

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development Republic of Latvia

Climate Change (CC) Adaptation situation and processes in Latvia

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Content

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Oslo, 6-7th October 2015

- 1. Latvia`s geophysical features: status quo, risks and advantages
- 2. Institutional structure and responsibilities
- 3. Scientific achievements
- 4. Challenges and opportunities for development of CC adaptation system
- 5. On-going work projects and other initiatives



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1. Latvia`s geophysical features

Latvia encompasses 64,589 square kilometers and is an extension of the East European Plain, 495km long sea coast

Flat surface topography (98% of the country lies under 200m above sea level)

The climate is humid (mean precipitation varies from 600 to 850 mm/year) and comparatively cold - mean annual air to + 5.80

Latvia is rich in waters: the mean density of the river network is 600m/km² water bodies occupy 1.7% from territory

About 10% of Latvian territory consists of peat bogs, swamps, and marshes (>50% without human impacts)

Rich in forests (main species: pine-tree, spruce, birch, alder, maple) – cover about 50% from territory; rich in biodiversity and biotopes

42 nature parks in Latvia



Main trends of CC impacts on sectors

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Sea level rise (e.g. rise of ground water level, flooding, landslides / soil / coastal erosion, changes in salt water inflows; results in economic losses, e.g. loss of territories)

Increase of atmospheric temperatures (e.g. changes in nutrient load, increase of water temperatures; results both in economic losses, e.g. more need for cooling, and gains, e.g. less need for heating)

Increase of precipitation amount (e.g. more run-offs - economic losses, e.g. effects on freshwater intake; also gains, e.g. more electricity produced in hydro-power-stations)

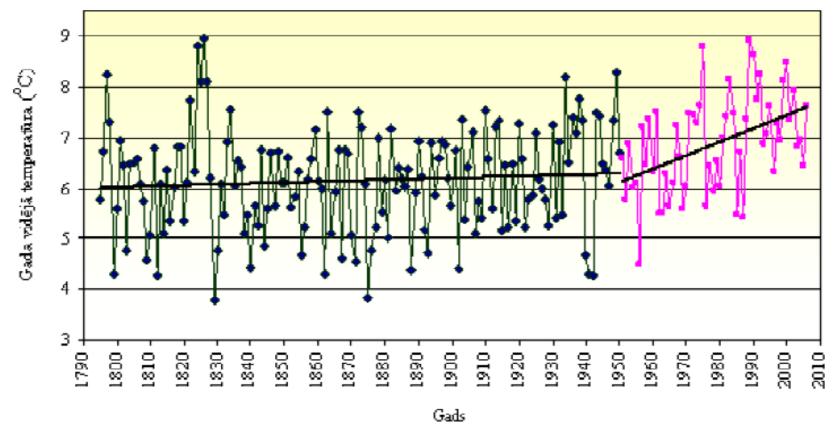
Changes in wind regimes (economic losses, e.g. impacts on human settlements, property, and infrastructure; gains, e.g. for wind farms);

<u>Frequency of extreme weather events</u> (e.g. increased number of days with heavy rains /snow - economic losses, e.g. effect on sea transport, electricity supply systems)

<u>Increase of ocean temperatures</u> (results both in economic loses and gains, e.g. positive effects on maritime transport).



Annual mean temperature in Riga over period of 1790 – 2010. Example

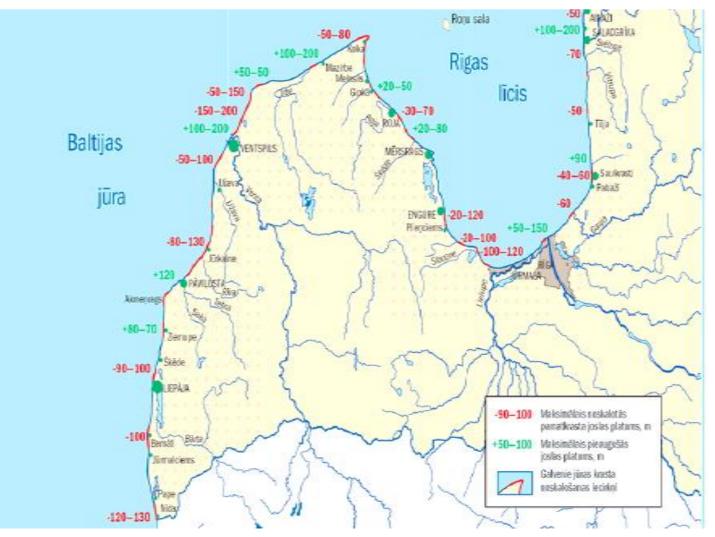




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Overall change of basic coastline over period of last 70 years territory of Latvia has lost 1000 ha taken by the Sea eroding basic coastline in range up to 50 - 200 m.

