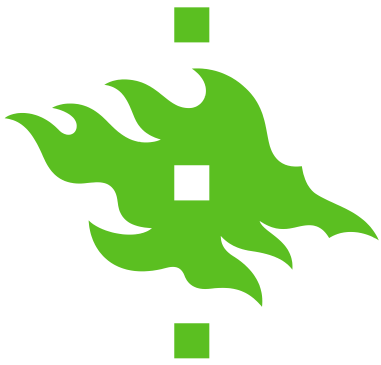




Legislating on adaptation: Emerging opportunities for European countries

Sirkku Juhola

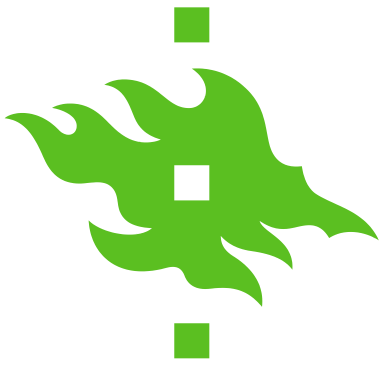
Adaptation Frontiers Conference, Lisbon
10-12 March 2014



Background

- Much of national level adaptation action has centered around national adaptation strategies and now emphasis is on actual policy measures and implementation
- Less attention has been paid to the issue of legislation in relation to the governance of adaptation

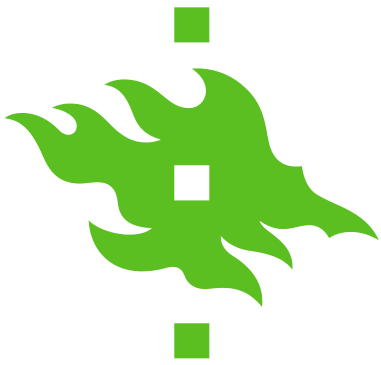




Key questions

- How does a Climate Act compare to a national strategy process?
- What role does legislation play in governing adaptation?





Existing legislation in Europe

Report on impact of climate change

It is the duty of the Secretary of State to lay reports before Parliament containing an assessment of the risks for the United Kingdom of the current and predicted impact of climate change

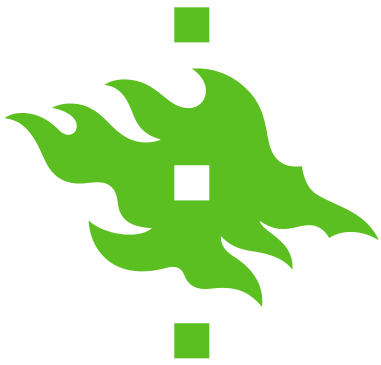
Includes a sectoral risk assessment and an assessment of progress

ASC- an advisory role



Climate Change Act 2008

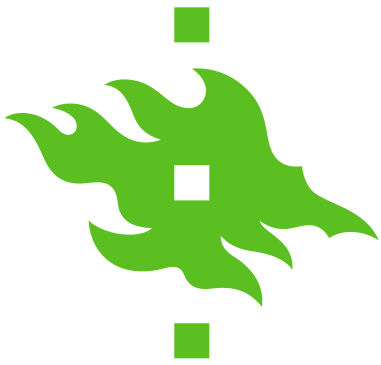
CHAPTER 27



How does a climate act compare to a strategy process?

- Clarification of responsibilities within the government
- Transparency of climate policy
- Long-term planning, implementation and monitoring of climate policy





Preparation of the Climate Act in Finland – February 2014

National Adaptation Plan to be completed at least every 10 years

Climate Policy Plan every 4 years within which adaptation can be included, if necessary

Annual Climate Report within which adaptation can be included, if necessary





How does a climate act compare to a strategy process?

Positive aspects:

Responsibilities clarified but not changed
NAP to be discussed in parliament
Introduces a binding reporting and monitoring system

Room for improvement:

Risk assessments and implementation
NAP preparation and revision period
Short term reporting "if necessary"

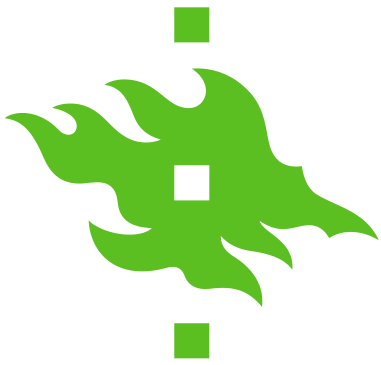




What role does legislation play in governing adaptation?

- EU Climate Acts steer the actions of the government
- A framework law the only option?
- The challenge of vertical governance through legislation





Concluding remarks

- The use of legislation shows commitment to climate policy
- A Climate Act can improve the implementation of national level adaptation policy
- Legislation is one instrument among many
- The role of scientific information in using binding regulation





Thanks!

sirkku.juhola@helsinki.fi