

IX - Adaptation strategies

Parallel session B – Monday 10th March 16:00-17:30

ID N°: [201]

Title: TOWARDS AN AUSTRIAN MONITORING & EVALUATION SYSTEM – FLEXIBLE, EASY-TO-MANAGE AND MULTI-PURPOSE

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Monitoring and Evaluation Systems (M&E) are crucial not only to measure success and implementation of adaptation strategies, but also to generate further knowledge on trends of climate change effects which are relevant for adaptation as well as to learn which adaptation inventions are working and which are not.

An M&E approach is currently being developed in Austria in order to investigate on the implementation of the national adaptation strategy (NAS) and its Action Plan (NAP). Both have been adopted by the Council of Ministers on 23 October 2012. The process of developing an M&E system has started in early 2013 and relates closely to the actions identified and proposed in the NAP. The system shall be effective in terms of providing sufficient information to monitor implementation activities, while still keeping it manageable with reasonable efforts. Thus, the Austrian M&E system combines two different methodological approaches: i) self-assessment: a stakeholder survey will be carried out on adaptation actions (“first steps”) of the NAP; ii) data related criteria-catalogue: an “indicator-based approach” with qualitative and quantitative data collections will be performed.

The joint consideration of both the stakeholder survey and the criteria catalogue aims to provide a comprehensive picture of adaptation activities in the 14 areas for action defined in the Austrian NAS and showcase information on key trends in climate-sensitive sectors in Austria (changes in vulnerability, climate change impacts). The first “climate change adaptation progress report” is planned for the end of 2014. It will track the progress of implementing the recommendations of the NAP, highlight gaps and key challenges and provide a basis for continued development (review) of the NAS.

The development of a national M&E system for climate change adaptation is a relatively new field, thus the Austrian framework needs to be flexible and open for new developments. The Austrian M&E approach is therefore designed as a “learning system” which is kept open for future amendments. The need for establishing a flexible system with an iterative development process became already apparent when e.g. identifying criteria (indicators) that should be clearly relevant for main adaptation aspects, make use of existing data (or data collected with little effort), be robust and - if quantitative – based on statistically validated data, repeated in an appropriate timeframe and measurable at national level.

After introducing the overall set-up for the Austrian M&E system on climate change adaptation, the presentation will highlight main challenges and gaps that already became obvious in the development process and our approach how to address those. Further it will give some food for thought and discussion on how M&E systems may serve more purposes than “only” monitoring and evaluating progress.

Presenter

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ID N°: [278]

Title: ENGLAND'S NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROGRAMME: REGRESSION OR PROGRESSION?

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The UK is often considered an international leader in climate change policy in both mitigation and adaptation. The Climate Change Act 2008 required the government to submit the National Adaptation Programme (NAP) to Parliament in 2013. Published in July 2013, England's NAP sets out what the government, businesses and society are doing to become more climate ready. This paper presents an analysis of England's NAP and its *Economics of the National Adaptation Programme* annex, which explains the NAP's approach to adaptation to climate change. Our analysis shows a reframing of adaptation as resilience and a framing of adaptation as big business. The latter is based on two economic opportunities: 1) good management of climate risks saves money for businesses and other organisations; 2) the potential to export English expertise to help others to adapt is substantial. The NAP was an opportunity for the Government to raise the importance of climate change adaptation and demonstrate strategic leadership in setting out a vision for adaptation in the future. One key assumption made by the NAP is that market forces and self-interest of private and public actors will lead to appropriate adaptation. However, behavioural economics suggests that actors frequently fail to behave rationally and in their self-interest. The NAP's collaborative approach, the belief that adaptation will occur autonomously, and the removal of mandatory adaptation reporting powers by the Secretary of State, suggest a weaker commitment and willingness to exercise governmental powers to ensure effective adaptation. For example, the abolishment of National Indicator 188 could be considered as evidence of regression or policy dismantling in the area of adaptation. Many actions in the NAP are listed as aspirations rather than as concrete actions. This raises the question where does the responsibility and accountability for delivering adaptation lie and how is the evaluation and monitoring of the NAP to be done? We finally put the English NAP in a wider European context and note similarities with the Danish NAP, with its focus on collaboration, growth, 'localism' of adaptation and consequently the drive for individuals and business to take the lead on adaptation. This is in contrast with the NAPs from Germany and France for example which clearly emphasise the role of government and legislative and legal means to ensure the implementation of adaptive measures. The English NAP contains 126 actions addressing priority risks, however, the main foci of these actions are recommendations such as learning, guidance, capacity building, knowledge sharing awareness raising and many more 'good intentions'. Our analysis raises the question of whether 'good intentions' and autonomous adaptation are sufficient to achieve the NAP's vision of "a society that makes timely, far-sighted and well-informed decisions to address the risks and opportunities posed by a changing climate".

Presenter

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ID N°: [284]

Title: **LEGISLATING ADAPTATION: EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

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National adaptation policy has emerged in the last ten years in Europe with varying types of strategies and measures to ensure that countries are able to cope with the negative impacts of climate change, as well as take advantage of the positive effects that may arise. Thus far, much of national level adaptation action has centered around national adaptation strategies with less emphasis on actual policy measures and implementation. Even less attention has been paid to the issue of legislation in relation adaptation in academic literature. This is perhaps due to the fact that there are not many examples of this in practice, apart from a few countries such as the United Kingdom. This paper assesses the current efforts of the Finnish government in drafting the Climate Change Act which is to include adaptation in its scope. The paper considers the ways in which adaptation can be included in legislation by comparing European experiences and also by using participant observation in the legislation process in Finland. The conclusion highlights the opportunities that arise from including adaptation in the legal framework, as well as the potential ways that might complicate further advancement of adaptation at the national level.

Presenter

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ID N°: [238]

Title: **HOW THE SWISS ADAPTATION STRATEGY ADDRESSES UNCERTAINTIES AS BIGGEST ADAPTATION FRONTIER**

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Adaptation to climate change is a new policy field. While most countries still struggle to adapt to today's climate variability, climate change poses new challenges to which adequate responses need to be found. In Switzerland - as in many other European countries - an adaptation strategy has been developed. The first part of the strategy, which describes the goals, challenges and fields of action in adapting to climate change, was adopted on 2 March 2012. It is now supplemented with an action plan as the strategy's second part. The action plan consists of 64 measures which contribute to achieve the adaptation goals set in the first part of the strategy.

The adaptation measures included in the action plan illustrate that in most sectors the knowledge of climate change and climate change impacts is not sufficient and uncertainties are still too large to start with the planning of concrete action. This is particularly the case if the mitigation of potential losses in the future requires large investments today. Therefore, the majority of adaptation measures aims to improve the knowledge base with further monitoring and impact studies. However, since uncertainties are inherent to climate projections, different strategies need to be developed to prepare the ground for decision making.

This presentation will provide an overview of the adaptation measures summarized in the action plan, and reflect on concepts to deal with uncertainties and on the further development of adaptation in Switzerland.

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