Coastal geomorphological processes. Example





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2. Institutional structure, responsibilities

Ministries and its subordinated institutions, e.g. MEPRD, Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre (LEGMC), Latvian Hydroecological Institute (LHEI), State Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), State Forest Service (SFS), Latvian Geospatial Information Agency (LGIF), etc.

Scientific research institutes: forestry - "Silava", rural economics - Institute of Agrarian Economic, Institute of Physical Energetics (PEI), Institute of Solid State Physics (SSPI), etc.

<u>Universities</u>: analysis of CC impacts and trends - University of Latvia, University of Agriculture, CC technologies (energy efficiency) - Riga Technical University

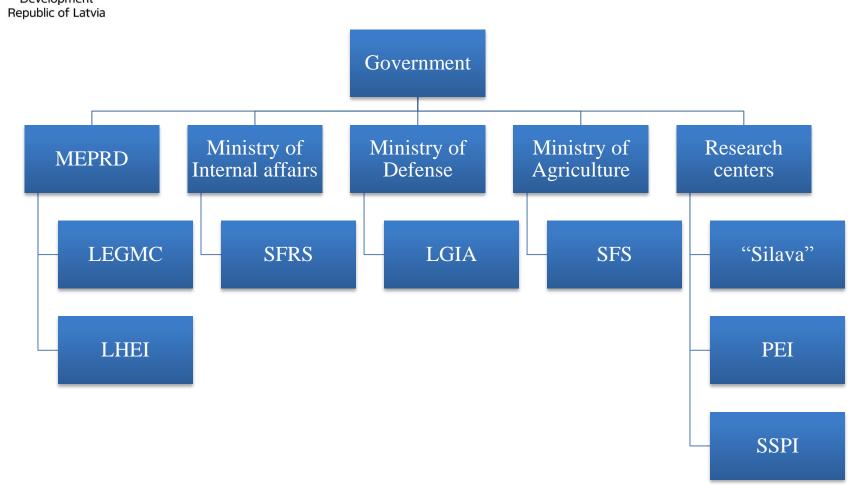
Entrepreneurs, NGO, professional associations: ornithologists, insurers, etc.

<u>Municipalities</u> – CC risks are included in their development strategies

Planning regions



Institutional structure





Legislative policy instruments



Policy planning documents: Latvia's longterm development perspective - up to 2030; flood risk assessment and management; agricultural risk management; land-use policy; rural development; territorial and spatial planning; Baltic Sea and Gulf of Riga coastal zone management; national security and civil protection system strengthening (including e.g. material reserves), etc. <u>Legislative acts</u>: water management, sustainable forest management, protected belts and territories, compensations for damage in agriculture, invasive species distribution areal contain, flood risk control, construction standards (including building climatology), etc.



Legislative policies containing adaptation component

- Forestry and Related Field Policy Strategy 2014-2020
- Environment Policy Strategy 2014-2020
- Rural Development Program 2014-2020
- Coastal Spatial Development Strategy 2011-2017
- Public Health Program 2014-2020



Scientific research institutions

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Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences of the University of Latvia - adaptation policy design, climate change impacts on aquaculture, surface and ground water, inland and Baltic Sea, coastal erosion)

Faculty of Biology of the University of Latvia (e.g. ecosystems` services, CC impacts on biotypes and species)

<u>Center of Processes` Analysis and Research</u> (PAIC, flood modelling, future climate modelling, CC scenarios, projection of impacts` values) <u>Institute of Biology of the University of Latvia</u>

<u>Latvian State Forest Research Institute "Silava"</u> (e.g. forest ecology, entomology, regeneration and establishment, forest monitoring)

<u>Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment "BIOR"</u> (fishery inspection, data collection and research for fish resources, etc.)

