

## **National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS)**

Under the memorandum of cooperation signed in December 2014 by the Greek Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, the Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens and the Bank of Greece, with a view to addressing the adverse effects of climate change at the national level and building on the experience of the Climate Change Impacts Study Committee (CCISC) regarding the economic and other impacts of climate change, a draft text of the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS) was finalised and submitted to public consultation in December 2015.

The overarching objective of Greece's adaptation strategy is to strengthen the country's resilience to the impacts of climate change, and to create conditions for well-informed and far-sighted decisions that address risks and opportunities resulting from a changing climate. The NCCAS provides an initial five-year horizon for building the capacity for adaptation and prioritising and implementing an initial set of actions. Due to the significant uncertainty surrounding climate change and its impacts, as well as in the light of the latest information and developments, the views on the best way to promote adaptation need to be constantly put in new context, which calls for continuous evaluation, training and specialised analysis. Against this background, the first draft of the NCCAS provides an opportunity for developing a strategic approach to adaptation to climate change, which sets in motion an ongoing process of revision, updating and realignment.

Key objectives of the NCCAS are to:

1. improve the decision-making process, drawing on more thorough information and accurate scientific data on adaptation issues;
2. promote the development and implementation of regional/local action plans that are compatible with the present strategy;
3. initiate adaptation actions and policies across all sectors, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable ones;
4. create a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating adaptation actions and policies; and
5. raise public awareness and disseminate information.

It should be noted that the present NCCAS is a first step towards an ongoing and flexible process for the development and implementation of the necessary adaptation measures at the national, regional and local levels.

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