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1 The Baltic Sea Region sub-section in Climate-ADAPT

The Baltadapt project, funded by the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 is a flagship project under the Horizontal Action “Sustainable development” in the EU Strategy of the Baltic Sea Region. It works out sustainable solutions for climate change adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) and develops a proposal for a BSR-wide Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Baltic Sea Region. In addition Baltadapt improves existing knowledge and has been commissioned to create a web based knowledge platform about climate change adaptation in the BSR, the Baltic Window. This platform is the contact point for civil servants and decision makers from the region for information on climate change and adaptation in the BSR. It helps them to tackle the consequences of climate change, an issue of macro-regional concern where interregional cooperation is of added value.

The Baltic Window is integrated into the European Adaptation-Platform “Climate-ADAPT”. This is of benefit for the Baltadapt Project and Climate-ADAPT because Climate-ADAPT will be strengthened as an up-to-date EU adaptation portal; its section on transnational regions will be strengthened with sound science information and implementation options. Being incorporated into a European web platform the Baltic Window, which is named Baltic Sea Region sub-section in the following, can reach many users and can refer to other Climate-ADAPT contents for more detailed information.

The main goals of the Baltic Sea Region sub-section (accessible at <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/web/guest/transnational-regions/baltic-sea>) are to give a complete and detailed picture of adaptation in the BSR, and to complement Climate-ADAPT as the EU’s adaptation platform. That way the sub-section supports European decision makers in adapting to climate change and helps users to access and share information.

2 Structure and layout

The content of the BSR sub-section is structured as follows:

- General
- Policy Framework
- Impacts & Vulnerabilities
- Adaptation Actions

All pages have a text menu below the heading, which indicates the user's current page.

Baltic Sea Region

General | Policy Framework | Impacts & Vulnerabilities | Adaptation Actions

The picture in the upper left corner on the first page ("General") is a small map showing the Baltic Sea Region. Below the map, a pull-down menu can be used to select other transnational regions. On subsequent BSR sub-section pages, pictures illustrate each topic.

All pages have a short teaser in the running text. It can be expanded by clicking on the gradient bar "read more". To complement the texts 'Impacts & Vulnerabilities' and 'Adaptation Actions', a tripartite menu can be found below the text. In addition, all pages include a 'search results' box. Both, the tripartite menus and the 'search results' boxes contain data base items on adaptation in the BSR from the Climate-ADAPT data base.

The links within the tripartite menus are selected items matching the specific topic. In few cases, a direct link to the database item might not provide all necessary information, for instance when database items fail to underline the project's relevance for the BSR. In these cases, the menu's entries do not link directly to a database resource. Instead, they refer the user to a subordinate page within the BSR sub-section. This subordinate page contains a description of the entry and a link to the database item.

The green 'search results' box lists all projects and products of the Climate-ADAPT database that are tagged as "Baltic Sea Region". Its purpose is clearly delineated from the function of the tripartite menu:

- The projects box draws its contents from the database and provides an up-to-date view on the BSR resources, even after the BSR sub-section implementation phase has ended.
- The tripartite menu contains more prominent projects and products via a permanent html link (leading either directly to the database or to a subpage).

3 Content overview

The BSR sub-section offers a well-structured overview with short and concise texts. By linking to various other Climate-ADAPT pages, the BSR sub-section exploits the wealth of information of Climate-ADAPT and avoids duplication of information.

As described above, the contents of the BSR sub-section are structured into four pages:

General

The first page gives an overview on the Baltic Sea Region and the threats its environment has to face. A short introduction is given, about the challenges of climate change and how a proposal for a BSR-wide Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan was developed.



The screenshot shows the 'European Climate Adaptation Platform' website. The header includes the 'CLIMATE-ADAPT' logo, navigation links (Glossary, Contact, Sitemap, Legal notice, About), and a search bar. A secondary navigation bar lists categories like Home, Adaptation information, EU sector policies, Countries, regions and cities, Tools, Links, and Search the database. The main content area displays search results for 'Baltic Sea Region', including a map, a brief description of the region, and a list of search results such as Publications and reports (33), Guidance (1), Tools (5), Maps, graphs and datasets (1), Research and knowledge projects (24), Case studies (6), and Organisations (14). The footer features logos for balt adapt, European Commission, European Environment Agency, and Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013.



Policy Framework

On the 'Policy Framework' page the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) (<http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/>) is described which strengthens the cooperation in the BSR. Additional information is given about the process which led to the proposal for a BSR-wide Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan developed within the Baltadapt project. Moreover, the goals of the proposed strategy and the importance of organisations which are crucial for climate change adaptation in the BSR are mentioned.

The screenshot shows the 'European Climate Adaptation Platform' website. The header includes the 'CLIMATE-ADAPT' logo, the European Union flag, and navigation links like 'Glossary', 'Contact', 'Sitemap', 'Legal notice', and 'About'. A search bar is present. The main navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Adaptation information', 'EU sector policies', 'Countries, regions and cities', 'Tools', 'Links', and 'Search the database'. The breadcrumb trail shows 'General > Countries > Transnational regions > Cities and towns'. The main content area features a map of the Baltic Sea region, the title 'Policy Framework', and a brief description of the EUSBSR. A 'Read more' button is located below the text. On the right, a 'Search Results' sidebar lists: Publications and reports (11), Tools (2), Research and knowledge projects (8), Case studies (6), and Organisations (2). The footer contains logos for 'balt adapt', 'European Commission', 'European Environment Agency', and 'Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013'.

