



European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA)

Commission Communication

“Managing Climate Risks – Protecting people and prosperity”

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
AND ON THE CAP STRATEGIC PLANS AND HORIZONTAL MATTERS**

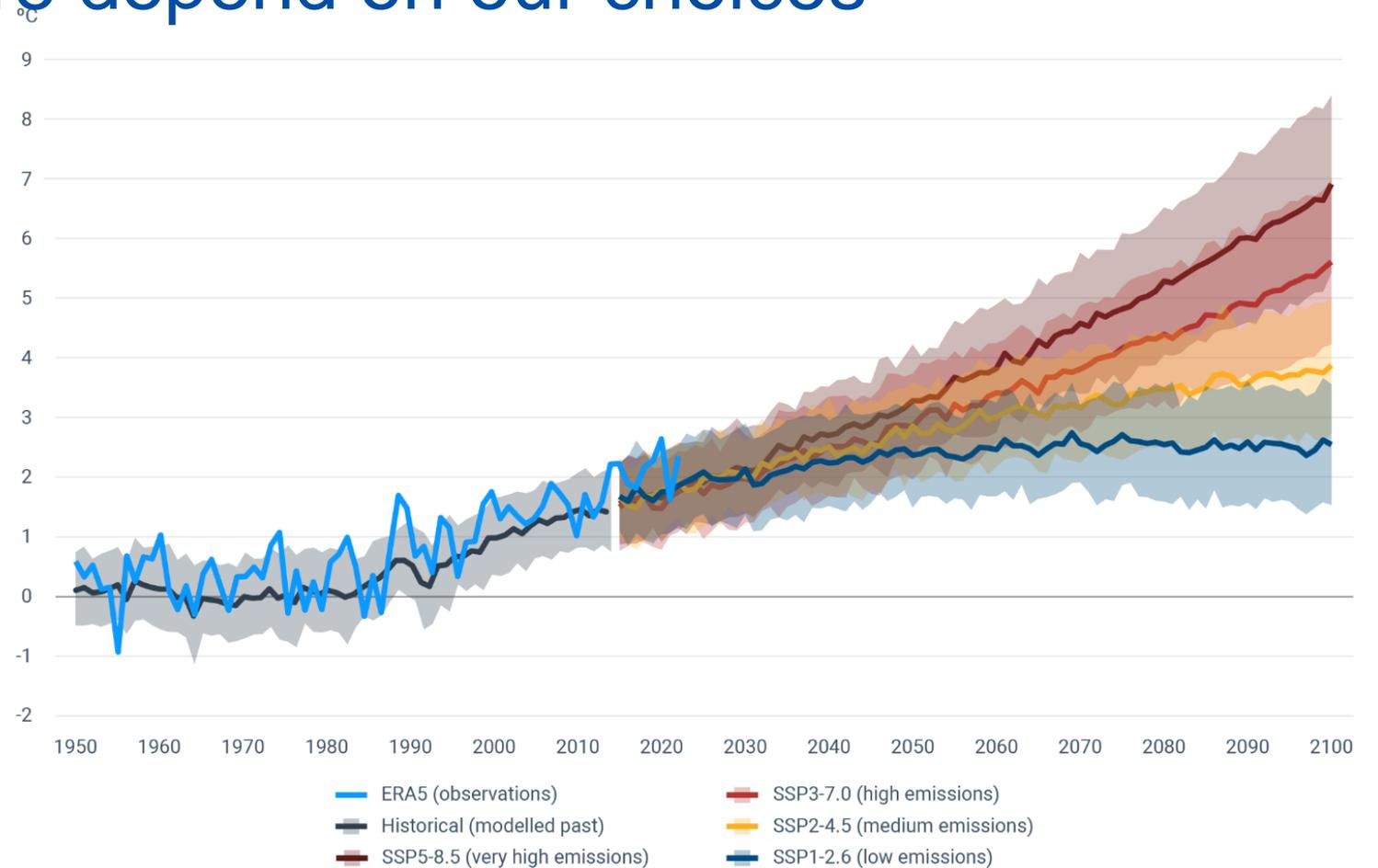
DG CLIMA

11 June 2024

Two distinct products, the same message: Climate hazards will increase under all scenarios Vulnerability/exposure depend on our choices