Riga Technical University (e.g. climate change technologies)

<u>Latvia University of Agriculture</u> (bioeconomy, forestry, agriculture, the impact of CC on water ecosystems, forestry and agriculture, adaptation)

<u>Agrarian Economic Institute of Latvia</u> (CC risk management in agriculture)

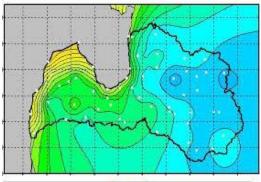
Other research institutes for new breed crop varieties suitable to changing climatic conditions in Latvia, etc.

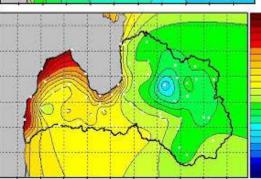


Institutions and CC impact monitoring system

Data on CC direct impacts / risks are gathering by Latvian Environmental, Geological and Meteorological Center (LEGMC) State Forest Monitoring Programme: explore the impact of CC to forest ecosystems, forest biodiversity status, forest soils. Responsible institutions: Ministry of Agriculture, State Forest Service and Latvian state Forestry Research Institute "Silava" National monitoring of geological processes of the seacoast (University of Latvia) –interrupted now Aerophoto and 3D relief model – by Latvian Gespatial Information Agency (LGIA) and company "Metrum"







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3. Scientific achievements

<u>Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences of the University of Latvia</u> - adaptation policy design, climate change impacts on aquaculture, surface and ground water, inland and Baltic Sea, coastal erosion)

Faculty of Biology of the University of Latvia (e.g. ecosystems` services, CC impacts on biotypes and species)

<u>Center of Processes` Analysis and Research</u> (PAIC, flood modelling, future climate modelling, CC scenarios, projection of impacts` values)

<u>Institute of Biology of the University of Latvia</u>

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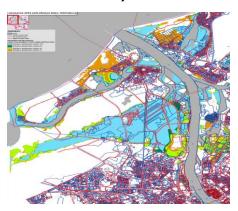
<u>Agrarian Economic Institute of Latvia (CC risk management in agriculture)</u>

Other research institutes for new breed crop varieties suitable to changing climatic conditions in Latvia, etc.



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The first National Research
Programme, devoted to detailed assessment of climate change impacts, was programme "Climate change impact on water environment in Latvia" (KALME, 2006-2009)



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State research programme – KALME. Outcomes

<u>Evidences and future projections</u> for t°, precipitation, hydrological processes, coastal zone geological processes, Baltic Sea level

Recommendations for measures how to adapt in relation to the waters in such sectors as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, water supply and drainage, water resources management, energy supply, navigation, building and urban management, spatial planning, education and science, decision-making

Risk assessment and management enforcement
Recommendations for adaptation concerning water sector
within spatial planning policies in such priority areas:
Prohibition of new construction of important
infrastructure – regarding coastal segments endangered
by erosion and flooding risk

<u>Understanding of urban water streams during flooding</u> - for flood management and mapping of potential flooding areas

<u>Maintenance of existing and development of new drainage systems for rain waters</u> during rainstorms <u>Improvement of natural infiltration systems</u> for surface water runoff within the spatial plans



"The value and dynamic of Latvia's ecosystems under changing climate -EVIDEnT" ((2014-2017).



State research programme – EVIDEnT. Ongoing

EVIDEnT is structured in 5 projects:

1st Project will adapt/elaborate models for wind fields, wave and current dynamic, developed wave and current measurement sensor prototypes and performed field measurements, and performed food chain study in system lake-river-sea.

<u>2nd Project</u> will investigate introduced species in freshwater ecosystem (HEP reservoir), port and adjacent to them areas, and in the sea.

<u>3rd Project</u> will develop tool to estimate air emissions and calculate future scenarios, survey farms and estimate GHG emissions from agricultural sector, and estimate integral impact from forestry.

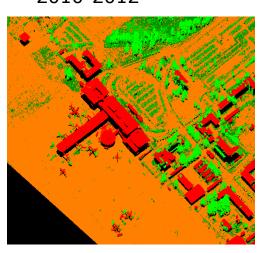
4th Project will perform studies of biodiversity on all levels, model biotopes and estimate monetary value of selected ecosystem services.

