

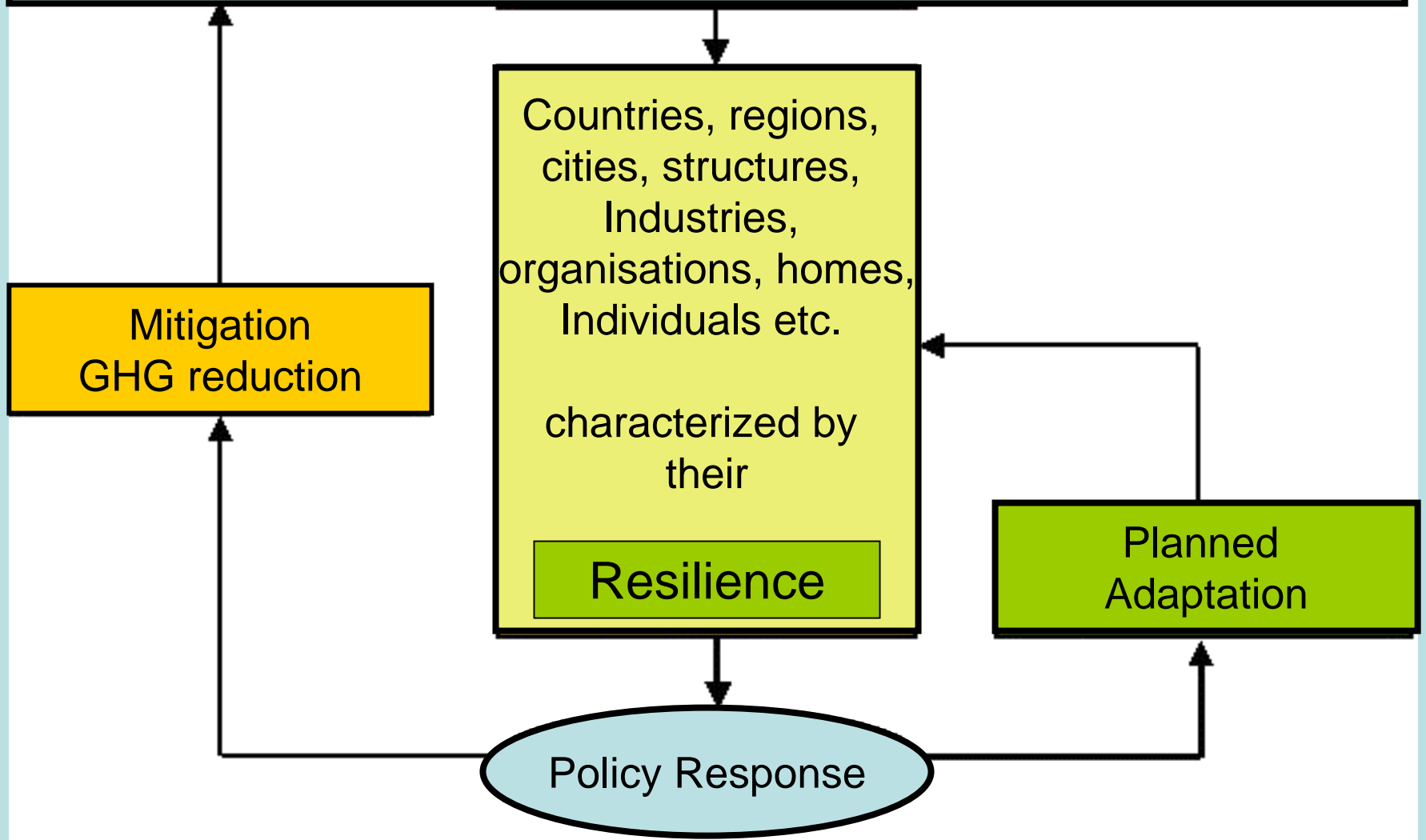


# Climate Change Adaptation on the European Policy Agenda

ASTRA Conference on "Climate Change and Waters"  
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Limited, slower Change, Including climate variability



# Climate Adaptation Policy means...



- ≡ ...actions taken by governments including legislation, regulations, and incentives to mandate or facilitate changes in socio-economic systems aimed at reducing vulnerability to climate change, including climate variability and extremes.
- ≡ Changes can be made in practices, processes, or structures of systems to projected or actual changes in climate

Watson R.T. et al. (eds. ) (1996) Impacts, Adaptations and Mitigation of Climate Change. Working group II, IPCC Second Assessment Report. Cambridge University Press

