

# Governance of adaptation issues in Latvia

Zanda Skuja  
MEPRD,

Climate and Environmental Policy Department,  
Climate Change and Adaptation Policy Division

04.09.2013.

# Climate Change impacts: Vulnerabilities

- Increasing temperature and precipitation
- Erosion of seaside
- Extremes like flood and drought
- Changes in sea and inland waters
- More often and intense storms and whirlwinds
- Health hazards (heatwaves, new illness vectors)
- Loss of sea ice
- Biodiversity danger (extinction, migration of species, loss of ecosystems)

# Climate Change impacts: Questionable Benefits

- Longer vegetation period
- Reduction of potential frosts
- Reduction of mortality due to freeze
- Decreased heating expenses
- Increased precipitation, especially in fall, will facilitate higher and more stable energy production in water power plants

# Challenges

- Limited institutional capacity
- Lack of precise, country specific knowledge
- Lack of data and monitoring
- Financial constraints
- Prejudice/ perceptions

# Adaptation target

- Climate change resilience of the infrastructure and population of Latvia.

# Main elements of EU Adaptation Strategy

- Encourage all Member States to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies
- Provide LIFE funding to support capacity building and step up adaptation action in Europe
- Introduce adaptation in the Covenant of Mayors framework (2013/2014)
- Bridge the knowledge gap
- Further develop Climate-ADAPT as the ‘one-stop shop’ for adaptation information in Europe
- Climate-proofing EU action: promoting adaptation in key vulnerable sectors
- Ensuring more resilient infrastructure
- Promote insurance and other financial products for resilient investment and business decisions
- 2014-2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework proposal for climate-related expenditure
- European Structural and Investment funds, Horizon 2020, LIFE support

# Adaptation policy under development

- Environmental Policy Guidelines 2014-2020 with section on Climate with the undersection on Adaptation – undergoing discussion process
- National adaptation strategy
- Adaptation indicators, monitoring, projections
- Research, education and public awareness raising

# Lessons learned and good examples

- Flood risks management for major river basins
- Forestry adaptation measures
- Municipal adaptation strategies: example of Salacgrīva
- Coastal protection: gabions and dune grass / osier willow planting



# Salacgrīva adaptation strategy

- Climate change impacts on Salacgrīva municipality
- Adaptation opportunities in various sectors
- Political goals and principles of adaptation
- Measures and cost indication
- Monitoring and evaluation

# Coastal protection



# EEA grant program «National climate policy»

- Pre-defined Project No. 2 «Development of Proposal for National Adaptation Strategy, Including Identification of Scientific Data, Measures for Adapting to Changing Climate, Impact and Cost Evaluation»
- Small Grants Scheme

# Pre-defined Project

- **Partners:** the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia and Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre, Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology
- **Developed climate change and impact scenario for 2050-2100:**
  - Climate change modeling for Latvia- projections and indicators
  - Database of indicators for adaptation monitoring system
- **Developed reports on indicators, risks and adaptation measures**
  - Flood risk maps of 3 river basin districts (Gauja, Lielupe and Venta) and upgrading the Flood Information System (FIS) with mapping results
  - Research for maritime spatial planning to provide a general and scientific basis for decision-making and zoning
  - Thematic reports on risk and vulnerability assessment and adaptation measures
  - Policy proposal for National Adaptation Strategy
  - National climate change and adaptation web portal

# Small Grants Scheme

**Small grant scheme** – “Capacity building in the field of research and measures for enhancing society’s understanding about climate change and its consequences”

**Objective** – to increase the knowledge base and capacity of target groups enabling society to participate in climate change mitigation and adaptation policy implementation

## Support area

- A. Measures for the enhancement of public awareness and knowledge about climate change
- B. Capacity building with the use of research in the area of climate change

**Potential project applicants** - state institutions, local governments, educational institutions and scientific institutions, which are registered in register of scientific institutions, private enterprises and NGOs

**Project size for small grant scheme** - EUR 45 000 to EUR 175 000

# Support area

## Small Grant Scheme

### **A. Measures for the enhancement of public awareness and knowledge about climate change**

#### Eligible activities

1. publications in mass media
2. TV and radio programs
3. organizing workshops, courses, visits for professional audiences
4. organizing educational activities for students in Latvia to develop the understanding about climate change

# Support area

## Small Grant Scheme

### **B. Capacity building with the use of research in the area of climate change**

#### Eligible activities

1. development of training program modules
2. research in the area of climate change mitigation and the effects on adaptation to climate change

**THANK YOU!**

Zanda Skuja

[zanda.skuja@varam.gov.lv](mailto:zanda.skuja@varam.gov.lv)