

Status of National Adaptation Strategies in Europe 2009

Figure 2.1
– Status of adaptation
strategy development
in Europe

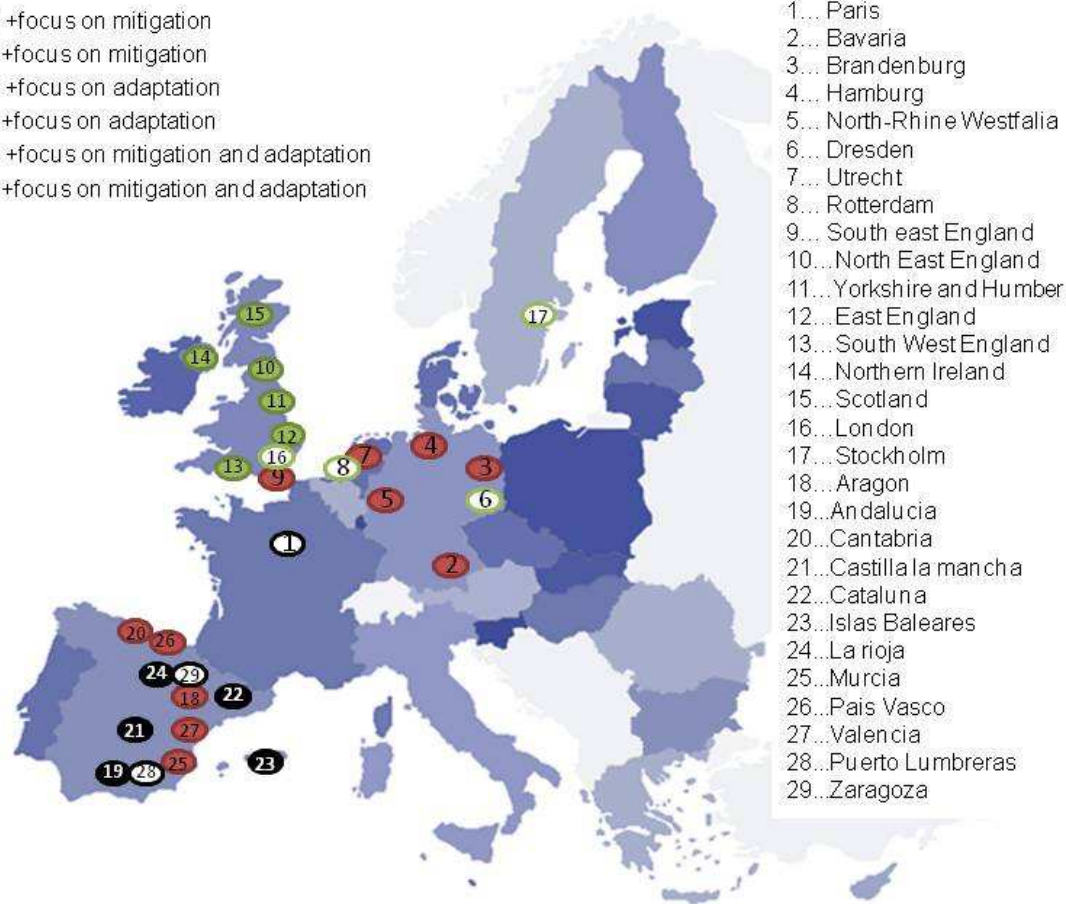
Legend

-  National Adaption Strategy adopted
-  National Adaption Strategy in development/preparation
-  No National Adaption Strategy
-  Not included in study, following (EEA, 2008)
-  No information available



Regional Adaptation Strategies identified

- with RAS +focus on mitigation
- with LAS +focus on mitigation
- with RAS +focus on adaptation
- with LAS +focus on adaptation
- with RAS +focus on mitigation and adaptation
- with LAS +focus on mitigation and adaptation



- 1... Paris
- 2... Bavaria
- 3... Brandenburg
- 4... Hamburg
- 5... North-Rhine Westfalia
- 6... Dresden
- 7... Utrecht
- 8... Rotterdam
- 9... South east England
- 10... North East England
- 11... Yorkshire and Humber
- 12... East England
- 13... South West England
- 14... Northern Ireland
- 15... Scotland
- 16... London
- 17... Stockholm
- 18... Aragon
- 19... Andalusia
- 20... Cantabria
- 21... Castilla la mancha
- 22... Cataluna
- 23... Islas Baleares
- 24... La rioja
- 25... Murcia
- 26... Pais Vasco
- 27... Valencia
- 28... Puerto Lumbreras
- 29... Zaragoza

Note: Some (Spanish) regional climate strategies primarily aim at mitigation

Why only these RAS?

