

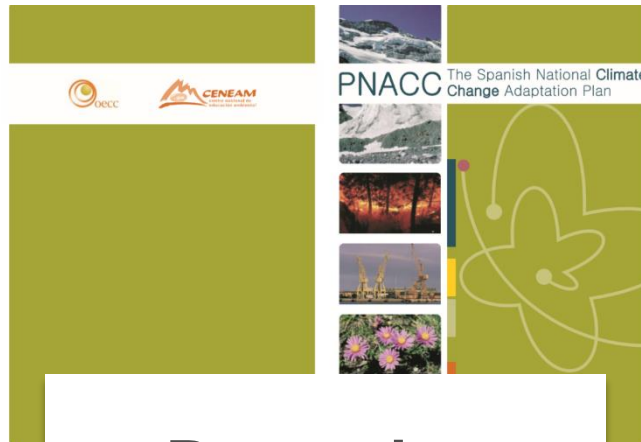


# EU Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation

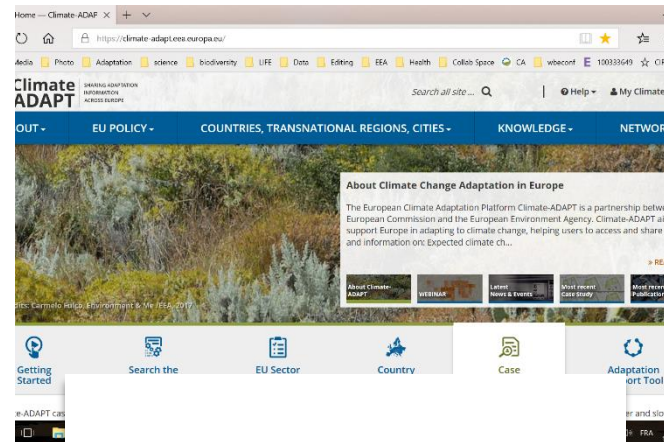
**Increasing ambition**

*Thaïs Leray  
DG Climate Action  
9 July 2020*

# EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change 2013



**Promoting  
action by  
Member States**



**Better informed  
decision-making**



**Climate-proofing  
EU action**

# Evaluation of the EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change (2018)

## Priority 1: Promoting action by Member States

Action 1. Encourage MS to adopt Adaptation Strategies and action plans

Action 2. LIFE funding, including adaptation priority areas

Action 3. Promoting adaptation action by cities along the Covenant of Mayors initiative

## Priority 2: Better informed decision-making

Action 4. Knowledge-gap strategy

Action 5. Climate-ADAPT

## Priority 3: Key vulnerable sectors

Action 6. Climate proofing the Common Agricultural Policy, Cohesion Policy, and the Common Fisheries Policy

Action 7. Making infrastructure more resilient

Action 8. Promote products & services by insurance and finance markets

*The evaluation shows that the strategy has delivered on its objectives, with progress recorded against each of its eight individual actions. The report, nevertheless, outlines how Europe is still vulnerable to climate impacts within and outside its borders.*

EC Communication  
(Nov 2018)

# Changing context

## More extreme events

(e.g. heatwaves, droughts, storms, wildfires 2x, floods 4x compared to 1980) – likelihood increased by climate change

## International agreements

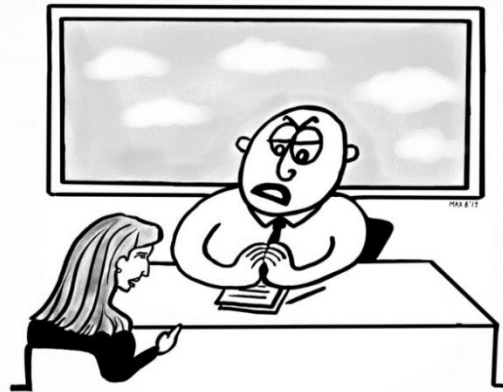
Paris agreement

Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction

SDGs

## Higher future damage estimates

(€ 40 billion/year at 1,5 °C  
€ 170 billion/year at 3°C )



-We have no funding for disasters that have not yet happened...

