

PRESS RELEASE: Bratislava wants to raise the adaptive capacity towards the negative impact of climate change

Bratislava, 19.12.2012: The European Environment Agency (EEA) has released a new report detailing how climate change is having wide-ranging negative effects across Europe. The report is titled as *Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2012 – An indicator-based report* and brings attention to the challenges Europe is facing with climate change. The 304 page report analyses climate change its consequences in Europe. The article proposes some key messages that bring much needed attention to the observed and predicted socio-economic and cultural consequences that are now becoming problems for Europe and Slovakia. The report also shares the familiar message of the destructive effects that climate change is having on ecosystems and habitats.

The reports key messages reasserts the fact that climate change is being observed to be occurring globally and is indeed within Europe. These observed changes have had knock on effects which have lead to a wide range of environmental impacts with more severe impacts predicted for the future. The report also brings attention to how climate change can increase the socio-economic imbalances in Europe and that the damage costs from natural disasters have increased. With climate change expected to increase in the future these costs have been predicted to increase too. Whilst these damage costs are expected to increase in the future we can significantly reduce them by using mitigating and adapting actions.

Another point that the report highlights is that the causes of the most damaging and therefore costly climate impacts are expected to occur in differing regions through Europe. Meaning some countries will be more effected than others. Slovakia is a country that will have to deal with a large host of impacts, due to a large proportion of it's territory being mountainous, whilst the rest being lowlands. For example, in the lowlands regions where Bratislava is belonging, the following changes have been observed and predicted:

- An increase in warm temperature extremes
- An increase in water temperature
- A decrease in levels of summer precipitation
- An increase in the risk of forest fires
- A decrease in the economic value forests

To counter these changes, it is key to improve the mitigation and adaption actions available. The report suggests that continued systematic monitoring and research is needed at both the EU and national scales. This would allow assessments of past and future climate change and its impacts to be improved, thus enhancing the knowledge base for the adaptation and mitigation actions.

Bratislava has been chosen among other European cities 21 for the capacity building programme funded through the project EU Cities Adapt. Actually , the individual coach, Ms. Nanda 't Lam is on the visit in Bratislav with the aim to help with the local adaptation processes including preparing for the organisational set-up of Bratislava local adaptation work as well as to start identifying and prioritising some of the key adaptation challenges they face. The presentation and discussion organised for interested public about the "Adaptation to climate change in urbanised areas" is scheduled on Thursday, 20th of December at 15.30 in Town Hall in Bratislava, room No. 103. Until the end of the project (April 2013), the Adaptation Strategy for Bratislava shall be presented to the elected assembly for futher disussions. The Regional environmental Center Slovakia is in the role of the advisor for the Bratislava City Office. More information about the EU Cities project through the web [EU Cities Adapt website](#).

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