

Guiding principles for good adaptation to climate change in Europe



Andrea Prutsch¹

Torsten Grothmann², Inke Schauser³, Sonja Otto³, Sabine McCallum¹

¹ Environment Agency Austria; ² Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research;
³ Federal Environment Agency, Germany (UBA)

Funded by European Environment Agency



Overview

- **Main** challenges of adaptation
- **State** of knowledge
- **Aim** of guiding principles
- **Methodological** approach for developing the guiding principles
- **Guiding principles** for good/successful adaptation
- **Conclusion**



Adaptation to climate change...

... is a challenging task!



Uncertainty



Lack of information



Complexity



Conflicts



State of knowledge - 1 -

Guiding principles &

Guidelines for ...

... certain countries

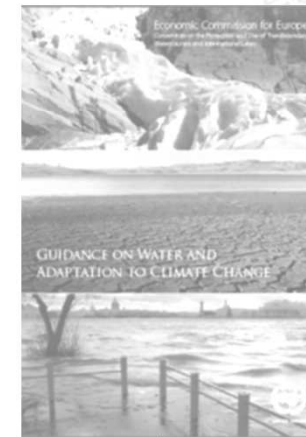


Deutsche Anpassungsstrategie an den Klimawandel

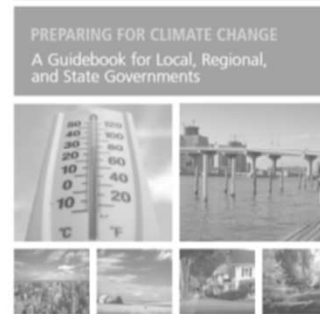
vom Bundeskabinett am 17. Dezember 2008 beschlossen



... certain sectors



... certain levels



Final report
Design of guidelines for the elaboration
of Regional Climate Change
Adaptations Strategies

Tender DG ENV. G.1/ETU/2008/0093r

Maria Magdal Roberts (Ecologic), Conca Lomon (AEA), Thomas
Drensk (Ecologic), Eric Maney (EUM), Rob Sweet (WUR), Magdal
Brenner (AEA), Conca Lomon (Ecologic)

In collaboration with:



State of knowledge - 2 -

For most countries in Europe and
also at the EU level,
widely acknowledged guiding principles
are still lacking for
all levels of planning and concerned sectors!

