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Barriers to successful integrated climate risk assessment

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LESSON OVERVIEW

1. Barriers to uptake up climate risk assessments
2. Survey as a self-evaluation tool for identifying potential barriers in your local authority context
3. Resources for possible next steps
4. Discussion and reflection

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PHASES OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROCESS

1. Detect problem
2. Gather / Use information
3. Re(define) problem
4. Develop options
5. Assess options
6. Select options
7. Implement options
8. Monitor options and environment
9. Evaluate

Covered by the climate risk assessment process

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(1) conflicting timescales and conflicts of interest,

(2) leadership,

(3) resources,

(4) scientific data and knowledge,

(5) governance and institutional constraints,

(6) lack of awareness and communication,

(7) attitudes, values and motivations, and

(8) adaptation process

Robert Hruzek/Flickr

CLUSTERS OF BARRIERS

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EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS

Barrier	Example
Conflicting timescales and conflicts of interest	Adaptation competes with other short-term interests, such as land development for economic profit, for priority
Leadership	Lack of effective leadership in starting process and creating action spaces for other actors). This can come from lack of leadership or too many leaders (internal or external) or creation of obstacles to undermine coordination.
Resources	Insufficient resources (time, funding, capacities) for the adaptation process as a whole, or potentially some specific phase, such as data collection, external expertise, communication, implementation, etc.

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EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS

Barrier	Example
Scientific data and knowledge	Lack of information, lack of access to information, lack of useful information; insufficient scientific understanding; or inability to deal with existing uncertainties
Governance and institutional constraints	Regulations, governance structures which enable or hinder collaboration internally and externally, etc.
Lack of awareness and communication	Communication/miscommunication, general awareness, understanding, among internal and external stakeholders
Attitudes, values and motivations	Cultural values, social norms, beliefs, trust in science, risk perceptions
Adaptation process	Obstacles in the actual process – how to start, how to select the scope, criteria, etc.

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POLL

Based on your experience, how many of you recognise some of these barriers in your own organisations' work with climate risk assessment?

Please mark, which of the barriers you have experienced in your work (multiple choice).

- conflicting timescales and conflicts of interest,
- leadership,
- resources,
- scientific data and knowledge,
- governance and institutional constraints,
- lack of awareness and communication,
- attitudes, values and motivations
- adaptation process

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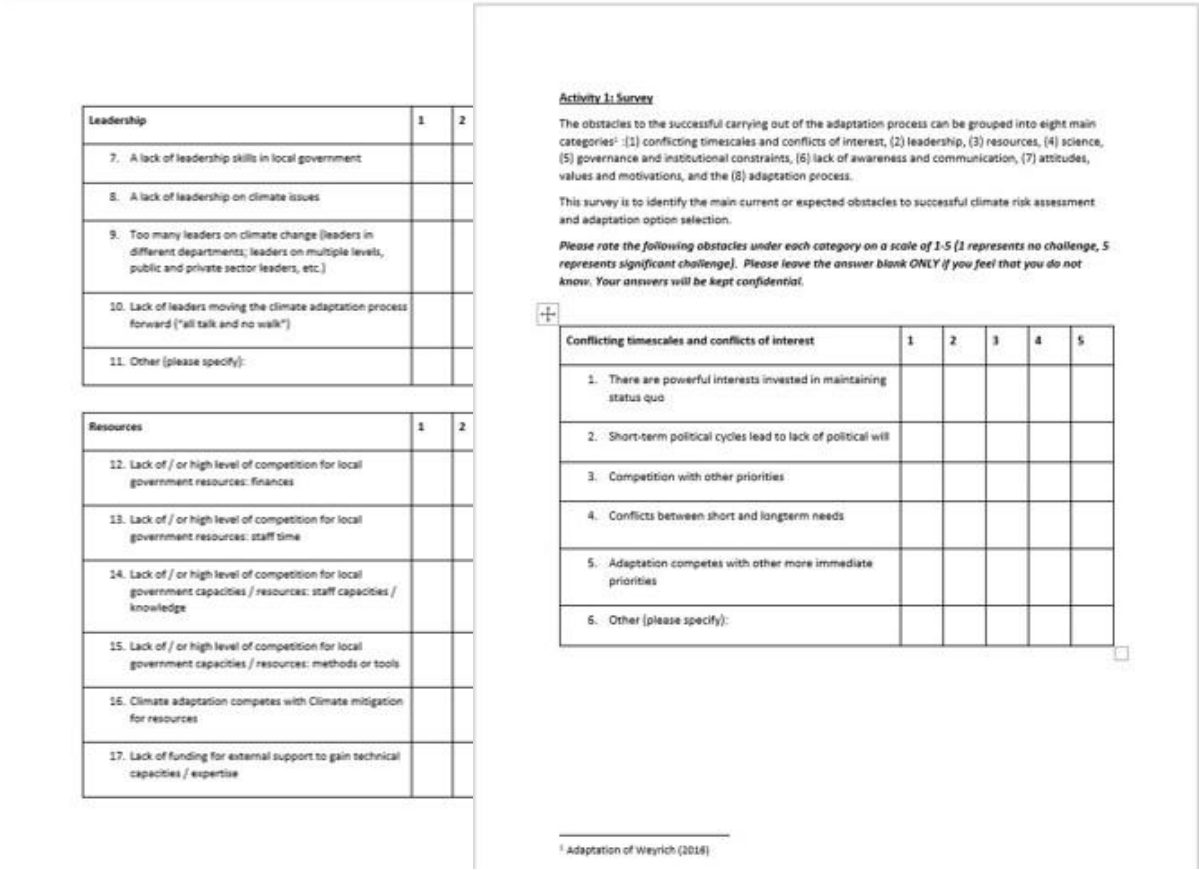
EVALUATION - POTENTIAL BARRIERS IN YOUR CONTEXT