- Only those included which could be identified through websearch and our European network (tip of iceberg?)
- In several regions preparatory work (e.g., vulnerability analysis) ongoing
- Transnational strategies not included (e.g., river basins – but these are generally not yet ready)
- Partial/sectoral strategies (flood risk plans, heat plans) not included
- Sometimes adaptation (minor) part of comprehensive Climate Strategy which is mainly aiming at mitigation
- In many regions evaluation of climate resilience of development plans rather than climate-focused adaptation strategy

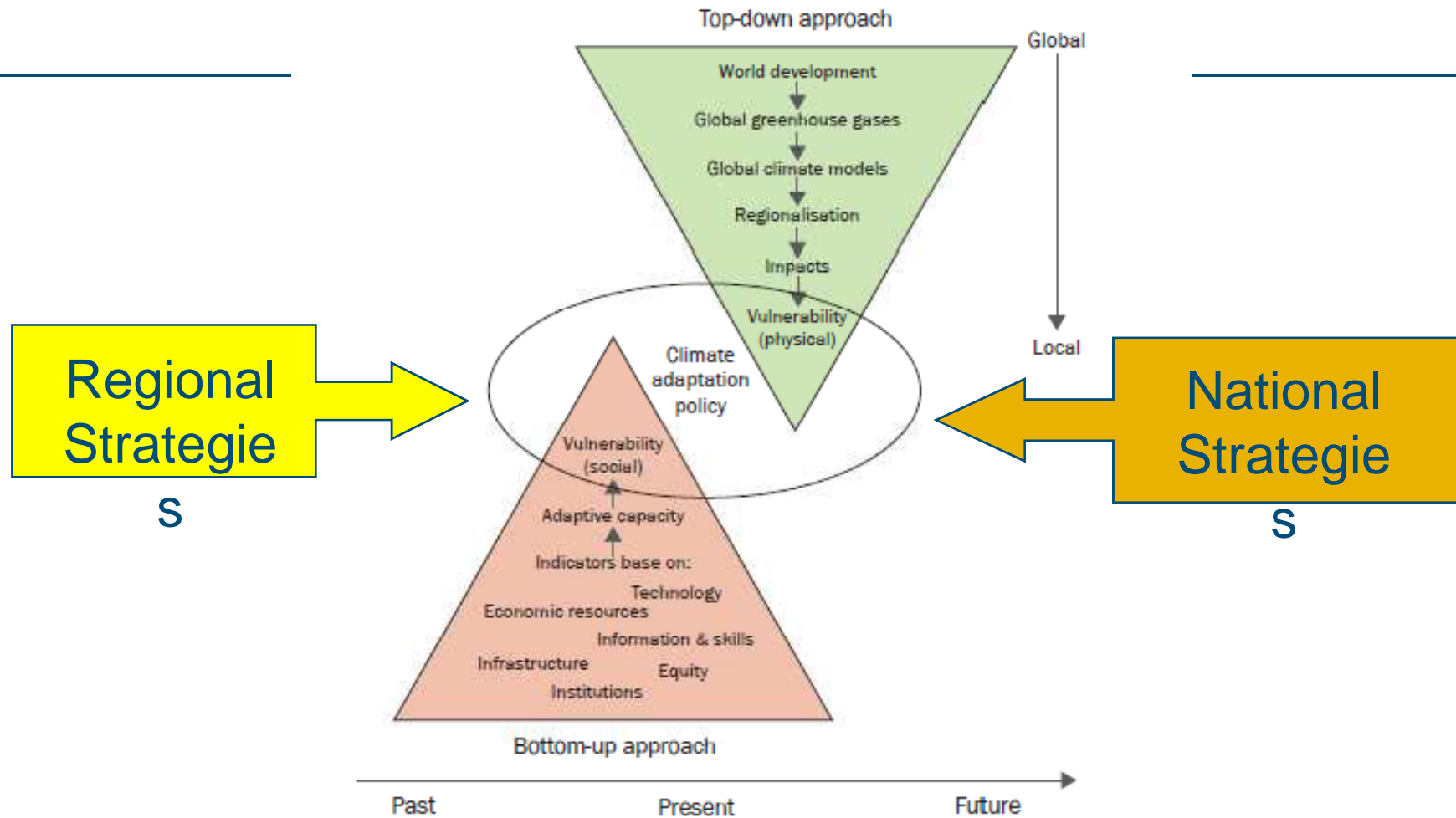
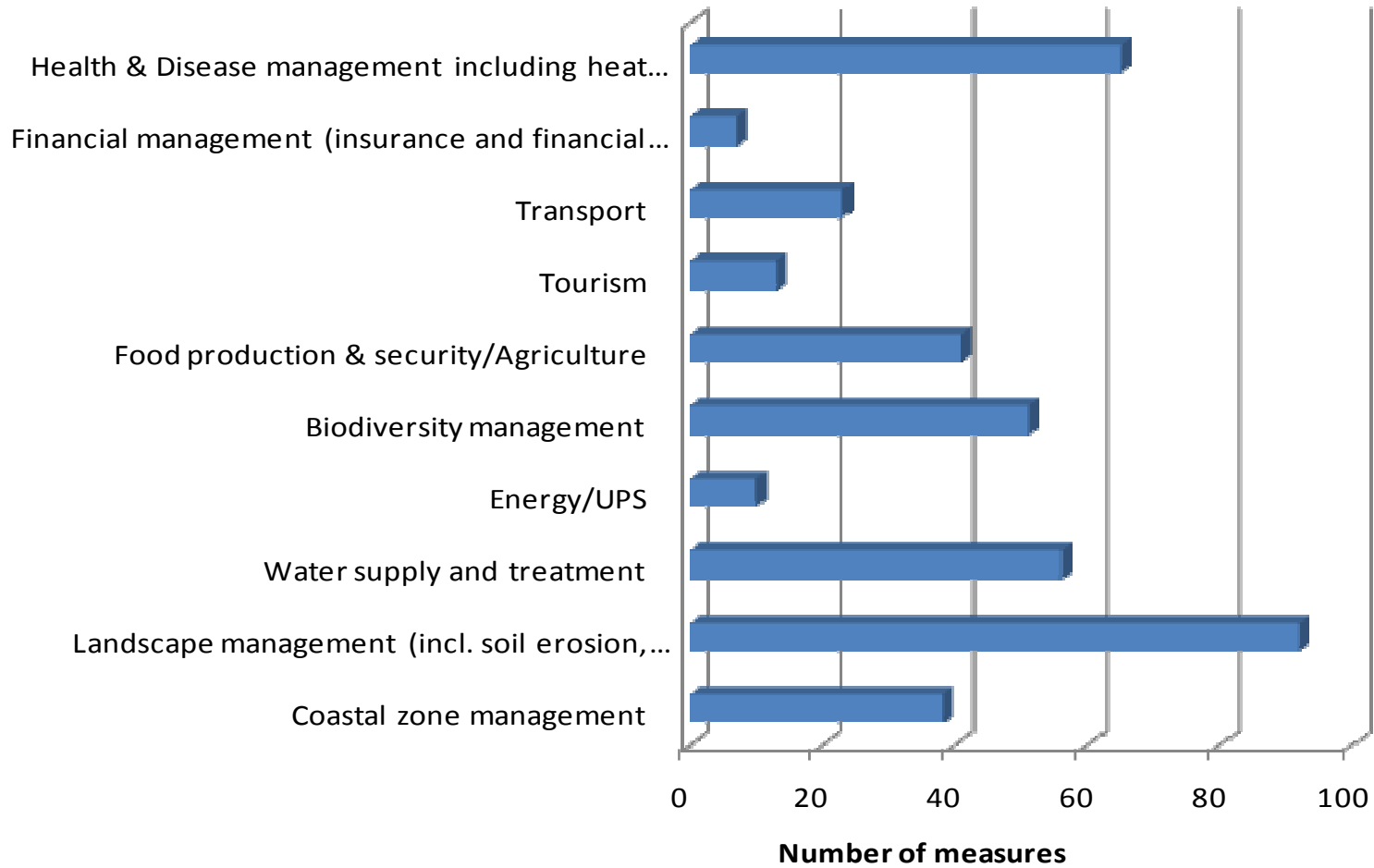
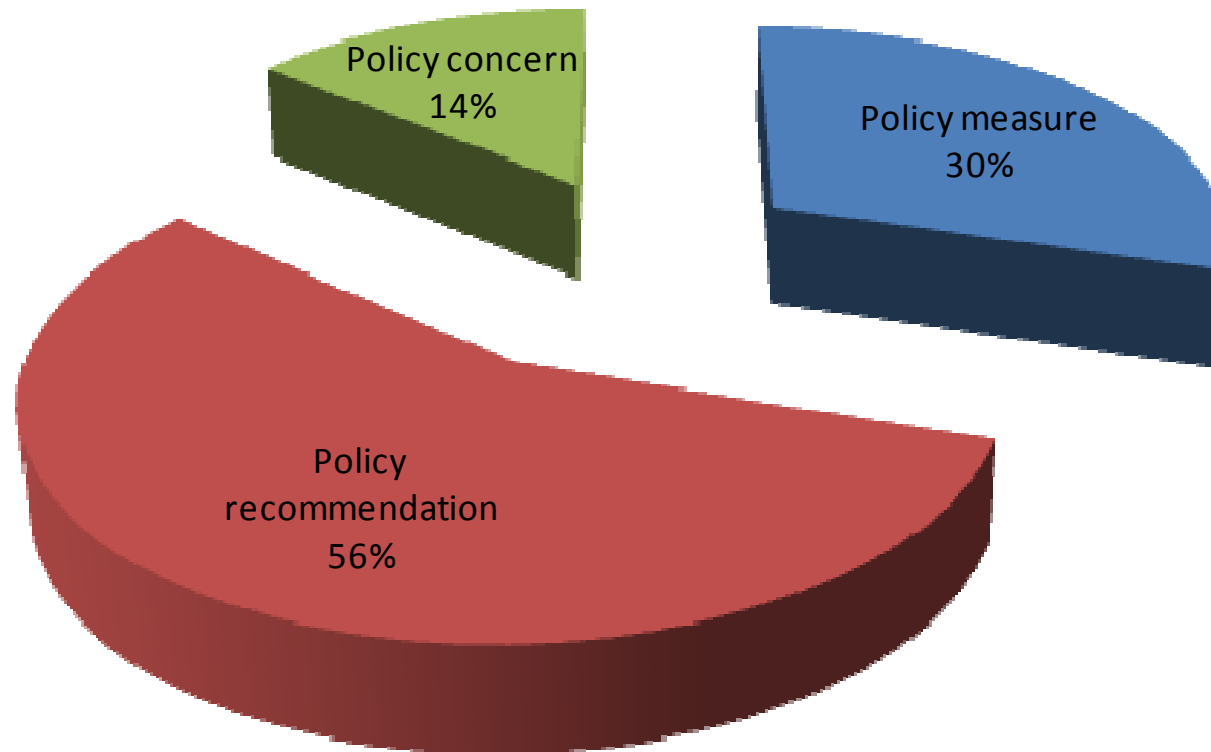


