

GOVERNANCE AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

AN INVESTIGATION IN SARDINIA

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ABSTRACT

Climate change implies increase of temperature, rising of sea level, and more frequent and intense floods and droughts than in the past. All landscapes are impacted by such deleterious events. Effective measures able to prevent or minimize the negative effects of climate change consist of adaptation actions. In 2013, the European Commission adopted the EU Adaptation Strategy that aims at making the European context more climate-resilient. Scientific literature stresses that adaptation to climate change is affected by both hard (legal, economic and technological) and soft (social) factors, which should be all considered by governance approaches to adaptation. This implies coordination and cooperation among the different domains, actors and responsibilities, to avoid or solve conflicts and facilitate choral implementation of adaptation measures.

In this study, we aim at investigating multi-sectoral governance processes involved in the Regional Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change, which is being designed by the regional administration of Sardinia (Italy). We are interested in proposing major governance models starting from the scrutiny of the main actors currently involved in setting climate change adaptation strategies. In this preliminary phase we report on the mapping of the competences of the regional departments, starting from the results of a questionnaire-based survey, an organizational chart, and an analysis of regional plans.

KEYWORDS

Climate Change adaptation Strategies and Measures; Governance; Regional Plans; Organizational Chart; On-line Questionnaire

1 INTRODUCTION

According to reliable climate data, the Earth's surface has become increasingly warmer in the last three decades "than any preceding decade since measurements began over 150 years ago" (Bush, 2018). Climate change is considered one of the most important issues of the last years and includes effects, such as increasing of temperature, rising of sea level, and frequent and intense floods and droughts (Field et al., 2014). Over time, adaptation measures have been proposed to prevent or minimize the negative effects of climate change and take advantage, when possible. According to Salzmann et al. (2016), "climate change adaptation refers to the adjustment of natural or human systems as a response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harms or exploits beneficial opportunities" and adaptation can be planned, anticipatory, or autonomous. Adaptation measures include crop diversification, early warning systems, and seasonal climate forecasting (Ochieng et al., 2016). Keskitalo (2010) argues that "[c]limate change is a problem that poses high requirements for governance by requiring the coordination of demands and needs across international, national, regional and local scales, as well as coordination between sectors [...]". Governance for climate change adaptation means that "policies and action programmes exist on different levels" and "these [are] coordinated across levels and sectors" (Keskitalo, 2010).

In 2015, the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea approved the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (SNACC) (MEPLS, 2015). Such a strategy points out the main impacts of climate change for socio-economic and natural sectors, and proposes adaptation measures. A national adaptation plan is currently being developed (MEPLS, 2017). At the same time, the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy) is developing the Regional Strategy for the Adaptation to Climate Change (SRACC).

In these early stages of our research, we focus on multi-sector governance of climate adaptation in Sardinia, a region where adaptation strategies and measures have been scarcely discussed so far. We aim at identifying the main actors - and the synergies between them – which are explicitly or implicitly involved in setting climate change adaptation strategies or measures. Furthermore, we scrutinize regional plans to figure out to what extent adaptations strategies or measures have been taken into account by the regional administration. The paper unfolds as follows. In the next section, we report on scientific literature concerning governance of climate change adaptation. In the third section, we describe the methodology proposed and applied in this research. In the fourth section, the results are shown and discussed. Finally, section five focuses on the concluding remarks.

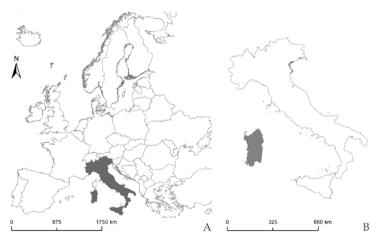
2 GOVERNANCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The importance of climate change adaptation measures has grown over time. Indeed, even if the greenhouse gases emissions ceased today, the climate change in progress would continue in the future (Baffo et al., 2009). In 2013, the European Commission adopted a strategy on adaptation to climate change (EU Adaptation Strategy) that aims to make the European context more climate-resilient. The EU Adaptation Strategy focuses on promoting (i) action by Member States, (ii) better-informed decision-making, and (iii) adaptation in key vulnerable sectors (European Commission, 2013). Adaptation to climate change is affected by a series of elements including economic resources and social factors (values, interests, traditions and so on). Scientific literature stresses that hard factors (legal, economic and technological) as well as soft factors (social) should be considered by governance approaches to adaptation, and social factors can be an important barrier that needs to be overcome in implementing adaptation strategies (Grothmann, 2011).

