



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY  
OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Directorate-General Climate Action  
Unit C3 - Adaptation  
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Your ref

Our ref

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## CONSULTATION ON THE PREPARATION OF THE EU ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Norway appreciates this opportunity to provide input on the preparation of the EU Adaptation Strategy.

EU has an important role to play in preparing Europe for a changing climate. We support the overall priorities of the White Paper presented in 2009 on developing the common knowledge base, ensuring easy access to reliable information about the impacts of climate change and how to enhance resilience through Climate-adapt.

Horizon2020 highlights the importance of research as part of the European policy response. We take note of the estimate that more than a third of the Horizon 2020 budget will be climate related expenditure.

- **The increased focus on climate related research across Europe also at the national level calls to attention the need to coordinate research efforts.**

As a consequence Norway has engaged actively in the development of several European Joint Programming Initiatives. Considering also the immediate impacts and risks, measures should ensure that

- **research is directed to inform the most important policy priorities,**
- **delay from knowledge development to policy development is minimized.**

The development of climate services is part the effort to facilitate adaption action based on the most updated climate sciences.

- **The EU strategy should explore how EU can contribute further to the development of climate services.**

Temperatures have been rising much faster in the Arctic than in other regions, resulting in melting ice, thawing permafrost and increasing risks to ecosystems and species adapted to colder conditions.

- **A European strategy on adaptation to climate change should take into consideration the wider implications of the rapid ongoing changes in the Arctic.**

Many issues will affect people across borders and impacts will be unevenly distributed, posing more severe challenges to the most exposed and vulnerable communities.


- **When considering new policy measures at the EU-level, assessments of vulnerability should play an important role.**
- **Impacts will be diverse across regions and should primarily be dealt with on the local and national level.**

Within the framework of the EEA Grants Norway contributes financially to programmes for climate adaptation strategies in several EU-countries. We appreciate the bilateral cooperation in relation to these programmes, in addition to the cooperation at EU-level.

Finally we would like to draw the attention to some recommendations from a national vulnerability assessment for Norway conducted 2009-2010. The committee concluded that:

- **adaptation action should be comprehensive, considering the wider implications relating to mitigation efforts and the natural environment**
- **the lack of maintenance and repair in key infrastructures and fragmentation in the natural environment increases vulnerability towards climate change**
- **all sectors need to take responsibility for assessing and addressing the impacts of climate change on their areas of competence.**
- **eco-system based management of our natural environment should be given priority and existing regulation should be enforced with more strength.**
- **infrastructure sectors are vulnerable to climate change, in particular the sewage and water supply systems and buildings.**

Yours sincerely,



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