

## CLISP

# Climate Change Adaptation by Spatial Planning in the Alpine Space

Newsletter No.5 – January 2011

## CLISP WP5-7 EXPERT WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN MUNICH (GERMANY), 2ND – 3RD FEBRUARY, 2011



Organized by the Swiss Federal for Spatial Development (ARE), an Expert Workshop which will be held in Munich (Germany) on next 2nd – 3rd February, 2011.

The WP5 Expert Workshop will mainly focus on the so-called climate change fitness assessment tool (CCFAT), which is considered as being one of the main outputs of the Work Package. CCFAT is expected to provide guidance (guidelines, criteria, checklists, and/or toolbox) for regional/local spatial planning authorities on how to conduct "adaptation fitness checks" of their spatial planning systems (goals, instruments, implementation) and should also be helpful in framing responses.

Analyzing the "climate change fitness" of the Alpine territory is the main aim of the WP5 of the CLISP Project.

The Workshop's objective is foster active and intense knowledge sharing among experts from spatial planning and related fields and to gain deeper insight into existing tools, guides or similar guidance for assessing the "climate change fitness" on regional / local levels of spatial planning. In this line, the workshop will mainly focus on the following topics:

- Which solutions of climate change / adaptation fitness assessment tools are already in use?
- What are the experiences in practice?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of those assessment tools?
- Which requirements should our climate change fitness assessment tool (CCFAT) for spatial planning fulfill to meet practice and user needs?

The workshop is scheduled to take place on February the 2nd, 2011 from 9am to 5pm at the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology, Department for Regional Planning and Development (STMWIVT), Prinzregentenstraße 24.

## RISK COMMUNICATION & GOVERNANCE IN THE ALPS: FIRST RESULTS FROM THE CLISP MODEL REGIONS - WORKSHOP IN THE PARTNER MEETING IN GRAZ (20-21, OCTOBER 2010)

CLISP Model regions' representatives met in a workshop, where a vivid exchange of experiences from completed stakeholder-processes took place. The discussion mainly focused on the type of communication and dialogue developed locally and an assessment of the processes carried out.

Though on the model region's level future challenges due to climate change are recognized (including floods, mudslides and scarcity of drinking water) in different sectors (e.g. winter tourism especially in areas below 2000 m asl), also some chances have been identified. The stakeholders' involvement



Picture: UBA

processes ranged from questionnaires and individual interviews to large-scale workshops with local and regional politicians and experts: each region selected its specific goals and launched a specific participation process.

An outcome seems to be that where awareness of climate change is low, the level of participation of stakeholders in the discussion process is low, too –e.g. in Alessandria (I) and Slovenia. Another is that the awareness greatly depends on the level and *status quo* of risk governance in the region. In general, even though climate change is accepted, the link to spatial planning is not seen by the municipalities. In Salzburg (A) & Graubünden (CH) climate change is more seen as a chance. A greater participation, probably depending upon the methods used to implement the local dialogue, has been registered in the two Bavarian model regions, where the local mayors have directly driven the process.

The representatives who met in Graz recognized that, locally, often the spatial planning instruments are considered as adequate, though not always well implemented, communicated and coordinated. The public's participation is often limited, due to lack of time and presence of other priorities. More, most of the local administrations consider their measures as adequate to achieve their goals.

Two positive examples also can be recalled: the "river contract" developed in Alessandria (I) in order to provide an improved management of drinking water between involved and affected regions; and the implementation of a land use plan including several communities to ensure a better coordination, especially concerning natural hazards, in Berchtesgaden (D).

Read More: <http://bit.ly/eZ7u27>

## OVERVIEW OF THE CLISP-CLIMALPTOUR COMMON MID-TERM CONFERENCE IN ACQUI TERME (ITALY) NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Italian Ministry of The Environment, Land and Sea (MATTM) has produced a document listing an overview of the main press releases relating to the Common CLISP-ClimAlpTour Mid-Term Conference, which was held in Acqui Terme (Italy) on last 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2010, which is now available directly on the two projects' website.

The document contains newspaper articles, website magazine news, posts that have been published in blogs involved in environmental fields and many others.

Read More: <http://bit.ly/faT8KY>

## THE ROLE OF SPATIAL PLANNING IN ADDING VALUE TO ADDRESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AGENDA: A SEMINAR IN UK WILL INVESTIGATE THE QUESTION NEXT 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY, 2011



Dr. Alistair Scott from the Birmingham City University (United Kingdom) will chair a seminar on next 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2011 titled "What a waste of space: Can spatial planning add value to addressing the environmental change agenda?" .

The seminar will explore the current crisis of professional confidence which challenges spatial planning today , with a specific reference to the recent development of planning reforms in England.

In Dr. Scott's opinion, however, such views are misplaced, as shown by the most recent developments in planning theory and practice where the spatial planning paradigm offers considerable potential to address the key problems due to the environmental change.

This position is discussed using two research studies involving sustainable peatland management and environmental change in rural urban fringe. The studies are quoted to bring evidence on the assumption that ideas, methods and tools of spatial planning provide an interdisciplinary bridge to re-connect planning with academic and policy communities working on this agendas, in the aftermath of the challenge posed in current times to the academic and policy allegiance to ecosystem services.

The debate aims at issuing a call for the planning profession to engage more effectively in policy and research within emerging land use agendas, that need a cultural change for all stakeholders involved in management of space and place.

The seminar is promoted by the Aberdeen Centre for Environmental Sustainability (ACES), University of Aberdeen, and will take place next 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2011.

