The development of the EU Adaptation Strategy:

ADVISORY GROUP "AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
19 June 2012

DG Climate Action

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What is the issue at stake?

- Fight for 2°C, prepare for worse
- Adaptation and mitigation are complementary
- Adaptation action is required now
- Yet, a number of barriers still prevent effective adaptation
- Some of these barriers are best addressed at EU level

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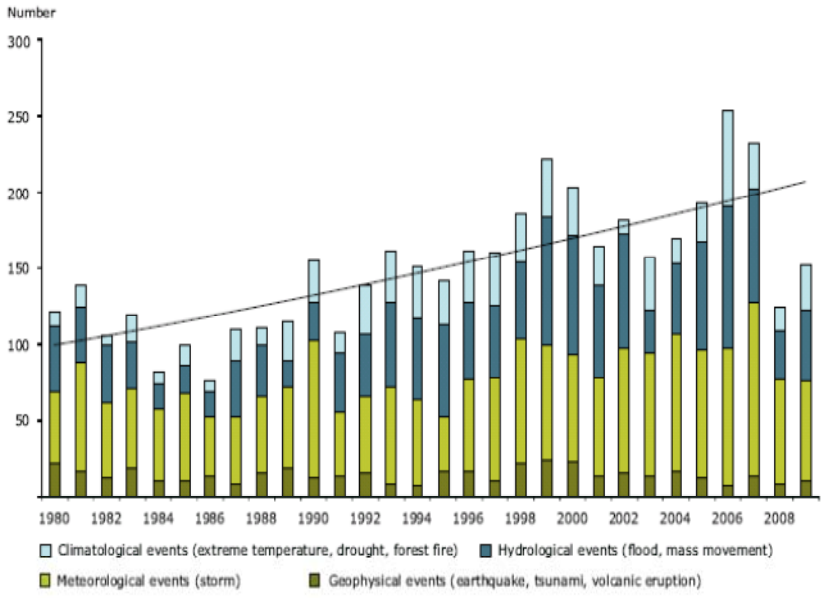
Evidence of current impacts

