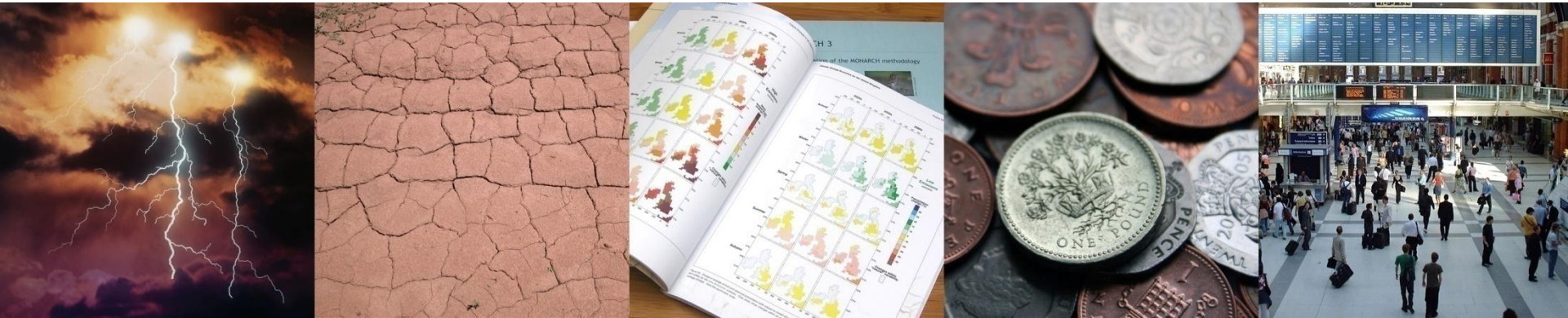


European Climate Adaptation Policy

Context, Expectations and Needs

Bologna, Italy

21st and 22nd June 2011



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Technical Director

Consideration

Level of influence of other scales of policy on national science-policy development

Pressing adaptation research needs and influence by the European scale

Role of CIRCLE-2

Multi-Level Governance

Importance in the development and implementation of adaptation strategies

- One-size-fits-all approach – not appropriate
- Inadequacy of administrative borders for impact and risks
- Adaptation will require engagement across administrations – cross boarder
- Classic multi-scale global problem – infinitely diverse actors, multiple stressors and time scales (Adger, 2006)

Adaptation taken at the appropriate level (subsidiarity principle) and be complementary (proportionality principle) with others actions developed at different levels

The EU Scale

Adaptation will require solidarity among EU Member states to:

- Ensure that disadvantaged regions and regions most affected will be capable of taking the measure needed to adapt.
- Associated burdens distributed equitably and that impacts on jobs and on the quality of life of low-income groups are taken into account.
- This social dimension of adaptation pursued within existing EU processes in the social and employment fields (requires that all social partners are involved).

The EU Scale

For the EU's framework to be successful, the EU, national, regional and local authorities must cooperate closely

- Coordinated EU Action will be necessary in certain sectors, (e.g., water, agriculture, biodiversity, fisheries and energy) that are closely integrated at the EU level through the single market and common policies.
- EU is well placed to facilitate coordination and the exchange of information and practices among Member State.
- Emphasis is placed both on implementation of EU directives and on the provision of structural funds that can support actors on different levels.

The EU Scale and the National Scale

Recognised need to input into EU policy on adaptation and EC's leadership overall on EU adaptation programmes

EU scale has had direct influence over the general development of national climate change policy, **but**

Has had relatively little influence on the development of national adaptation strategies

- Reference to the European scale are few and mostly have a small impact over how countries develop / implement their national strategies
- Mention European directives on different sector issues

The EU Scale and the National Scale

Provision of state input (at the formation stage) and the implementation of the EU directives may influence (and potentially delimit) national policy and adaptation.

Directives set a context within which actions can be taken and may support actions relevant to climate change or hinder the development of measures.

Sub-national government may forge their own relationships with Brussels, creating diversified patterns of lobbying and differentiated access to funding and influence comparable to regional-national patterns within the nation state.

