

# Climate-ADAPT use case 3 — Bulgaria

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## Encouraging Bulgarian stakeholders to use the Bulgarian country page and further resources on Climate-ADAPT to inform the development of the Bulgarian National Adaptation Strategy

**Climate-ADAPT features used:** database (case studies); EU policy; countries/regions/cities (country pages)

**Sector:** adaptation in general

**Governance level:** national

**Biogeographical region:**  
Continental/Black Sea/Mediterranean

**Macro-region:** Danube

**Policy stage:** policy development/implementation

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### The challenge

Based on the commitment in the Climate Change Mitigation Act, the Bulgarian government is committed to developing a national adaptation strategy. The Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) is coordinating the development of the strategy following a step-wise approach, guided by the EU Adaptation Strategy. To ensure a methodological basis, the MOEW published a framework document in 2014, National climate change risk and vulnerability assessment for the sectors of the Bulgarian economy. Supported by funding from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, a package of strategic documents, a set of risk and vulnerability assessments and a number of other documents with sectoral measures and economic analyses will be developed for the medium-term, up to 2030.

### The approach

A National Coordination Council on Climate Change led by the MOEW and involving representatives of

all ministries and agencies is fostering the strategy development. The MOEW website serves as an outreach platform; the most important documents related to adaptation are published there, as well as ecological advice and various campaigns and competitions. However, no dedicated national knowledge platform on adaptation is available yet. To align the national adaptation strategy with the EU Adaptation Strategy, the MOEW used Climate-ADAPT, which has all the relevant EU information in one place, as a starting point for clarifying what the Bulgarian strategy might look like and how to proceed with the process. The EU policy pages were regularly consulted to keep track of recent developments in EU adaptation policy, for example in the sectors. The individual pages of other EU countries, accessible using the thematic maps in the interactive Map Viewer, were used to quickly access individual pages from other European countries, which were perceived as trusted information, and to learn from their experiences of strategy development and implementation. Many documents are provided in national languages on the country pages, which limits access to the countries' information sources linked to on Climate-ADAPT. The MOEW found the Climate-ADAPT case studies particularly helpful; it used them to present illustrative examples of already implemented adaptation measures at meetings and conferences that took place during the development of the national adaptation strategy.

Since Climate-ADAPT is a very complex platform, the webinars carried out by the EEA on Climate-ADAPT from April 2015 and the additional guidance documents provided help to users to become more familiar with the platform's structure and content. As well as using Climate-ADAPT features as reference information in multiple ways, Bulgaria benefits particularly from the added value of Climate-ADAPT, since it is a country without a comprehensive national adaptation platform. Actors involved in the adaptation policy process in Bulgaria were encouraged by using the Bulgaria country page, since the information available there is regularly updated by the MOEW and provides, along with the MOEW's website, the most comprehensive overview of adaptation in Bulgaria available.

Conference called upon the contracting parties, local and regional authorities and other stakeholders of the Carpathian region to formulate policies and design strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

### Future plans

The MOEW plans to adopt the national adaptation strategy and develop a national adaptation policy. While proceeding with the policy process, the MOEW would like to publish national case studies on Climate-ADAPT. There are already three Bulgarian case studies available on Climate-ADAPT ('Flood protection Smolyan', 'Lower Danube green corridor' and 'Preparing a market for adaptation solutions — Climabiz'). The MOEW will seek specific cooperation with Climate-ADAPT to present Bulgarian case studies at European level in a complementary way.

**Figure A3** One of the Rila lakes in the Rila Mountains

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**Source:** © Pixabay.