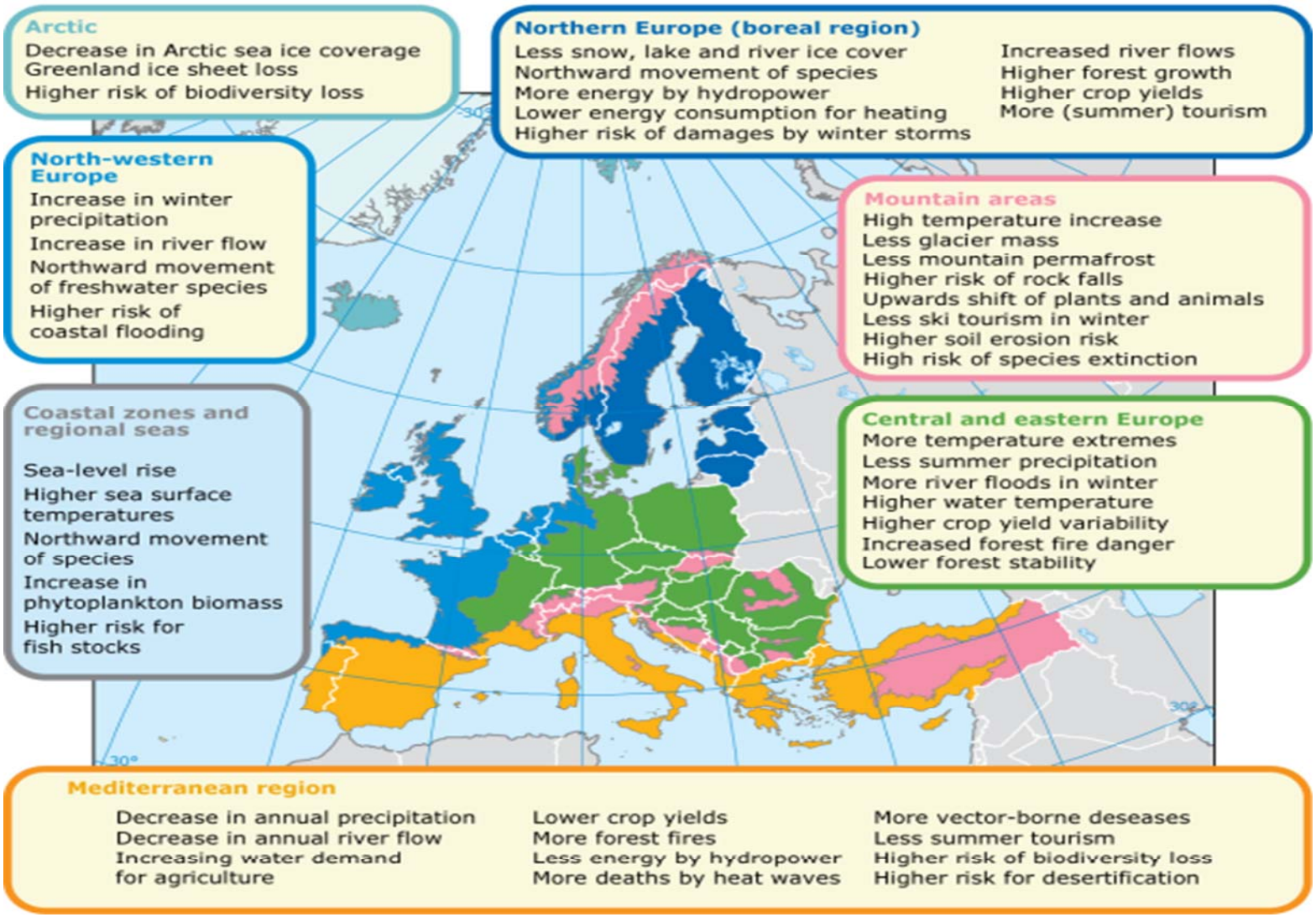
- The number and impacts of weather and climate - related events increased significantly between 1998 and 2009 (EEA, 2010).
- The SREX report (IPCC 2012) finds with a high level of confidence that economic losses from weather- and climate-related disasters have increased in the long-term, as people and economic assets have been increasingly exposed to risks.

Figure 2.3 Disasters due to natural hazards in EEA member countries, 1980–2009



Note: Definition loss events, events can occur in several countries, events are counted countrywise.

Source: NatCatSERVICE, 2010; © 2010 Münchener Rückversicherungs-Gesellschaft, Geo Risks Research, NatCatSERVICE – as at August 2010.



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Adaptation can reduce overall damage costs

Microeconomic evidence exists on the benefits of adaptation: for instance database in Climate-ADAPT on adaptation options

Sectoral evidence exists on the net benefits associated with adaptation action. For instance:

- **The avoided costs from the impacts of sea level rise in the EU are estimated, depending on the scenario, around EUR 1.5bn (A1B) and 7.3bn (E1) per year in the 2020's, around EUR 4.4bn (A1B) and 16.3bn (E1) per year in the 2050's, and around EUR 18.4bn (A1B) and 47bn (E1) per year in the 2080's. (source: ClimateCost Project).**

Work on-going on the macroeconomic implication of adaptation at EU level, under no mitigation as well as when including mitigation policies

Who is affected, in what ways, and to what extent?

Respective significance of the impacts of climate change per policy area/sector will be presented.

- **Agriculture, Rural development;**
- **Forestry;**
- **Ecosystems / Biodiversity;**
- **Soil;**
- **Water;**
- **Marine;**
- **Construction / Buildings;**
- **Transport;**
- **Energy**

Cross-sectoral issues

- **Social dimension**
- **Key geographical dimensions: coastal areas, mountain regions, cities**

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We identified the need for additional EU action

- **Knowledge gaps remain, at all levels.**
- **Mainstreaming adaptation into EU policies remain undertaken on an ad hoc basis**
- **Not all Member States, regions, cities are at the same level of knowledge, development or capacity to respond to the adverse effects of climate change (➔ consequence for transboundary issues)**
- **The private sector, including insurance and finance markets, is not yet fully delivering the right products and services to help private agents in increasing their resilience to climate risks.**