<https://bureau-crazy.com/>

# The European Green Deal

- The roadmap for making the **EU's economy sustainable**
- Make the EU **climate neutral by 2050**
- Proposal for a '**Climate Law** in March 2020
- A new, more ambitious **EU adaptation strategy**
- **European Climate Pact**
- Preserving and restoring **ecosystems and biodiversity**





# The Climate Law

## *Article 4*

### **Adaptation to climate change**

1. The relevant Union institutions and the Member States shall ensure continuous progress in enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change in accordance with Article 7 of the Paris Agreement.
2. Member States shall develop and implement adaptation strategies and plans that include comprehensive risk management frameworks, based on robust climate and vulnerability baselines and progress assessments.

*Pledges*

**Triggering  
action**

*Supporting  
Connecting*

*Yes I can!*

*#EUClimatePact*

**Talking  
about  
climate**

**Working  
together**

*Narratives  
Myths*

*Online &  
offline spaces*



# New EU adaptation strategy

- Climate proofing, resilience building, prevention and preparedness.
- Influence public and private investments, including on nature-based solutions.
- Enable EU, investors, insurers, businesses, cities and citizens to:
  - access climate-relevant data
  - develop instruments to integrate CC into risk management practices



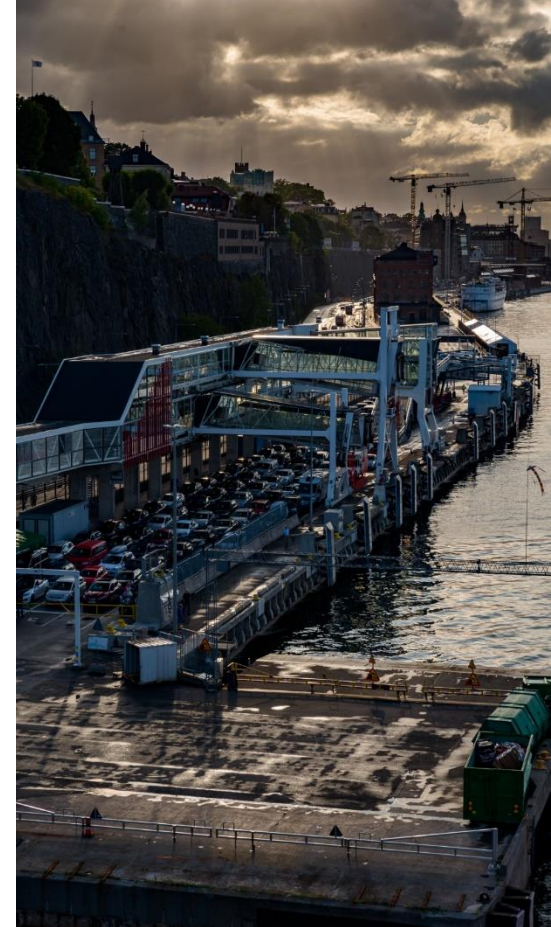
# Process towards the new Adaptation Strategy

- Published [Roadmap/Inception Impact Assessment](#)
- [Open Public Consultation](#) from 14 May to 20 August
  - based on a [blueprint](#) of the new strategy
- Consultation with Member States and Stakeholders
- High-level events to position the new strategy
  - Climate Adaptation Summit (January 2021)
  - DE PCY Water and Adaptation conference (November 2020)
- Adoption of new strategy in Q1 2021



# Blueprint (1) – what it is

- A blueprint (only EN) accompanies the consultation:
  - to provide context,
  - indicate possible directions of development,
  - and stimulate the debate.
- Proposing broad principles
  - articulation in a few (non-exhaustive) areas



# Blueprint (2) – towards the new strategy

- EU an early actor on adaptation, with varying speed across MS
- EU adaptation strategy must build on wealth of experience accumulated thus far:
- **improve knowledge** of climate impacts (e.g. through increased awareness, education, and better access to knowledge and fit-for-purpose data on individual and collective climate risks);
- **reinforce planning** and climate risk management (e.g. through risk assessments and management, and helping to close the climate protection gap via risk-transfer mechanisms);
- **accelerate action** with a focus on *solutions* (in addition to understanding), on deploying *innovation* (in addition to research), on *implementation* (in addition to planning), and on *prevention* (in addition to ex-post).



