

The governance of adaptation to climate change: Taking stock and providing guidance

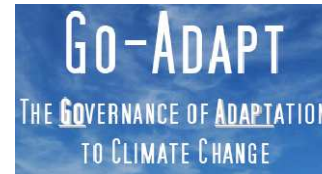
Project Overview

Anja Bauer, Judith Feichtinger, Reinhard Steurer

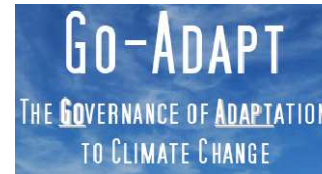
InFER | Institute of
Forest, Environmental, and Natural Resource Policy

BOKU - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences
Vienna, Austria

Orientation



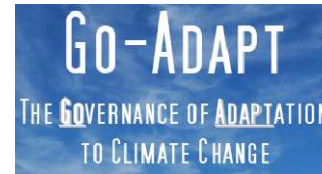
- The project
- Focus and objectives
- Governance challenges addressed
- Research steps & work packages



The project

- **Funding:** Euro 158.000 provided by the Austrian Climate Research Program (ACRP)
- **Timing:**
 - Project start: April 2010
 - Duration: 26 months
- **Staff & Partner**
 - 2 half-day post-doc positions:
 - Anja Bauer
 - Judith Feichtinger
 - Austrian Environment Agency: Andrea Prutsch
 - Link research to Austrian climate change adaptation policy making;
 - Provide feedback on research design and reports from a practitioner's perspective

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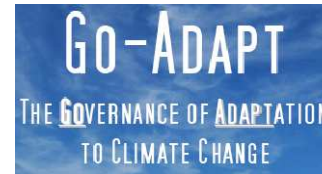


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Focus and objectives

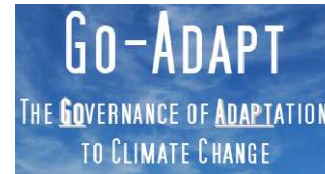
- **Focus:** How are adaptation policies developed and implemented in OECD countries (why OECD?)
- **Objectives:**
 - Provide an **overview** of national and selected sub-national **adaptation governance approaches** in 10 OECD countries
 - Show how these approaches actually **function in selected adaptation policies**
 - Draw lessons from experiences with similar governance approaches that are applied in **related policy fields** (e.g. climate change mitigation and sustainable development)
 - Provide **guidance on how to** advance the governance of climate change adaptation, in particular in countries that are at early stages of establishing respective policy frameworks.
- **Why is the governance perspective important?** Adaptation efforts would be endangered if some governance challenges are not addressed adequately. So far, „the governance framework of adaptation is still largely in the making“ (Paavola 2008)
- **What are the governance challenges** that need to be addressed by adaptation policies?

Orientation



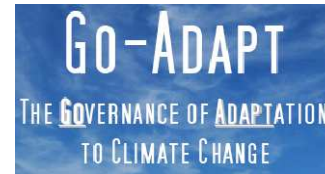
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Governance challenges



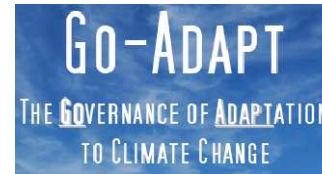
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(i) Climate change impacts and adaptation efforts cut across policy sectors	Better integrate policies horizontally (across sectors)	

Governance challenges



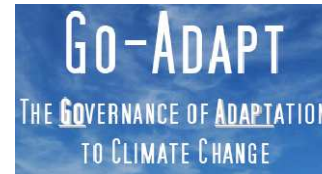
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Governance challenges



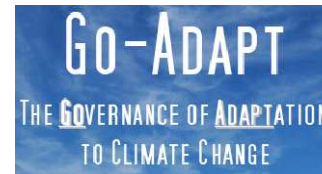
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(ii) Climate change adaptation efforts cut across levels of government	Better integrate policies vertically (across levels of government)	Inter-governmental coordination bodies, multi-level governance instruments such as treaties, agreements, guidelines, strategies between different levels of gov., etc.

Governance challenges



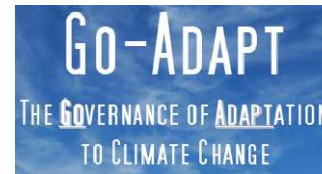
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(iii) Uncertainty of a) climate scenarios b) impacts and vulnerabilities c) the effectiveness of adaptation measures	Improve the knowledge-base of adaptation policies	Knowledge brokerage through 'boundary organisations'; risk assessment tools; 'uncertainty/ignorance audits'; adaptive/reflexive strategies; formats that facilitate reflexivity in policy making; stakeholder forums, etc.