➔ *Impact on economic imbalances and social vulnerabilities across the EU*

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Objectives and policy actions of the EU Adaptation Strategy

(1) Knowledge

- *Improve and widen the knowledge base and identify gaps*
- *Further the understanding of vulnerabilities and adaptation options*
- *Facilitate knowledge use and exchange*

(2) Policy and markets

- *Mainstream adaptation into policies at EU level, including revision of legislation to include climate adaptation*
- *Identify potential adaptation actions to make markets work more efficiently*

(3) Cooperation and facilitation

- *Facilitate cooperation with and between Member States, regions, cities and other relevant stakeholders*
- *Provide guidelines for adaptation*

➔ Overall approach: considering a range of options addressing the "what" and "how"

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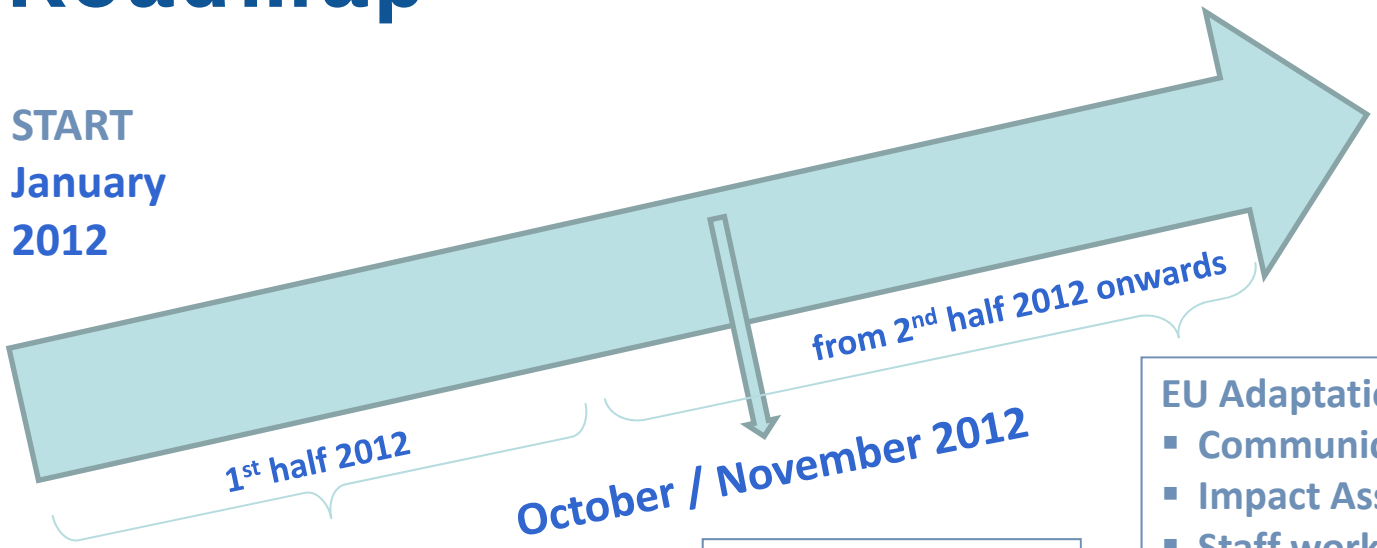
Roadmap