# Blueprint (3) – building blocks

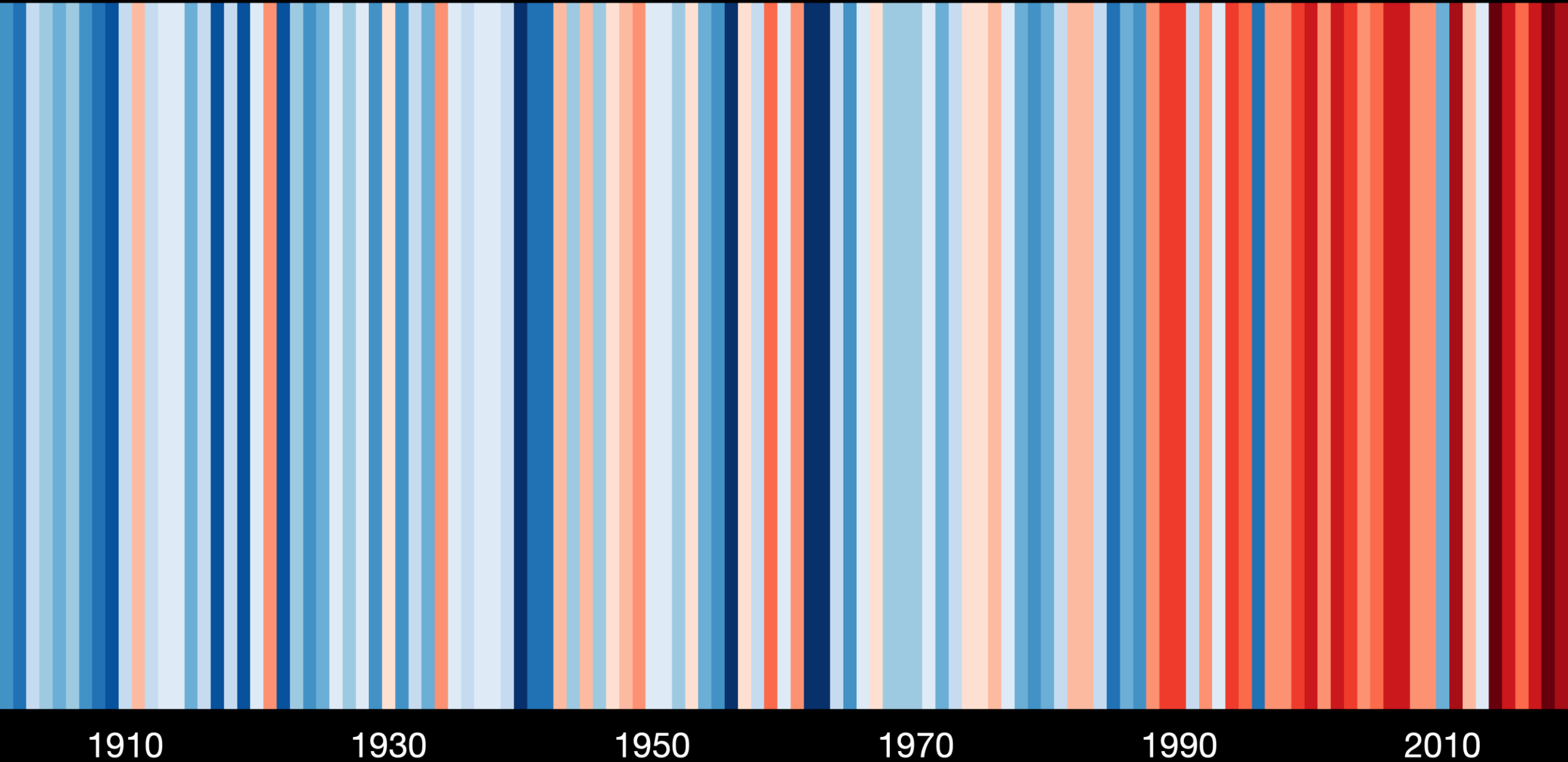
- further **mainstreaming** and integrating adaptation in EU instruments
  - following up (e.g. the next/revised MFF) and for new (initiatives (e.g. EGD);
- **support, monitor and share** Member State adaptation action and goals
  - including through the Climate Law, reporting under NECPs and Governance Regulation;
- encourage **resilience building in cities**
  - leveraging the success of the EU and Global Covenant of Mayors;
- **closing further gaps** in adaptation-relevant knowledge
  - through R&I in Horizon 2020 and HE; and through trends & forecasts from e.g. Copernicus
- financially **supporting adaptation** actions, including cross-border
  - *inter alia* through continued support from EU funds,
- by fostering and **incentivising private investment** in adaptation
  - in relation with the *Renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy* and the EU taxonomy