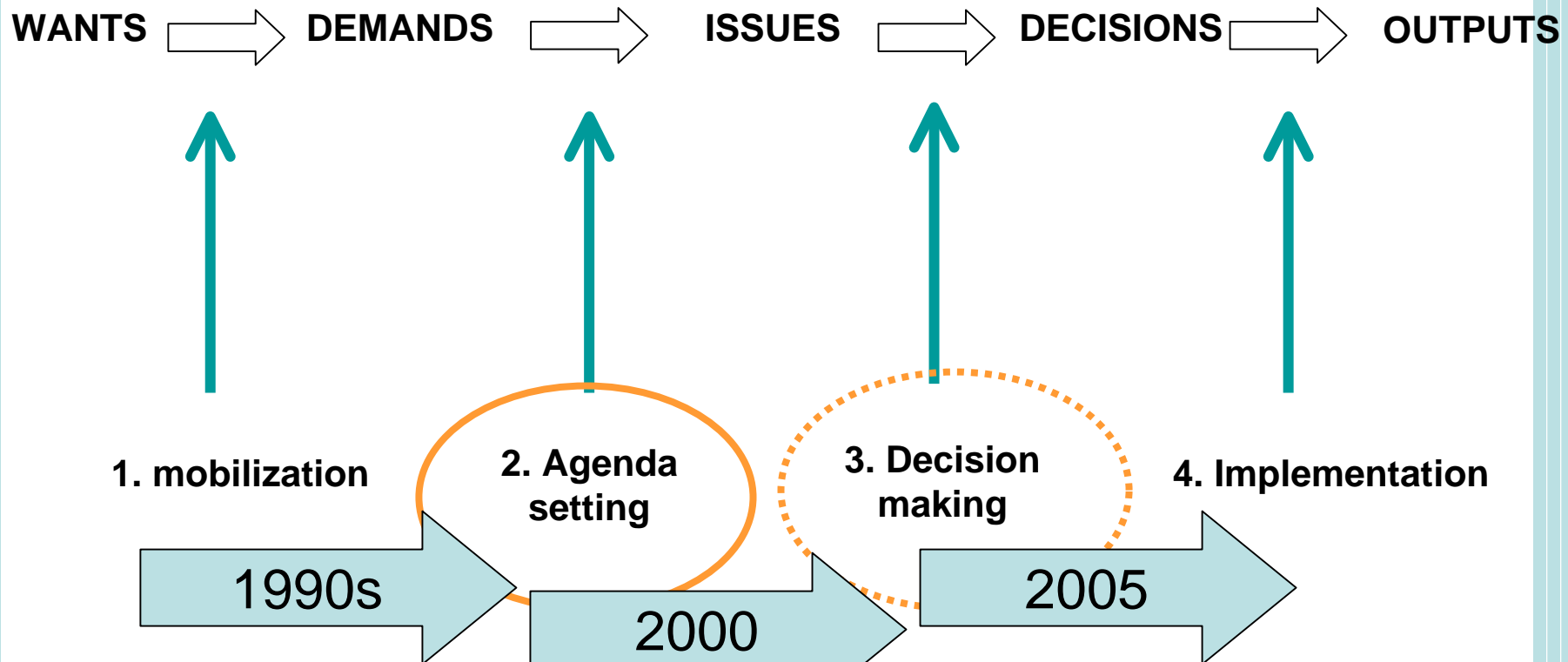
# CC Mitigation is about 15 yrs older than adaptation policy

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- ≡ EU Climate policy started in the early 1990s when the European Commission issued the first Community strategy to limit CO2 emissions and improve energy efficiency
- ≡ The main focus on climate policy has been and remains on mitigation
- ≡ Adaptation has entered the EU agenda explicitly only since 2005

# Adaptation in EU climate policy: How far are we?



**NB: Differences between sectors & regions!**

# What motivates policy change?

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1. New ideas & knowledge: learning based on new information and research
2. Crisis: Extreme events as focusing events
3. Self-interest: The economic incentives, costs vs. benefits

# Growing evidence - the importance of IPCC



- ≡ Increasing emphasis on adaptation in the 4th IPCC assessment report
- ≡ The IPCC has provided periodical reviews of the state-of-the-art in climate science
- ≡ → scientific backing for global climate change policy
- ≡ → co-operation between scientists and national-level policy-makers (not only "pure research"!)

