

Climate-ADAPT use case 5 — Poland

Informing urban adaptation plans for large cities in Poland using Climate-ADAPT

Climate-ADAPT features used: database (case studies); countries/regions/cities (country pages Map Viewer and individual pages); knowledge (Urban Adaptation Support Tool/Case Study Search Tool)

Sector: adaptation in general

Governance level: national

Biogeographical region: Continental

Macro-region: Central Europe/Baltic Sea

Policy stage: policy development/implementation

The challenge

Cities in Poland are facing various impacts of climate change, including river flooding and heat waves. One of the key actions of the Polish National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change (NAS 2020), adopted in October 2013, was therefore to foster urban adaptation in Poland. Since a national adaptation action plan is not envisaged by the Polish government, the Ministry of the Environment (*Ministerstwo Środowiska*), which is in charge of implementing adaptation policy at national level — using a policy of 'soft coordination' — will encourage regional and local authorities to prepare action plans at regional or local level as soon as regional or local strategies are adopted.

The approach

As part of the implementation of the NAS 2020 process, the Ministry of the Environment has initiated and is currently coordinating the project 'Development of urban adaptation plans for cities with more than 100 000 inhabitants in Poland'. The Ministry of the Environment is conducting the project and has provided funds for its implementation

within the 2014-2020 Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment. Urban adaptation plans were developed for [44 cities](#) in a step-wise approach from 2014 to 2017. All the plans follow the same methodology and have been developed by a consortium composed of the National Research Institute (leader), the Institute of Environmental Protection, the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management, the Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas, and a consulting and engineering company (ARCADIS), as well as a subcontractor responsible for project communication (Deloitte Polska). All the work is carried out in close cooperation with the city administrations and under the supervision of the Ministry of the Environment. Over 30 % of the Polish population lives in the cities covered by the project.

The information provided on Climate-ADAPT was used to inform this policy process and to support participatory processes at national level in Poland. Climate-ADAPT information on national adaptation policies, as well as case studies from other European countries, supported the national adaptation policy by allowing learning from other useful approaches, and Climate-ADAPT tools were used to gain reference information. Climate-ADAPT features were valued by the Ministry of the Environment as one of the most important sources of information in the whole process, from the development of the national policy approach to the preparation of the specific urban adaptation guidelines.

The information provided on the Climate-ADAPT [country pages](#) was analysed for similarities, best practices and lessons learned on developing national adaptation policies and plans, and was used to compare the progress of the policy implementation in the various countries at national level. The export to PDF functionality and the possibility of creating images from the [Map Viewer](#) (using the 'Save as...' function, which could be accessed by right clicking) allowed easy export of the information for further use in documents and presentations that fed into the policy process. Climate-ADAPT case studies from various European countries (e.g. [Kruibeke, Belgium](#); [Montpellier, France](#))

were presented in meetings and workshops with stakeholders to illustrate implemented adaptation actions. The interactive Map Viewer available in the [Case Study Search Tool](#) was used to screen the case studies available on Climate-ADAPT and to select relevant ones in terms of impacts, adaptation sectors and European regions covered.