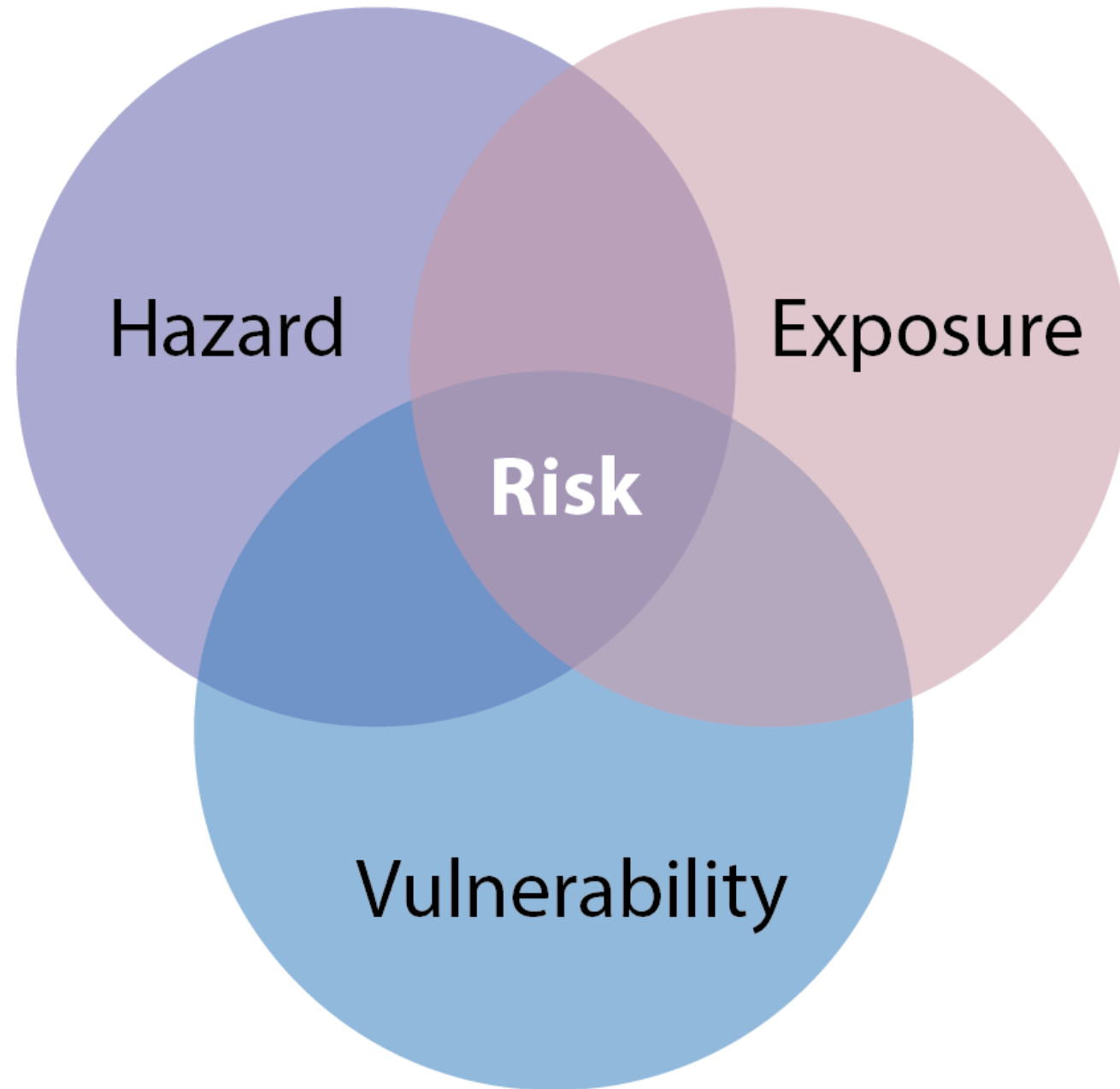


# Blueprint (4) – possible novelties

- More and better data
- Deeper knowledge and faster deployment of solutions
- Closing the climate protection gap
- Preventing damage to infrastructure and beyond
- Adapting forests and other ecosystems for an adapting society
- Oceans
- Reinforced global action for climate resilience

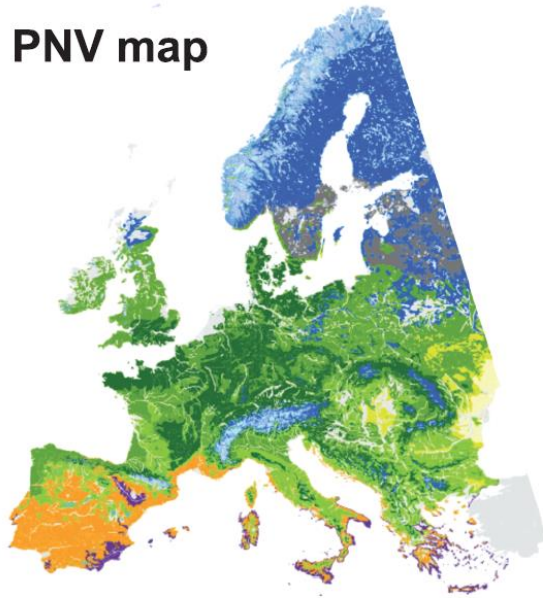
# Temperature change in Belgium since 1901