<u>5th Project</u> will develop climatic scenarios including extreme events, develop/improve hydrogeological model including infiltration from surface water measurements.



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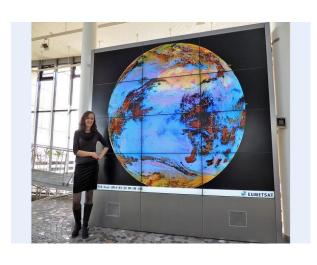
EU Life+ project "Integrated Strategy for Riga City to Adapt to the Hydrological Processes Intensified by CC Phenomena". Realised by Riga City municipality, 2010-2012



Life+ project "Riga against floods'". **Outcomes**

- √ Flood risk management plan for Riga city
- ✓ Digital 3D model for the whole territory of Riga
- ✓ Studying and forecasting hydrologic processes and their impact, incl.economic, on Riga territory
- ✓ Development of methodological guidelines for territorial planning in flood prone areas
- ✓ Riga City relief model by Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) method (using aero laser scanning all data and model is used for modeling and projecting floods, intensive precipitation, wind surges, coast erosion, ground water level changes, etc.
- ✓ Physical and socioeconomic models for the future flooding intensity and extent, including the impact of flooding to the buildings, and development of recommendations





The climate atlas for Latvia

EUMETSAT - the climate atlas is a tool to help visualise climate datasets for Europe and Latvia: http://www.eumetsat.int/website/home/Images/ImageLibrary/DAT_2266050.html

The atlas is based on the climate datasets provided by the Satellite Application Facility on Climate Monitoring (CM SAF). It consists of maps providing climatological information of different meteorological parameters (e.g. suface albedo, cloud fraction, pressure, daylight intensity, etc.)

These include:

- ✓ general climatic characteristics of meteorological parameters over Europe and Latvia
- ✓information on satellite data suitable for climatological studies
- ✓ an example of the strengths and weaknesses of satellite data for climate applications
- ✓instructions for creating a satellite climatology atlas and beginning to work with satellite datasets in general.



Actual research needs

Need for more precise data – especially for spatial models, risk maps Combined use of different data sources (meteorological, hydrological, land use data, socioeconomic data, etc.), and improvement of monitoring needs (especially extreme events and socio)

Need for new and / improved models on flood dynamics, risk assessment, ice condition changes, modelling of sand outwash dynamics, etc.

Need for multidisciplinary studies (with holistic view): synthesis studies, scenarios development, socioeconomic assessments of climate change impacts, cost-benefit and risk analysis studies, action research, social science, economics and organization studies to proceed from studying impacts towards adaptation research

Studies on basic ecosystem mechanisms and interactions under CC: how CC will alter them, how will population dynamics of key species change, CC impacts on winter-time ecology, harmful alien species: prognosis and risk assessment; how to control, changes of fish reproduction areas and times?..



5. Opportunities and challenges for development of CC adaptation system

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CC adaptation policy and measures practically are incorporated into all sectorial policies (coast zone management, health care, civil protection, etc.) as well as at all levels in spite of lack of adaptation system

- ✓<u>Insurance system</u> regarding weather extremes is developing rapidly. Two insurance schemes exist: 1) "Natural Disasters" exists in the private sector and applies to humans as persons, 2) the second insurance scheme is developed especially in agriculture insurance of agricultural risks (special fund)
- ✓ <u>Civil protection system</u> which includes management of all natural extremes (storms, rainfall, floods, etc.) in all sectors and governmental levels (under supervision of State Fire and Rescue Service)



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Adaptation indicators for adaptation monitoring – in agenda

Developed, not implemented yet

- √GDP/adaptation
- ✓ Population density / vulnerable territories
- ✓ Significant natural areas (ha, % of the whole territory)
- ✓ Fragmented natural areas (ha, % of the whole territory)
- √Green areas as natural adaptation measures (ha, % of the whole territory)
- ✓ Nature based solutions
- ✓ Risk perception
- ✓ Institutional capacity
- ✓ Preparedness
- ✓ Medical capacity
- √ Technical capacity
- ✓ Alarm systems within civil protection system
- √Share of budget spent on civil protection
- √Share of budget spent on CC and adaptation R&D
- √Share of budget spent on CC risk communication