- Survey covering 8 clusters of barriers
- 20 min for participation
- 39 specific barriers, 8 “other, please specify”
- 7 specific questions related to risk assessment
- Survey for self-evaluation, perceptions
- Different departments/organisations



Leadership	1	2
7. A lack of leadership skills in local government		
8. A lack of leadership on climate issues		
9. Too many leaders on climate change (leaders in different departments; leaders on multiple levels, public and private sector leaders, etc.)		
10. Lack of leaders moving the climate adaptation process forward (“all talk and no walk”)		
11. Other (please specify):		

Resources	1	2
12. Lack of / or high level of competition for local government resources: finances		
13. Lack of / or high level of competition for local government resources: staff time		
14. Lack of / or high level of competition for local government capacities / resources: staff capacities / knowledge		
15. Lack of / or high level of competition for local government capacities / resources: methods or tools		
16. Climate adaptation competes with Climate mitigation for resources		
17. Lack of funding for external support to gain technical capacities / expertise		

Activity 1: Survey

The obstacles to the successful carrying out of the adaptation process can be grouped into eight main categories[1] :(1) conflicting timescales and conflicts of interest, (2) leadership, (3) resources, (4) science, (5) governance and institutional constraints, (6) lack of awareness and communication, (7) attitudes, values and motivations, and the (8) adaptation process.

This survey is to identify the main current or expected obstacles to successful climate risk assessment and adaptation option selection.

Please rate the following obstacles under each category on a scale of 1-5 (1 represents no challenge, 5 represents significant challenge). Please leave the answer blank ONLY if you feel that you do not know. Your answers will be kept confidential.

Conflicting timescales and conflicts of interest	1	2	3	4	5
1. There are powerful interests invested in maintaining status quo					
2. Short-term political cycles lead to lack of political will					
3. Competition with other priorities					
4. Conflicts between short and longterm needs					
5. Adaptation competes with other more immediate priorities					
6. Other (please specify):					

[1] Adaptation of Weyrich (2016)

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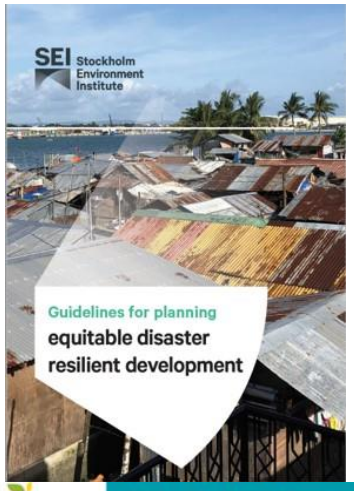
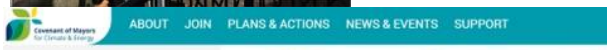
NEXT STEPS: OVERCOMING BARRIERS...