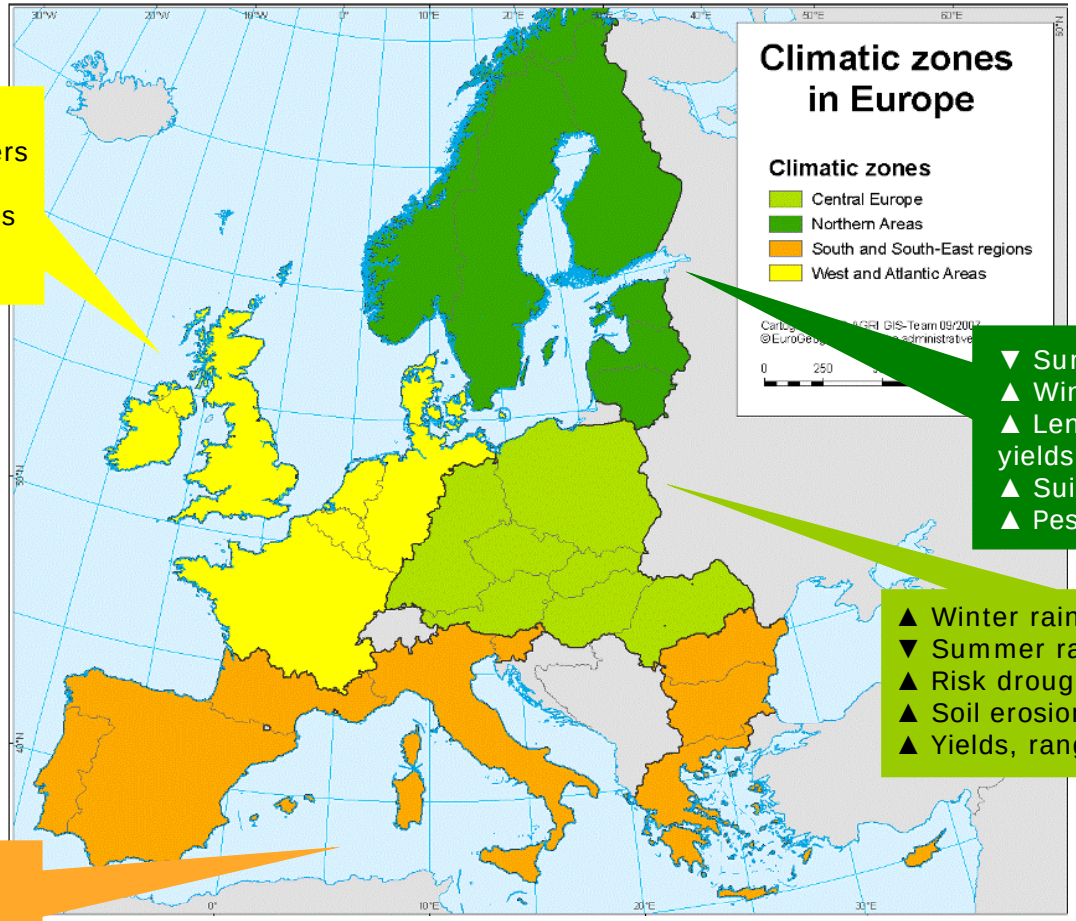
- Background studies
- Consultations
- Cooperation with Commission services

Impact Assessment at IA Board

EU Adaptation Strategy
- Communication
- Impact Assessment
- Staff working document
- Guidelines

Climate change – Possible impacts on EU agriculture

▲ Floods risk
▲ Hotter and drier summers
▲ Sea levels
▲ Risk crop pests, diseases
▲ Crop, forage yields
▼ Animal health, welfare



▼ Summer rainfall
▲ Winter storms, floods
▲ Length growing season, yields
▲ Suitable farmland
▲ Pests, diseases risks

▲ Winter rainfall, floods
▼ Summer rainfall
▲ Risk drought, water stress
▲ Soil erosion risk
▲ Yields, range of crops

▼ Water availability
▲ Risk drought, heat spells
▲ Risk soil erosion
▼ Growing season, crop yields
▼ Optimal crop areas

Source: DG Agriculture and Rural Development, based on EEA reports, JRC and MS academic studies.

European Commission

How current CAP contributes to adaptation

- Provides basic level of income security to farmers
- Shift to decoupled support enables adaptation to market and agronomic conditions
- Framework for sustainable management of the natural environment - cross compliance
- Rural development policy – possibilities for targeted support to a large array of adaptation measures involving building adaptive capacity and implementing actions

