BASE BOTTOM-UP CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE EUROPE

A BASE analysis of EU Member State Climate Change Adaptation Strategies: Comparing approaches and drawing lessons

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Aims

1) why different nations employ different approaches in their climate adaptation strategies;
2) the extent to which different climate change adaptation policy integration measures and strategies have been operationalized, especially in relation to their reach into other sectors;
3) the lessons that can be learnt for climate change adaptation policy integration from the varied experiences of the Member States.

- Climate Adaptation is a cross cutting challenge, but administrative configurations are vertical
- Problem of policy incoherence; policy integration

- Not specific to Climate adaptation
- Long – but not necessarily successful – history of coordination on environment and SD
- How have a group of EU MS responded in their adaptation strategies?
  - Denmark
  - Finland
  - Italy
  - Germany
  - United Kingdom

Categorising Coordination Strategies

Jordan and Shout (2008)

- Hierarchical Instruments
- Bureaucratic Rules and standard operating procedures
- Staff Training
- Specification of outputs and or tasks
- Horizontal instruments
- Mission Statements

Why different nations employ different approaches in their climate adaptation strategies.

	Hierarchical	Bureaucratic Rules	Staff training	Specification of outputs and tasks	Horizontal instruments		Mission Statements
					Formal	Informal	
UK	x	x	?	x	x	X	X
Denmark	x	x	X	x	X		X
Finland	x	?	X		X		X
Italy			?			X	
Germany	x	x			x	x	X

Needs, structure, culture and capacity of existing political system

The extent to which different climate change adaptation policy integration measures and strategies have been operationalized

- On going work
- Early days
- Supposed leading countries like the UK:
  - "Mixed understanding of the scale of risks climate change represents" in ministerial adaptation reports (ASC, 2011)
  - Capacity uneven amongst public bodies (OECD 2012, NAO, 2009)

- Supposed laggards like Italy:

  - Still developing NAS therefore ad hoc; but interesting examples of autonomous bottom-up adaptation

  - Role of integration ?

The lessons that can be learnt for climate change adaptation policy integration from the varied experiences of the Member States.

- Strategies shaped by prevailing political culture/structure; goodness of fit
- No right or wrong, but risk :
  - Some systems not geared towards coordination
  - Business as usual rather than integration
- Should be easier to facilitate than other integration problems ; benefits are more immediate. Issue of timing
- Interesting innovations, patterns that could be more widely adapted regardless of political culture:
  - Independent expert panels (advice and scrutiny)
  - Space for more autonomous bottom-up adaptation; is strict integration a panacea?
- Ultimately, need to go beyond the existence or not of a strategy; understanding the operationalization is key;

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