European Climate Risk
Assessment report

Communication on
Managing Climate Risks

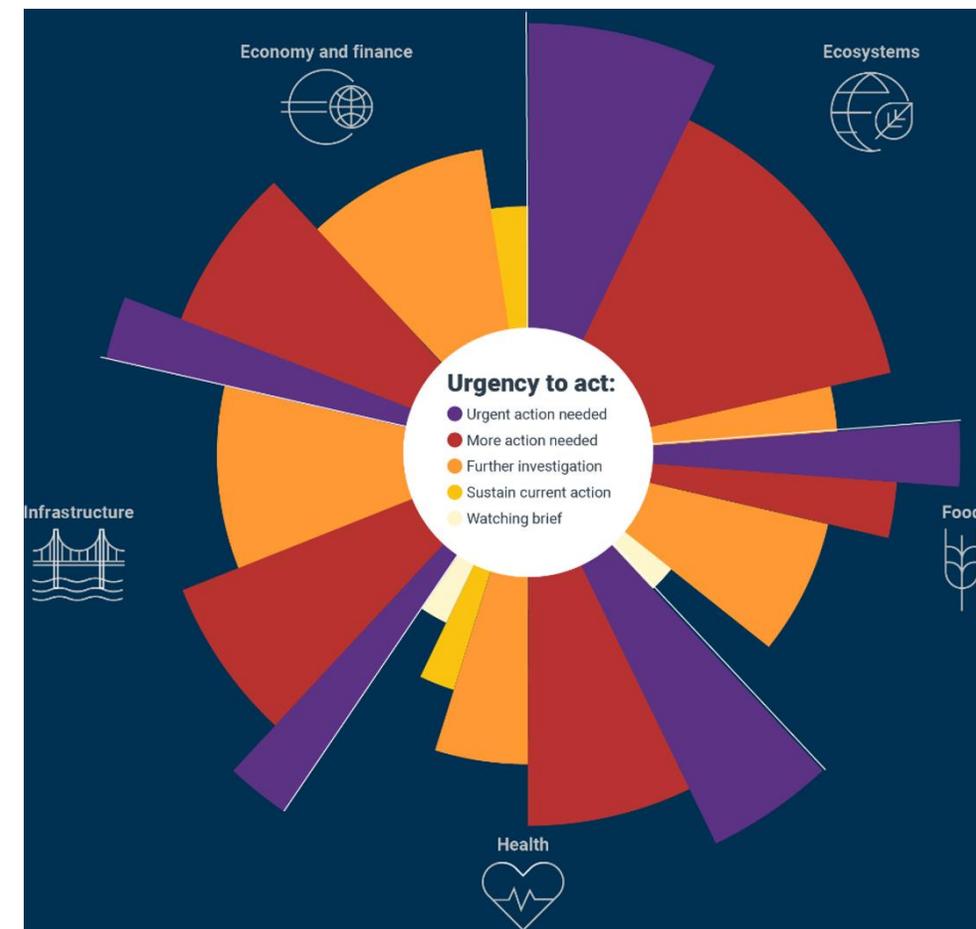


European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA) report

A scientific EEA report, published 11/03/2024, with a strong focus on **cascading and compounding risks**.

