

## Governance and adaptive capacity in cities and metropolitan areas

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### Description work package

#### 1.1 Problem definition, aim and central research questions

In order to study urban governance processes to facilitate adaptive capacity in order to cope with the effects of climate change, this work package relies heavily on **an urban planning perspective**. This implies that apart from a general planning approach on external integration (Project 1), the departing point of each analysis will be on specific issues and cases (Project 2-5). As a large part of adaptation measures in cities will need to be implemented by the housing sector, housing issues have a prominent place in this work package (Project 2-4). Poor performances, bad cooperation between designers and builders and misfits between the design of buildings and the characteristics, preferences and behaviour of occupants are already well-known problems of the sector. The building of climate robust buildings, urban areas and cities needs innovative concepts in order to establish breakthroughs in the housing sector. These projects aim to provide more insight in occupants' behaviour, existing and new coalitions and innovations in the building process and in the effects and contents of regulations and policies.

The massive restructuring of post-WWII estates (built 1950-1975) which will have to take place in the coming years, provides an opportunity to introduce climate proof components. Local authorities, housing associations and citizens organisations are 'natural' key-actors in these restructuring processes. Based on the general principles of 'external integration' (Project 1), the integration of adaptation within the planning processes and procedures will be elaborated, taking into account their long term and public interest character. This research will provide different perspectives on the planning and organization of these redevelopment processes, both on the level of individual dwellings, as well on the level of entire urban areas. The redevelopment of industrial estates and business parks, a planning program of a similar size, provides an important opportunity to integrate climate proof elements in that type of redevelopment. The project will investigate the various aspects of integrating adaptation in redevelopment programmes.

Therewith, the central aim of this work package is to provide new insights in the way climate adaptation can be introduced into the existing spatial planning processes, based on the knowledge that:

1. urban planning is in itself a highly complex process in which a lot of significant and (mostly) conflicting interests of different actors are competing;

2. climate adaptation measures do not represent a so-called 'strong interest' whose integration into urban processes need no support.

The central research question is: what can be learnt from the way other interests integrate procedural and material (external integration) into urban planning processes and how do they specifically work when on the one hand neighbourhoods and working areas are concerned and on the other hand, individual housing, either owned by the occupant or housing corporation.

Theoretically as well as methodologically, complementary approaches are used in the projects, both in quantitative and qualitative terms.

Addressing the central research question also requires knowledge from other projects within the theme. Especially, in the work package 2 (Sensitivity, impacts and vulnerability) and work package 3 (Adaptation measures and strategies) there are direct relations. Noteworthy e.g., is the project on neighbourhood typology (project 2.4) and the governance aspects in urban residential areas when the adaptation towards climate change has to be addressed. But also between the projects on design (project 3.5-3.7) and on the development of urban green (project 3.1), within work package 3 and the projects on urban areas within work package 4. Regular exchange of knowledge between researchers in these projects is foreseen. Less direct, but no less interesting for the proposed projects on urban governance are the projects on specific issues, such as health, flooding, energy and rainfall. In work package 5 (Integration) these issues will be tailor-made exchanged between the researchers in the different projects.

The general knowledge on governance issues (Theme 7) and instruments (Theme 8) are of great importance to this work package on urban governance. An exchange of knowledge is planned on a regular basis.

In addition, the University of Manchester will contribute with its expertise with working with local and regional government.

## **1.2 Interdisciplinarity and coherence between the projects**

This work package consists of 5 interrelated building bricks (see figure 1). The first of which (Project 1) addresses the general issue of external integration. It analyses the possibilities for planning concepts and individual measures to facilitate climate adaptation in general. This can be considered a 'knowledge umbrella' which is relevant for the analyses in the specific projects, whether they address an entire urban area or individual dwellings. For this general knowledge can be used to expand the specific knowledge generated by the other projects. And the other way around, the specific knowledge in the case of urban areas and dwellings can be used to sharpen the general knowledge derived from the 'external integration' project. Therewith, in this work package general knowledge on urban governance is combined with disciplines such as architecture (Project 2 and 3 on dwellings), urban geography (Project 4 on neighbourhoods) and economic geography (Project 5 working areas). An important aspect of this interrelatedness is the difference of spatial scales. As Project 3 and 4 take the individual dwelling as a

stating point, projects 4 and 5 have entire urban areas as a starting point. Yet, it must be clear that urban areas are more than the

sum of their components, either dwellings or firms. As project 1 evaluates the usefulness of general spatial planning instruments and regulation towards the adaptation to climate change, this type of knowledge is relevant on all spatial scales.

Because of the interrelatedness of the projects (see figure 1), interaction on a regular basis is foreseen in this work package. It foresees in facilitating learning processes of the researchers within the individual projects and the hot spots Rotterdam, Haaglanden, Amsterdam, Arnhem/Nijmegen, Tilburg, etc. As most of the case-studies will take place within the hot-spots the stakeholders within the hot spots will provide a key role in these learning processes. This particular work package aims at delivering two types of knowledge: process knowledge on adaptation issues, developed in close corporation with the hot spots' stakeholders and scientific knowledge represented in papers for scientific journals and PhD's.

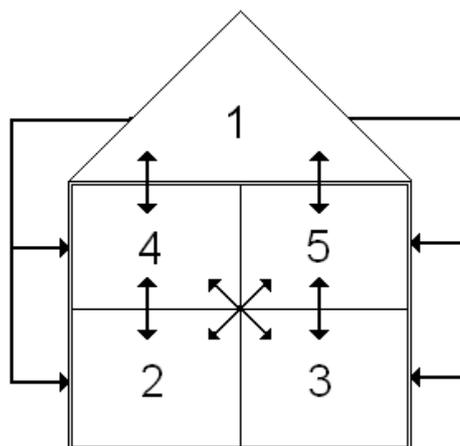


Figure 1: The interrelations between the individual projects in work package 4

### 1.3 Stakeholders

The stakeholders in the empirical case studies (Haaglanden, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Arnhem-Nijmegen, Tilburg etc.) are actually part of the research. The stakeholder group consists of the municipalities in the first place, together with, depending on the project, the provinces, housing associations, households, neighbourhood associations, Chambers of Commerce, firms on industrial estates and other institutions.

A specific category of other relevant stakeholders within the Urban Governance work package is involved for specific purposes, like engineering firms (such DHV for the project on working areas) and CROW for knowledge dissemination.