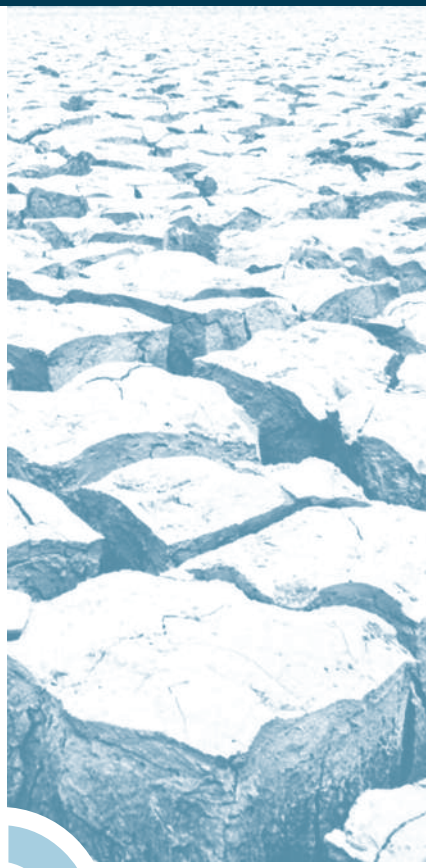


Orientgate

Integrating Climate Knowledge into Planning

SOUTH EAST EUROPE
Jointly for our common future

Programme co-funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

The OrientGate project aims to coordinate climate change adaptation efforts in South Eastern Europe (SEE) by building a lasting partnership between communities that produce climate knowledge and communities that apply that knowledge.

Meeting a need

Many countries in SEE are affected by extreme climatological, meteorological and hydrological events. However, progress in adapting to climatic changes is hindered by the fragmentation and lack of coordination of data services, patchy risk assessment procedures, and the low uptake of available knowledge in territorial development and other climate-sensitive sectors. Several European research projects and other efforts coordinated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have recognised the urgent need to overcome the barriers preventing the efficient exploitation of climate knowledge produced by the scientific community, allowing it to be taken into account appropriately in the formation of policies and the development of adaptation strategies.

Defining a goal

OrientGate aims to connect climate change policy planners and decision makers with the communities that produce climate knowledge. The project will explore climate risks faced by coastal, rural and urban communities and will contribute to a better understanding of the impacts of climate variability and change on water regimes, forests and agro-ecosystems. Project partners will also analyse specific adaptation needs in the hydroelectricity, agro-alimentary and health sectors. This will result in up-to-date climate knowledge for use by policy makers, such as urban planners, nature protection authorities, regional and local development agencies, and territorial and public works authorities.

Building a partnership

The OrientGate partnership comprises 19 financing partners, 11 associates and three observers, covering 13 countries. Partners have differing roles and can be grouped into three main categories: scientific institutions; national hydrometeorological services; and institutions responsible for policy planning. The project, led by the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change (CMCC), was launched in July 2012 and is co-funded by the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme.

Taking action

Project activities include:

- mapping the variety of methodologies, tools and indicators used by hydrometeorological services across the SEE region;
- developing a comprehensive and consistent methodology for assessing the risks arising as a result of climate variability and change;
- producing a web-based data platform comprising a set of web tools that provide access to data from climate observations and simulations; and
- carrying out a series of capacity-building seminars and workshops embedded in the context of each participating country's national platform for disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation.

