



The Development of the EU Adaptation strategy

Rosario Bento Pais
Head of Unit, DG Climate Action

Stockholm, 10 December 2012

Climate
Action



What is at stake for Europe?

Climate
Action

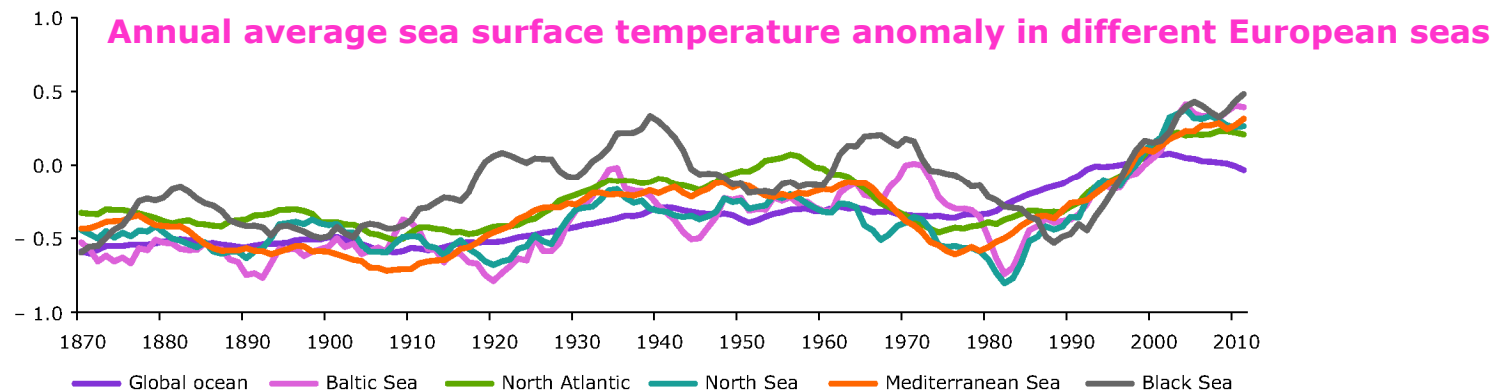


To adapt or to mitigate: is that the question?

- The EU is already facing **unavoidable climate change** effects regardless of mitigation efforts.
- **Effective adaptation action** can reduce overall damage costs and save lives.
- Lack of adaptation or inadequate adaptation practices are costly and can trigger significant economic imbalances and social vulnerabilities in the EU.

- **Impacts are already being felt in Europe**

SST anomaly (°C)