Impacts & Vulnerabilities

This page describes climate change in the BSR in more detail, including changes in temperature and salinity, precipitation, sea-ice conditions, and sea level rise. To stress sectoral vulnerabilities the influence of climate change on tourism, biodiversity, food production, and infrastructure is explained by pointing out effects, risks and opportunities. Additionally, the measurement uncertainty of climate simulations within the BSR is highlighted; including the fact that gathering information is an on-going scientific process, meaning new models will deliver updated results. Finally, selected indicators, publications and reports as well as information portals, which each have a more prominent role, are outlined in a tripartite menu.



The screenshot shows the website interface for the European Climate Adaptation Platform. The header includes the 'CLIMATE-ADAPT' logo, the title 'European Climate Adaptation Platform', and navigation links for 'Glossary', 'Contact', 'Sitemap', 'Legal notice', and 'About'. A search bar is present with the text 'Search the website' and a search icon. Below the header is a main navigation menu with options: 'Home', 'Adaptation information', 'EU sector policies', 'Countries, regions and cities', 'Tools', 'Links', and 'Search the database'. A secondary menu shows 'General', 'Countries', 'Transnational regions', and 'Cities and towns'. The main content area is titled 'Impacts & Vulnerabilities' and includes a map of the Baltic Sea region. The text describes the BSR's geographical extent and climate zones, noting that global climate models project higher warming in the BSR than the global mean. It lists four sectors of high vulnerability: tourism, biodiversity, food production, and infrastructure. A 'Read more' link is provided. To the right, a 'Search Results' box shows 'Publications and reports (8)' and 'Tools (1)'. Below the main text are three columns: 'Selected Indicators' (Arctic and Baltic sea ice, Sea-level rise, Sea surface temperature), 'Publications & Reports' (Baltadapt Climate Info, European Coastal Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation: A review of evidence - ETC/ACC Technical Paper 2010/7, Baltadapt Report #7: Conceptualization of Vulnerability and Review of Assessments around the Baltic Sea Region, BACC – The Baltex Assessment of Climate Change for the Baltic Sea basin), and 'Information portals' (OURCOAST, the European portal for Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Baltadapt project). The footer contains logos for 'balt adapt', 'European Commission', 'European Environment Agency', and 'Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013'.



Adaptation Actions

The 'Adaptation Actions' text gives detailed information about the proposal for a BSR-wide Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan and recommendations it includes. It highlights the importance of cooperation and knowledge transfer within the BSR for climate change adaptation and links to case studies. Furthermore, funding programmes which support adaptation are named. Finally, tools, case studies as well as publications and reports, which each have a more prominent role, are outlined in a tripartite menu.

The screenshot shows the 'European Climate Adaptation Platform' website. The main navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Adaptation information', 'EU sector policies', 'Countries, regions and cities', 'Tools', 'Links', and 'Search the database'. The 'Transnational regions' sub-menu is active, showing 'General', 'Countries', 'Transnational regions', and 'Cities and towns'. The main content area is titled 'Adaptation Actions' and includes a description: 'Adaptation actions aim to adjust natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects. They normally address a specific climate impact and/or adaptation sector. Adaptation actions in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) seek to take opportunities of possibilities and meet challenges related to climate change. They build on transnational cooperation and the exchange of experiences, information and knowledge.' A 'Read more' link is provided. To the right, a 'Search Results' sidebar lists: Publications and reports (26), Guidance (1), Tools (1), Research and knowledge projects (10), Case studies (6), and Organisations (12). Below the main content, there are three columns: 'Tools' (Coastal-SAF, Coastlearn, BalticClimate Toolkit, Advanced tool for scenarios of the Baltic Sea ECOsystem to SUPPORT decision making), 'Case Studies' (OURCOAST, NORADAPT project, JULIA 2030 project), and 'Publications & Reports' (Baltic Sea Region Action Plan for Adaptation, Strategy for North Europe, Integrating the Common Fisheries Policy and the Marine Strategy for the Baltic, Towards Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in the Baltic Sea Region). The footer contains logos for balt adapt, European Commission, European Environment Agency, and Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013.

4 Climate-ADAPT database

To complement the texts on the BSR sub-section, the Climate-ADAPT database is integrated into the sub-section pages in two ways: the 'search results' boxes and the tripartite menus. Developing the BSR sub-section the database is expanded by several new items about projects, publications etc. on climate change adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region.

Additionally, the term 'Baltic Sea Region' is integrated in the Climate-ADAPT database as a fixed search term to improve the search functionality. Before, when searching for BSR-related database items, different geographical categorisations could be found, which all included the BSR (e.g. Baltic Sea; Baltic; regional). It was neither possible to use 'Baltic Sea Region' as an extended search function nor to tag it in a standardised fashion (homogeneously to other items) when entering new projects or products.

Existing and new database items which refer to the Baltic Sea Region are tagged with this new search term to ensure a complete overview searching the database or the 'search results' boxes on the BSR sub-section.