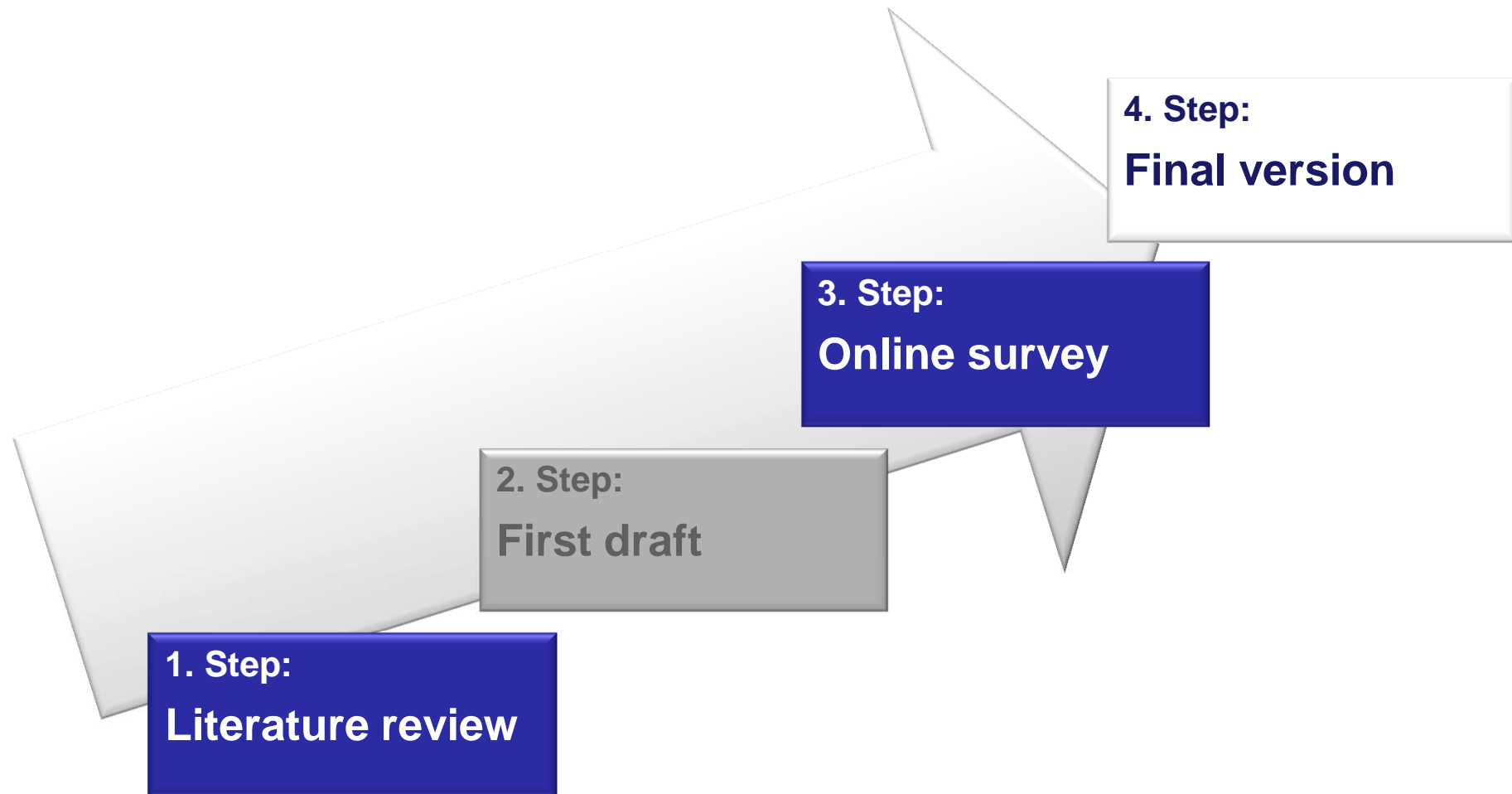


Guiding principles (GPs) aim to ...

- **support** adaptation for a wide range of situations and actors
- **bridge** the gap between comprehensive guidelines and abstract adaptation principles
- **provide** assistance to adaptation planners and decision makers when dealing with the challenges of adaptation