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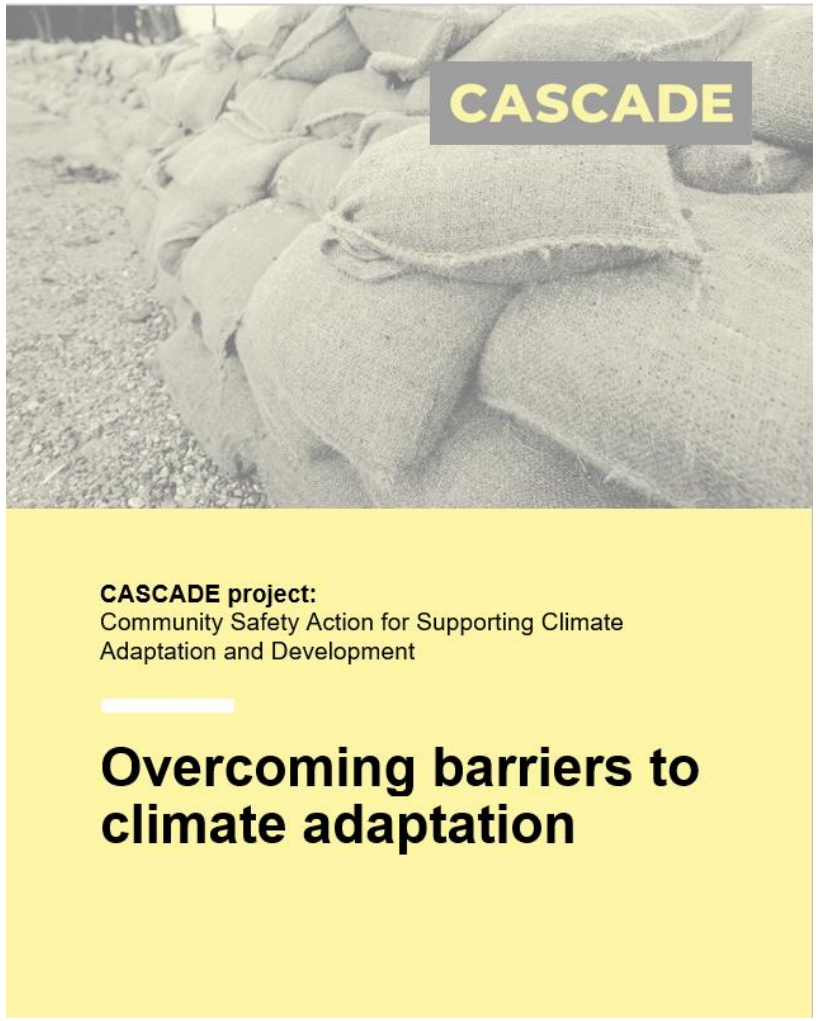
RESOURCE GUIDE

For each barrier in the survey there are:

- Video clips
- Guides
- Critical questions for stakeholder discussion

- https://www.cascade-bsr.eu/materials/overcoming-barriers-climate-adaptation



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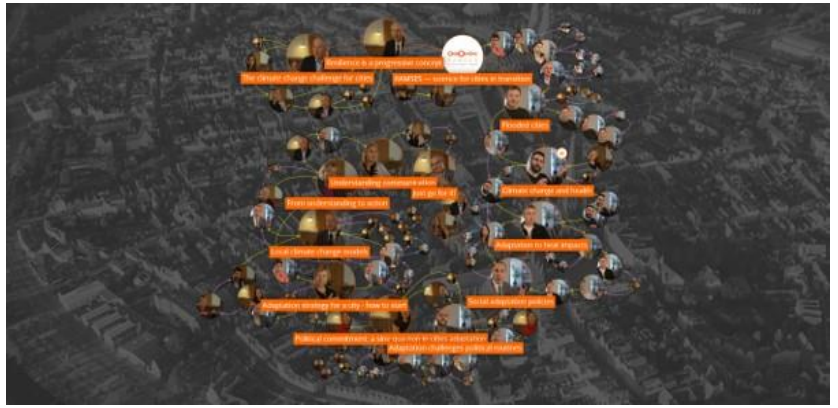
EXAMPLE:
LACK OF LEGISLATION CREATING A MANDATE FOR ACTION

