

Guiding principles for adaptation to climate change in Europe



ETC/ACC Technical Paper
September 2010

Andrea Prutsch¹, Torsten Grothmann², Inke Schauser³, Sonja Otto³
Sabine McCallum¹



The European Topic Centre on Air and Climate Change (ETC/ACC)
is a consortium of European institutes under contract of the European Environmental Agency
PBL URAD UBA-V NILU ABAT AUTH CHIMI METNO OKO TNO RIVM



Guiding Principles for Adaptation

Guiding Principles for adaptation – EU and Austrian Example

Markus Leitner, Tirana, 24 November 2014

Guiding principles 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

Set of guiding principles for good adaptation

Guiding principles for adaptation to climate change in Europe



ETC/ACC Technical Paper
September 2010

*Andrea Prutsch¹, Torsten Grothmann², Inke Schausser³, Sonja Otto³,
Sabine McCallum¹*



European Topic Centre
on Air and Climate Change

The European Topic Centre on Air and Climate Change (ETC/ACC)
is a consortium of European institutes under contract of the European Environmental Agency
PBL URAD UBA-V NILU ABAT AUTH/CHMI METNO ODO TNO RBC

■ Available on the
internet!

LINK:

[http://acm.eionet.europa.eu/docs/
ETCACC_TP_2010_6_guiding_princ
iples_cc_adaptation.pdf](http://acm.eionet.europa.eu/docs/ETCACC_TP_2010_6_guiding_principles_cc_adaptation.pdf)

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 in context with the stages of the adaptation process

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 potential climate change impacts and vulnerabilities and identify priority concerns			
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

Guiding principles for adaptation – Austrian NAS

■ Available in chapter 8 of the Austrian NAS Context



Guiding Principles for A

Guiding Principles for Adaptation

8 Guiding Principles for Adaptation

Adaptation to climate change is an ongoing process that will extend over a long time horizon and must be administrated by many actors. In support of adaptation planning, generic guiding principles have been devised that can be independently applied by the participating sectors, levels, and stakeholders. Ten guiding principles (Prutsch et al. 2010) summarize the key factors for successful adaptation. This offers an orienting framework for adaptation, while still leaving sufficient room for situation-specific decisions.

The guiding principles for adaptation can be summarized as follows:

- **Assume responsibility:** The clear commitment of decision-makers to adaptation and their willingness to accept management tasks in an organization or group of people must be present from the outset. In the long term, sufficient personnel and financial resources for adaptation must be available.
- **Share information:** Learning from other actors, the continuous enhancement of knowledge, and the communication of information are all essential for adaptation processes. Scientific information must be presented in a way that meets the requirements of the specific target audience. At the same time, all parties concerned must share a common understanding of concepts and terminology in order to facilitate communication and cooperation.
- **Foster cooperation:** Working in partnership with the relevant and affected parties throughout the entire adaptation process is an important prerequisite for successful adaptation. The following guidelines may be helpful for identifying relevant actors:
 - Who is affected by the consequences of climate change or by potential adaptation decisions?
 - Who is responsible for the implementation of potential adaptation measures?
 - Who can facilitate the success of adaptation measures?
 - From the outset, the objectives of cooperative efforts and the areas of influence of the participants must be clearly determined and communicated.
- **Work with uncertainties:** Uncertainties are an inherent part of all projections of climate change and its impacts. In accordance with the precautionary principle, adaptation measures must nevertheless be introduced. Adaptive management is characterized by a stepwise and iterative approach to the planning, implementation, and improvement of adaptation measures. For sectors with long-term planning horizons, it is crucial to maintain or enhance the resilience of natural and human systems.
- **Prioritize climate change impacts:** For the prioritization of climate change impacts at the regional level, both past weather events and scenarios of possible future climatic and socio-economic changes should be analysed. In order to minimize the uncertainty in climate scenarios, several scenarios should always be drawn upon for the estimation of climate trends.
- **Employ a wide range of adaptation options:** In planning, the entire potential portfolio of technological, behavioural, informative, organizational, ecosystem-based, and socio-economic adaptation measures, both sector-specific and cross-cutting, should be considered. The available options should be described in the greatest detail possible – for example, in terms of their objectives, direct, indirect, temporal, and spatial effects, as well as the actors and those affected.

LINK:

http://www.bmlfuw.gv.at/umwelt/klimaschutz/klimapolitik_national/anpassungsstrategie/strategie-kontext.html

Guiding principles for adaptation – Austrian NAS

- **Assume responsibility**
- **Share information**
- **Foster cooperation**
- **Work with uncertainties**
- **Prioritize climate change impacts**
- **Employ a wide range of adaptation options**
- **Prioritize adaptation measures**
- **Integrate into existing instruments and structures**
- **Avoid conflicts of objectives and interests**
- **Establish a system for monitoring and evaluation**

Guiding principles for adaptation – Austrian NAS

- **Measures for adaptation** to climate change in all areas for action should be **oriented on the principles of sustainable development** in order to consider and balance social, economic, and ethical aspects.
- Beneficiaries guiding principles:
 -
 - ...

Contact & Information

Markus Leitner

Environmental Impact Assessment and Climate Change

markus.leitner@umweltbundesamt.at

Environment Agency Austria

www.umweltbundesamt.at