# Understanding the relation between mitigation and adaptation

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- ≡ According to the IPCC 4 AR:
- ≡ Adaptation is needed, since we are already committed to climate change over the next 20-30 yrs.
- ≡ Combining mitigation and adaptation reduces risks
- ≡ If mitigation fails and temperatures rise fast, adaptation may become impossible (+2-3 C target)
- ≡ Successful mitigation makes adaptation easier cheaper
- ≡ Harmful climate impacts may be reduced or delayed through CO2 reduction



# New phase in the climate debate

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≡”Attention is now shifting from arguments over whether the world is warming to what should be done about it.”

Comment in *Nature* on the IPCC 4 Assessment report, April 12, 2007

# Crisis: "focusing events" driving policy

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- ≡ *“Between 1998 and 2004, Europe suffered over 100 major floods, including the catastrophic floods along the rivers Danube and Elbe in 2002. These floods caused some 700 fatalities, the displacement of about half a million people and insured economic losses totalling at least € 25 billion.”*
- ≡ *“The floods and droughts of 2005 and the heat wave and droughts of 2006 were a major concern in Europe. ...”*

# New Orleans August, 2005



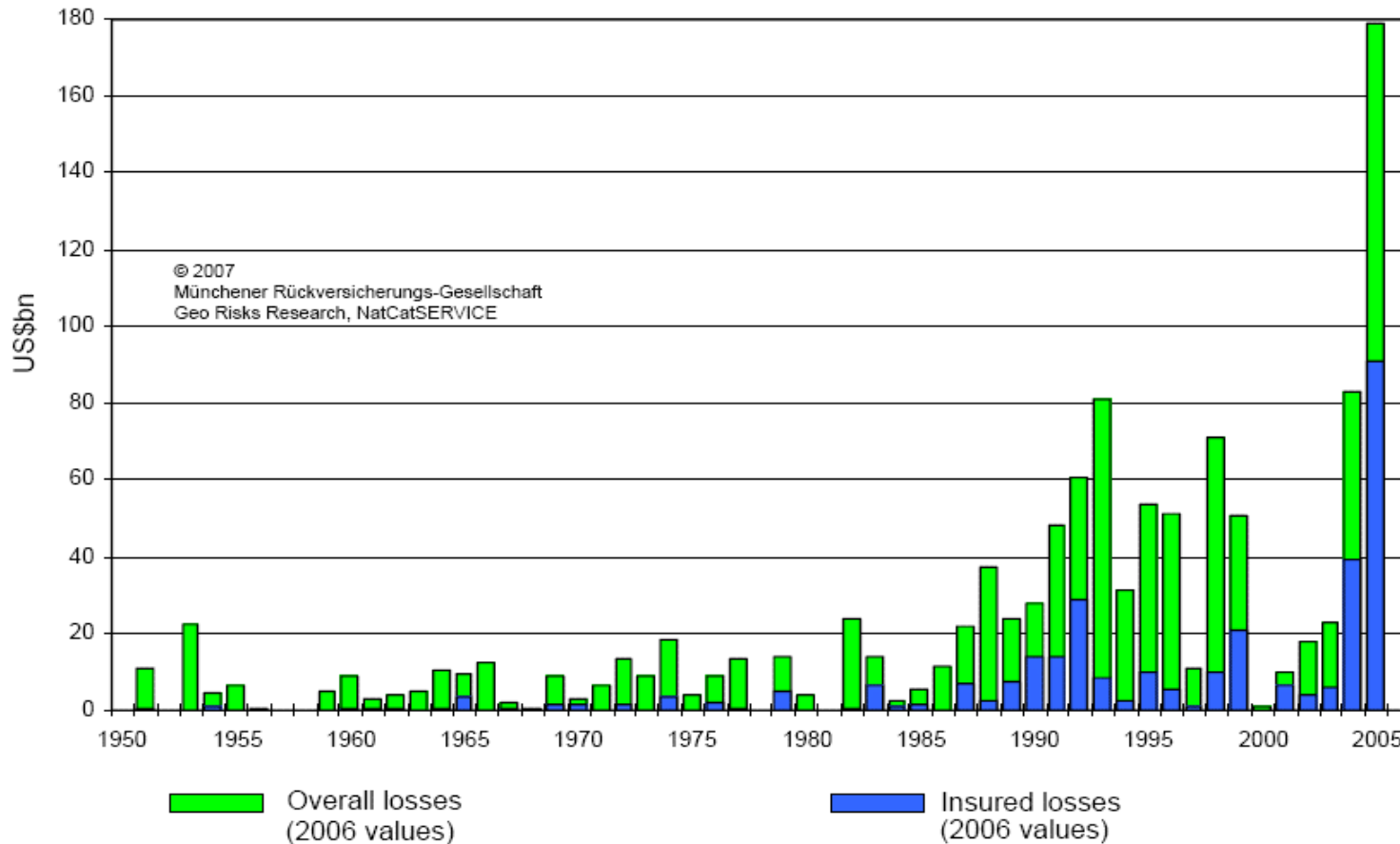
10 May 2007

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# Great weather disasters 1950 – 2006\*

## Overall and insured losses



\* There was no Great weather disaster in 2006 according to the definition criteria.