Key takeaways

- **Climate risk drivers are accelerating:** worse heatwaves, more downpours, floods and droughts, higher sea temperatures.
- **Several risks are already critical level**, almost all would become critical or catastrophic during the century.
- **EU policy preparedness is lagging behind the speed of change in the climate risks.**

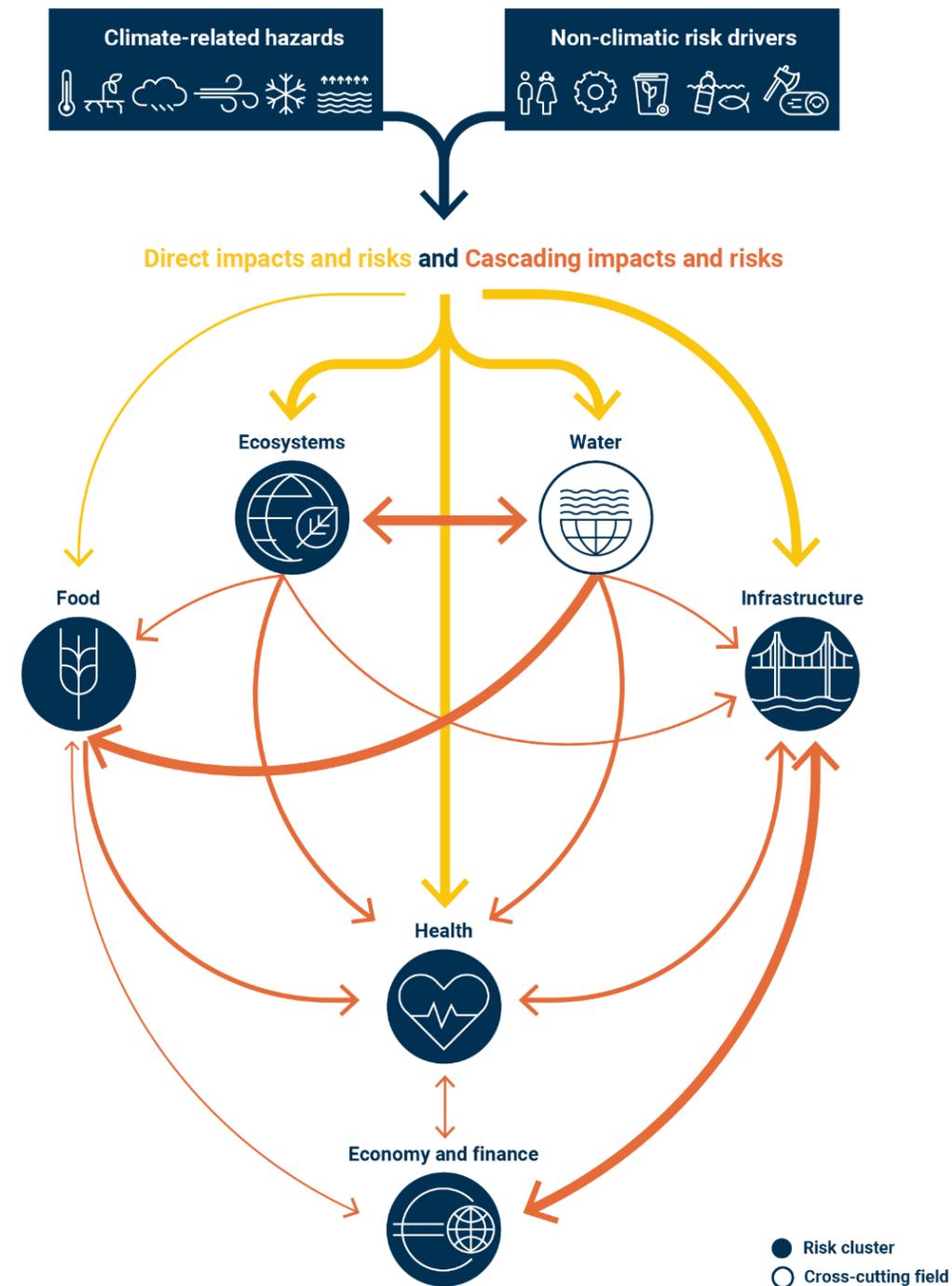


EUCRA identifies 36 key risks for Europe, grouped in five clusters.