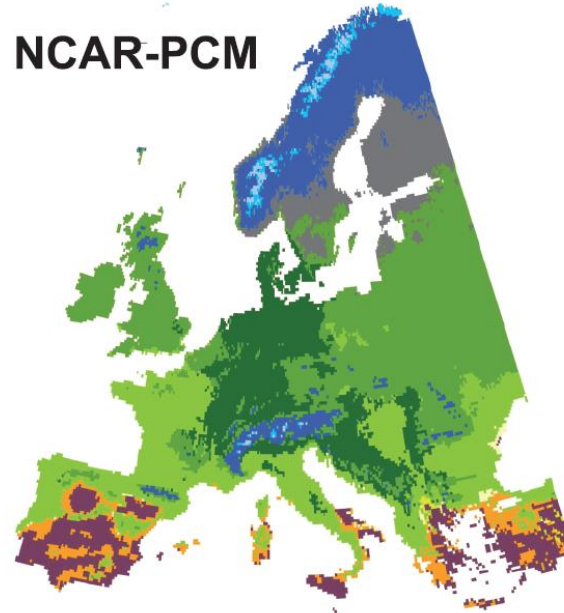


# Projected shifts in European vegetation zones

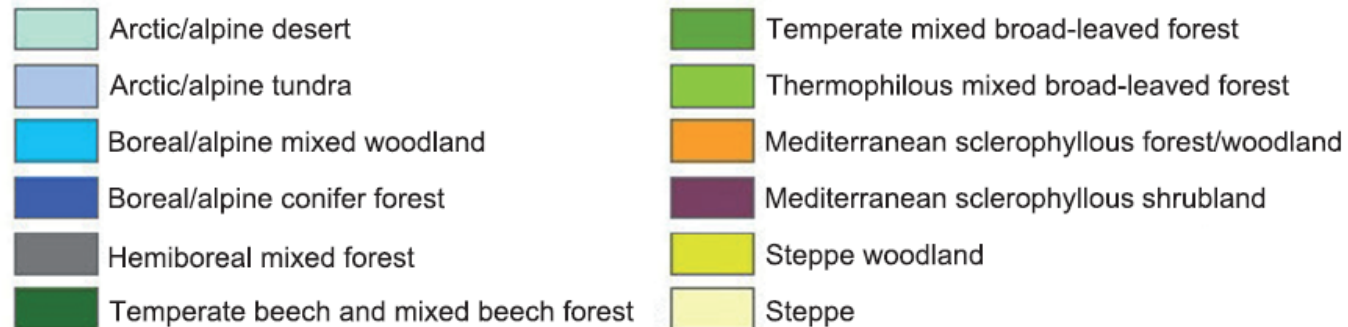
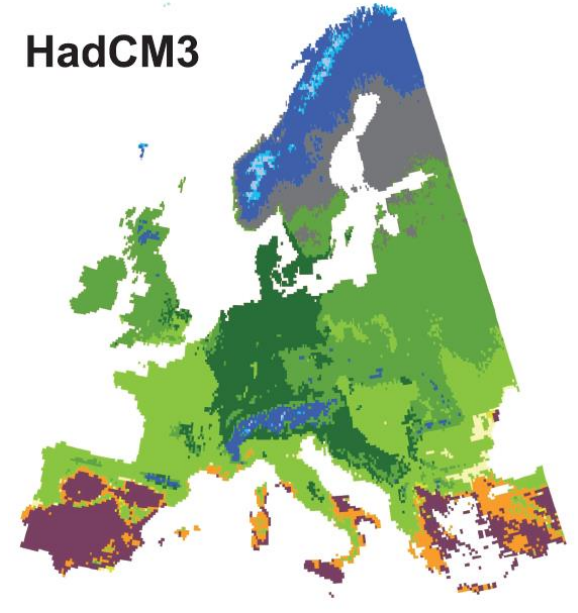
PNV map