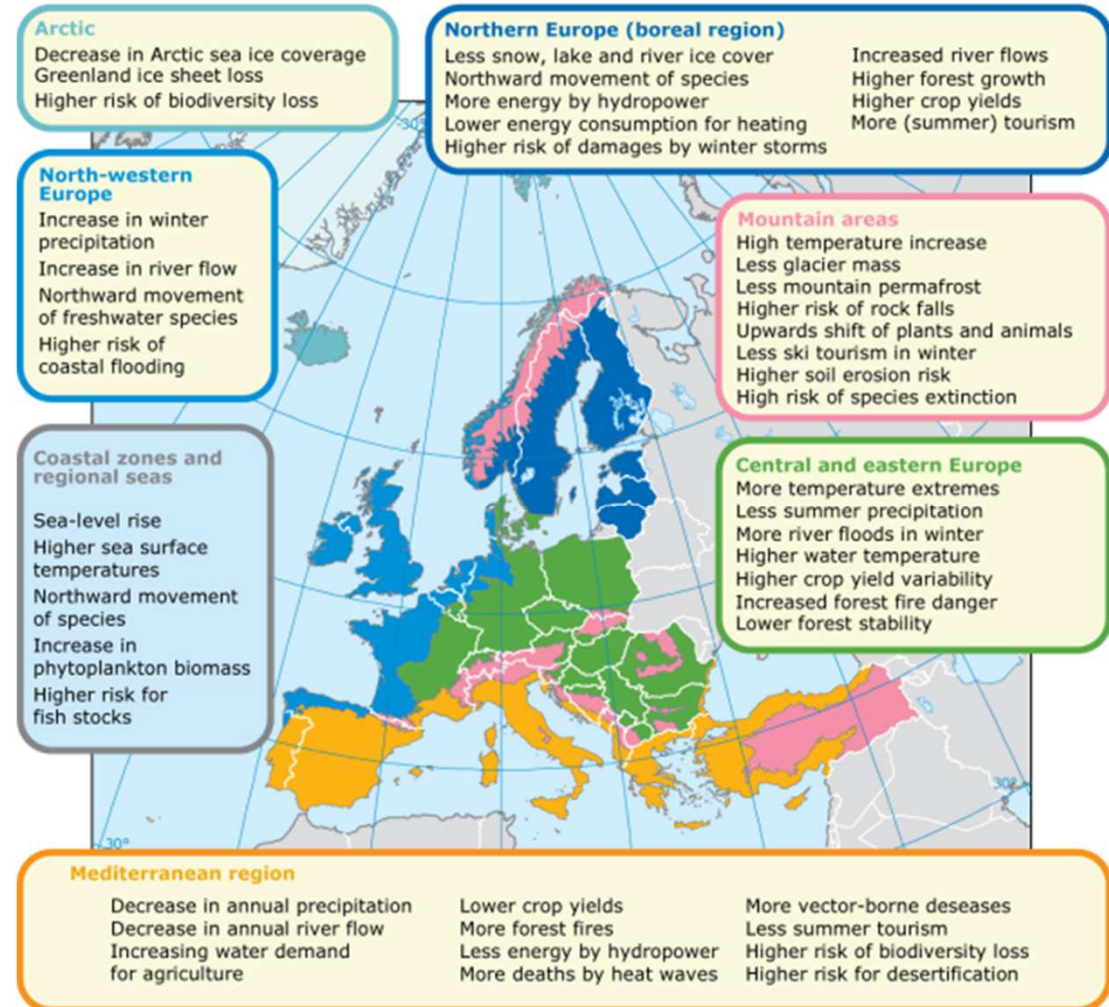


- **Economies, societies and ecosystems need to adapt to:**
 - increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events
 - rising sea levels and coastal erosion
 - severe biodiversity loss
 - increased variability of crop yields
- **Cities are particularly vulnerable to climate impacts**

Vulnerable Europe

Most vulnerable areas in Europe:

- Southern Europe and the Mediterranean basin
- Mountainous areas, in particular the Alps
- Coastal zones, densely populated floodplains
- Arctic region