Governance challenges

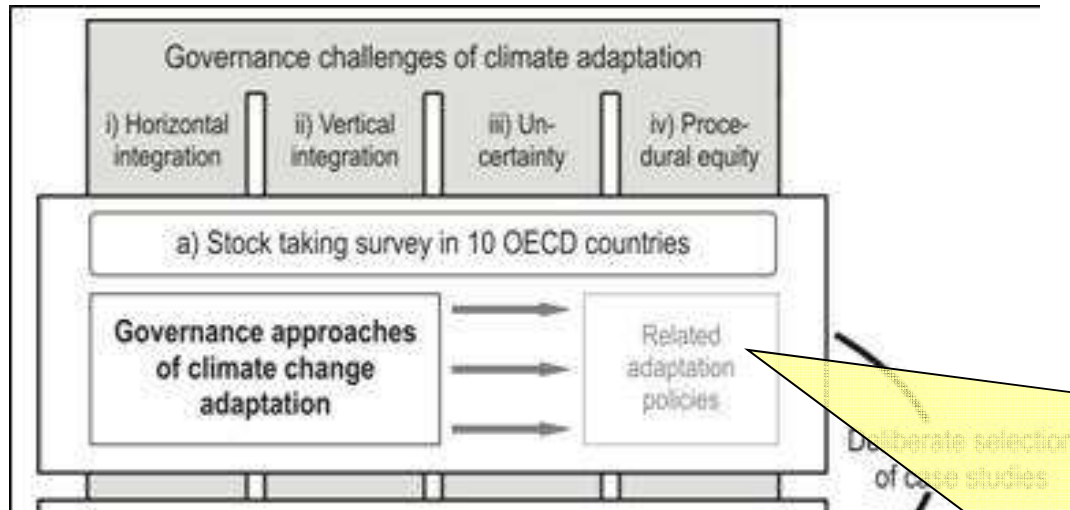


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(iv) Those affected most by climate change are often not well organised and therefore excluded from policy making	Facilitate 'procedural justice' through participation	Institutionalised stakeholder forums; ad-hoc participation (workshops/conferences/dialogues), online consultations, etc.