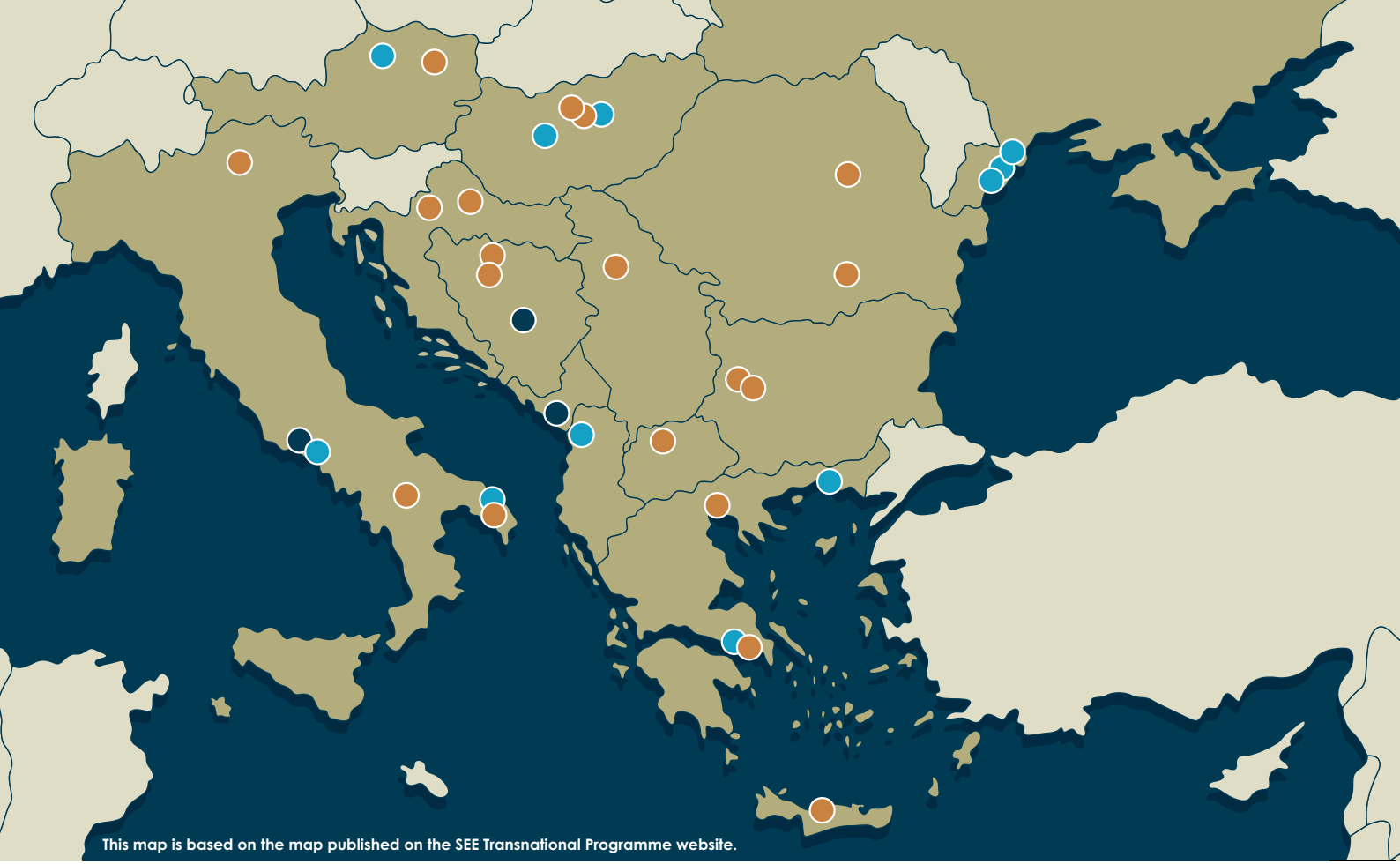
Six pilot vulnerability studies will be carried out under three thematic centres. The studies will demonstrate the benefits of data and indicators that are harmonised across the region for designing specific climate adaptation policies and measures. Each case study will cover the entire chain, including monitoring; risk and adaptation needs assessment; and the transfer of lessons learned into policies and planning.

Thematic centres

TC1: Forestry and Agriculture Two pilot vulnerability studies will be carried out, focusing on climate change adaptation in the forests of the Austrian Alps and in the agricultural sector in two counties in Romania.

TC2: Drought, Water and Coasts Three pilot studies will assess vulnerability in the coastal area of the Region of Puglia, Italy; wetland ecosystems in the Attica region of Greece; and the use of water resources in hydropower generation in the Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy.

TC3: Urban Adaptation and Health A pilot vulnerability study will explore how public health adaptation needs can be mainstreamed into urban policy planning in two municipalities in Hungary.



This map is based on the map published on the SEE Transnational Programme website.

Partners

Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change, Italy (lead partner)

Forestry Department, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria

Gradiska Local Development Agency, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Hydrometeorological Service of Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Bulgaria

National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, Bulgaria

City of Koprivnica, Croatia

Meteorological and Hydrological Service, Croatia

Attica Region, Greece

Center for Technological Research of Crete, Greece

Goulandris Natural History Museum, Greek Biotope Wetland Centre, Greece

Hungarian Meteorological Service

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Hungary

Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy

Department of Environment, Territory and Sustainability Policies, Basilicata Region, Italy

Hydrometeorological Service, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Environmental Protection Agency of Covasna, Romania

National Meteorological Administration, Romania

Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia

Associated partners

Regional Council of Shkodra, Albania

Forest Service of the Federal State Government of Upper Austria

Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Greece

Municipality of Komotini, Greece

13th District of Budapest, Hungary

Municipality of Veszprem, Hungary

Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea

Region of Puglia, Mediterranean Department, Italy

General Department of Foreign EconomicActivity and European Integration, Odessa Regional State Administration, Ukraine

Odessa State Environmental University, Ukraine

Vilkovo City Council, Ukraine

Observing partners

Federal Hydrometeorological Institute, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Union of Italian Provinces

Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro

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If you would like to subscribe to the project newsletter *Climate Gateway*, please write to Venelina Varbova.

In order to enhance the impact of the project, the OrientGate partners would be happy to get in touch with other similar initiatives, individual regions with good practice in the field, as well as companies and/or organisations carrying out research on the topic. If you have relevant experience to share, please write to Martino Bacile di Castiglione or Venelina Varbova.

www.orientgateproject.org