Universiteit Utrecht

Faculty of Geosciences
Environmental Studies and Policy
Heleen Mees & Peter Driessen
Info: h.mees@geo.uu.nl

CLIMATE GREENING

LONDON • ROTTERDAM • TORONTO

A comparative analysis of the governance capacity for adaptation to climate change in urban areas

Background
- Green space moderates excessive rainfall and heat
- Green space is a no-regret adaptation measure
- Climate greening = adaptation through green space
- .....
- ......

Research objective
To gain insight into the governance conditions of spatial planning to climate green cities by analysing and comparing the governance capacity in London, Rotterdam and Toronto

Analytical Framework for Governance Capacity

Comparative case study approach

Document analysis
Stakeholder & Expert Interviews

Key Results

Governance capacity in these cities is (just) above average:
- **Legal** capacity is strong as a result of spatial regulations and policies that protect existing green space and stimulate the creation of new green space **(in particular green roofs)**
- **Managerial** capacity is average, and quite constrained as a result of compartmentalisation and institutional fragmentation
- **Political** capacity is strong due to considerable political buy-in and leadership **(the most important capacity)**
- **Resource** capacity is medium weak, owing to lack of economic resources and limited skills and know-how of urban planning officials
- **Learning** capacity is still weak, because of the challenge to handle uncertainty and to facilitate continuous learning
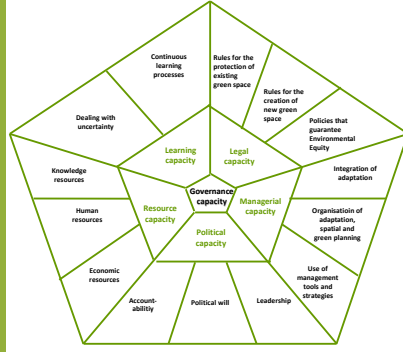
Key barriers to the governance capacity are:
- Institutional fragmentation; silo-thinking; uncertainty

Key opportunities for the governance capacity are:
- Linking adaptation to other important governance themes; integration of adaptation into spatial planning processes, building codes, environmental impact assessments; multifunctional land use

Main conclusions
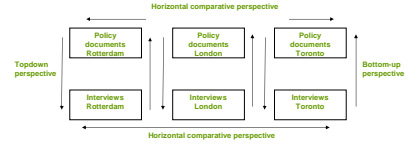
- Adaptation to climate change is still pre-dominantly a government affair, since it is perceived to be a public good, which belongs to the public domain

- Spatial planning has a notable contribution, but the involvement of other policy fields is required.
  The influence of spatial planning is significant with new or re-development, but its influence on the retrofitting of existing stock is quite limited

Governance conditions

- **Legal**: adequate provisions to protect existing green space in cities
- **Managerial**: statutory consultees to control the integration of adaptation into spatial planning processes
- **Political** explicit support for adaptation as full-fledged part of climate policy
- **Resource**: training programmes as investment in the know-how and skills of human resources
- **Learning:** mental space for learning by doing through innovative pilots and innovations

For a complete overview of all relevant governance conditions, go to http://studenttheses.library.uu.nl
Or contact h.mees@geo.uu.nl