



Adaptation to climate change – agenda setting and policy integration in Germany

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Overview

- Introduction
- Aim of the study
- Method
- Results
- Outlook

Introduction

■ National level:

- Beginnings of adaptation policy in Germany in 1990s
- German Adaptation Strategy 2008
- Action Plan on Adaptation for the German Adaptation Strategy in 2011

■ EU level:

- EU White Paper on Adaptation 2009
- Since 2011 DG Climate
- Adaptation Strategy expected in 2013

■ Adaptation strategies in EU countries

- E.g. UK 2008; Finland 2005; Denmark 2008; Spain 2006; Ireland 2007; Portugal 2010

Aim of the study

- Analysis of the development and progress of adaptation policy (AP) in Germany
 - From early beginnings in 1990s until the development of the Adaptation Action Plan in 2011
 - First detailed description of German adaptation policy

- Specific concern
 - Agenda setting of this new topic into the political-administrative system
 - Identifying key actors and key developments
 - Integration into the federal system of Germany

Method

- Interviews (N= 22); time frame Dec. 2009 – Sep. 2010
 - Guided interviews; possibility for open answers
 - Experts from the institutions at the federal and Länder level (e.g. environmental ministry, ministry for economics), scientists (e.g. Climate Service Center), civil society actors (e.g. Deutsche Umwelthilfe)

- Document analysis
 - 18 unpublished documents, which are directly connected to the development of the German adaptation policy (internal documents, protocols, early concepts); time frame 2002-2009
 - Further official published policy documents
 - Additionally: Literature review

Policy Integration

- Analysis of the German adaptation policy with regard to policy integration issues (Beck et al. 2009; Mickwitz et al. 2009)
 - Horizontal integration
 - Vertical integration
 - Exchange between horizontal and vertical level
 - Integration of experts (scientists and other experts outside the government)

Results, milestones

- Four milestones of agenda setting can be identified according to the evaluation of the interviews:
 1. Climate protection program of the federal government in 2005
 2. Establishment of the Competence Centre on Climate Impact and Adaptation in 2006
 3. 'Düsseldorf declaration' of the Länder in 2007
 4. German Adaptation strategy in 2008

Results, integration issues

■ Horizontal integration

- Takes place within the IMA
- Chair: environmental ministry

■ Vertical integration

- Dominated by the environmental sector

■ Exchange between federal government and Länder

- Within a special working group, called BLAG KLINA
- ‚Typical‘ problems of coordination

■ Integration of scientific and further expert community

- Expert dialogues, stakeholder consultation, research projects like KLIMZUG
- Survey on adaptation action plan in 2011: Every 4th expert from science, but only every 12th expert from companies responded

Results, influencing factors

■ Three main influences of German Adaptation Policy

- At the beginning: new insights from climate impact research, scientific community pushed the topic
- International climate negotiations (UNFCCC) and participation in EU expert group science (representative from the German Environmental Agency)
- Early contact with DEFRA in UK in 2002 (representative from the German Environmental Agency); role model UKCIP

=> Again: Environmental sector pushed the topic

Conclusion

- AP in Germany has been driven at the beginning by scientific actors as well as predominantly by the environmental ministry and the German environmental agency
- Other ministries have also addressed AP but are less active compared to the environmental sector
- Policy integration of AP is also motivated by the fact that there is until now hardly any budget for adaptation measures.
 - Must be financed by way of existing sector budgets

Outlook and research background

- Ongoing research on the development of German adaptation policy
- PhD project in political science:
 - How do new policy fields emerge? An analysis of the German adaptation policy
- Chameleon Research Group (2009-2013)
 - Interdisciplinary research group on adaptation to climate change in the utility sector – analysis and development of options for business and political action
 - Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
 - www.climate-chameleon.de

Thank you for your attention!

The study has been published as:

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Download via:

http://www.envdev.uni-oldenburg.de/download/Stecker_et_al_2012.pdf

Unfortunately available only in German. I'm sorry.

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