

João Morais Mourato, João Ferrão, Luísa Schmidt (ICS-ULisboa) | *Examining adaptation research and practice in Portugal: the case of ClimAdaPT.Local*

Climate change deniers aside, it is widely acknowledged that alongside mitigation efforts, adaptation to climate change is of paramount importance. However, adaptation efforts, through the design of specific policy instruments bring to the fore the complex, multi-level inter-relationships and coordination pitfalls between decision-makers, policy developers, the scientific community and local stakeholders. These are the building blocks of what can be defined as governance for adaptation. If we argue that good governance is essential if cities are to become more resilient to climate change, much is dependent on the policy process underpinning adaptation efforts. In this presentation we report on the ClimAdaPT.Local project (2015-2017), a research on the development of adaptation strategies established to spread and strengthen municipal adaptation capacity to climate change in Portugal. A largely EEA funded research, through this project, a prolific interaction between municipal decision-making structures and local communities emerged. A transdisciplinary team that built on the existing and tested UKCIP methodology for adaptation-strategy-development carried out ClimAdaPT.Local. The project was developed at the national scale. It spread out to 26 pilot-municipalities in both mainland Portugal and its islands of Azores and Madeira. Each of the 26 municipalities was part of a different intermunicipal community so that there was an even territorial coverage. The underlying goal was that once the set of 26 local adaptation strategies kick-started a positive contagion effect that could reach the remaining 282 Portuguese municipalities. Adaptation policies are strongly context dependent. Thus, as part of the chosen methodological framework a set of participatory workshops was put in place in order to fully engage local communities in the development of their municipal adaptation strategy. Through the review of the project's development process and its key outputs, the completed local adaptation strategies, this presentation illustrates the difficulties in the advance of local adaptation governance solutions and the mainstreaming of adaptation into local planning tools/policy. In particular we will expand on the role of knowledge co-production as an institutional trigger or mechanism to enable learning and adapting. We will also underline the co-management institutional arrangements that were set in place during the project's duration, and how co-management actors are learning to learn through uncertainty and environmental change. In other words how they are learning to be adaptive.