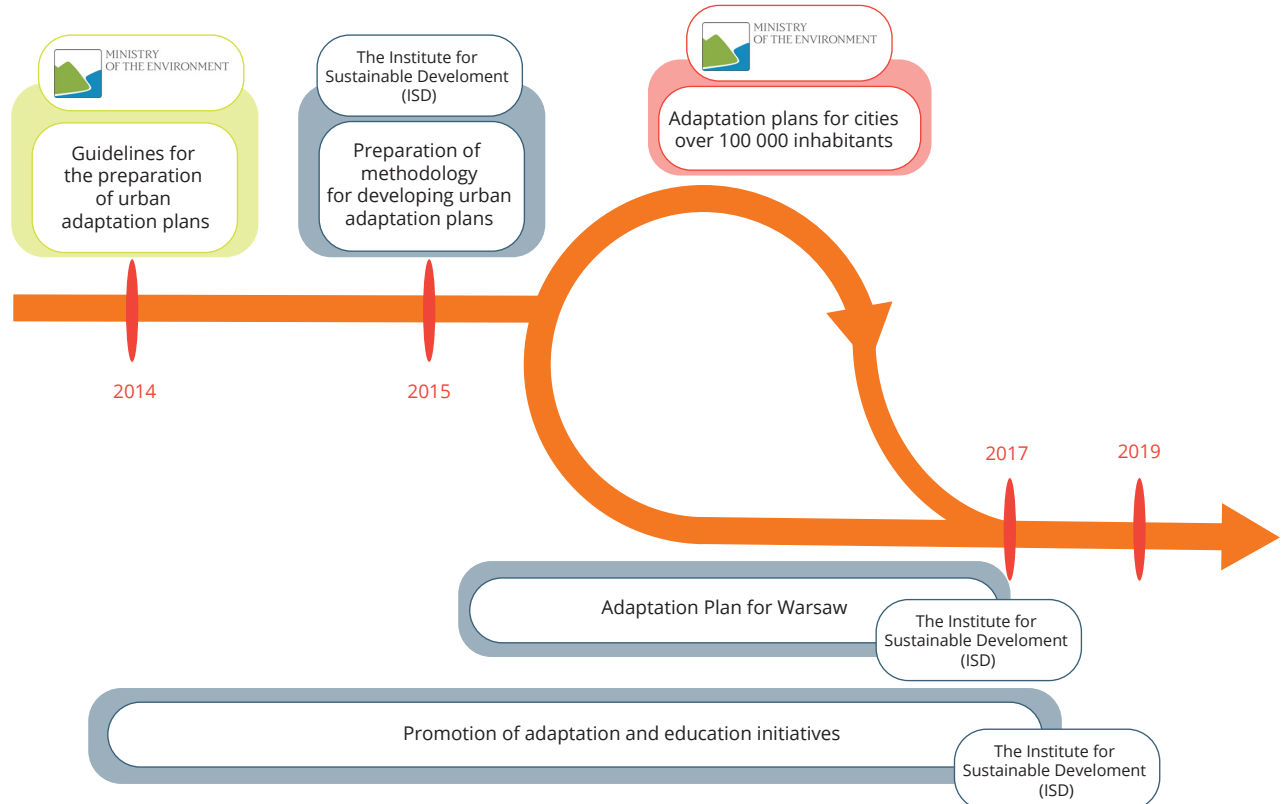
The [Adaptation Support Tool](#) as well as the more city-specific [Urban Adaptation Support Tool](#) (step 0-0) were extremely helpful in developing the Polish guidelines for urban adaptation strategy development, which were adapted to the specific situation in Poland. These guidelines, available on the national adaptation platform [Klimada](#), provide a shared framework and a checklist for the development of urban adaptation plans and are applicable to any local authority in Poland, including those not within the scope of the MPA (*Miejskie Plany Adaptacji*) project (Development of Urban Adaptation Plans for cities with more than 100 000 inhabitants in Poland).

The current plans for policy development on adaptation include the integration of adaptation to climate change into the national strategic document on environmental policies, continued work on urban adaptation in other Polish cities and the inclusion of adaptation issues in the framework of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) programming, as well as the development of new adaptation initiatives for rural areas and agriculture under the Responsible Development Strategy ⁽²²⁾.

The overview information on adaptation in European countries, representing adaptation at Member State level, is crucial from the perspective of the Polish Ministry of the Environment. A synthesis of the methods and results of the vulnerability assessments of all the countries, available in English, would add value, making it possible to easily compare and combine the outcomes for the purpose of further developing vulnerability assessments in Poland.

Future plans

Figure A5 Development of urban adaptation plans in Poland



Source: Marcin Gradzki.

⁽²²⁾ <https://www.premier.gov.pl/mobile/en/news/news/the-government-adopted-the-responsible-development-strategy.html> and https://www.mr.gov.pl/media/22166/ResponsibleDevelopment_Strategy_CapitalAccumulationProgramme.pdf