Challenges

Gap between theory and practice – moving from impacts to vulnerability / risk assessments and then to adaptation assessment (including adaptation option identification and appraisal)

Decision making in the face of uncertainty

Adaptation by learning through doing

Knowledge transfer – transfer of information when adaptation does not necessarily travel well in space in time

Addressing conflicts, potential synergies and trade-offs

Research Gaps

Adaptation activities are diverse, complex and only seem to have substance when connected to a particular sector, organisation, policy areas or function

Adaptation in relation to long latency issues, policies and decisions – strategies

Governance aspects in broadest sense, including roles (from individual/community up to national Government), motivations and incentives

Adaptation appraisal and evaluation concepts, tools and approaches (both economic and otherwise)

Research Gaps

The provision of information (climate and non-climate) that is able to support adaptation assessment. This includes extracting value to inform assessments and decision-relevant information.

Adaptation in the face of uncertainty

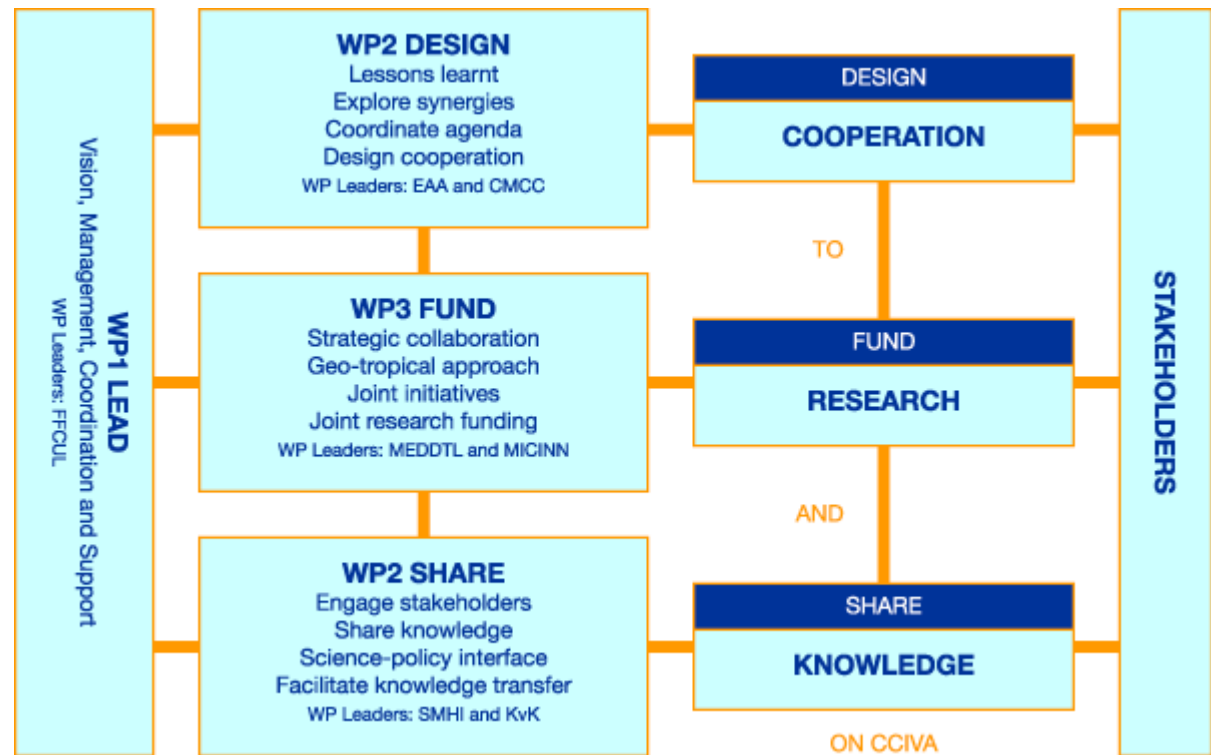
Roles of CIRCLE-2

A European Network of 34 institutions from 23 countries committed to:

- Fund research and share knowledge on climate adaptation; and
- Promote long-term cooperation among national and regional climate change programmes.

CIRCLE-2

1. Have the work packages
2. Need to ensure that communication and engagement strategies are consistent with delivery of the overall objectives



- Monitor and evaluate performance relative to objectives and expectations
- Identify risks and gaps and mitigation measures to address both
- Demonstrate progress in addressing and delivering these

CIRCLE-2 Roles

Bringing together multi-disciplinary research communities from across the EU to address key research gaps:

- Contributions to delivery of climate services agenda
- Moving from impacts to vulnerability, risk and adaptation research to support practice (business, policy and other decision makers).
- Decision making in the face of uncertainty
- Moving from theory to practice – adaptation identification and appraisal, and monitoring and evaluation.

European Climate Adaptation Policy

Challenges and opportunities are many

