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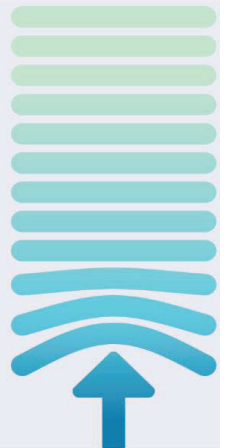


Promoting security and stability in the OSCE area through sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING | VIENNA, 14-15 FEBRUARY 2022

SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING | ŁÓDŹ, 23-24 MAY 2022

CONCLUDING MEETING | PRAGUE, 8-9 SEPTEMBER 2022



Vulnerability and Security Implications of Climate Change in South-East Europe



Security Implications of Climate Change in South - Eastern Europe

Side Event, 8 September 2022

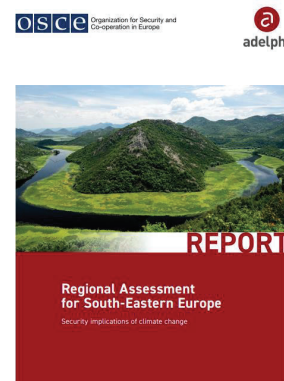
Vulnerability of the region

- Fragile economies with slow progress in preparedness to climate change. Building Climate Resilience through adaptation policies and interventions is not yet mainstreamed, it is yet at “pilot project phase”.
- Forest fires, long drought periods followed by floods have direct impacts on economies, the health and living standard of local communities, and natural resources.
- With direct implications on security, the climate change impacts the enforcement. Agencies and local authorities remain with limited capacities and exposed to global challenges.
- The public debate is increasing the pressure asking for climate emergency. The current energy and food crises helps taking actions at all levels.



Contribution to the regional project

- As national expert: data gathering and case studies identification
 - Data challenge
 - Case studies of regional relevance and with opportunities for building multistakeholder cooperation
- Support the participatory process for discussing climate challenges and priorities
 - Wide range of stakeholders: national authorities, representatives of academia and CSOs, OSCE Field Office



Addressing the region challenges and priorities

- **Illegal logging**

Forest remain very important for economies but shrinking regionally!
Pressures: illegal logging, forest fires, higher temperatures and longer drought periods, pests and alien species.

The energy crises will increase the pressure on forests as an alternative for heating.

Management of forest: slight progress, but still very limited in the new climate reality. Needs clarity on share of responsibilities and ownership.



Addressing the region challenges and priorities

- **Air quality**

Hot spots are around the region: although localized around big cities, industrial sites, it gets a clear regional dimension.

Heat waves during summer times (the region is breaking constantly the record of days with extreme heat with 40-45 days). Big cities behave as “hot inlands” due to increased density.

- Atmospheric conditions during autumn/winter (Nov-Dec. 2018, 2019) deteriorates the air quality beyond “poor” to “hazardous”
- Coal use for energy production and transport emissions.

Progress: mobility plans, air monitoring, awareness



Regional cooperation, as real opportunity

- The OSCE contribution on this field, serve as good model for identifying and implementing concrete actions which bring forward the regional environmental-climate-security solutions and actors.
- Through various regional, sub-regional and local initiatives the challenges are addressed, networks for sharing experiences are established, common strategies are developed, and communities are engaged.
- It is proven that the regional collaboration helps on increasing efficiency for addressing and preventing the illegal activities (illegal logging and construction), air pollution control and management of natural resources.
- Regional technical assistance and investment grants will offer opportunities to enhance co-operation, particularly in the energy sector, climate change preparedness through early warning systems, etc.
- Progress on technological transformation and cleaner production, sustainable transport at a regional level, in the framework of the Green Agenda for Western Balkans, turns from opportunities to reality.





Thank you for your attention !