



Climate Strategy and Action Plan



Newsletter December 2017

www.serbiacclimatestrategy.eu

Developing a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for Serbia

Why a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan?

The Paris Agreement, adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015, sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.

In anticipation of its adoption, countries publicly outlined which post-2020 climate actions they intend to take under the new international agreement, known as their (Intended) Nationally Determined Contributions - (I)NDCs.

With its NDC, Serbia submitted the pledge to reduce GHG emissions by 9.8% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. Moreover, it is also stated that the total material damage caused by extreme climate and weather conditions in the Republic of Serbia between 2000-2015 exceeds 5 billion euros, of which more than 70% of the losses are associated with drought and high temperatures. Another major cause of significant losses were floods.

Now, Serbia needs to put in place robust climate and energy policies that will enable not only the implementation of the current pledge but also to address long term emission reductions until 2050 and beyond.

Low carbon development goes hand-in-hand with sustainable economic development and will lead to economic innovation, job creation, investments in clean technology, and securing energy supply. For example the EU continues successfully decouple its economic growth from its emissions. Between 1990 and 2016, the EU's GDP grew by 53 %, while total emissions fell by 23%.

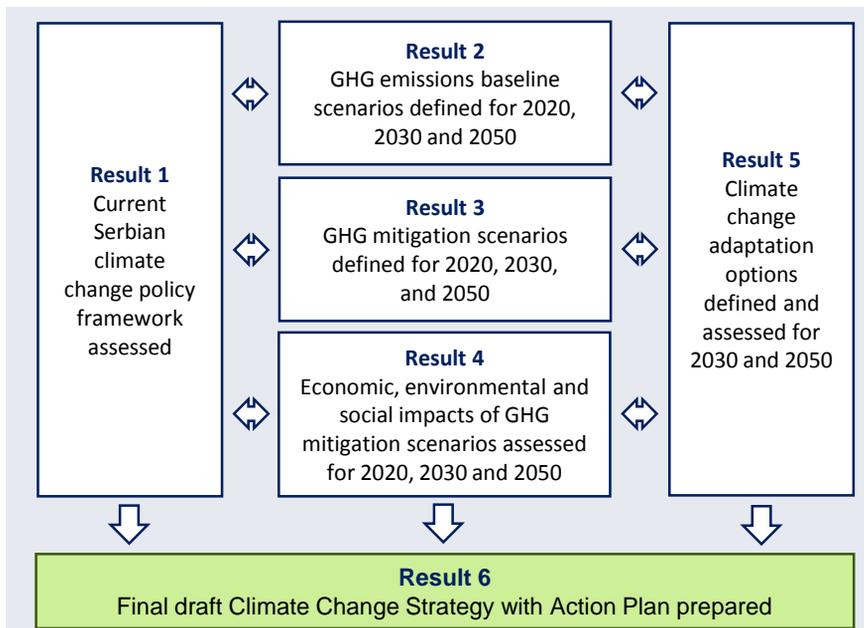
In order to support the Paris objectives,

the European Union (EU) adopted the 2030 Climate and Energy Framework; its targets entail a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction of 40% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. The target has been set high to 40%, since EU emissions were already 23 % below 1990 levels, based on preliminary data from 2016.

In 2030, EU emissions are expected to be 30 % lower than in 1990 if no additional policies were implemented. The EU is therefore currently negotiating a new legislation to ensure that it will meet its objective of reducing emissions by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990.

The Climate Change Strategy and corresponding Action Plan will therefore contribute not only to the climate change objectives, but also to the national economic and social objectives.

FRAMEWORK OF PROJECT RESULTS



What's it all about?

The project „Climate Strategy and Action Plan”, funded by the European Union through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA 2014) is coordinated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection. It establishes a national cross-sectoral strategic and policy framework for climate action in Serbia in compliance with international obligations and pledges on greenhouse gas mitigation, in particular with the Paris Agreement and the EU 2030 Climate and Energy Framework.

More precisely, the project will:

- Identify and assess cost-effective GHG mitigation potential for Serbia, while taking into account Serbia's development, policies and goals, and
- assess opportunities for and costs of climate change adaptation in three priority areas.

This process is designed to be open, participative and transparent, requiring active stakeholder engagement.



Recent Project Developments

Stakeholders identified priority adaptation measures for water, agriculture and forestry sectors

The identification of adaptation options is part of the Climate Strategy (Result 5). Significant input to this process has been gained during consultation organised on the 24th and 25th of October 2017 with relevant stakeholders representing the Water, Agriculture and Forestry sectors. These include governmental institutions, industry, local communities, academics and NGOs. The inputs of stakeholders lead to a richer strategy, featured by most appropriate solutions, and better adjusted to Serbian circumstances.

Overall, 34 participants from more than 25 organizations were contributing in the identification of priority adaptation measures for hydroenergy, biomass and food production.

After a short introduction to climate scenarios and respective impacts on each sector, given by national experts and referring to the Second National Communication, stakeholders were invited to assess the severity of impacts of climate change, using a risk based approach.

By combining the assessed risks with the likelihood for impacts given in the Second National Communication, the project team proposed a short list of adaptation measures composed only of those measures which addressed the highest risks.

Participants were then invited to evaluate the selection of measures that address the highest risk through assessing the measure's effectiveness, efficiency, mitigation, urgency and multifunctionality.

The elaborated three priority adaptation measures per sector will be included in the Strategy and Action Plan.



International News

COP23 – Planet at the crossroads

From the 6th to 17th of November 2017, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held its 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP 23) in Bonn, Germany, under the Presidency of Fiji. For two weeks, the agenda of the delegates coming from 197 member states of the UNFCCC has been packed with negotiations on the implementation of the Paris Agreement's objectives.

COP23 has been crucial to pave the way for the "Talanoa dialogue", formerly known as the "facilitative dialogue". Fiji has renamed the talks after a Pacific island concept of using storytelling and talking as a way to make good decisions. This dialogue has been put into place to ensure that ambitions expressed in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are further enhanced. All these efforts are taken to achieve the most prominent goal of the Paris Agreement: To limit global warming to well below 2°C.

Additionally, the Paris rulebook, a guide that leads parties through implementation and which is to be finalized by the end of 2018, now has a skeleton: a set of headings relating to how action on emissions is reported and monitored. Nations have also fleshed this out with suggested detailed texts, but these are often contradictory and will need to be resolved next year.

Parties agreed to work over the next few years on a series of issues linking climate change and agriculture. They agreed to streamline two separate technical discussions on this topic into one process. Countries have now been asked to share their views on how to improve soil carbon and fertility, how to improve nutrient use and manure management, how to assess adaptation and resilience and the creation of better livestock management systems.

As in recent years, a large and colorful gathering of climate protection activists from all over the world and from a wide range of social areas took place parallel to the official negotiations.



CONTACTS

EU Project "Climate Strategy and Action Plan", Ministry of Environmental Protection
SIV 3, Omladinskih brigada 1 / 518, 11070 New Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, Tel: +381 (0) 11 3131 220

Danijela Božanić, Danijela.Bozanic@eko.minpolj.gov.rs
Head of Section for Climate Change, Ministry of Environmental Protection

Goncalo Cavalheiro, Goncalo.Cavalheiro@gfa-group.de
Project Key Expert

The content of this publication are the sole responsibility of the project team and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

A project implemented
by a consortium led by

