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# Enhancing the Governance of Local Climate Change Adaptation

Success factors and recommendations to overcome implementation barriers

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InFER





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# Project context

## GOAL - Governance of local Adaptation to climate change (2016-19, 300.000 €)

- 1) compare local adaptation policy making in other countries (literature, 28 interviews)
- 2) learn from local environmental policy diffusion in Austria (14 interviews, 3 focus groups)
- 3) analyze and compare **a) success factors**, **b) barriers**, and **c) lessons learnt**
- 4) synthesize **d) recommendations** for agenda-setting & implementation of municipal adaptation, addressing actors on i) local, ii) regional & national, iii) intermediate scale

# 14 Recommendations

## (1) **Communicate** benefits of adaptation

- monetary gains/savings, avoiding of negative effects (visualize!)
- use mediators & simple information, be target-group specific, create an experience
- framing: specific strengths of adaptation (vs. mitigation) on local scale: e.g. self-interest

## (2) **Use external problem pressure** as ‚window of opportunity‘ (e.g. extreme weather)

- prepare knowledge base, arguments (see #1), courses of action (reaction → anticipation)
- build on good practice examples & existing projects/debates
- aim for official resolutions, start the implementation processes





### **(3) Involve key actors and obtain a resolution**

- achieve political liability, involve mayor & council early on
- alternatively: seek alliances with other local actors (businesses, unions, doctors, etc.)
- key: treat local actors as experts

### **(4) Create clear adaptation responsibilities & provide resources**

- strengthen local coordination capacities either by a) creating a new field of competence or b) integrating adaptation compulsory into existing structures
- this needs: expertise, formal competencies, independent budget, continuity

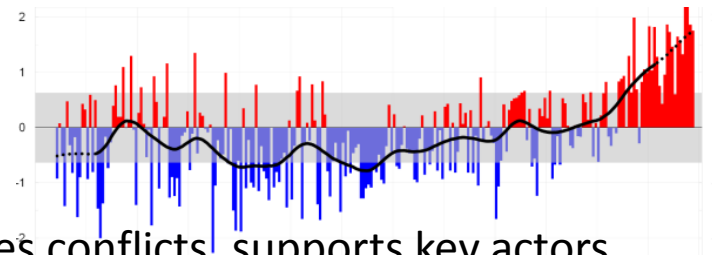
## (5) Good organization of adaptation inside/outside municipalities

- inside: well-defined contact persons, close cooperation with *all* affected sectors/ actors/ citizens, interdisciplinary steering group, monitoring of measures
- outside: close cooperation with mediating institutions, higher-ranked governments, neighboring municipalities



## (6) Use professional external expertise

- Why? Facilitates acceptance and implementation, solves conflicts, supports key actors
- e.g. spatial planning office, university, NGOs, research projects, regional administration



## **(7) Entry point: concrete, ,no-regret‘ measures with positive effects**

- start by planning small, pragmatic steps with immediate effects and low conflict potential
- successful long-term strategies build on these ‘quick wins’ and intensify/consolidate them

## **(8) Move from reactive to anticipative adaptation**

- How? Start with straight-forward vulnerability analysis & prioritization, cooperate with professional adaptation managers, use existing support tools, team up with key actors
- develop an initial product (see #7), highlight risks of inaction, benefits, costs (visualize!), approach mayor/council, get resolution, define concrete responsibilities/instruments





## **(9) Integrate CCA in existing municipal instruments & development plans**

- mainstreaming into e.g. climate-/ energy-/ tourism strategy, sustainable development plan, municipal development plan
- alternative: separate adaptation strategy/plan (with responsibilities, measures, budget)

## **(10) Build regional networks of municipalities**

- Why? Benefits from mutual learning, knowledge transfer, pooling of resources & expertise, coordination (e.g. in case of rivers)
- needs institutionalization: regular meetings, coordination





## **(11) Foster local awareness and public participation**

- precondition for structural long-term change, for affirmative political consensus, for increased individual adaptation (private households)
- important: choose suiting time/ form/ intensity (e.g. town meeting, newsletter)

## **(12) Support by higher-ranking governments/administration**

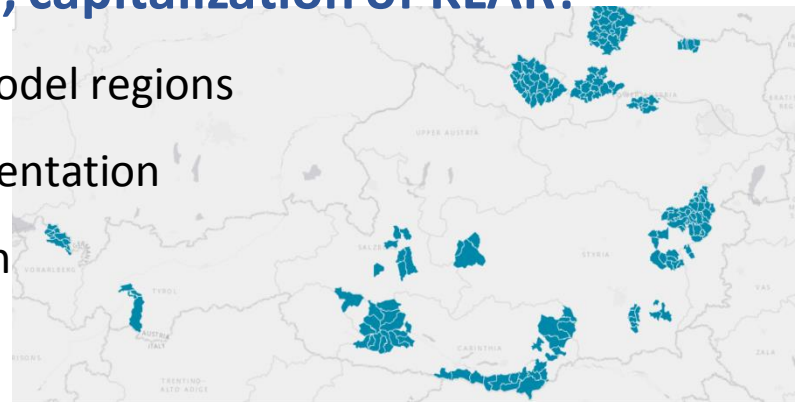
- provide locally relevant information, professional counseling, centralized “first-stop-shop”, training and funding opportunities
- effect: smoothes inner-municipal conflicts and skepticism

## (13) Public funding combined with ,soft coercion‘

- overcomes lacking local capacities, signalizes political relevance, alleviates resolutions
- Funding of what? E.g local staff, strategy development, process management, implement. planning, vulnerability assessments, providing coordination, mediation, continuity

## (14) Evaluation, readjustment, continuation, capitalization of KLAR!

- Austrian funding program for climate adaptation model regions
  - effect: successful agenda-setting + ongoing implementation
- in 44 regions:  $\approx$  175 munic.  $\approx$  10% of population



# Questions?

## Further reads:

[www.klimawandelanpassung.at/goal/](http://www.klimawandelanpassung.at/goal/) → GOAL recommendations in detail, policy brief, short movies, etc.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6R\\_CVVp5RvY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6R_CVVp5RvY) → GOAL: statements of local practitioners

<https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/goapply/en/results/project-results>

→ Country Reports on climate adaptation governance (AT, CH, DE, IT) with case studies, lessons learnt, etc.

→ Multilingual booklet: 'Good practice of stakeholder participation in the Alpine Space'

[www.wsl.ch/gov-vis-cca](http://www.wsl.ch/gov-vis-cca) → Governance mappings + interactive online visualization for all 7 Alpine countries

# Thank you!

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