

PRESS RELEASE

THE OVERVIEW OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION MEASURES FOR SERBIA

Belgrade, 26 September 2018 – In the scope of the Climate Diplomacy Week, the EU IPA funded Project “Climate Strategy and Action Plan” and the Ministry of Environmental Protection organised the Workshop “**Adaptation to climate change in priority sectors**”. The workshop was an opportunity to present three climate change adaptation options for priority sectors: agriculture (food production), forestry (bioenergy), hydrology and water resources (hydro-electric production).

The project provides support to the Ministry of Environmental Protection in preparation of the national cross-sectoral Climate Strategy and Action Plan, which will establish a strategic framework for climate action, in compliance with Serbia’s pledges on climate action and EU accession process. The Climate Strategy and Action Plan aims to identify the possibilities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (through the GHG emission reduction scenario) as an adaptation to climate change for priority sectors. The criteria for selecting the priority sectors is based on their vulnerability to climate change and the importance of applying climate change mitigation measures. Adaptation measures with related technical and administrative requirements can be regarded as high priorities for future adaptation action in the Republic of Serbia.

Current climate change scenarios for Serbia show that the country is extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts, especially droughts and forest fires. Adaptation measures for priority sectors were identified based on the broader list of measures presented in the Second National Communication (SNC) and the draft National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The identification of the most important adaptation measures, with effects up to 2030/2050, was based on the risk assessment methodology, through application of the Adaptation Planning Framework.

Climate Strategy and Action Plan will focus on the GHG reduction but not in an isolated way though taking into account the negative climate change effects and propose priority adaptation measures. The Strategy will aim at identifying new opportunities for industries, directions for competitive and sustainable development, consideration of the energy security and alignment of national policies with the EU framework.

For agriculture sector, with a particular focus on food production, the following measures were identified: new irrigation systems construction and more efficient use of existing systems; construction of new small accumulation lakes, ponds and reservoirs for water supply, irrigation, erosion control and ecosystem services; and adaptation of cultivation technologies.

For forestry sector, with a particular focus on bioenergy production, the following measures were identified: afforestation of new land using site mapping and climate change adapted tree species; change of forest management practices toward close to nature forest management approach; and introduction of a "climate smart forestry" approach that optimally uses forest sites to increase forest growth.

For hydrology and water resources sector, with a particular focus on hydro-electric production, the following measures were identified: construction of flooding/torrential barriers and additional measures in the basin; improvement of the system for observation, data collection and early warning systems for extreme climate and hydrological events; and increase in water storage capacity.

The workshop was also an opportunity for the presentation of the Adaptation Planning Framework, which is a user friendly step-by-step guide in assessing vulnerability to climate change and identifying measures adapt to climate change from small investments to large programmatic development initiatives.