Methodology



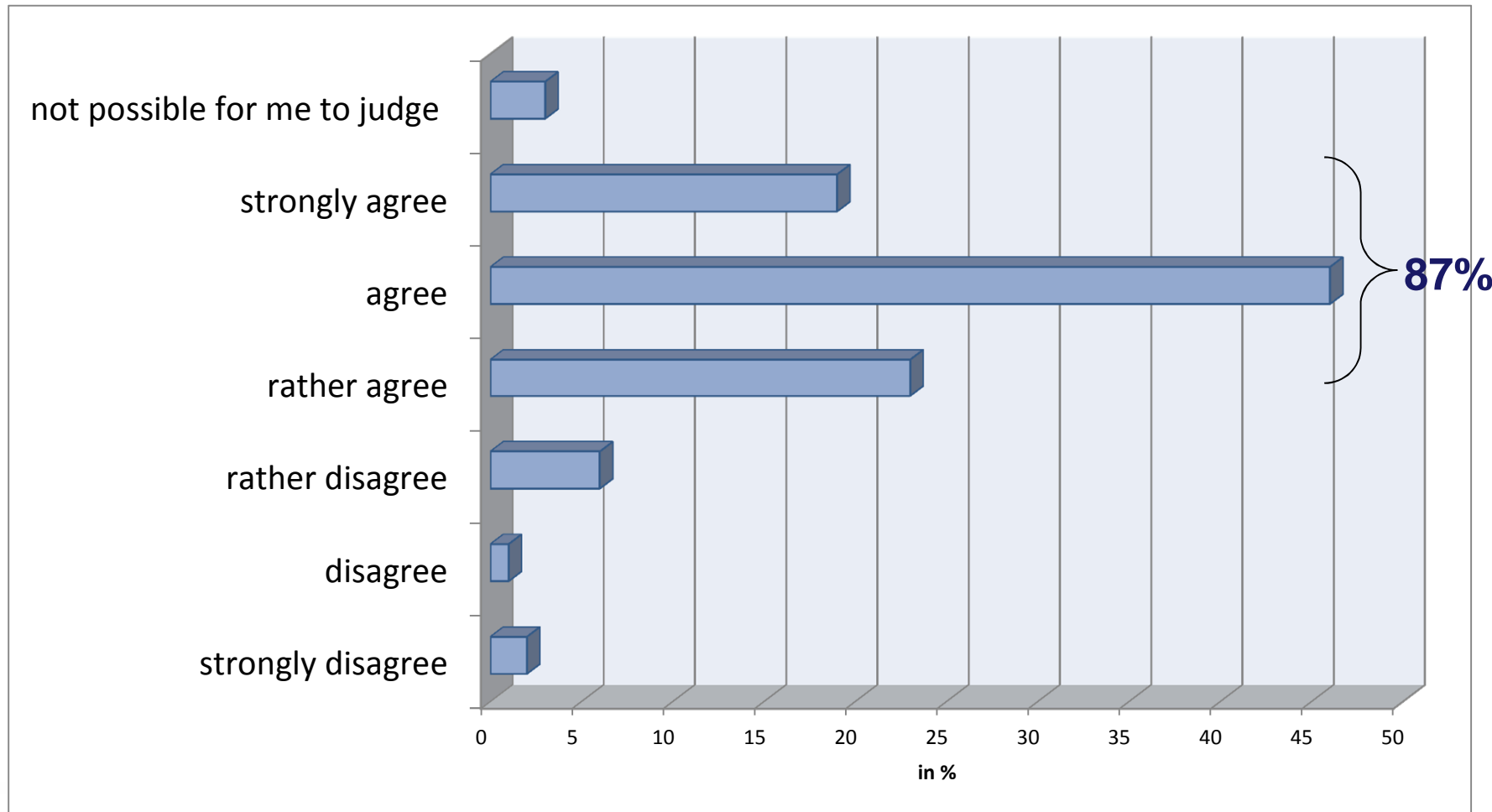
Methodology: Expert survey

- **Survey** was conducted by the Potsdam Institute of Climate Impact Research (PIK) and the company e-fect as part of this ETC/ACC project
- **252 experts** completed the entire questionnaire
 - from 35 European countries and the EU Commission
 - from local to European decision making levels
 - from governmental institutes, NGOs, business organisations and research institutes
 - from 17 different sectors such as forestry, health, biodiversity, etc.

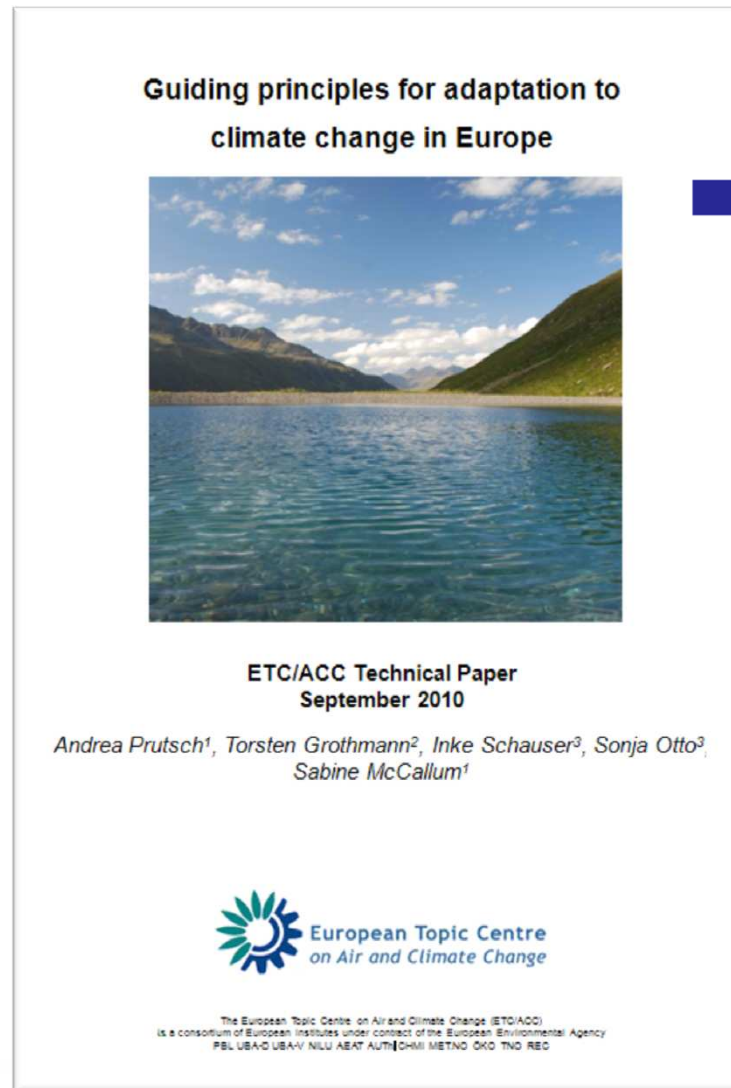


Results from expert survey

The guiding principles integrate the most important aspects of useful adaptation



Set of guiding principles for good adaptation



**Available
on the
internet!**

LINK: http://air-climate.eionet.europa.eu/reports/ETCACC_TP_2010_6_guid_princ_cc_adapt



