

## **80 - Adaptation Policy & Governance**

### **Multi-level government and climate change adaptation: reconciling bottom-up and top-down perspectives?**

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Climate change adaptation governance involves public, private and third sector actors working together across a number of governance scales. This situation is especially relevant to the EU where adaptation policy making spans from the European Commission right down to the local level in member states.

This session aims to explore the benefits and the drawbacks of initiating climate change adaptation initiatives in multi-level political systems. For instance, consistent adaptation planning from the higher decision making tiers can help establish a more coherent approach to adaptation planning in the lower tiers to help avoid conflict and potentially damaging policy spillovers between states and local regions (the so-called top down approach).

However, adaptation and the action needed is also specific to the local context and thus adaptive measures need room to develop from the bottom-up.

Thus there is a danger that that a higher-level strategy can stifle the type of adaptation measures required in a given local context. This problem is potentially exacerbated by the sheer number of private, public and third sector actors involved at different governance levels, each with their own goals and interests.

This session welcome papers that empirically and/or theoretically deal with these bottom-up and top-down tensions within a multi-level systems, including how these tensions manifest and strategies for reconciling top-down and bottom-up climate adaptation needs.

Papers can either focus on a single case study or can be comparative in nature.