



PRIORITY SECTOR
Environment, Energy,
Climate Change and Low
Carbon Economy

Programme area n°13 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

OBJECTIVE

Climate change mitigated and vulnerability to climate change reduced

AREAS OF SUPPORT

- > Strategies, action plans and/or contingency plans
- > Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- > Climate change adaptation measures
- > Climate change-related extreme weather preparedness and risk management
- > Carbon capture and storage

SUGGESTED MEASURES

- > Development and implementation of national, regional and local strategies and action plans on adaptation and mitigation measures
- > Greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures in industry
- > Integration of ecosystem-based solutions in action plans for adaptation and mitigation
- > Implementation of greenhouse gas capture and storage through restoration and conservation of ecosystems
- > Implementation of pilot projects for carbon capture and storage
- > Climate-proofing of infrastructure
- > Flood and drought prevention
- > Mapping and assessment of specific climate change risks and integration into relevant policies, strategies and plans
- > Development of climate change-related extreme event contingency plans
- > Integration of climate change-related issues into general disaster/contingency plans
- > Awareness-raising activities

RELEVANCE OF SUPPORT

Climate change is one of the challenges affecting economic and social development in Europe. It influences the sustainability of our societies, the potential for economic growth, the state of ecosystems, as well as our quality of life. The impact of climate change is global. It will however affect European citizens and ecosystems differently, depending on the magnitude and rate of climate change, and the ability of the ecosystems and our communities to adapt to these changes.

To mitigate climate change the emission of greenhouse gases needs to be reduced or prevented. This calls for new technologies, energy production with less emissions, more efficient energy use, protection of ecosystems as they store large quantities of carbon, changed management practices and consumer behaviour. In addition to mitigating climate change, our societies need to prepare for and adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. Adaptation means anticipating the adverse effects of climate change and taking appropriate action to prevent or minimise the damage it can cause.

Climate change affects sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry and energy. European economies have to adapt to this, and significant investment is required to address drought, heat waves, coastal erosion, floods and other effects resulting from extreme weather. Urban life needs to adapt to the increase in extreme weather conditions, which are likely to strain existing infrastructure in areas such as water supply, health, energy and transport.

The EU is making good progress towards meeting the climate and energy targets set in the Europe 2020 strategy. However, integrated policies for the longer term are needed. In April 2013 the European Commission adopted an EU strategy on adaptation to climate change. The so-called '2030 Framework', driving a continued progress towards a low carbon economy, was presented in January 2014. At the core of the framework is the proposal to reduce EU domestic greenhouse gas emissions by 40% below the 1990 level by 2030.

The EU 'Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050', outlines how to achieve much deeper emission cuts by the middle of the century with reductions milestones of the order of 40% by 2030 and 60% by 2040.

The agreement reached at the 21st Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris in November 2015 is a milestone in international climate change policy. The targets (on temperature rise and greenhouse gas emissions) and instruments agreed at the COP21, require committed implementation and follow-up, and this has triggered discussions in both the EU and donor countries on revision of policies and next steps.

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are committed to international efforts to tackle climate change, a commitment shared with the EU. The EEA and Norway Grants will fund mitigation and adaptation programmes in line with targets set out in the Europe 2020 strategy and the 7th Environment Action Programme 2020. The nature of climate change demands cross-border cooperation. Bilateral cooperation is essential for the addressing of some of the challenges stemming from climate change.

BILATERAL INTEREST

To mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change, the sharing of knowledge and experience is crucial. The donor and beneficiary countries shall cooperate to develop mitigation measures and adaptation plans, while ensuring robust ecosystems and smart communities.