According to the SNACC (MEPLS, 2015), the adaptation measures can be clustered in three macro-groups: gray, green, and soft measures. Gray measures include technological and engineering solutions, green ones consist of ecosystem-based approaches, while the soft ones include management, legal and political approaches (including governance system). Governance is a key factor "in shaping the process of adaptation" (Wolf, 2011) and "effective adaptation to climate change requires new governance approaches that are able to bridge or even transcend governmental levels and societal domains" (Bauer & Steurer, 2014). Climate change influences several sectors and actors, and scientific literature points out the necessity for coordinated and cooperative adaptation governance to solve or avoid conflicts and implement adaptation measures (Grothmann, 2011; Juhola & Westerhoff, 2011). Runhaar et al. (2017) state that "[m]ainstreaming climate adaptation objectives into existing policies [...] is widely advocated for public action". Thus, adaptation to climate change and governance have been addressed in scientific literature in both European and non-European contexts. As an example, Bauer and Steurer (2014) studied the effects of regional adaptation partnerships in facilitating adaptation to climate change in a multi-level governance context in Canada and England. The authors scrutinized documents such as reports and websites, and performed semistructured interviews with responsible, managers and key partners involved in the partnerships. In this study, we focus on governance in the climate change adaptation context, aiming at scrutinizing the main actors and factors currently explicitly or implicitly involved in setting climate change adaptation strategies in Sardinia.

3 METHOD

We focus on regional governance of climate adaptation in Sardinia (Fig. 1). In detail, we: (i) use data provided by the Autonomous Region of Sardinia to figure out the level of regional officers' acquaintance concerning adaptation to climate change; (ii) perform an analysis of the official regional website to define the regional organization chart and identify the assignments per Regional Departments (RDs) and Services (RSs); (iii) analyze regional plans to assess if adaptation measures have been included in such documents (Tab. 1).



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Fig. 1 Geographical context. A: in gray, Italy; B: in gray, Sardinia

On-line	
questionnaire	We use data provided by the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, which were recorded through an on-line questionnaire developed in the context of the Life project 'Master Adapt'. Such data help us to figure out the level of regional officers' acquaintance concerning adaptation to climate change.
Analysis of official regional website and documents	We draft the organisation chart of the Regional Departments, to identify responsibilities for adaptation measures at the regional level.
Analysis of regional plans	We scrutinize plans to assess to what extent the adaptation to climate change has been considered in such documents.
/	Analysis of official regional website and documents

Tab. 1 Methods and tools adopted for investigating the current regional governance of climate change adaptation

We scrutinize the plans against four criteria rooted in scientific literature and/or in international/national guidance documents or strategies (Tab. 2).

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCES
ADAPTATION STRATEGIES REFERENCE	Do the documents refer to national or international climate change adaptation strategies?	European Commission ,2013; MEPLS, 2015
ADAPTATION MEASURES	Do the plans define climate change adaptation measures?	European Commission, 2013; MEPLS, 2015
IMPLICIT OR EXPLICIT MEASURES	Are the adaptation measures implicit or explicit?	Donner et al., 2016
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IDENTIFIED ADAPTATION MEASURES	Do the plans define responsibilities for adaptation measures?	Mees & Driessen, 2018; MEPLS, 2015

Tab. 2 Criteria selected for analyzing the plans

We aim at checking if the plans refer to national or international climate change adaptation strategies (i.e. EU Strategy and/or SNACC), which define a framework for defining climate change adaptation actions, and if adaptation measures are defined by the plans. We report on implicit or explicit adaptation measures, where implicit measures stand for "activities which can reduce societal vulnerability to external stresses like climate events (e.g., capacity building), but may not be explicitly designed to adapt to a particular range of projected climate outcomes" (Donner et al., 2016). Finally, according to Mees and Driessen (2018), clear responsibilities are key for adaptation governance and, then, we check if responsibilities for adaptation have been assigned.