Identification of CC impacts (risks and gains) on main sectors

Sectors

- √ Health and welfare
- √ Water management and infrastructure
- √Construction and building
- √ Biodiversity
- ✓ Forestry
- ✓Transport infrastructure
- √ Health and welfare
- √Water management and infrastructure
- √Construction and building
- ✓ Biodiversity
- ✓ Forestry
- ✓Transport infrastructure

Example. Water management and infrastructure

<u>Risks</u>

- Damage to hydropower plants (HPP) built on a big rivers as a result of extreme hydrological conditions
- Flood caused problems in a water supply and sewage systems;
- •Flood caused threat to public and civil engineering infrastructure
- •Threat caused by the coastal erosion to the infrastructure objects near the Baltic Sea and / or the Gulf of Riga
- Ice congestion and flood damage to private properties

Benefits

- Increase in river flow
- •Changes in the seasonality of river flows and hydroelectric power resources

 Decrease of the early spring flooding risk



5. On-going work: projects and other initiatives



EEA grants program "National Climate Policy" pre-defined Project

Development of proposal for national adaptation strategy, including identification of scientific data, measures for adapting to changing climate, impact and cost evaluation



Key facts



Project implementation period: currently 1 April 2014 – 30 April 2016, but has been requested an extension till

31 December 2016

Project budget: EUR 1 209 305

Project promoter: The Ministry of Environmental

Protection and Regional Development of

the Republic of Latvia (MEPRD)

Vides aizsardzības un reģionālās attīstības ministrija

Project partners:

- Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB)
- Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre (LEGMC)
- Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology (LIAE)
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia (MA)











Overview on Project activities



ACTIVITY 0. Project management

ACTIVITY 1. Climate change and impact scenario for 2010 – 2100 and the current and potential scientific data definition for the adaptation monitoring system

ACTIVITY 2. Integrated climate change mitigation and adaptation action research and the impact studies and the necessary adaptation measures is the most sensitive sectors

- 2.1 Flood risk and impact modelling and development and upgrade of flood risk information system
- 2.2 Research for maritime spatial planning
- 2.3 Thematic reports on risk and vulnerability assessment and adaptation measures
- 2.4 Policy proposal for National Adaptation Strategy
- 2.5 Climate change web portal



ACTIVITY 3. Publicity



ACTIVITY 1. Climate change and impact scenario for 2010 – 2100 and the current and potential scientific data definition for the adaptation monitoring system



OBJECTIVES

- Development of climate change scenarios for 2010 2100
- Creation of public GIS tool for interactive visualization and selection of climate
- Database development of sector-specific climate change indicators and information system for adaptation monitoring

PROGRESS

- Consultations about the development of climate change scenarios
- Selected (historical, present) and prepared data for the development of climate change scenarios
- Announced public procurement for contracting the development of climate change scenarios











ACTIVITY 1. Climate change and impact scenario for 2010 – 2100 and the current and potential scientific data definition for the adaptation monitoring system



- Entering into the agreement with contractor and execution of respective tasks
- Workshop on climate change adaptation monitoring information system (poss. December 2015)
- Workshop on climate change scenarios for Latvia (poss. February 2016)





ACTIVITY 2.1. Flood risk and impact modeling and development and upgrade of flood risk information system

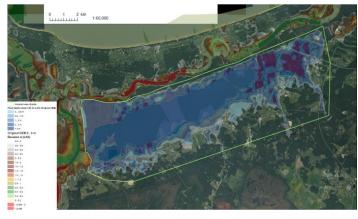


OBJECTIVES

- Development of flood risk maps and flood risk management plans for three river basins (the Gauja, the Lielupe, the Venta)
- Upgrade of flood risk information system

PROGRESS

- Contribution with the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) about the Development and delivery of the flood information system and integration into Integrated Environment Information system
- Workshop on flood hazard and flood risk mapping for Lielupe river using Latvian data
- Developed hydraulic model application for Lielupe river (Jūrmala) and Babite lake flood risk areas



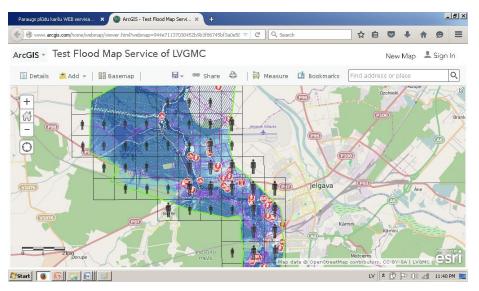
Preliminary flood hazard map for Babite lake