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-climate-risk-assessment>

EUCRA – risk cascading

- Climate impacts on food production can **cascade** to rural and coastal livelihoods, land use, the health of socially vulnerable populations, and the wider economy
- For example, climate change driven **mega-droughts** can lead to water and food insecurity, spread of diseases, disruptions of critical infrastructure, and threats to financial markets and stability



EUCRA – main climate risks in the food cluster

Climate risks for 'Food' cluster	Urgency to act	Risk severity		
		Current	Mid-century	Late century (low/high warming scenario)
Crop production (hotspot region: southern Europe)	Urgent action needed	+++	++	++
Crop production	More action needed	+++	++	++
Food security due to climate impacts outside Europe (*)	Further investigation	++	++	+
Food security due to higher food prices	Further investigation	++	+	+
Fisheries and aquaculture	Further investigation	++	+	+
Livestock production	Watching brief	++	++	+

Legends and notes

Urgency to act

- Urgent action needed
- More action needed
- Further investigation
- Sustain current action
- Watching brief

Risk severity

- Catastrophic
- Critical
- Substantial
- Limited

Confidence

- Low: +
- Medium: ++
- High: +++

(*) Wide range of evaluations by authors and risk reviewers.

(**) Urgency based on high warming scenario (late century).

EUCRA: key takeaway – policy and actions

- **Urgent action is needed now** to prevent rigid choices for the future
- Climate adaptation policies need to **consider multiple policy objectives together**
- Most of the major **climate risks are co-owned** by the EU and its Member States.
- **Stronger EU policy action is urgently needed** to manage several major climate risks.

Communication “Managing climate risks – protecting people and prosperity”

Main parameters of the Communication:

- Demonstrates EU readiness to respond to the evolving reality
- Geographic focus within the EU
- **Risk ownership** a central concept - identifying responsibility for managing risks, notably between EU and MS level
- Calibrated to the end of mandate, mostly about good decision-making processes and tools.

1. **Introduction:** explains why urgent action is needed and how it builds on existing processes

2. **Analysis/climate science:** Provides a condensed selection of the evidence and the uncertainties.