Read More: <http://bit.ly/dUcABY>

## A SCIENTIFIC ARTICLE EXPLORES POTENTIAL AND LIMITS OF GOVERNANCE DISCOURSE ON SPATIAL PLANNING

An interesting scientific article titled "Fresh wind or Hot air – Does the Governance Discourse has something to offer to Spatial Planning" has been recently published on the last edition – January the 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – of the Journal of Planning Education and Research dealing with the role of spatial planning as a part of governance.

The paper explores the complex theme of whether spatial planning can benefit or not from the intense debate that has evolved around the governance concept and aims at providing an overview of the principal variants of the governance concept as well as their potential implications for planning.

On the basis of a concrete case of planning to the article analyzes whether the governance concept can help acquire a systematic understanding of planning reality. It concludes that spatial planning can benefit from using governance both as a conceptual reference for reflection on planning action and an analytical tool for studying concrete planning practices.

However, in the authors' perspective, attention should also be put over the intrinsic limits of governance as a normative guideline for spatial planning.

Read More: <http://bit.ly/hJwCTk>

## IDENTIFYING REGIONAL PRIORITIES FOR ADAPTATION ACTIVITIES IN SPATIAL PLANNING: A SCIENTIFIC ARTICLE ANALYSES THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN GERMANY

A recently published scientific article titled "Potential impacts of climate change in Germany – Identifying regional priorities for adaptation activities in spatial planning" – available online from October the 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – aims at developing an assessment framework for exploring the impacts of climate change in the context of spatial planning.

The article was carried out jointly by S. Rannow, S. Greiving, D. Gruehn, B.C. Meyer from the Dortmund University of Technology, School of Spatial Planning and by W. Loibl, from the Austrian Institute of Technology, Department Foresight and Policy Development. The framework employs indicators for exposures to climate stimuli and sensitivity to climate change induced impacts, aiming

at producing a comparable classification method for the set of used indicators, in order to allow a comprehensive evaluation and comparison of the results for the impacts addressed.

The framework was then applied for the whole German country at a regional scale and an indicator-based model was carried out assessing 11 potential relevant impacts for the German spatial planning system. Then, relevant indicators of sensitivity and exposure had been compared to provide a common assessment and climate change induced potential impacts with reference to NUTS3 areas. The study was applied considering three different IPCC GHG emission scenarios and over 3 different future periods (2011-2040; 2041-2070; 2071-2100).

The study's results aimed at helping the assessment of the spatial distribution of the various different potential impacts of climate change in Germany. Furthermore, they also identified hotspot areas where potentially cumulative climate change related impacts may occur, thus determining urgent needs for adaptation activities in spatial planning.

Read, download and purchase the article at: <http://bit.ly/fsoeWU>

## SPATIAL PLANNING TO BE DEALT WITH UNDER A CROSS-SECTORAL INTEGRATION PERSPECTIVE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW UN EXPERT PANEL FOR NATURE (IPBES)



A new UN body appointed to advise governments on how to tackle loss of biodiversity and to protect ecosystem services has been established following the approval of a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly on last 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2010.

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) – designed after a process of governmental and supranational negotiations started in 2008 and modeled on the UN IPCC – is set to provide a new forum for scientists to analyze, sharing knowledge and reporting on the state, status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their links with economy. IPBES is expected to frame effective “transformational policy options” to tackle biodiversity loss and to deliver reports to governments to steer action.

Great importance will be assigned to analyze how to integrate the required development and application of innovative financial mechanisms” in delivering on nature protection.

UN has been continuously stressing the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for global and national economies in the last times, also in view of the knowledge acquired thanks to the study “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity” (TEEB), carried out as a part of the UN’s Green Economy initiative. Adopting appropriate market-based mechanisms to effectively apply and improve the polluter pays principle is seen as a cornerstone in the efforts for offering viable economic opportunity for the development of a steady “green business” and to sensitize and allow public awareness on climate change consequences and reactions.

EU has been committed in political support since the first steps of the UN-backed IPBES building-process, convinced of the role of the scientific information is needed to “increase public understanding and trigger better-informed decision-making to safeguard nature and ecosystem”. EU

Environment Ministers have welcomed the UN resolution pass, in particular stressing their interest and commitment in “mainstreaming and sectoral integration of biodiversity, especially in financial – economic system”.

Significantly, particular attention is promised to be put on policies related, even in across-field perspective, not only to natural resources and land use management, but also with adaptation and mitigation strategies and research in spatial planning, tourism, trade, transports, and development.

Read More: <http://bit.ly/igErGB>

## A NEW BOOK ON SPATIAL PLANNING: “GERMAN ANNUAL OF SPATIAL RESEARCH AND POLICY 2010: URBAN REGIONAL RESILIENCE: HOW DO CITIES AND REGIONS COPE WITH CHANGE” TO BE PUBLISHED NEXT MARCH, 2011



A new book on spatial planning is to be published by Springer on next March 2011. The “German Annual of Spatial Research and Policy 2010: Urban regional resilience: How do cities and regions cope with change” is edited by Bernhard Müller and focuses on the increasing attention on resilience as part of the current discussion about urban and regional development.

The book points out that while research focuses on sustainability, a lack of understanding can be reckoned about the processes and factors that make some cities and regions more vulnerable and others more resilient when dealing with, for instance, climate change, demographic decline and ageing, economic crises.

Trying to bring some insight on that, the essay analyzes how actors deal with change, by discussing concepts oriented towards increasing urban regional resilience (e.g. energy consumption, climate change, urban decline, institutional aspects), and describing barriers on the concept of resilience and how to deal

with them in spatial planning.

Read More: <http://amzn.to/fnl8rs>