SHERPA - Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces

South Aegean MAP

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South Aegean MAP, Greece

About the MAP

- **Key characteristics of the region/country and main focus of the MAP**

The South Aegean Region is consisting of two large island complexes, namely Cyclades and the Dodecanese. By being positioned in the southeast of the Mediterranean, the region is characterised, according to the 4th Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as vulnerable to climate change.

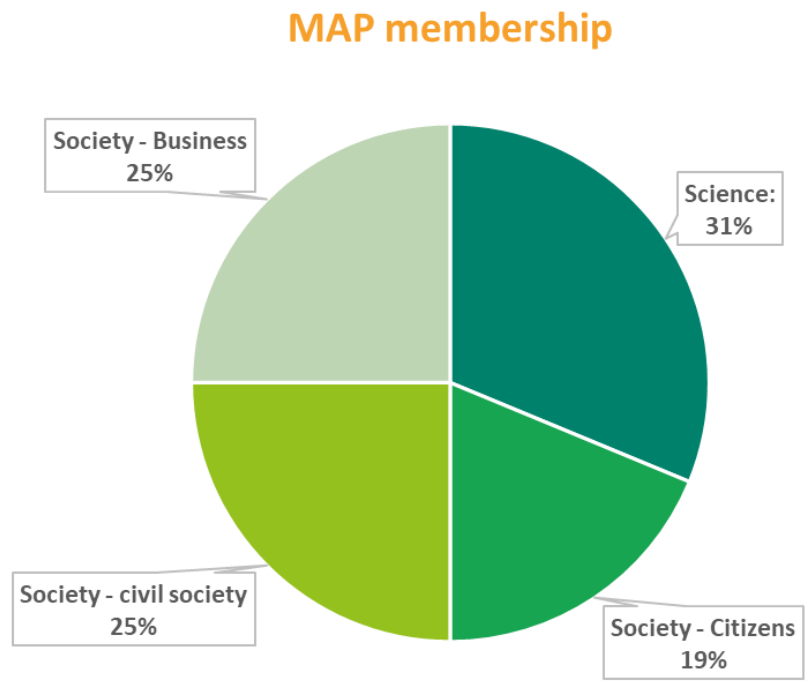
The activities of the **primary sector** (i.e., agriculture, livestock farming, and aquaculture), and **water resources** (irrigation and water supply) **are categorised as high-risk sectors** in the short and medium term (up to 2050), **due to the adverse effects of climate change**. The members of the South Aegean MAP referred to the climatic conditions in the region during the last few years and the problems they create in both their daily lives and professional activities. Therefore, **the South Aegean MAP focused on the topic of Climate change mitigation and adaptation.**

- **Work of the MAP**

- Identify how to tailor environment-friendly interventions exploiting research, technology and innovation achievements, with emphasis on the region's strengths (renewable energy resources, ecologically important areas).
- Bring together society (in all their diversity) and the industry, working closely with EU institutions, and consultative bodies, to enhance the resilience of the region to climate change.
- Investigate pathways and transitions to climate neutrality and foster a sustainable rural development mindset.

- **Composition the MAP**

Science:(1); Society – Citizens (1); Society - civil society (2); Society – Business (3)



Main messages

- Intensification of research towards climate neutrality and dissemination of research information to the region and the local professional networks
- Strong political will and commitment together with coordinated efforts of the national/regional public authorities are of utmost importance to change the conditions (and habits) that contribute to climate change
- Implementation of smart farming solutions that enable crop optimisation and yield, as well as the promotion and adoption of environmentally friendly agroecological methods
- Investments need to be made towards a broader use and adoption of RESs at both the individual and collective/business levels

Key actions

- Systematic and well-organised informative actions and education activities (starting from schools) focusing upon the changes and measures required to achieve climate neutrality
- Proper planning of the RES installation can help avoid the negative reactions from the side of the local community
- Implementation of long-term research by taking advantage of available financial frameworks
- Tax reliefs will be significant for companies that are climate neutral and have a zero (or low) environmental footprint
- Interventions for shifting to 'green' (touristic) infrastructures, so as to offer visitors advanced eco-friendly experiences

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