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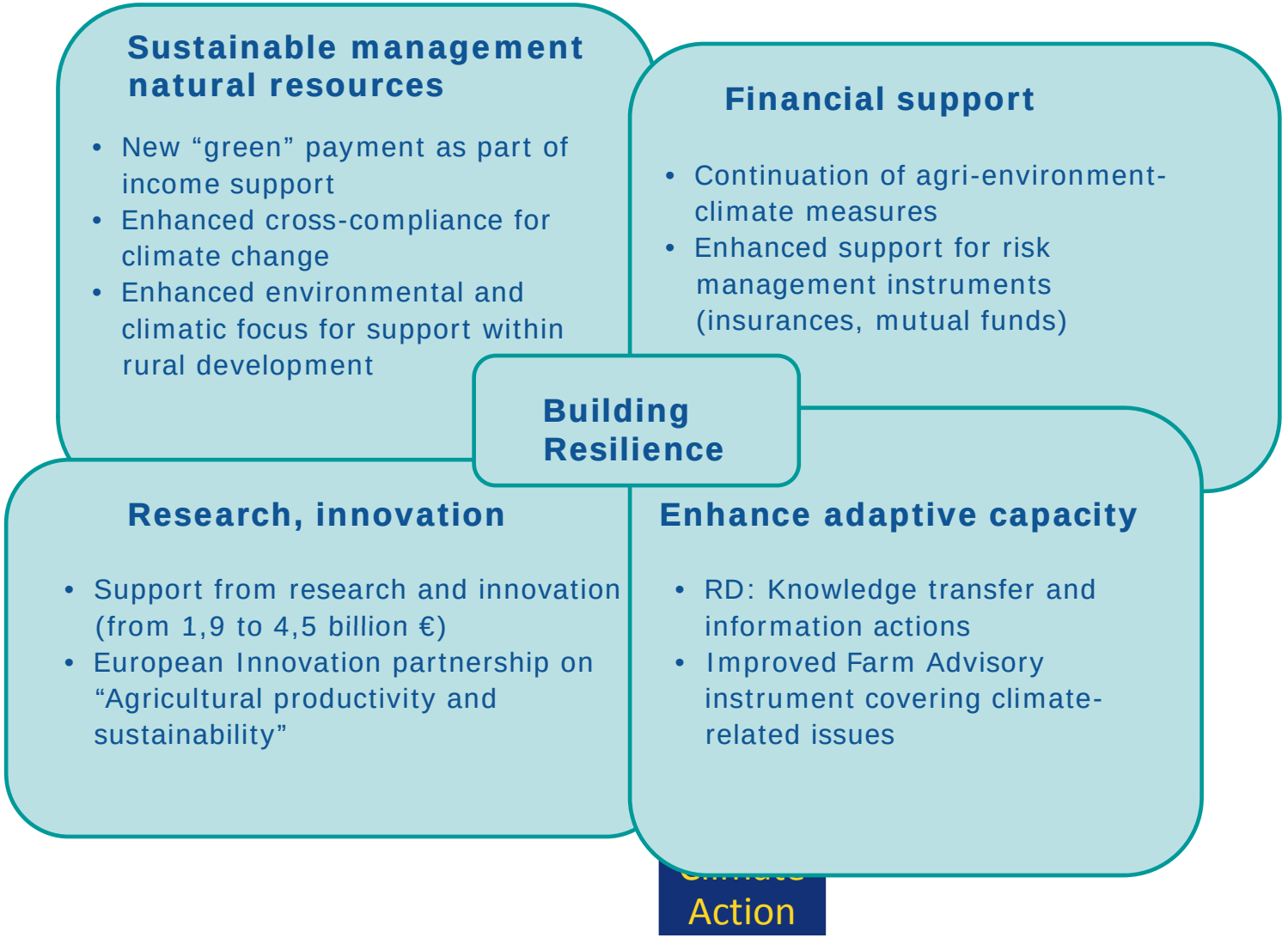
Pursuing adaptation to CC with CAP instruments



Guidance on climate proofing CAP and Cohesion policy: objectives / rationale

Adaptation experts, Managing Authorities and farm advisors *need to understand opportunities for adaptation in the context of CAP and Cohesion policy*

Targeted, specific guidance *linking adaptation research/technical information to planning and development of CP/CAP programmes is lacking*

Some guidance exists for 07-13 on environment/biodiversity but ***not for adaptation*** *and its unique characteristics*