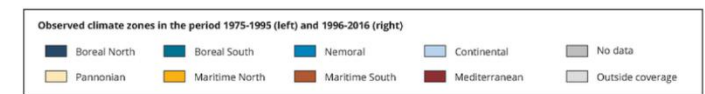
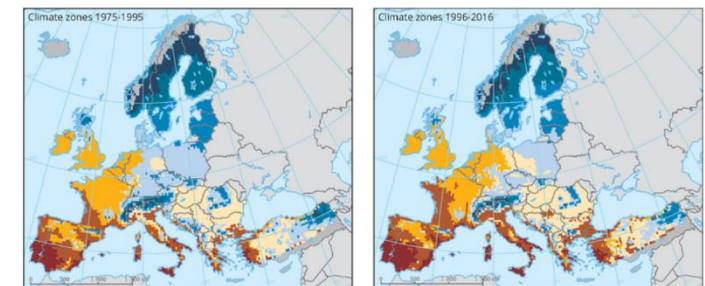
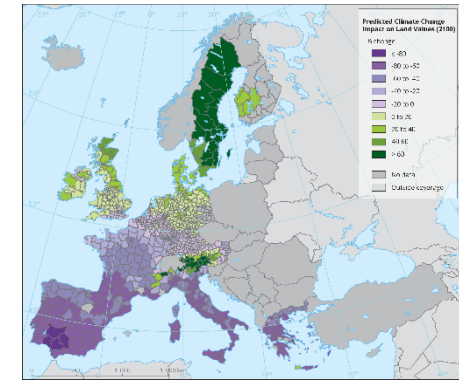
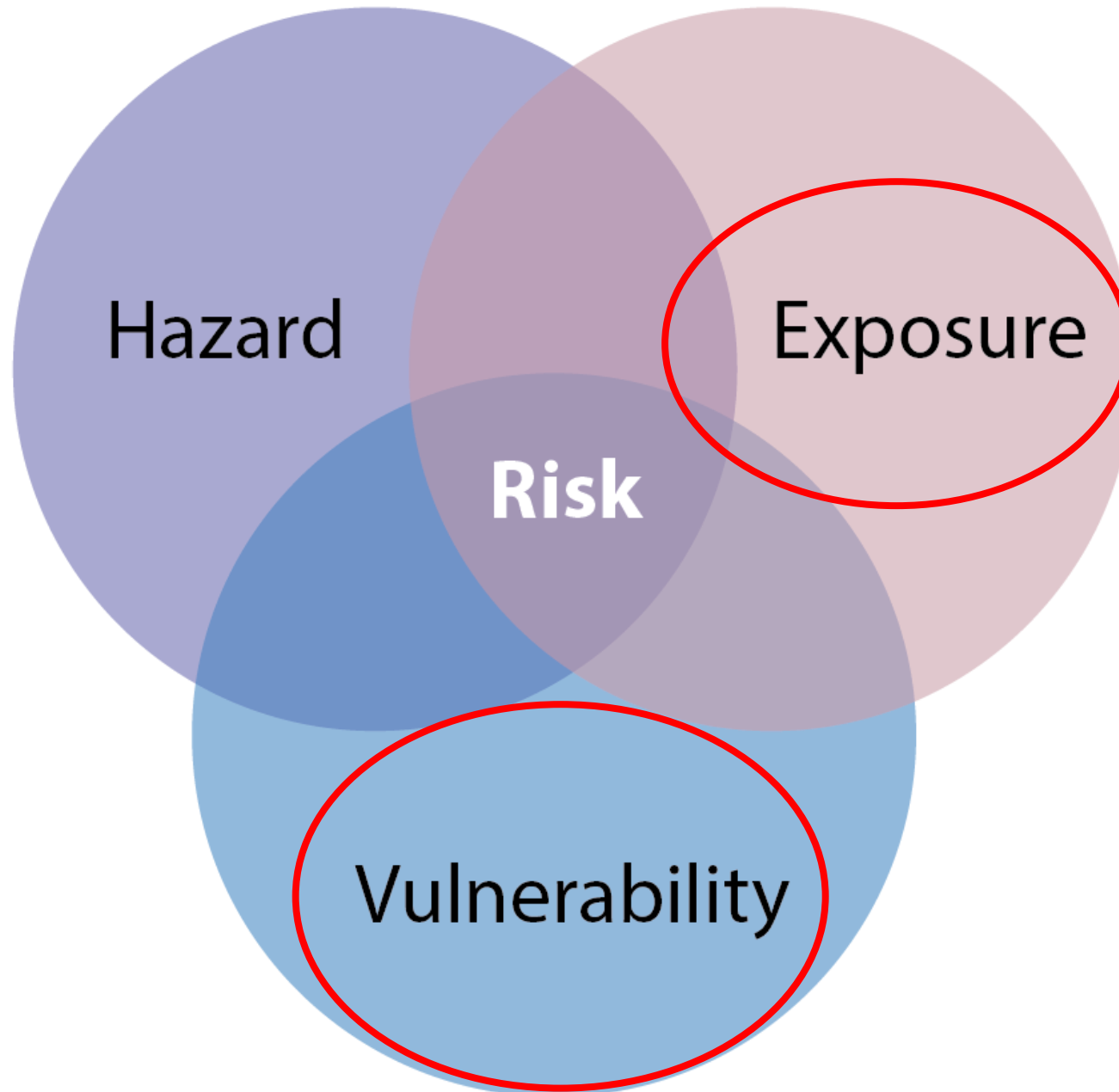
NCAR-PCM



HadCM3







# What can we do?

- EU level policy initiatives, regulation, funding, coordination, knowledge creation, promotion etc - to keep Europe's ecosystems in good shape in a changing climate
- Support national, regional and local action and investment
- A shared responsibility: enable action by everyone
- Intervention to achieve multiple benefits
- Enhance financial risk management and resilience

# Thank you



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