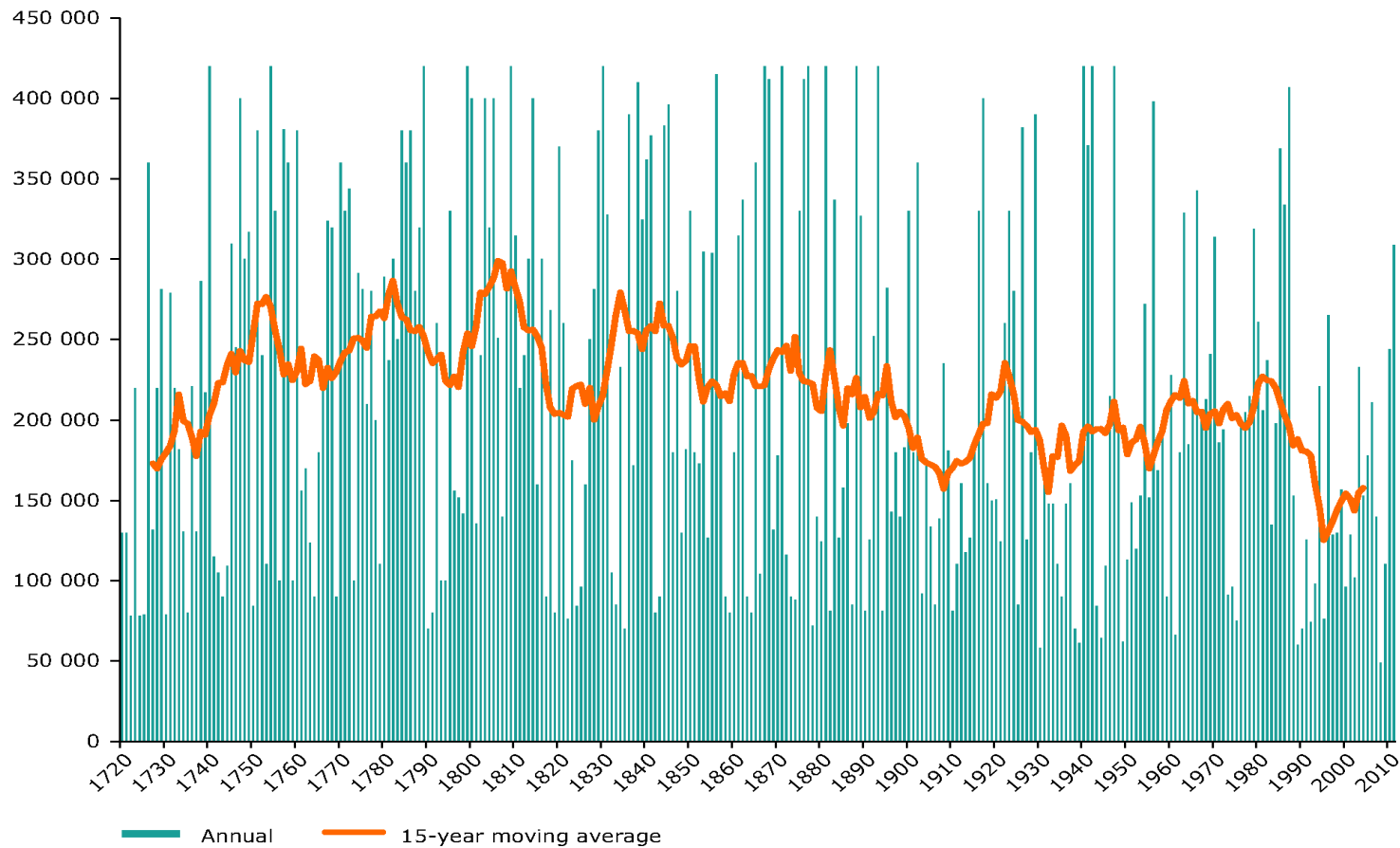


Impacts in the Baltic Sea region?

- **Sea level rise, increasing temperatures and changes in precipitation and flood patterns** have impact on built environment and water availability/quality
- **Partially high vulnerability** due to concentration of large parts of the population in (large) cities in coastal areas
- **Main regional climate hazards:** Storms surges, river flooding, salt water intrusion, Loss of marine habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity and socio-economic vulnerabilities (fisheries, tourism) (EEA, 2011)

Example: Baltic Sea ice cover (EEA, 2012)

Maximum ice extent (km²)





Multi-faceted impacts require an integrated approach across Europe

Adaptation is necessary in most sectors

- Agriculture, rural development, forestry
- Ecosystems, biodiversity, soil
- Water, marine systems
- Infrastructure: construction/buildings, transport, energy
- ...

Cross-sectoral issues

- Social dimension: migration, health, employment...
- Territorial dimension: urban dimension, coastal areas, mountainous regions...
- Transboundary dimension: governance and cooperation

Climate
Action



New opportunities arising from good adaptation

- **Climate change adaptation (and mitigation) may offer new economic opportunities**
- It helps **reducing overall damage costs**
- It facilitates **new partnerships** integrating research, business and technology
- **Examples** of new products and services
 - Improved water management, esp. water saving technologies
 - Hard and soft engineering solutions for flood protection
 - Healthcare issues linked to climate change
 - Resilient construction materials and infrastructure
 - Innovation in energy end use
 - Financial services, including insurance and banking

Climate
Action



Why an EU Adaptation Strategy?

Climate
Action



There is a clear EU added value

- **Why adaptation at EU level?**
 - transboundary impacts, transnational action
 - impact in European policies, single market
 - solidarity with the most impacted regions
- **European added-value**
 - common framework, guidance and tools
 - integrated cross-border solutions where required
 - experience exchange and knowledge sharing



There are important gaps which we need to overcome

- **Knowledge gaps remain - at all levels.**
- **Not all EU policies** that are (or will gradually be) affected by the adverse effects of climate change sufficiently take into consideration the need to adapt.
- **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
- **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
 - ➔ *Impact on economic imbalances and social vulnerabilities across the EU*



EU Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change

- **General aim:** enhancing the preparedness and capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change in the EU, its Member States and regions, down to local level by:
 - Enhancing knowledge generation and its dissemination
 - Facilitating cooperation with and between Member States, regions, cities and other relevant stakeholders
 - Mainstreaming of adaptation into different EU policies
 - Better capturing the potential of the private sector



Building on the success of CLIMATE-ADAPT

- **CLIMATE-ADAPT is an online platform, providing access to**
 - adaptation information in Europe
 - EU sector policies information
 - information on countries, cities and other areas (search function for 'similar' regions with similar challenges and projects)
 - extensive database on adaptation (publications, research projects, guidelines, tools, indicators, maps, organizations,...)
 - tools that support adaptation planning
- Launched in March 2012
- **<http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu>**



New to adaptation?
Use the Adaptation Support Tool

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:

3 key tools have been developed for CLIMATE-ADAPT

- Adaptation support tool
- Case study search tool
- Overview of countries activities



Find case studies on adaptation in Europe



What are European countries doing?

