

Kennis voor Klimaat Knowledge for Climate



Center of Excellence “Governance of Adaptation to Climate Change”

Summary of the programme

Adapting to the possible impacts of climate change presents a demanding challenge within the existing governance structures and arrangements. It raises normative questions (e.g. who should be responsible?) and may require innovative experiments, leadership approaches and process designs.

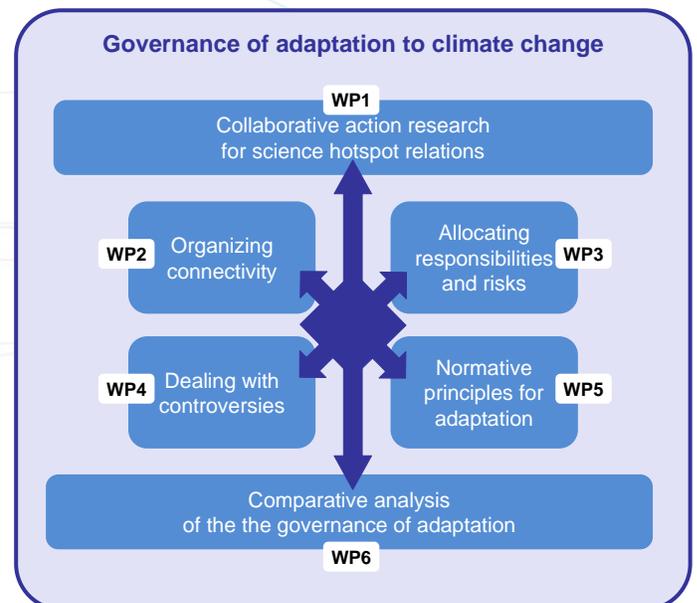
Furthermore, governments may need to reconsider the economic instruments and governance structures that allocate risks and responsibilities between public and private partners.

To complicate matters even further, climate change is surrounded by uncertainties, contested knowledge and differences in stakeholders' perspectives.

Hence, the specific complexities of adaptation governance call for new advanced governance knowledge. In that sense, the governance of climate adaptation also poses a new scientific challenge.

Through close cooperation with hotspots, this programme will add new empirical evidence to test innovative theoretical propositions about the governance of climate adaptation.

In short, this unique interdisciplinary programme will develop and test governance arrangements that will contribute to (1) developing and implementing adaptation options; and (2) increasing the adaptive capacity of society so that future climate changes can be confronted.



Research Partners

The consortium consists of the following research partners:

- **Wageningen University (WUR)**, Public Administration & Policy Group
- **VU University Amsterdam (VU)**, Institute for Environmental Studies & Department of Spatial Economics
- **Radboud University Nijmegen (RU)**, Department of Geography, Planning and Environment
- **Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR)**, Research Centre Governance of Complex Systems
- **Utrecht University (UU)**, Centre for Environmental Law and Policy & Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development

We also work together with three well established foreign research partners in the field of climate change:

- **University of East Anglia**, School of Environmental Sciences & Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research
- **Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg**, Centre for Sustainability Economics and Management
- **Stockholm University**, Stockholm Resilience Centre

The work packages

Within our research programme we have defined six work packages (WPs). We set up two methodological WPs. **WP1** deals with setting up a **collaborative action research** programme that facilitates and directs the interactions between hotspots and research projects. **WP6** will set up an **international comparative research** and exchange of learning experiences across regional and national boundaries. Four key WPs address the following research questions:

- WP2.** How can we **organise connectivity** within the existing structures through innovative experiments, leadership approaches and process designs?
- WP3.** Which economic instruments and governance structures to **allocate risks and responsibilities** between the public and the private are promising, and how can they be implemented in the Dutch situation?
- WP4.** What are the consequences of **uncertainties, stakeholders' frames and contested knowledge**, and which methods help to cope with them in decision-making processes?
- WP5.** How can the principles of **legitimacy, effectiveness and resilience** be elaborated and what are the implications for the governance of adaptation?