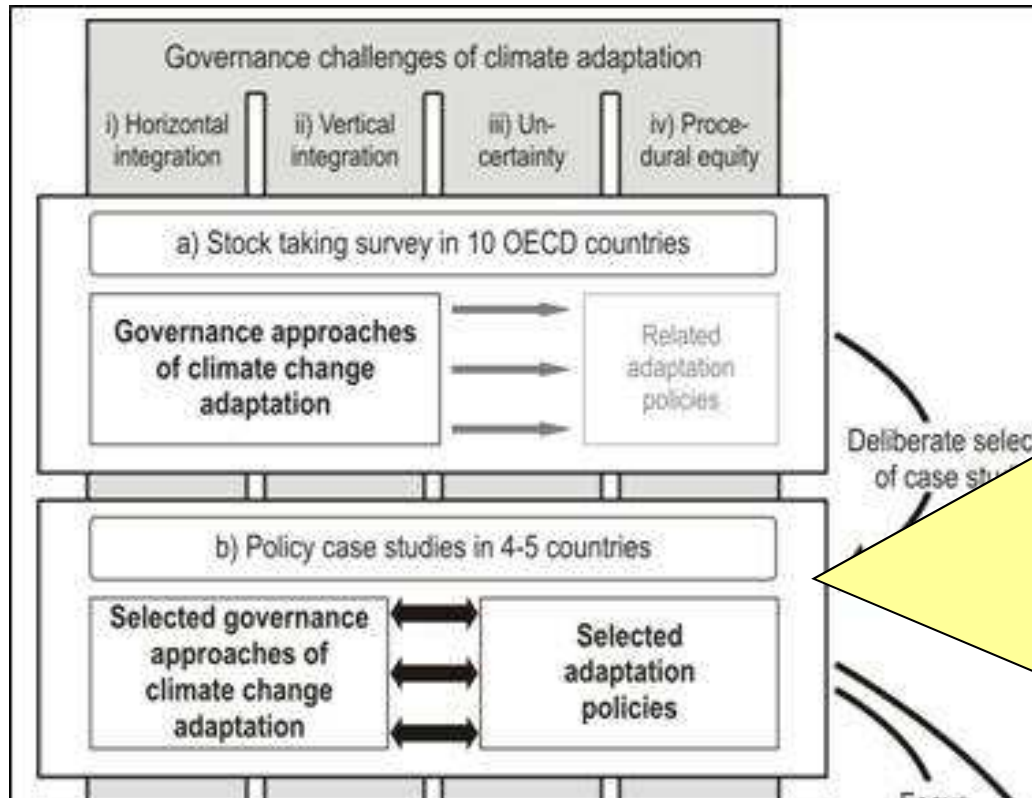
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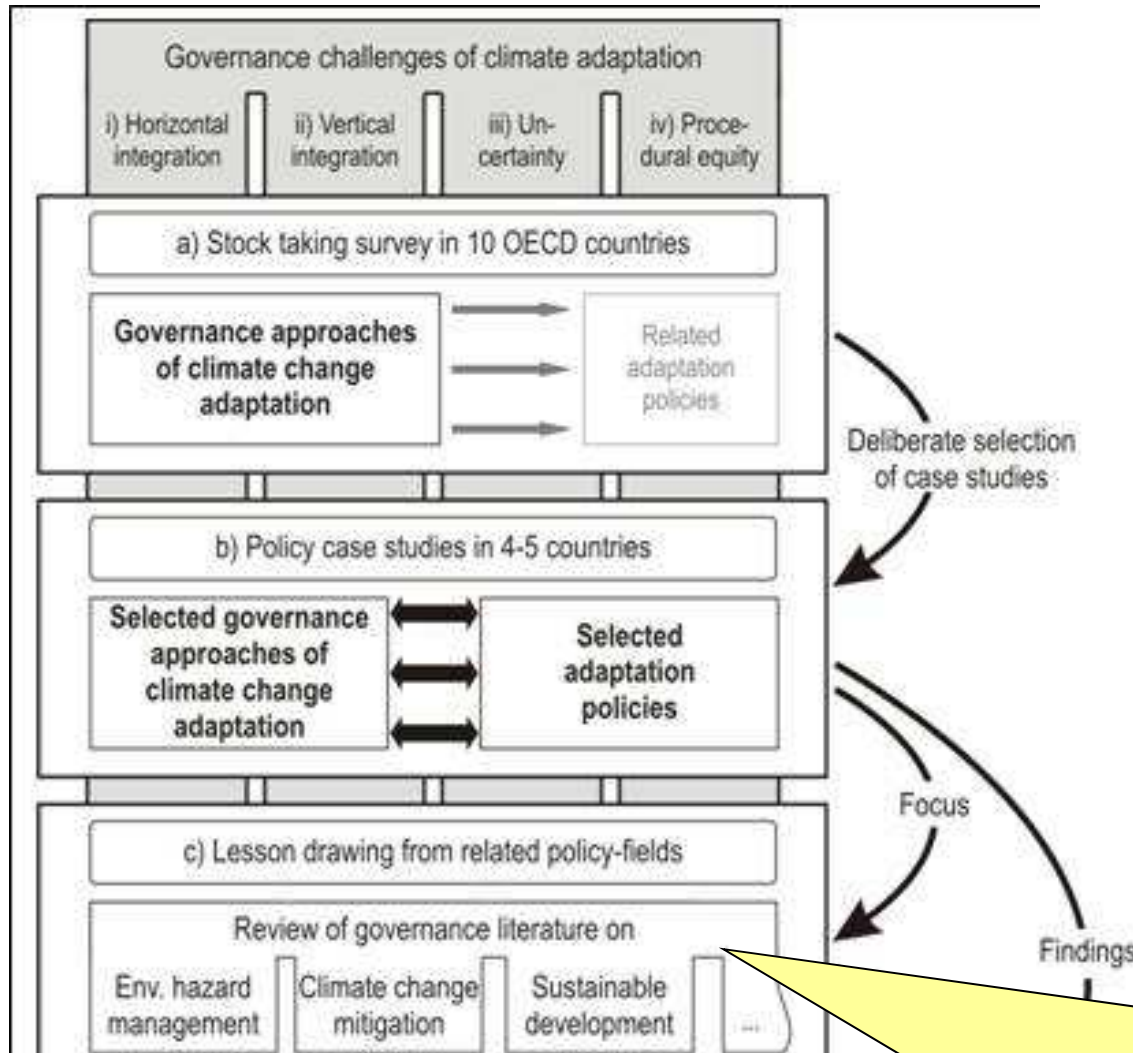
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- **Method:**
desk research and telephone survey
- **Country selection:**
based on criteria-guided desk research and support from advisory panel
- **Expected results:**
Overview of governance approaches and related policies at the national and regional level
- **Innovation:**
First comparative overview of adaptation governance approaches