ACTIVITY 2.1. Flood risk and impact modeling and development and upgrade of flood risk information system



- Development of flood risk maps for Lielupe river (Jūrmala) and Babite lake flood risk areas
- Development of hydrological simulation and forecasting system for Venta, Lielupe and Gauja river basin districts
- Contribution of Norwegian experts





ACTIVITY 2.2. Research for maritime spatial planning



OBJECTIVES

•Development of draft Maritime Spatial Plan and Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment

PROGRESS

- •Finalization of the public procurements and entering into the agreement with the Baltic Environmental Forum about Maritime Spatial Plan and Environmental Impact Assessment development
 - ✓ Prepared report of the potential uses of the Baltic Sea which will be included in Maritime Spatial Plan
 - ✓ Prepared two interim reports about progress in Maritime Spatial Plan and Environmental Impact Assessment development
 - ✓ Developed methodology for the ecological value determination of the territorial waters of Latvia

- •Development of maritime planning documents, geospatial data base and organization of public hearings
- •Development of third interim report about progress in Maritime Spatial Plan and Environmental Impact Assessment development
- Contribution of Norwegian expert/peer-review of planning deliverables



ACTIVITY 2.3. Thematic reports on risk and vulnerability assessment and adaptation measures



OBJECTIVE

•Development of risk and vulnerability assessment and identification of adaption measures on 6 sectors: building and infrastructure planning; farming and forestry; civil protection and emergency planning; landscape planning and tourism; biodiversity and ecosystem services; health and wellbeing

PROGRESS

•Elaboration and announcement of the public procurement to procure preparation of 6 thematic reports on risk and vulnerability assessment *that also include identification of adaptation measures*. Procurement shall be completed in 19 October 2015.

NEXT ACTIVITIES

•Workshop on methodological approaches to risk and vulnerability assessment for adaptation to climate change (poss. December 2015)

•Workshop on identification and cost-benefit analysis of adaptation measures (poss. December





ACTIVITY 2.4. Policy proposal for National Adaptation strategy





ska un postflumu vietu kartēšanu un pilnveidotu plūdu ris-

OBJECTIVE

•Development of policy proposal for Latvia's National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

PROGRESS

- •Participation in the 4th Round Table of Baltic Sea Region Climate Change Dialogue Platform (April 2015) to gather experience of other countries
- •Elaboration of the public procurement documentation to procure preparation of the adaptation strategy

- Announcement of the public procurement
- •Participation in the 5th Round Table of Baltic Sea Region Climate Change Dialogue Platform (October 2015) to gather experience of other countries and share Latvia's experience
- •Workshop on adaptation measures multi-level governance and policy design (poss. January 2016)



ACTIVITY 2.5. Climate change web portal



OBJECTIVE

Development od Climate change web portal

PROGRESS

- •Developed general concept of the web portal (goal, target-audience, structure, design etc.)
- •Consultations with experts in order to ensure functionality and maintenance the web portal
- •Adjusted activity implementation plan (schedule, budget plan) in order to contract detailed elaboration of technical specification of the web portal
- •Elaboration of the public procurement documentation to procure the preparation of technical specification of the web portal

- •Announcement of public procurement entering into the agreement with contractor and execution of respective tasks
- Procurement of the technical elaboration of the web portal



Activity 3. Publicity



PROGRESS

- Inclusion and regular update of information about the Project in project promoter's and partners' web pages
- Production of representative materials
- Dedicated publication in press
- Developed climate change logo

- Continuation of regular updating of information of the Project in www and communication with media in relation to project milestones and deliverables
- Dedicated publication in press









Mayors Adapt initiative



- Launched: Officially on 15 October 2015, with the Covenant of Mayors
- Part of Covenant of Mayors
- Promotion of adaptation action in municipalities
- Based on EU Strategy on Adaptation
- From Latvia one municipality:
 - Valka (acceded: 2015)
 - Jurmala has raised interest
- Requirements for municipalities:
 - Develop adaptation strategy (in 2 years)
 - Report on progress (every 2 years)



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Thank you for your attention!