of adaptation.

¹ <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/adaptation-in-europe>

² http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/what/index_en.htm

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On the basis of responses from countries **the EEA will develop with the support of its European Topic Centre on Climate Change Adaptation (ETC/ACC) a European-wide overview**, which is planned to be published as an EEA assessment report in 2014 (as a standard EEA procedure, member countries will be consulted asking for comments on the draft report prior to publication). The target audience of this report is policy and decision makers at various governance levels and the EEA aims at presenting the European-wide overview in a way of direct use and relevance for them. Furthermore, this work aims to assist the European Commission with implementing over the coming years its EU strategy on adaptation to climate change by gaining a better understanding of member countries' activities and challenges, supporting the exchange of good practice and facilitating better informed decision-making.

In our view an analysis of adaptation policy processes at across countries will be best undertaken through **consultation of countries**. Countries are requested to provide key information, e.g. on vulnerability assessments, identification of adaptation options, coordination of policy development, stakeholder involvement or monitoring and evaluation. This is the reason why the EEA also refers to this survey work as a 'Self-assessment' by its member countries.

The EEA seeks to receive **one coordinated response per member country** and therefore encourages the consultation of all relevant stakeholders within your respective countries. We would appreciate it if you could coordinate the response to the survey regarding your country, or else arrange and inform us regarding another contact in your country, who would provide a coordinated response.

The Self-assessment has been designed as an online platform and in such a way that you, as country coordinator, can easily use it to gather responses from your contacts (e.g. other ministries, environmental protection agencies, researchers, NGOs) within your country. Technical details about how to operate and fill-in the Self-assessment are available after log-in. Log-in to the Self-assessment is done at this web address <http://projects.eionet.europa.eu/sanap/self-assessment/> and with your EIONET account credentials. If you do not have an EIONET account, it will be created for you automatically and you will receive the details within the next hours.

The objectives and the approach for the Self-assessment will be presented by EEA at the next **EIONET Workshop on 'Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation' planned to take place on 20 June (EEA premises)**. For questions or comments on the content of the survey please contact Stéphane Isoard (stephane.isoard@eea.europa.eu) or André Jol (andre.jol@eea.europa.eu) at the EEA. For technical/access issues please use the following email address: helpdesk@eaudeweb.ro.

The Self-assessment is open as of today and **will stay open until 27th of June 2013**.

I look very much forward to your contribution to this Self-assessment, which will provide an improved understanding of adaptation policy processes across Europe, and thank you in advance for your collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

André Jol
Head of Group 'Vulnerability and Adaptation'

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