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the context of the Life project MASTER Adapt (MAinSTreaming Experiences at Regional and local level for adaptation to climate change), the Autonomous Region of Sardinia investigated on methodology to activate a mainstreaming action to adaptation to climate change so that regions, metropolitan cities and local authorities can incorporate climate change adaptation (CCA) actions into their plans and programs (MASTER ADAPT, 2018). The results of the project, which will be promoted between the Italian and European regions,

will be at the basis of the strategic framework of the plan of the regional adaptation to climate changes (PRACC). The method implies, inter alia, the opportunity of working -since the early stages of the PRACC drafting- on three issues: i) involvement of regional structures (departments, agencies and agencies), in a collaborative process aiming at the identification of the objectives and adaptation options to be adopted in the corresponding sector plans and programs; ii) identification of territorial partnerships for adaptation to CC at the intermunicipal (see the Interregional Board for the adaptation of the Environment and Energy Commission of the State-Regions Conference) and regional level (see the inter-departmental coordination board for the adaptation established in 2015); iii) elaboration of strategic projects for adaptation, on a supra-municipal scale, as test case studies in the perspective to define minimum climate unit suitable for the implementation of strategies and adaptation actions identified in the PRACC. The first investigation involves regional officers and aims at ascertaining the level of familiarity with the issues connected to adaptation to climate change. On a sample of 21 answers, part of the respondents claims to know climate change issues well or very well. Four respondents claim to deal with climate change as a relevant part of their tasks. Finally, little attention has been posed on both national strategy and plan for adaptation to climate change (i.e. few respondents specify to have read such documents). As a second step, we recreate the network of regional assignments per RD - which usually consist of RSs - for identifying responsibilities for adaptation measures at the regional level. The Decrees concerning the RSs institution and their respective statutory core tasks have been retrieved on-line. We assessed if such decrees included tasks consistent with the adaptation measures suggested by the SNACC, with focus on governance issues. Such an analysis is still ongoing, but preliminary results show that some adaptation tasks belong (explicitly or implicitly) to the Environment and Agriculture RDs. To perform the third step, we gave priority to the analysis of plans and programs concerning the landscape, water, and agriculture sectors, for they have been identified as priority sectors for the SRACC. We retrieved on-line and scrutinized four regional plans to figure out if such documents included adaptation measures.

Thus, the plans have been analyzed against four basic criteria: (i) presence of explicit reference to national or international adaptation strategies, (ii) presence of implicit and explicit adaptation measures, (iii) specification of the presence of implicit or explicit adaptation measures, and (iv) identification of the responsible authorities for the identified adaptation measures. Tab. 3 reports on the results of such review. The Landscape Plan and the Hydrogeological System Plan described measures that could be considered adaptation measures such as: processes of de-pollution and environmental regeneration, vegetable recolonization in industrial areas, functionality preservation of watercourses, drainage structures, which mainly consist of gray and green adaptation measures.

Overall, two out of four plans explicitly report on adaptation measures. The River Basin District Management Plan explicitly identifies adaptation measures such as: updating and integration of weather-climate data acquisition systems, updating and development of the drought monitoring system, drafting and dissemination of guidelines aimed at saving water in agriculture.

The Flood Risk Management Plan provides prevention and protection measures in synergy with the SNACC, as, where possible, the measures are oriented towards favoring the resilience of the involved systems, in order to support climate change adaptation. The Plan includes both gray and soft adaptation measures. The gray measures include the realization of protective works (e.g. slopes stabilization, relocation of elements due to a given risk), while the soft measures include study and monitoring actions, active territorial maintenance (e.g. improvement of the knowledge of critical hydraulic situations).