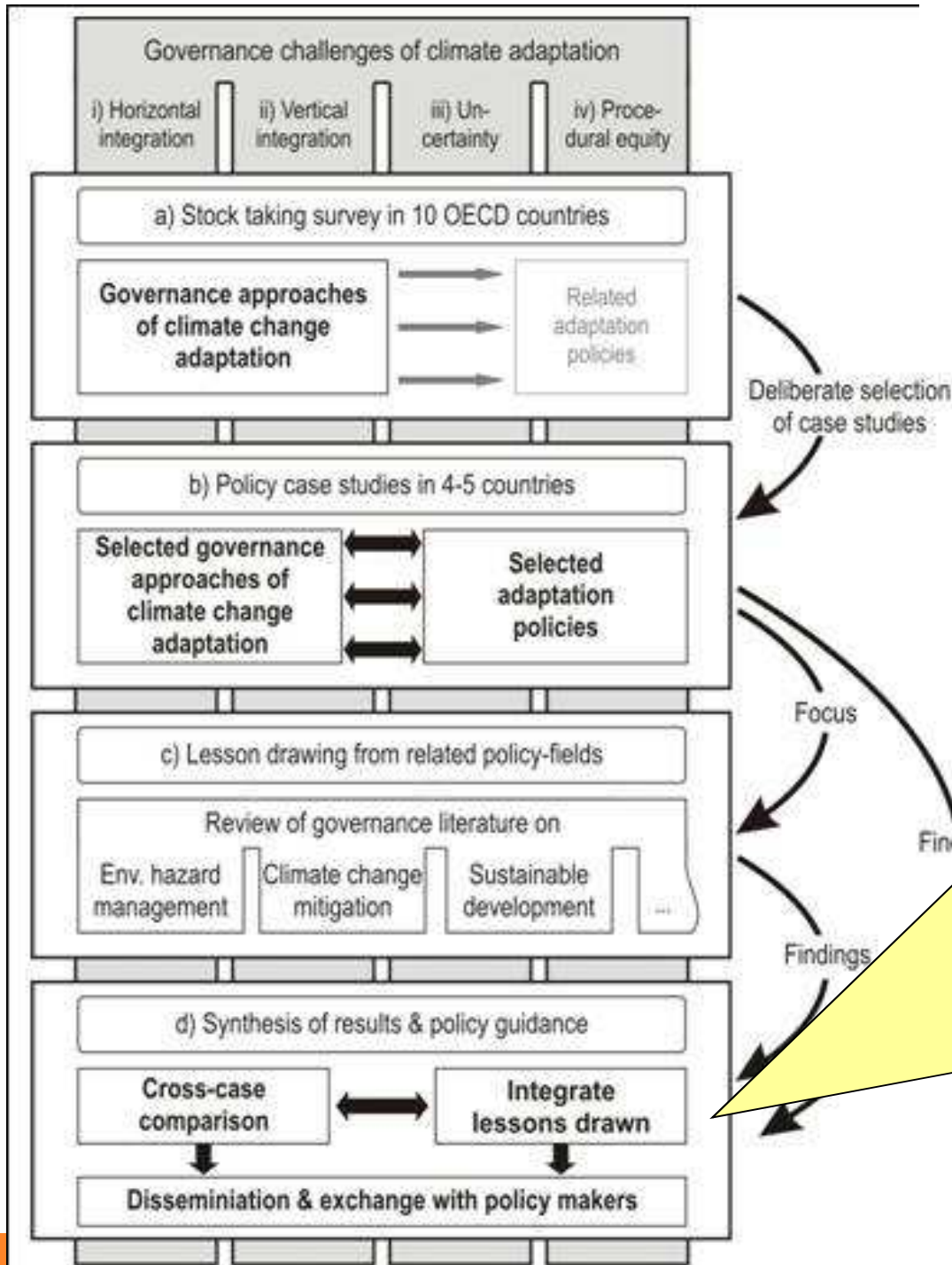
- **Method:**
2 case studies for 4-5 countries; desk research and 4 interviews per case
- **Case selection:**
Significant adaptation policies from different levels of policy making, linked to the governance approaches described in WP1
- **Expected results:**
Get to know adaptation policies and better understand the relevance of governance approaches („in how far did governance approaches shape adaptation policies?“)
- **Innovation:**
Relevance of governance approaches often unclear



• **Method:**
Literature review, guided by case study findings

• **Expected results:**
Transfer knowledge on the governance of complex issues (in particular regarding success factors and obstacles); fill gaps in adaptation governance (research)

• **Innovation:**
Bridge thematic divides and learn from relevant research in other areas



• Method:
Cross-case analysis (WP2) and synthesis with literature review (WP3)

• Expected results:

- Success factors and challenges of adaptation governance (,pattern matching')
- Recommendations on how to address the four governance challenges
- Refined recommendations for adaptation governance in Austria, based on a discussion with Austrian policy makers

• Innovation:
Derive recommendations on how to build an effective adaptation governance framework



<http://www.wiso.boku.ac.at/go-adapt.html>

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