



SESSION DESCRIPTION

Session description as of 29 May 2012

G2 Cities and the EU Adaptation Strategy: How can the urban perspective be anchored in the EU Adaptation Strategy?

Workshop

Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Time: 11:30 – 13:00

Rooms: S17 and S18

Language: English

Contact: Holger Robrecht,

Email: holger.robrecht@iclei.org

Organized by: ICLEI European Secretariat

OBJECTIVE

The EU is currently developing a climate change adaptation strategy to be published in March 2013. As the local level is perceived as the most important for successful climate change adaptation, the question is how the urban dimension can be displayed and anchored in this European strategy, and how the multilevel framework between local, regional, national governments and the EU, is being designed.

The session will start with taking stock of the urban dimension of adaptation in Europe by presenting recent research results. It will focus on the current affairs with regard to adaptation in European cities by means of examples. Furthermore, it will reflect on the state of play of the development of the EU Adaptation Strategy. Barriers and opportunities for multi-level collaboration and practical adaptation work will be identified and discussed. The session will conclude by summarising possible input in the development and later implementation of the EU Adaptation Strategy, which will be forwarded to the European Commission, DG CLIMA.

OUTCOMES

Participants to the session will:

- Gain an insight into the state of play with regard to the urban dimension in the EU Adaptation Strategy;
- Explore the dimensions and framework conditions for successful urban adaptation in the multi-level governance context of Europe; and
- Discuss what – in essence – is needed to appropriately reflect urban needs in the EU Adaptation Strategy and its implementation process.

METHODOLOGY

The session will vary between brief interventions, interview elements with invited guests, and open discussion involving all participants. The two facilitators will take care of appropriate rhythm and pace of the discussion. The facilitation will follow guiding questions to be shared with guests and speakers in advance; however, spontaneous variations will keep the discussion lively. Guests and speakers are expected to arrive open-minded and interact with both facilitators and audience. The session restrains from the usual presentation format and will use only single selected slides, where absolutely necessary. A mindmap of the discussion will be drawn. Conclusions to the discussion will be given by Dr. Aleksandra Kazmierczak.

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitators *Birgit Georgi, Project manager regional vulnerability and adaptation, European Environment Agency – EEA, Copenhagen, Denmark*

Holger Robrecht, Director Sustainability Management, ICLEI European Secretariat, Freiburg, Germany

Birgit Georgi was trained as a landscape planner. The last 5 years, she has managed projects on the urban environment at the European Environmental Agency. Over the last years, she shifted the focus more towards cities and climate change adaptation and was responsible for the production of the European assessment on urban adaptation to climate change. From a European level perspective, she will further work on urban vulnerability indicators and adaptation strategies for cities in a multi-level policy framework.

Holger Robrecht joined ICLEI in 1997. He holds a Diploma in spatial planning and has more than twenty years of experience with local environmental and sustainability management and planning, project development and co-ordination, team supervision, as well as guidance and training. He is a renowned expert for sustainability management, climate adaptation, and ecosystem services and is member of the EU Adaptation Steering Group. Before joining ICLEI, he led the Research department Soil Contamination, Soil Protection and Land-use management at the University of Dortmund, Institute for Environmental Research.

Panelist *Cornelia Jäger, DG Clima, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium*

Panelist *Andreas Vetter, KomPass – Climate Impacts and Adaptation in Germany, Federal Environment Agency (UBA), Germany*

Andreas Vetter graduated in landscape planning. He conducted research on the regional development of cultural landscapes at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (IRS) before he came to KomPass – Climate Impacts and Adaptation in Germany at the Federal Environment Agency. He is involved in the development of the German Adaptation Action Plan and works on evaluation of adaptation measures and adaptation barriers in municipalities.

Panelist *Kathrin Prenger-Berninghoff, Institute of Urban Development, Krakow, Poland*

Ms. Prenger-Berninghoff has a degree in Environmental Science and a Master's degree in Spatial Planning. Since 2011, she has been working as research assistant for the Institute of Urban Development in Krakow, Poland. She is a PhD research fellow in the Marie Curie Initial Training Network "CHANGES - Changing Hydro-meteorological Risks as Analyzed by a New Generation of European Scientists", carrying out research on the topic "Use of risk information in Strategic Environmental Assessment and spatial planning" – with a special focus on the local planning level.

Panelist *Aleksandra Kazmierczak, Research Associate, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester, UK / European Topic Center on Climate Change*

Aleksandra Kazmierczak is a Research Associate in the School of Environment and Development at the University of Manchester, UK. Her research concerns adaptation of cities to climate change in Europe and the UK, with a particular focus on the use of urban green spaces in adaptation, vulnerability of urban communities to extreme weather events, and planning processes leading to development of adaptation action plans. Aleksandra holds a PhD in urban geography from the University of Salford, UK.

Further recommended reading

ICLEI European Secretariat

<http://www.iclei-europe.org/topics/climate-change-adaptation/>

<http://eucities-adapt.eu/>

EEA report 2/2012: Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe — Challenges and opportunities for cities together with supportive national and European policies: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/urban-adaptation-to-climate-change> (available from 11 May on)

European Climate Adaptation Platform CLIMATE-ADAPT: <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/>

Adaptation Action Plan of the German Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change, 2011:

<http://www.bmu.de/english/climate/downloads/doc/48464.php>

German Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change, 2008:

<http://www.bmu.de/english/climate/downloads/doc/42841.php>