REGIONAL PLAN OR PROGRAM	YEAR	ADAPTATION STRATEGIES REFERENCE	ADAPTATION MEASURES	IMPLICIT OR EXPLICIT MEASURES	RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IDENTIFIED ADAPTATION MEASURES
Regional Landscape Plan [Piano Paesaggistico regionale]	2006	No	Yes	Implicit	Yes
Hydrogeological System Plan [Piano stralcio per l'assetto idrogeologico]	2004	No	Yes	Implicit	Yes
River Basin District Management Plan [Riesame e aggiornamento del piano di gestione del distretto idrografico della Sardegna]	2016	No	Yes	Explicit	Yes
Flood Risk Management Plan [Piano di Gestione Rischio Alluvioni]	2016 (update 2017)	EU strategy on adaptation to climate change	Yes	Explicit	Yes
		Italian Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation			

Tab. 3 Analysis of regional plans: findings

5 CONCLUSIONS

In this study, we focus on the governance of adaptation to climate change in Sardinia, a region where the interest in adaptation is still in its infancy. We analyze the current adaptation regional scenario, identifying responsibilities for adaptation measures at the regional level and assessing to what extent the adaptation to climate change has been considered in regional plans and programs.

This study can be considered as an early base for more systematic analyses. Preliminary results show that, in general, despite some RSs are (explicitly or implicitly) responsible for adaptation tasks, regional officers do not always have complete awareness about their competence in such a domain. Finally, although implicitly, the regional plans analyzed so far contain adaptation measures.

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This book is the latest scientific contribution of the "Smart City, Urban Planning for a Sustainable Future" Book Series, dedicated to the collection of research e-books, published by FedOAPress - Federico II Open Access University Press. The volume contains the scientific contributions presented at the INPUT 2018 Conference and evaluated with a double peer review process by the Scientific Committee of the Conference. In detail, this publication, including 63 papers grouped in 11 sessions, for a total of 704 pages, has been edited by some members of the Editorial Staff of "TeMA Journal", here listed in alphabetical order:

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INTRODUCTION

Between 5th and 8th September 2018 the tenth edition of the INPUT conference took place in Viterbo, quests of the beautiful setting of the University of Tuscia and its DAFNE Department.

INPUT is managed by an informal group of Italian academic researchers working in many fields related to the exploitation of informatics in planning.

This Tenth Edition pursed multiple objectives with a holistic, boundary-less character, to face the complexity of today socio-ecological systems following a systemic approach aimed to problem solving. In particular, the Conference will aim to present the state of art of modeling approaches employed in urban and territorial planning in national and international contexts.

Moreover, the conference has hosted a Geodesign workshop, by Carl Steinitz (Harvard Graduate School of Design) and Hrishi Ballal (on skype), Tess Canfield, Michele Campagna.

Finally, on the last day of the conference, took place the QGIS hackfest, in which over 20 free software developers from all over Italy discussed the latest news and updates from the QGIS network.

The acronym INPUT was born as INformatics for Urban and Regional Planning. In the transition to graphics, unintentionally, the first term was transformed into "Innovation", with a fine example of serendipity, in which a small mistake turns into something new and intriguing. The opportunity is taken to propose to the organizers and the scientific committee of the next appointment to formalize this change of the acronym.

This 10th edition was focused on Environmental and Territorial Modeling for planning and design. It has been considered a fundamental theme, especially in relation to the issue of environmental sustainability, which requires a rigorous and in-depth analysis of processes, a theme which can be satisfied by the territorial information systems and, above all, by modeling simulation of processes.

In this topic, models are useful with the managerial approach, to highlight the many aspects of complex city and landscape systems. In consequence, their use must be deeply critical, not for rigid forecasts, but as an aid to the management decisions of complex systems.