This ***EU 27 level guidance is a start*** *– it can be tailored for the Member State situation and used to generate awareness*

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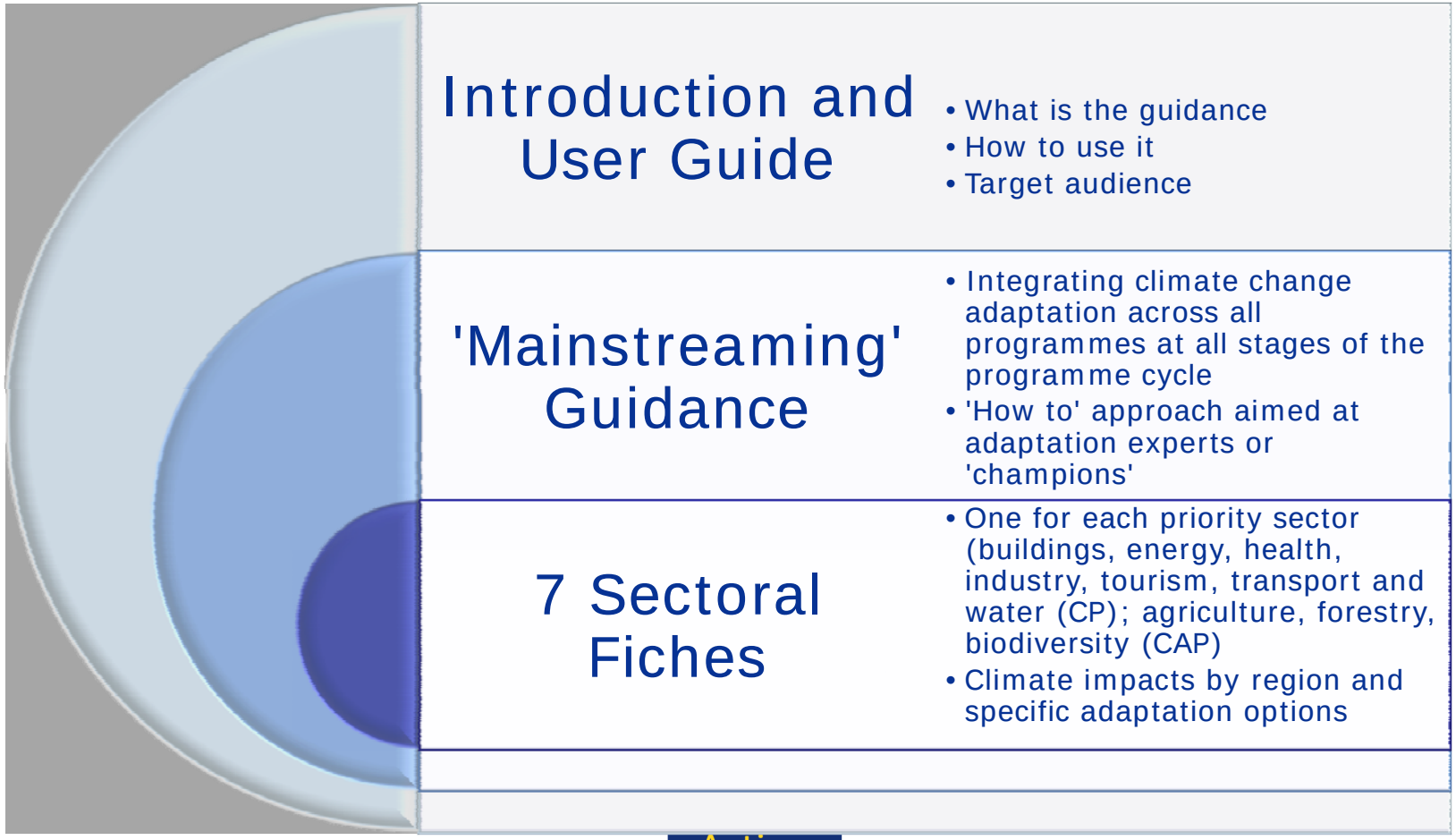
Guidance Draft Contents



Thank you!

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/change/

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