3. **Solutions space (provides key horizontal actions)**

3.1. Improved governance

3.2. Tools for empowering risk owners

3.3. Harnessing structural policies

3.4. Right preconditions for financing climate resilience

4. **Key actions in in main impact clusters**

4.1. Natural ecosystems

4.2. Water

4.3. Health

4.4. Food

4.5. Infrastructure

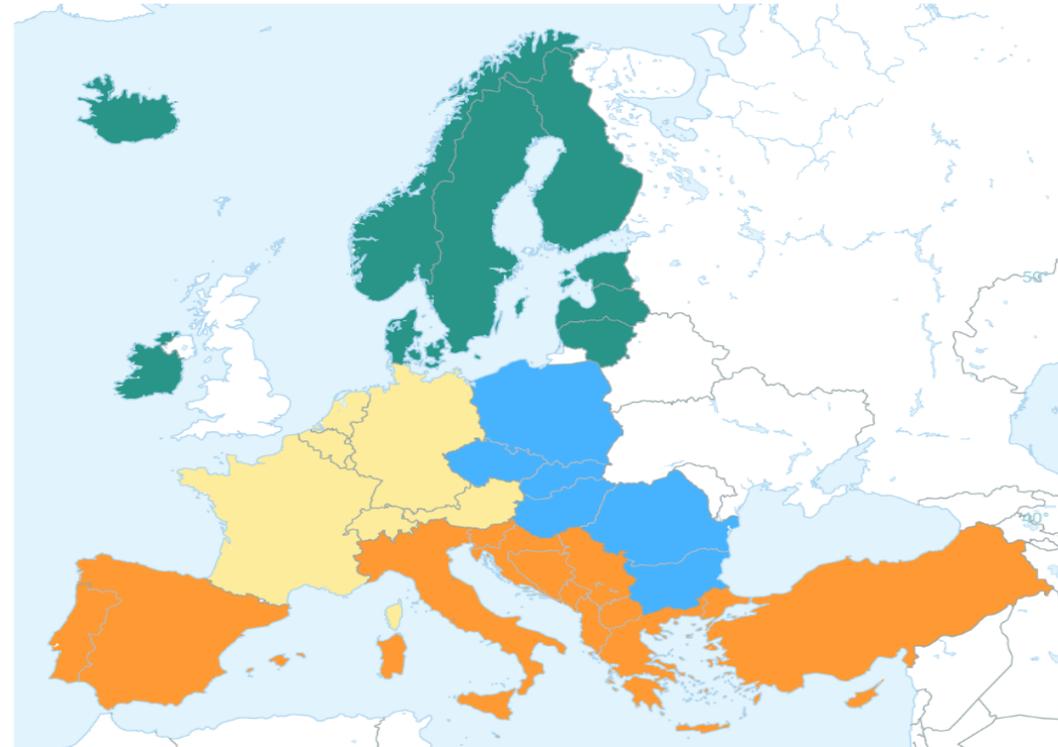
4.6. Economy

5. **Next steps**

Diagnostics

- Most key **climate hazards** are **increasing** all over Europe
- **All hazards increasing in Southern Europe**
- Risks further increase for **the most vulnerable people**

Land regions	Northern Europe			Western Europe			Central-Eastern Europe			Southern Europe			European regional seas	Past	Future
	Past	Future		Past	Future		Past	Future		Past	Future				
		Low	High		Low	High		Low	High		Low	High			
Mean temperature	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗
Heat wave days	☐(*)	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗
Total precipitation	↗	↗	↗	↗	↘	↘	↗	↗	↘	↘	↘	↘	↘	↘	↘
Heavy precipitation	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗
Drought	↗	↘	↘	↗	↘	↗	↗	↘	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗



Legend

- ↗ Increase
- ↗ Increase (limited agreement between models, datasets or indices)
- ↘ Decrease
- ↘ Decrease (limited agreement between models, datasets or indices)
- ↗/↘ Low confidence in direction of change
- ☐ No change

Note

(*) Other heatwave indices show an increase for the past

Key horizontal actions for agriculture

3.1. Governance

- Clarify risk ownership EU-MS
- Stronger governance structures (in MS and COM)
- Synergies in governance processes

3.2. Tools

- Climate data, modelling tools, indicators, warning systems, guidance, and better access to these
- Baseline climate scenarios
- Support on administrative capacities
- Leverage existing tools
- Combat disinformation

3.3. Structural policies

- Spatial planning (in MS)
- Critical infrastructure
- Preparedness in EU-level solidarity mechanisms

3.4. Finance

- Resilience in EU spending (CAP)
- Resilience in public procurement
- Mobilising finance to build resilience

Food cluster: examples of key risks to be addressed (agriculture)

- **Floods, heatwaves, droughts, pest and disease pressures, biodiversity loss, soil degradation**
- **Shift in agroclimatic zones → changes in crop selection, more crop failures, heat for outdoor work**
- **Disruptions in value chains**
- **Crop failure outside the EU → increased prices in the EU → problems in food security and affordability**

Food cluster: examples of actions (agriculture)

Support for the transition to resilient farming

- Wider use of risk management tools
- Reinforcing soil monitoring
- Giving value to the protection of ecosystem services
- Diversifying food production
- Better use of genetic diversity and non-harmful plant genetic resources

Study on climate change adaptation and water use in EU agriculture

Guidance on climate resilient landscapes



Source: On the farm radio

Food cluster: examples of key risks to be addressed and proposed actions (fisheries and aquaculture)

Risks:

- Eutrophication of EU water bodies
- Warming and acidification of oceans
- Fish stocks moving to deeper water and poleward
- Much lower catches
- Longer travel distances → increased costs
- Disruptions of value chains



Action:

- Common fisheries policy and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund to fully integrate climate risks

Thank you for your attention!