



Criteria for Evaluating Climate Adaptation Measures: A Meta-Analysis

Sabine Weiland, Silke Beck, Benjamin Boteler, Alessio Capriolo, Francesca Giordano, Mikael Hildén, Duncan Russel & Jenny Tröltzsch, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Germany

ABSTRACT

Climate change threatens the countries, regions and economic sectors of Europe in different ways. Adaptation to climate change is therefore carried out through different policies and measures. Monitoring and evaluating these initiatives is important in order to track successes and failures. There already exist a large number of criteria and criteria sets to evaluate the implementation of climate adaptation policies and measures. They can be used to assess the effectiveness of an adaptation intervention, the avoided damage, the economic, environmental and social side effects etc. As climate adaptation mainly is about integrating climate aspects into other policy fields, criteria that assess the interlinkages between different policy objectives (e.g. co-benefits) are of particular importance.

The paper aims to identify which criteria sets for evaluating adaptation policies and measures already exist, and what the advantages or disadvantages of these criteria are. The meta-analysis will include existing evaluation criteria for the EU and international level, Member States level and, where available, regional and local level. We aim at systematising these criteria, by grouping and showing interrelations between them. The criteria sets will be analysed according to, inter alia, their clearness of definition, overlaps between different criteria, transferability and existing experiences with their use. At the same time, we will consider the context specificity of adaptation and also policy coherence in the way it is experienced at the 'street' or actor level. Criteria must be chosen based on the relationship between planned adaptation activities and the socio-economic, political, environmental and climatic context in which they will be implemented. The criteria must also be salient from the point of view of their primary user. The latter may vary from those vulnerable to a particular impact of climate change to local implementers of adaptation measures and developers of policy.

With this meta-analysis of evaluation criteria, we strive to contribute to the attempts of upscaling and generalising the lessons learnt from context-bound (in many cases local and regional) adaptation initiatives.