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Spatial planning and natural hazards. The experience of the CLISP project

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Cooperate, Participate and Engage:

Enhancing the climate change fitness of spatial planning needs the strong and integral collaboration of different sectors (e.g. water management, hazard management) and between various levels of governments. Further, the involvement of stakeholders, science and citizens is essential for climate adaptation. Good experiences have been made with intersectoral working groups and dialogue forums which enable to manage conflicts and tensions which may arise between residents, municipal actors and spatial planning administrations facing climate change.

Raise Awareness and Sensitize Stakeholders:

Climate change awareness is considered one of the most relevant prerequisites for realizing adaptation options. Especially the regional level seems to be crucial for implementing adaptation actions and therefore the climate change awareness needs to be fostered. A broad range of decision makers on all administrative scales needs to be mobilized to act in concert in order to not undermine the goals of climate adaptation by other objectives of spatial planning (e.g. economic development). Pilot projects, informal planning practices and good practice examples have a high potential to enhance the climate change awareness as well as the political will of decision makers and politicians. Climate aware and sensitized stakeholders create acceptance for the implementation of adaptation activities.

For future vulnerability to climate change consider also the development of your system and other pressures on your system:

Climate change is in most cases just an additional pressure, consider also the other ones like land-use change, demographic change or increase in traffic. Often, vulnerability arises more from a combination of expected change in the system and climate change. E.g. the risk of damage on buildings or infrastructure by natural hazards might increase in future due to an expansion of settlements into hazards zones combined with an increase of the frequency and intensity of natural hazards.

Source: CLISP, Final result booklet, 2011 (<http://www.clisp.eu/content/?q=node/234>)