Framing the challenge

Introducing the guidebook on integrating climate change knowledge into planning
Launched in July 2012, the OrientGate project aims to build a solid partnership between communities undertaking climate change studies and communities that apply the knowledge obtained in regional planning.

- Many countries in South Eastern Europe (SEE) are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. OrientGate is fostering a better understanding of climate risks and identifying concrete adaptation measures.
- In order to encourage the involvement of local communities, the OrientGate project has helped to make existing information more available and accessible.
- The project’s transnational approach has enabled the OrientGate partners to build a dynamic network, helping to overcome barriers to the efficient exploitation of scientific climate knowledge in territorial planning.
- Regional policy making can be improved by ensuring that stakeholders and authorities have timely access to sufficient quantities of scientific climate data.
Guidebook aims

The project’s final publication provides responses to the following questions:

- How can climate challenges be addressed while at the same time meeting social and economic objectives?
- What scientific information do regions need to help them understand their vulnerability to climate change and increase their climate resilience?
- How can regions use scientific information to become drivers of climate change adaptation action?
- What challenges remain to be overcome?

Guidebook contents

Introduction

Chapter 1  Strategic framework. The opening chapter outlines adaptation policies and describes the adaptation context at EU and national level. It covers forestry and agriculture, water, urban areas and health. Scientific knowledge that sheds light on climate change adaptation issues is also highlighted.

Chapter 2  Steps towards integrating science into planning. Issues covered in the second chapter include the building of climate scenarios; assessments of the past and future projections; stakeholder involvement; and the development of indicators and tools for planning.

Chapter 3  Analysing vulnerabilities. The results of the six pilot studies carried out under OrientGate’s thematic centres are presented in Chapter 3. The studies covered forestry and agriculture; drought, water and coasts; and urban adaptation and health.

Chapter 4  Lessons learned. Key constraints and limitations in terms of climate change adaptation are described in this chapter, drawing on the results of the pilot studies. Future challenges and opportunities are also outlined.

Chapter 5  Recommendations. The final chapter presents findings relevant to European institutions and national and regional policy makers.
The publication *Integrating Climate Change Knowledge into Planning: A Guidebook for European regions and communities* is available at www.orientgateproject.org