Choose your country



ore



Share your information

News



- » Adaptation in Scotland – ASC assessment
- » Environment Agency to invite you to participate in adaptation research
- » Adaptation reporting power – final tranche of reports published

Events



- » Planet under Pressure, 26-29 March 2012, London
- » Earth Systems Engineering 2012

EU sector policies



Agriculture & Forestry
» [Read more](#)



Water management
» [Read more](#)

» [View all sectors](#)

EU information systems





EU Adaptation Strategy: mainstreaming in EU funds

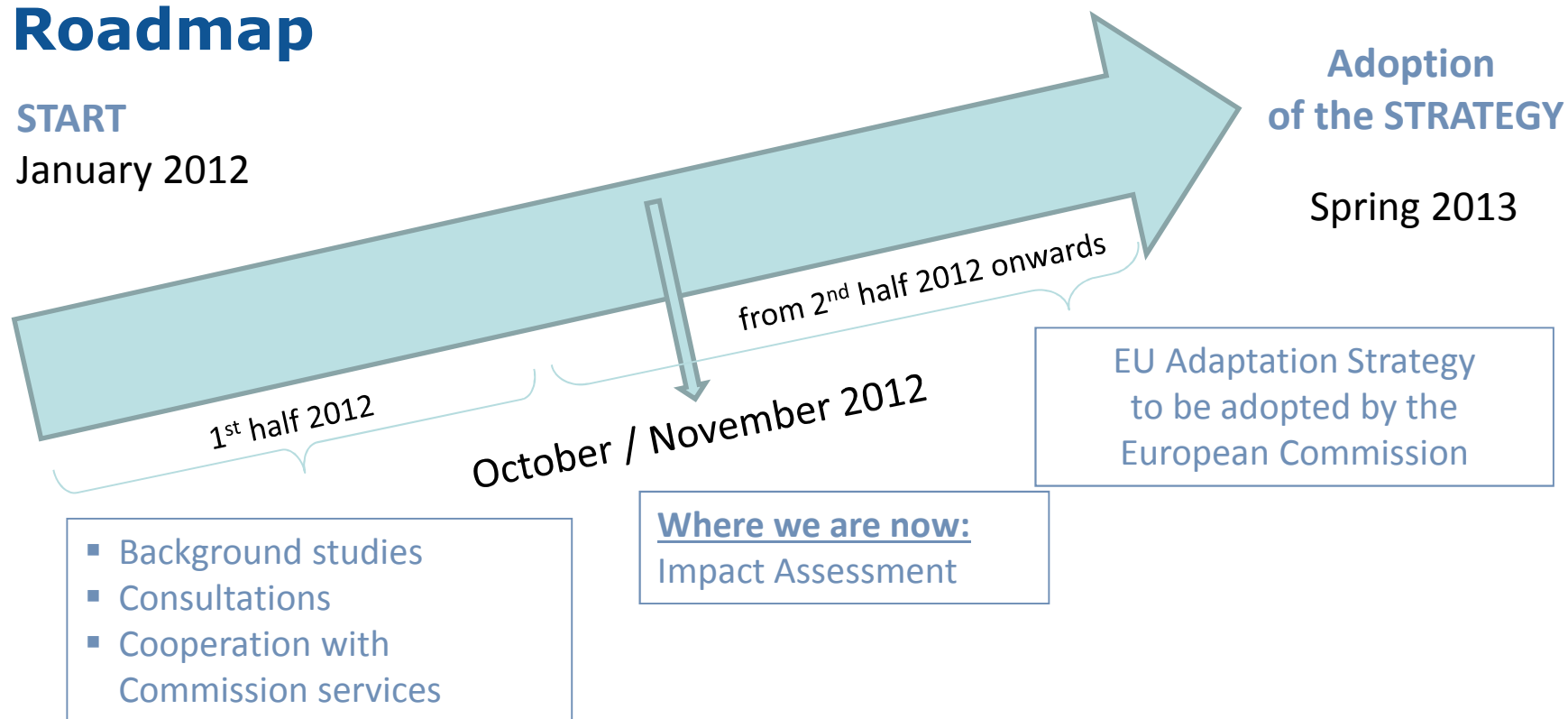
EC's proposal for 2014-2020:

- 20% of the EU budget for climate-related expenditure
- Tracking of climate-related expenditure
- Mainstreaming of climate action in the Cohesion Policy and Research & Innovation
- New climate sub-programme in LIFE+ (€ 363 Mio. for adaptation)

Roadmap

START

January 2012





Thank you!

*Rosario Bento Pais, Head of Unit
Directorate-General for Climate Action*

Tel. +32 2 29 52228

E-mail: rosario.bento@ec.europa.eu

<http://ec.europa.eu/clima>

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/clima/mission/index_en.htm



Climate
Action