As at: January 2007

# Putting adaptation on the policy agenda



- ≡ In 2005, the European Commission issued a communication titled “*Winning the battle against climate change*” (European Commission, 2005).
- ≡ Attention on adaptation: “Scientific evidence indicates that even meeting the 2°C target will require significant preventive and remedial adaptation efforts around the globe. As yet, few Member States have examined the need to reduce vulnerability and to increase their resilience to the effects of the climate change.” (European Commission 2005)

# European Climate Change Programme ECCP II



- ≡ The second phase of the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) was launched on 24 October 2005.
- ≡ It consists of 6 working groups, including a working group on Adaptation
- ≡ Green Paper on adaptation due 2007 to help identify areas where action is needed at Community level to support the EU's adaptation
- ≡ ECCP II supporting role for national, regional & local measures

# ECCP II: Activities under Impacts and Adaptation



- Impacts on water cycle and water resources management and prediction of extreme events: [Final report \(pdf 58KB\)](#)
- Marine resources and coastal zones and tourism [Final report \(pdf 42KB\)](#)
- Human health: [Final report \(pdf 97KB\)](#)
- Agriculture and forestry: [Final report \(pdf 78KB\)](#)
- Biodiversity: [Final report \(pdf 45KB\)](#)
- Regional planning, built environment, public and energy infrastructure, Structural funds: [Final report \(pdf 65KB\)](#)
- Urban planning and construction: [Final report \(pdf 71KB\)](#)
- Development cooperation: [Final report \(pdf 44KB\)](#)
- Role of insurance industry: [Final report \(pdf 41KB\)](#)
- Building national strategies for adaptation (country reports): [Final report \(pdf 60KB\)](#)

# EU's roles in adaptation policy

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1. information provision and research
2. early warning and disaster relief
3. facilitating adaptation options
4. regulating the distributional impacts of adaptation
5. regulating infrastructures

(Berkhout 2005: *Rationales for Adaptation in EU policies*)



# EU measures on Information and Research

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- ≡ EEA activities & reports on climate change
- ≡ Climate change research is a central topic in the EU 7th Framework programme for research (FP7)
- ≡ EU important in dissemination of information
- ≡ EU-level potential for coordinated production and coordination of databases, scenarios, research

# EU measures on Water resources – a key adaptation issue

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- ≡ The Water Framework Directive (from 2000) does not mention address climate change. This is now seen as a shortcoming. The need to consider adaptation in the context of WFD is recognised
- ≡ New EU programme for flood risk management, including a draft flood directive (2006) → explicit mention of climate change – regulation on flood maps, flood risk management plans by 2015. Emphasis on governing water catchment areas

# EU measures on Spatial planning



- ≡ ESDP does not mention climate change yet, but the need is recognised → Adaptation emerging as an aspect of territorial cohesion
- ≡ Regional policy: Focus on risks and risk management in ERDF programmes 2007-2013
- ≡ Disaster relief: EU solidarity fund (EUSF) established in 2002 to help member states recover from exceptional natural catastrophies
- ≡ Implementation of the SEA –directive important for risk management

# ICZM as an adaptation approach

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- ≡ Integrated Coastal Zone Management includes many principles relevant for CC adaptation:
- ≡ long-term perspective
- ≡ Intersectoral (horizontal) co-operation
- ≡ Precautionary principle
- ≡ Accounting for diversity of local conditions
- ≡ Working with natural processes

# Conclusions

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- ≡ Adaptation has entered the EU policy agenda since 2005
- ≡ So far, EU is adopting a supportive & coordinating role rather than strong regulator
- ≡ Green paper (due 2007) to provide a more coherent framework for adaptation: legal aspects, funding to support adaptation measures (research, regional development)
- ≡ The importance of water issues is recognised – flood directive
- ≡ Potential for mainstreaming adaptation: e.g. coastal zone management
- ≡ Big challenge: integrating sectoral policies (e.g. regional policy, agricultural policy, nature conservation, transport etc.) → Importance of regional cooperation

# Kiitos! Thank you!



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<http://www.tkk.fi/Units/Separate/YTK/index.html>