



GoApply - Multidimensional Governance of Climate Change Adaptation in Policy Making and Practice

The governance of climate adaptation in Austria Lessons learnt on multilevel governance and mainstreaming



The challenge

- 1) How to enhance the implementation of adaptation strategies and measures across levels (multilevel governance, vertical coordination)
- 2) How to achieve mainstreaming of adaptation into sectors (horizontal policy integration)?
- 3) How to more actively involve sub-national levels and non-governmental actors?

The methods

- Mapping and visualising the Austrian adaptation governance system (document analysis)
- Case study analysis, expert interviews (n=10)
- Analytical framework: simplified policy cycle analysis (Vogel & Henstra 2015), factors of policy change (Clar & Steurer 2017)

The results

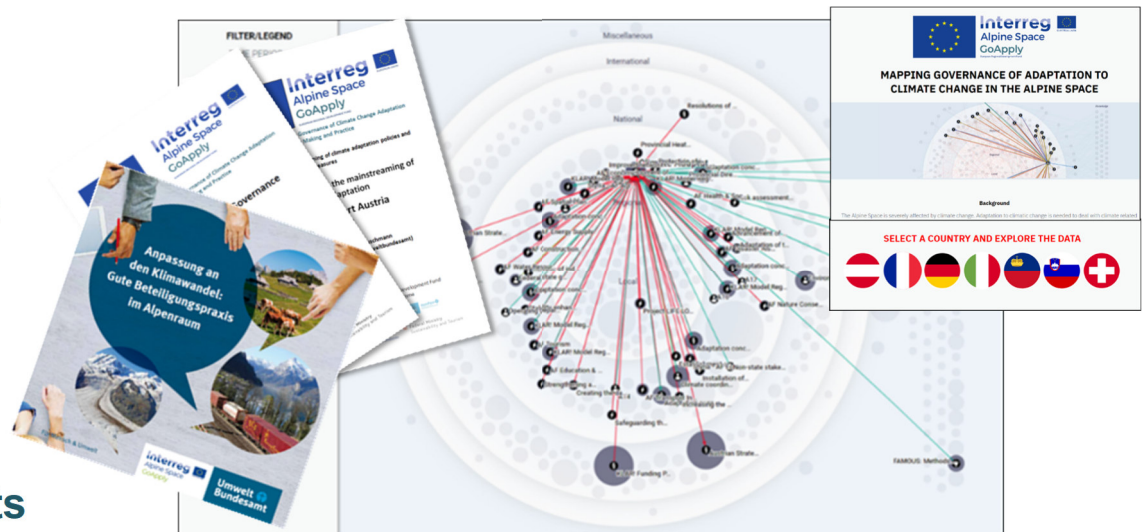
- ✓ **2 reports** on i) multi-level governance and ii) mainstreaming addressing barriers, success factors, good practice examples, lessons learnt and policy recommendations for Austria
- ✓ Interactive **online visualisation of adaptation governance** (Austria and all Alpine countries)
- ✓ **Multilingual brochure** on good practice examples of **stakeholder participation formats**

The objectives

- Improve understanding of the Austrian adaptation governance system
- Identify supportive factors and barriers
- Learn from good practice examples
- Draw lessons, derive policy enhancement options and strengthen implementation capacities

The cases

- 1) **Regional adaptation strategy of Styria** (multi-sectorial, participatory development, implementation at regional and local levels)
- 2) **Working Group on “Self-responsible risk precaution” (LURK AG)** (upon mandate by LURK; administrative experts at federal and state levels from the CCA & DRR policy fields)

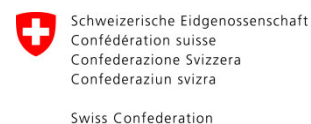


Where to begin? Key policy recommendations

- Strengthen **central coordination capacities** and institutionalise coordinator roles at all levels
- Deploy the facilitating, supporting and empowering roles of **adaptation coordinators** as ‘change agents’
- Capitalize on existing well-developed culture of **informal, cooperation-based governance** (more formalised coordination is not a universal remedy)
- **Modus operandi** for cross-cutting implementation activities: **a)** concrete project/issue-based contexts **b)** ‘task-force’-based approach, **c)** participatory policy development to build collaborative governance structures for implementation
- Install permanent **cross-departmental steering group** for implementation
- Prepare for ‘**windows of opportunity**’ and use ‘focussing events’ (esp. at reg. & /local levels)

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