10 guiding principles for good adaptation

GP 1 Initiate adaptation, ensure commitment and management

GP 2 Build knowledge and awareness

GP 3 Identify & cooperate with relevant stakeholders

GP 4 Work with uncertainties

GP 5 Explore potential climate change impacts and vulnerabilities and identify priority concerns

GP 6 Explore a wide spectrum of adaptation options

GP 7 Prioritise adaptation options

GP 8 Modify existing policies, structures and processes

GP 9 Avoid maladaptation

GP 10 Monitor & evaluate systematically



10 guiding principles for good adaptation

- GPs are strongly **interlinked** and should be applied in an integrated way
- **Importance** of each GP depends on:
 - the level of decision-making
 - the specific (e.g. regional) condition
 - the planning stage

List of Guiding Principles	Important to address in following phases		
	Planning	Implementation	Evaluation
1. Initiate adaptation, ensure commitment and management	████████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████
2. Build knowledge and awareness	████████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████
3. Identify and cooperate with relevant stakeholders	████████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████
4. Work with uncertainties	████████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████
5. Explore and rank potential climate change impacts and vulnerabilities	████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████
6. Explore a wide spectrum of adaptation options	████████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████
7. Prioritise adaptation options	████████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████
8. Modify existing policies, structures and processes	████████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████
9. Avoid maladaptation	████████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████
10. Monitor and evaluate systematically	████████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████

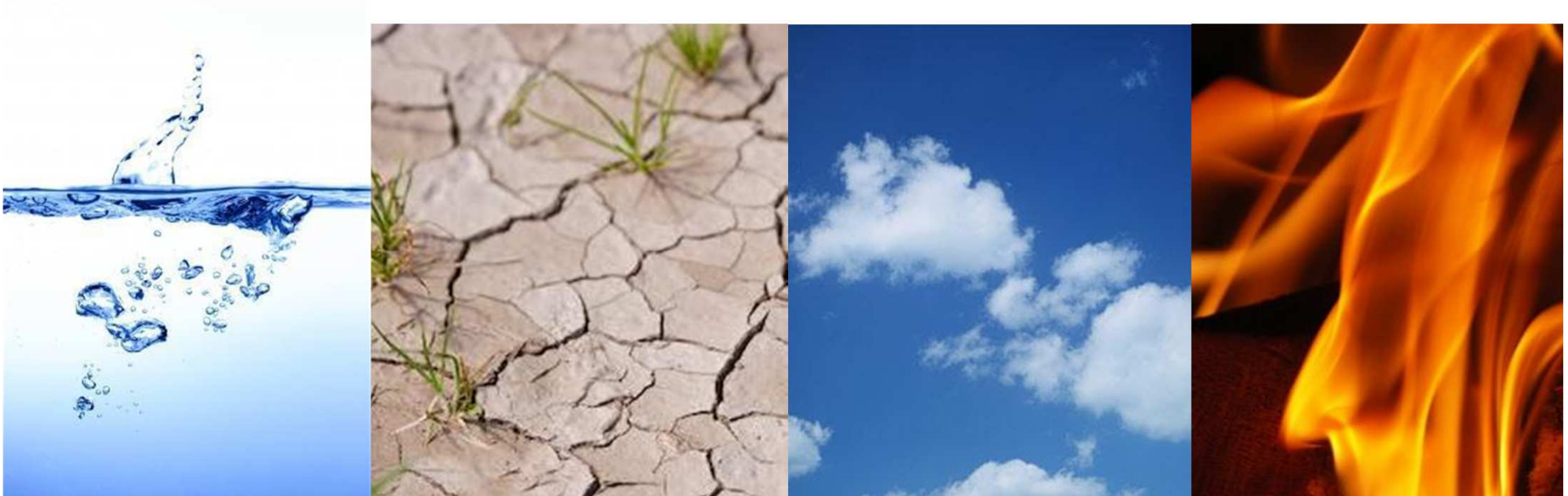


Conclusions

- Basis: current **scientific thinking** and **expert experience**
- Guiding principles:
 - **indicate** key success factors and give direction on how they can be put into practice
 - **structure** the complexity inherent when dealing with adaptation
 - **provide** a common basis for coordinated adaptation activities
 - **help** to identify good practice examples in adaptation
 - **suggest** a framework in which adaptation should take place



Thanks!



Andrea Prutsch

Environmental Impact Assessment & Climate Change
Environment Agency Austria (Umweltbundesamt Vienna)

T: +43-(0)1-313 04/3462

andrea.prutsch@umweltbundesamt.at

Funded by European Environment Agency