Figure 1.2 - "Top-down" and "bottom-up" approaches used to inform climate adaptation policy (Dessai and Huime, 2003).

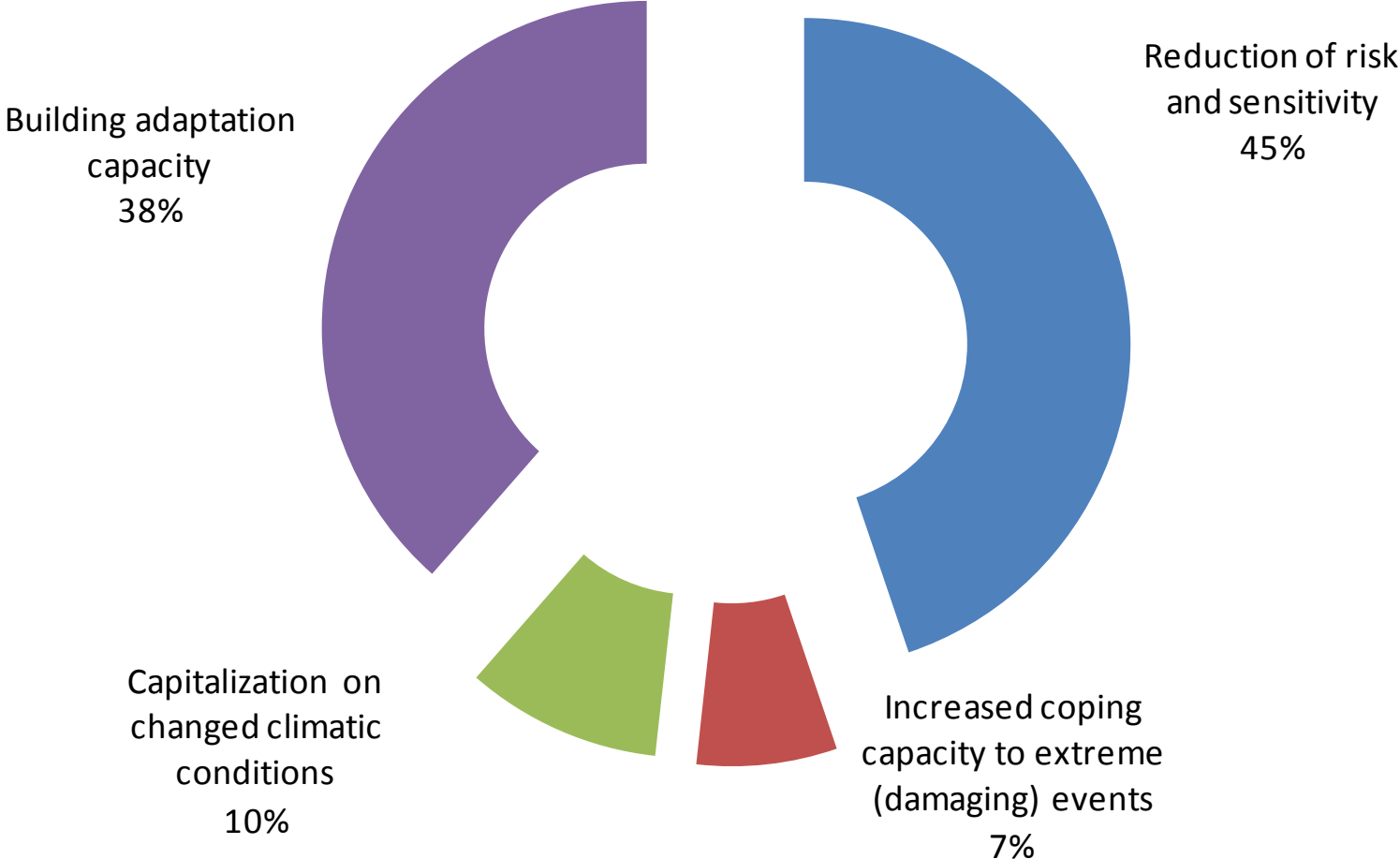
Attention to vulnerable sectors



Overall regional adaptation level



Overall regional adaptation objectives



Main findings

- Since approx. 2005, countries, regions and municipalities are increasingly concerned about their vulnerability
 - Two major types of regions have started developing strategies:
 - (a) regional governments with varying levels of autonomy
 - role: context for local planning
 - specific regional issues (spatial planning, drought)
 - (b) urban agglomerations
 - role: implementation, agenda setting for higher levels
 - specific local issues (heat/health, extreme events)
 - adaptation to climate change often coupled to mitigation, or to even broader sustainable development objectives
 - Some regions lean heavily on detailed (quantitative) assessments of vulnerabilities as a starting point for designing appropriate responses
 - Other regions start with the evaluation of resilience of a portfolio of options for regional or urban development.
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Main findings 2

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- Three issues stand out as the most important candidates for priority attention:
 - water safety and supply (flooding, urban water disposal, sea level rise, droughts),
 - health (heat stress, disease management, urban and building design) and
 - landscape management (spatial planning, erosion).
 - Little attention appears to be paid as yet to implementation issues, such as implementation policy instruments, assignment of specific responsibilities to different actors at different administrative levels, and costs.
 - Availability of guidelines for designing such regional strategies can be helpful (especially for countries which do not have the same capabilities as large countries)
 - Guidelines should pay attention to the above issues and to the political/cultural context (not one size fits all).
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Questions for discussion

- Is there a need for all regions to have a separate RAS, especially if there are national strategies and other plans at the regional and local levels that incorporate climate impacts?
- Would it be valuable to differ between different types of regions and if so, how? Existing strategies suggest that regional strategies are mainly developed at the provincial/state level or for large urban agglomerations?
- Can guidelines for regional strategies be developed in a "stand-alone" manner, or should explicit attention be paid to the linkages with higher (international, national) and lower (local) levels?