



DELTA IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE II INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE, SCIENCE, CITIES AND BUSINESS
ROTTERDAM THE NETHERLANDS, 24-26 SEPTEMBER 2014

Deltas in Depth scientific sessions	
Deltas in Depth Theme 9. Governance of adaptation	
DD 9.2 Governing adaptation in the city	
Chair	Prof. Simin Davoudi, Newcastle University, the United Kingdom
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Heleen Mees, Utrecht University, the Netherlands● Liz Root, Radboud University, the Netherlands● Hens Runhaar, Utrecht University, the Netherlands● Merel van der Wal, Open University, the Netherlands

Simin Davoudi opens the session by explaining the aim of the session, namely adaptation to climate change in the city. The session consists of four presentations.

Who governs urban climate adaptation? A comparative analysis of governance arrangements in urban areas, Heleen Mees, Utrecht University

Heleen works in the Knowledge for Climate programme. She has studied governance arrangements between public and private actors for different urban issues. Her PhD research is finalised, and she presents some of the overall conclusions of her work. She asserts that responsibilities for urban adaptation are primarily taken on by local public authorities. This dominance of public responsibilities tends to raise the effectiveness, legitimacy and fairness of the subsequent governance arrangements. Nevertheless, decisions on responsibility divisions are not very informed, and are often taken routinely. She argues that a more deliberate and deliberative process of allocation of responsibilities could lead to alternatives such as network arrangements in which responsibilities are shared among public and private actors.

Test driving a financing instrument for climate adaptation: Analyzing institutional dynamics using simulation gaming, Liz Root, Radboud University Nijmegen

Like Heleen, Liz is part of the Knowledge for Climate programme and also studies governance at the local urban level, in particular how market-based mechanisms can facilitate adaptation investments. In this presentation she focuses on tax increment financing, a fiscal tool that earmarks the future tax value increment to fund public investments. However, this tool is limited due to scepticism that investments in adaptation will add value. She played a simulation game with city planners, and found out that, although the planners were mildly positive about the tool in general, they saw severe issues with adaptation. The planners also thought that the municipality is responsible for adaptation investments. Key dilemmas she unravelled are values uncertainty, the out of sync planning horizon, and lack of direct benefits.

Stimuli for climate adaptation in cities: Insights from Philadelphia, an early adapter, Hens Runhaar on behalf of Caroline Uittenbroek, Utrecht University

Also Caroline is part of the Knowledge for Climate programme. She studies barriers and stimuli for the mainstreaming of adaptation at the local urban level. Municipalities can choose a mainstreaming approach, i.e. integration into related policy domains, or a dedicated approach, i.e. with specific attention, resources and budgets for adaptation policy. The presentation is about stimuli that influence the approach taken through a study of two adaptation programmes, one dedicated and





DELTAS IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE II

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE, SCIENCE, CITIES AND BUSINESS
ROTTERDAM THE NETHERLANDS, 24-26 SEPTEMBER 2014

one mainstreamed, in the frontrunner city of Philadelphia. It is concluded that there is not one stimulus, but a combination of stimuli which triggers a certain approach, and that the two different approaches can co-exist, as Philadelphia has shown.

Role of climate models as tools for climate adaptation, Merel van der Wal, Open University

In contrast to the other presentations, this study focuses on local *rural* adaptation. Her research is about the role of models in changing the perspectives of stakeholders. She presents the results of a regional case study of the creation of an adaptation plan in the Netherlands, where she observed 4 stakeholder meetings in 3 years' time. For the analysis of perspectives she uses cultural theory classifications (hierarchical, individualist, egalitarian, fatalist). Her results indeed show a change in stakeholders' perspectives, but instead of the expected convergence, the perspectives grew apart. The models were subject of discussion and provided a safe and neutral platform for including local knowledge in the workshops.

Discussion

Simin Davoudi opens the floor for a very brief discussion, given the time left. She states that the lessons to be drawn for the policy practice are quite obvious in these presentations. This is then followed by a small discussion on the fact that adaptation is often thought of in a hard infrastructural way, instead of working with soft green infrastructure. This is related to how we see and value nature, and the benefit we get from it, often expressed in cost-benefit analyses. This may have to do with the instrumental value of nature versus the intrinsic value (nature for nature's sake).

