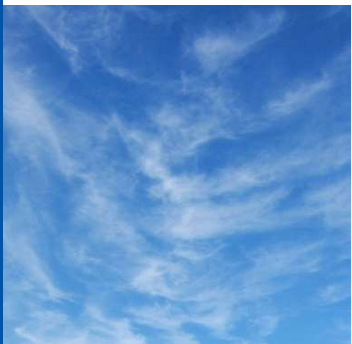
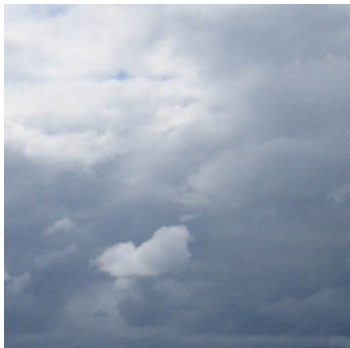


# GO-ADAPT

## THE GOVERNANCE OF ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE



[www.wiso.boku.ac.at/go-adapt.html](http://www.wiso.boku.ac.at/go-adapt.html)

## What is Go-Adapt?

World climate is already changing, impacts become increasingly visible, and adaptation measures are necessary to minimise threats and damages in the future.

Go-Adapt is a political science research project funded by the Austrian "Climate + Energy Fund" that deals specifically with the **governance of climate change adaptation, i.e. with the ways in which adaptation policies and instruments are developed and implemented** by governments in selected OECD countries at different levels. Why is this governance perspective important? By focusing on interesting practices of 'how to do it', the proposed research helps to develop and implement adaptation policies that are concerned with the 'what to do'. So far, however, the governance framework of adaptation is still largely in the making and little is known about the governance of adaptation policies because this issue has largely been neglected. Not paying attention to the challenge of how to deliver adaptation policies through adequate governance arrangements any longer would inevitably hamper adaptation efforts. In this sense, "institutional requirements for adaptation" are also acknowledged as important in facilitating adaptation to climate change in the IPCC report from 2007.

## Research Objective

The overall objective of Go-Adapt is to **provide policy-relevant insights on how governments address governance challenges** that are paramount in the context of climate change adaptation.

The governance focus of Go-Adapt complements existing research on climate change adaptation that focuses mainly on climate scenarios, expected impacts, ecological, societal as well as economic vulnerabilities, and respective adaptation options to address them.

## Governance challenges addressed

The following four governance challenges and respective governance approaches are analysed in Go-Adapt for selected OECD countries:

### (i) Horizontal integration across policy sectors:

Inter-ministerial coordination bodies, national strategy processes, coordination of different strategies, 'climate-proofed' assessments, guidelines and checklists

### (ii) Vertical integration across levels of government:

Inter-governmental coordination bodies, multi-level governance instruments such as treaties, voluntary agreements, guidelines, strategies

### (iii) Uncertainty of climate scenarios, impacts and vulnerabilities and the effectiveness of adaptation measures:

Knowledge brokerage mechanisms, risk assessment tools, 'uncertainty/ignorance audits', adaptive strategies, formats that facilitate reflexivity in policy making, stakeholder forums

### (iv) Procedural equity and participation:

Institutionalised stakeholder forums; ad-hoc participation, such as stakeholder workshops/conferences, online consultations, etc.

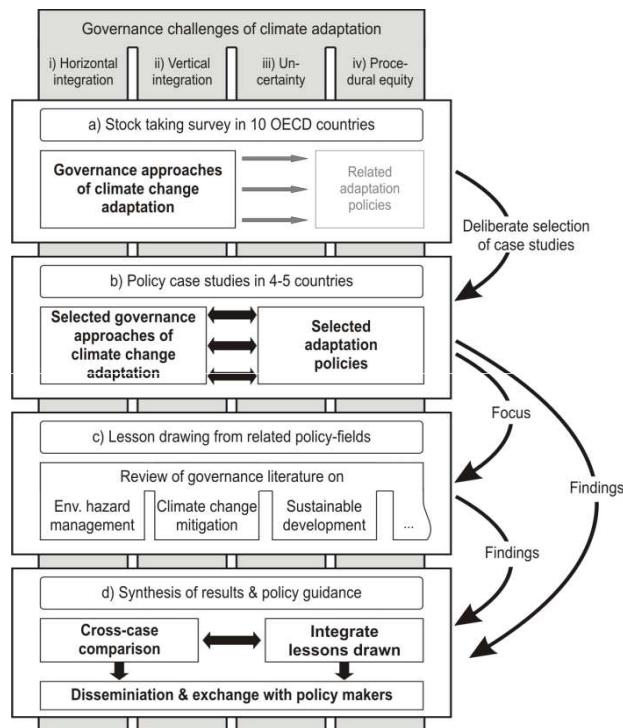
## Countries covered



This project is funded by the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund and conducted within the framework of the ACRP programme.



## Research steps



- The stock taking survey** provides an overview of how governments in 10 OECD countries address the four governance challenges (i-iv) and it results in a shortlist of policy case studies
- The case studies** reveal how selected governance approaches addressing all four challenges materialise in concrete adaptation policy cases, and they help to focus the next research step
- The extended literature review** aims to draw lessons from thematically related policy fields that are characterised by similar governance challenges
- The synthesis of results** compares the case studies (cross-case analysis) in the light of the lessons drawn from the extended literature review, and policy recommendations will be formulated

## Innovations of Go-Adapt

**General:** So far, research on climate change adaptation has focused mainly on climate scenarios, expected impacts and respective ecological, societal and economic vulnerabilities.

➔ The governance perspective employed in Go-Adapt is key to advance climate change adaptation because respective impacts and vulnerabilities challenge how policy making usually works.

**Stock-taking survey:** Little is known about the approaches governments employ to cope with the governance challenges in the context of climate change adaptation.

➔ The stock taking survey aims to provide the first comparative account of how selected governments cope with major governance challenges in the context of adaptation.

**Policy case studies:** Since adaptation governance approaches have rarely been subject to empirical political science research (at least not at the national level), little is known about how they actually function.

➔ The case studies aim to provide first insights on the strengths and weaknesses of selected governance practices and how they shape policy making.

**Lesson drawing:** Similar governance approaches have been developed, applied and researched over years in other contexts. The experiences made there are highly relevant for climate change adaptation, but rarely addressed jointly.

➔ By linking governance research on related policy fields, the proposed research will facilitate learning and avoid 'tabula rasa' in the relatively new adaptation policy field.

**Synthesis and policy guidance:** The governance framework of adaptation is still largely in the making, and little is known about what approaches work best under what circumstances.

➔ By combining the case study comparison with the extended literature review Go-Adapt will provide the knowledge-base for innovations in the governance of climate change adaptation.

## Project Team



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For more detailed information on the project and its deliverables visit the Go-Adapt website:

[www.wiso.boku.ac.at/go-adapt.html](http://www.wiso.boku.ac.at/go-adapt.html)