

Clima East: Support to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
in ENP East Countries and Russia

**Conference on ecosystem-based adaptation
and lessons for national adaptation planning**
22-23 September, 2015
Chisinau (Moldova), Hotel Codru

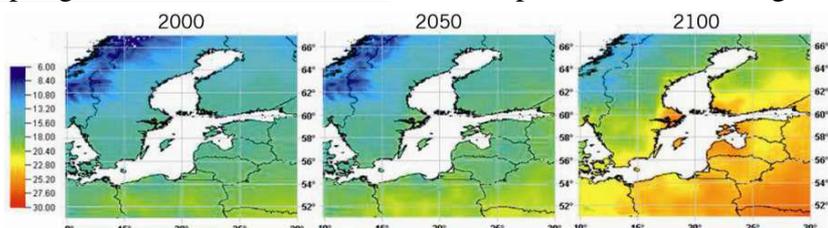
Synopsis of the meeting and key take home messages

Background Climate change is placing pressures on all countries to make progress in adaptation planning. However all countries, including the Clima East Partner Countries and the EU, face challenges and barriers to action at national level, in particular since the task requires cross-sectoral and inter-agency action that may not align with existing governance structures. Clima East is supporting both national adaptation planning through its Policy component and innovative ecosystem-based adaptation approaches through its Pilot Projects which offer novel opportunities to demonstrate the principles of inclusive planning for resilience and adaptation.

This conference aimed to support dialogue to further strengthen understanding and action to address the negative impacts of climate change on landscapes and communities. It brought together diverse stakeholders from the 7 Clima East Partner Countries and representatives and practitioners from the European Commission, EU Member States, UNDP, the Clima East teams, and representatives of other EU-funded projects in the region including Climate Forum East II and FLEG II. Partner Country participants included delegates from 21 different sectoral national ministries and agencies, 7 NGOs, as well as academic institutes and local authorities. The participants discussed key policy obstacles and opportunities facing adaptation planning, and solutions that policymakers and stakeholders can consider.

The participant presentations and discussions highlighted the following key take home messages:

- *The evidence and understanding of climate impacts in the Eastern Partnership region and the EU continues to grow:* a presenter from Clima East Policy Project showed recent research from Russia suggesting temperature rise in Eurasia over the last 25 years has been greatest precisely in the Eastern Partnership region and western Russia, while a representative working with Natura 2000 in Latvia showed the fundamental projected climate shift in north eastern Europe to 2100 (see left)



- **Adaptation brings cross-cutting benefits, crucially protecting lives and livelihoods, but also maximizing economic efficiency and bringing new economic opportunities, and itself reducing GHG emissions.**
- **Finding the public investment needed to kick start and support action remains a challenge.** Experience shows that it is necessary to bring together diverse sources of finance from international funding bodies, national budgets, and private and community resources, but mainstreaming and legitimising adaptation expenditure through revised budget codes is key.
- **Adaptation requires action at local, national and international level, and intensive communication between all three.** Adaptation action is rooted in the specifics of the landscapes and communities of each country and locality, but requires dialogue and support through strategic action at national and international level. A clear and compelling high level policy framework (such as provided under EU directives and strategy documents) will be a key driver of accelerated action with deeper impact. Dialogue will need to address regulatory and legal hurdles to action through, for example, more consultative planning processes, and changing and improving economic and fiscal incentives to work with adaptation measures. In particular, new mechanisms need to be built, and existing opportunities used more fully, to overcome manmade boundaries at district and regional level, and between states, to work more effectively with natural systems that function across these borders. Examples were brought from the Clima East Pilot Projects and from the EU where stakeholders were coming together to overcome these barriers, and cross-border funding opportunities such as EU LIFE+ were highlighted.
- **Adaptation requires complex information** on climate change, local ecosystems, and local communities and economies. To work, the science and data must be good. Investment is needed to generate and integrate this data to get the interventions right.
- **Achieving more effective adaptation planning, using ecosystem or similar approaches, is about awareness and changing behaviour – and is an iterative process.** Engagement and awareness-raising both for the public and within government needs to be long-term, and systematic, with a recognition that change in behaviour is the crucial requirement for mainstreaming climate into public policy and public perceptions
- **We are all learning as we go** – the need to share experiences, knowledge, successes and failures is crucial, and facilitating access to this knowledge. Projects such as Clima East, and initiatives like Climate ADAPT, can support this need.

