

Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

Summary for Italy

Disclaimer

Based on the scoreboard in Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2018)460 accompanying the evaluation of the EU's strategy for adaptation to climate change. For referencing this Commission analysis from June 2018, please use the full version in the SWD.

SUMMARY

Overall progress

Italy has in place a National Adaptation Strategy (NAS, 2015) and the first draft of the National Adaptation Plan was published in 2017, ready for public consultation. Although Italy performs positively on most of the scoreboard indicators, areas for improvement include climate change adaptation mainstreaming and monitoring and reporting.

Adaptation strategies

The Italian national adaptation strategy (NAS)¹ was adopted in June 2015. A 2016 study by ISPRA² indicates that around 50% of regions had recognised climate change adaptation in their governance model or were developing their own regional plan/strategy³.

Adaptation action plans

Italy has prepared a draft National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The first draft was published in 2017⁴ and a public consultation was recently completed. Some regions have adopted adaptation action plans, for example Lombardy⁵, and others are developing their own adaptation plan or strategy. There has been consideration of climate change adaptation within certain sectors, such as Health (regarding heat waves) and the National Rural Network (regarding agriculture and livestock, for example).

Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation

1 Coordination structure

The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (MATTM) is responsible for developing the National Adaptation Strategy and Plan and for coordination with stakeholders. An Institutional Panel set up to support the elaboration of the national strategy included

¹ Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare, 2015, Strategia Nazionale di Adattamento ai Cambiamenti Climatici, URL:

http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/clima/documento_SNAC.pdf

² ISPRA Ambiente, 2016, Strategie e piani di adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici. URL:

<http://annuario.isprambiente.it/entityada/basic/6358>

³ ISPRA, 2016, Strategie e piani di adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici, URL:

<http://annuario.isprambiente.it/entityada/basic/6358/singola>

⁴ Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare, 2017, PNACC, URL:

http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio_immagini/adattamenti_climatici/documento_pnacc_luglio_2017.pdf

⁵ Regione Lombardia, 2016, URL: http://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/wcm/connect/946249ce-87c4-4c39-88f9-5eab3a264f14/Documento+Azione+Adattamento+RL_9dic.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=946249ce-87c4-4c39-88f9-5eab3a264f14

sectors such as health, forestry, education, culture, tourism. Local and regional institutions are also involved in the same Panel, alongside relevant organisations such as the Union of the Italian Provinces (UPI).

2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development

Stakeholder consultation in preparation of national adaptation policies has included an online survey in 2012, and the 2017 stakeholder consultation exercise on the draft NAP. Principal stakeholders included national, regional and local institutions but the consultation was indeed open to the public. Italy's involvement transboundary collaborations includes MAREMED, as well as cross-boundary cooperation and spatial planning projects. Additionally, Italy participates in relevant interregional agreements such as the Alpine Convention on Climate Change, which has also developed an action plan on climate change.

Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change

3 Current and projected climate change

ISPRA provides regular information on temperature trends and precipitation, in collaboration with observation partners. The NAS is based on a range of climate scenarios and projections; the draft NAP⁶ includes an analysis of current and future climate conditions in Italy. Screening to identify vulnerable sectors took place in 2009 and through a panel of technical experts in 2012. Although some risk/vulnerability assessments take transboundary aspects into consideration, this is not done consistently.

4 Knowledge gaps

The NAS makes recommendations on action to address adaptation knowledge gaps. Work includes a climate research network (the *Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change*) and the National Research Programme (PNR, 2014-2020)⁷. Furthermore, several universities and regional Agencies for Environmental protection (ARPA) are actively conducting relevant research.

5 Knowledge transfer

Italy does not have a dedicated website providing access to climate change adaptation information or data, e.g. a repository of key documents or a climate services website. However, capacity-building activities are taking place in Italy and are mentioned in the NAP, for example through the IPCC National Focal Point⁸.

Step C: Identifying adaptation options

6 Adaptation options' identification

The NAS identifies measures and good practices for priority sectors, and the draft NAP proposes a set of adaptation actions for each vulnerable sector. Adaptation options were selected on the basis of: effectiveness, economic efficiency, side-effects, performance under uncertainties and conditions for decision making. Italy has strong disaster risk

⁶ Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare, 2017, Consultazione su piano nazionale adattamento cambiamenti climatici, URL: <http://www.minambiente.it/pagina/consultazione-su-piano-nazionale-adattamento-cambiamenti-climatici>

⁷ Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca, 2016, Programma nazionale della ricerca 2015-2020, URL: http://www.istruzione.it/allegati/2016/PNR_2015-2020.pdf

⁸ Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici, 2018, URL: <https://www.cmcc.it/ipccitalia/>

management/reduction plans and processes, but coordination of these with adaptation strategies is limited.

7 Funding resources identified and allocated

The NAS does not provide information on financing; and available information⁹ does not distinguish between mitigation and adaptation funding. The draft NAP assesses the necessary financial and human resources and considers possible sources of funding. Structural and cohesion funds have also been used to support the implementation of actions relevant for adaptation, including in the water sector.

Step D: Implementing adaptation action

8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes

Climate change impacts have been integrated in the national regulation for impact assessment of projects (EIA) or programmes/plans (SEA)¹⁰. Despite advanced disaster risk management planning in Italy, the draft NAP illustrates several further actions to improve disaster risk management due to climate change. Spatial/urban planning at the sub-national level has taken into account climate impacts, but not in a consistent way. Although mainstreaming in the insurance sector is currently limited, the NAS considered the use of economic instruments in sectors such as water resources, agriculture, energy sector, etc.

9 Implementing adaptation

Implementation of some activities in the draft NAP has already occurred in sectors including, but in general implementation of adaptation actions remains to be seen following the finalisation of the NAP. We have not identified any guidelines for assessing the impacts of climate change on major projects/programmes. Stakeholders have been involved throughout the implementation of adaptation policies and measures so far, including through the online survey mentioned above.

Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities

10 Monitoring and reporting

Although the NAS makes specific reference to the importance of monitoring adaptation actions, information on adaptation actions is not being systematically collected, beyond fulfilling the reporting obligations under the UNFCCC. Reporting at regional and local levels is taking place, but in an ad hoc way, and is not consistently monitored/disseminated through an overarching system.

11 Evaluation

The NAS calls for periodic review of adaptation actions on a 5-year basis. Stakeholder involvement in evaluation was planned through a Permanent Forum, but this has not yet been established.

⁹ UNFCCC, (2017, Seventh National Communication under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, URL: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/258913076_Italy-NC7-2-Italy%20Seventh%20National%20Communication%20Final.pdf

¹⁰ Gazzetta Ufficiale, 2017, D.lgs. 104/2017, URL: <http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/qu/2017/07/06/156/sq/pdf>