- Links to guides and videos
- Issues to think about with stakeholders:
  - Are there other “forces” which can help create an unofficial mandate?
  - If no mandate and no political will, are there other internal “allies” who can support moving forward?
  - Can we justify actions through creation of a “business case”?



Play video clip: http://on-urban-resilience.eu/index.html#Change_agents_can_take_adaptation_to_the_next_level (2:35 min)

Guide: The politics of climate change at the city level, CDKN 2016.

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STAKEHOLDERS

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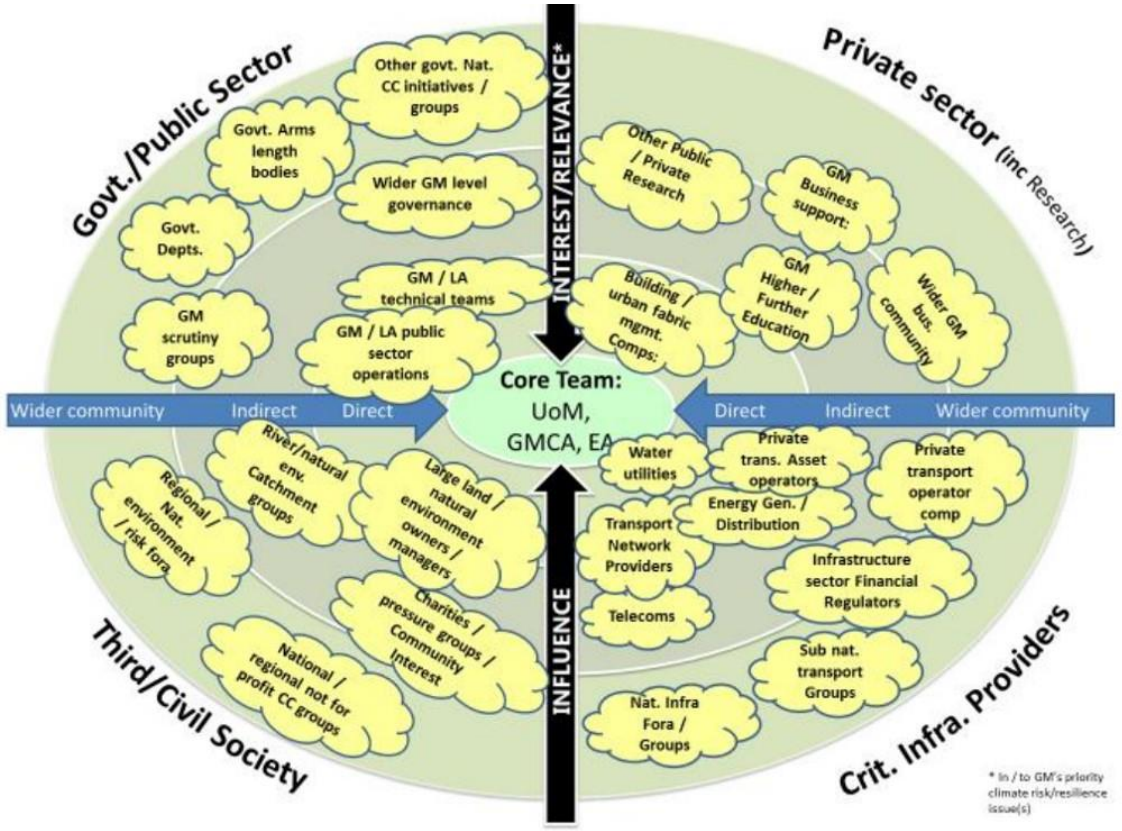
WHO ARE YOUR STAKEHOLDERS?

Map your stakeholders

- Who are your “climate allies” – inside and outside of the local authority?
- Who can influence the actors which are less supportive of climate adaptation / resilience work?
- Who represents those in society who will be affected by climate risks?
- What are the critical infrastructure or services that society is dependent on for functioning?



Source: Ellis et al. 2017, RESIN project

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WHO SHOULD BE ON YOUR CORE-TEAM?

IDEAS:

Agriculture

Heritage

Energy Technology

Hydrology

Psychology/ sociology

Architecture

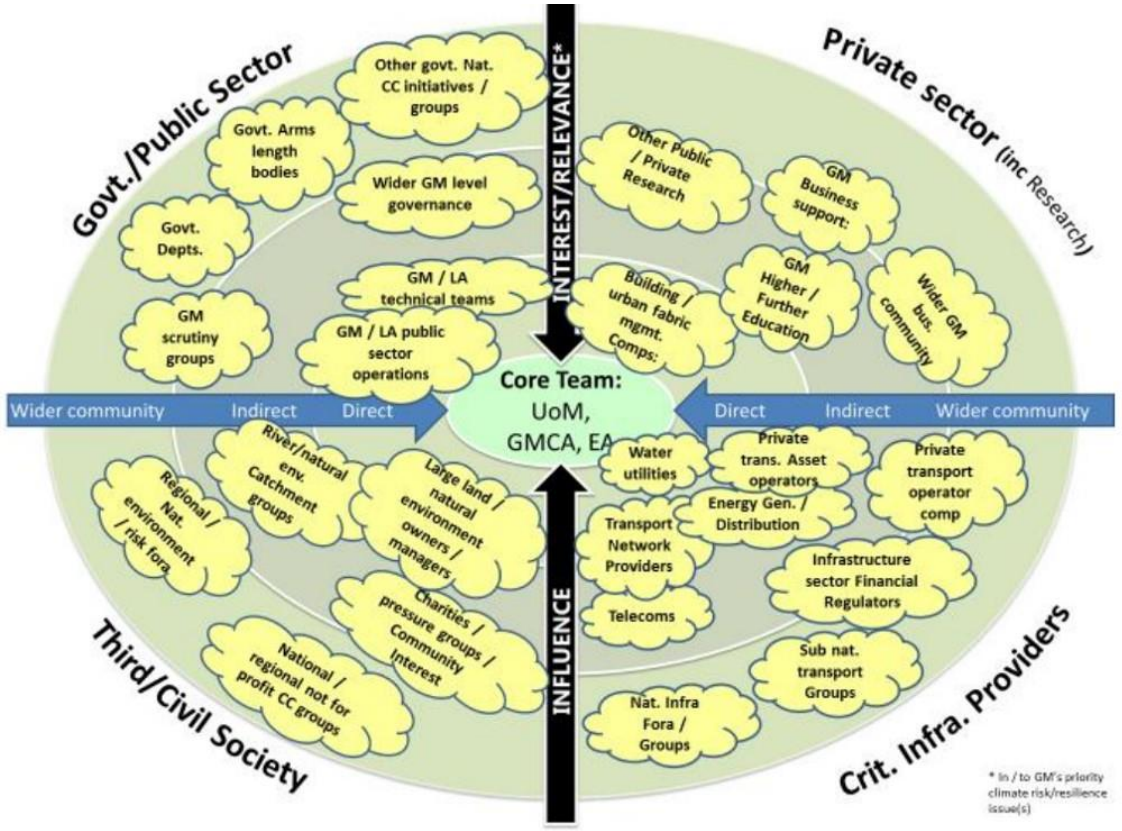
Land use planning

Health care provision

Local transportation providers

Local utility providers (energy, heating, water, wastewater, ICT, etc

Key civil society representatives



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Reflection and discussion

DO YOU THINK THAT THIS SURVEY AND RESOURCE GUIDE WOULD WORK IN YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY?

ANY QUESTIONS?