

News from LIFE LOCAL ADAPT

In the last half-year the work of our project LIFE LOCAL ADAPT was especially marked by intensive collaboration with the communities. The number of active communities has continuously increased. Therefore, the focus of this newsletter is put on actions and measures of the communities which have been achieved so far. The partners of LIFE LOCAL ADAPT apply different approaches and methods to interact with the communities which could also serve as models for other projects or municipalities. Currently, the communication is restricted due to measures related to Covid-19. Hopefully, these will not lead to long-lasting adverse effects to the communities and the project progress. Because all meetings and conferences had to be postponed, we will inform you about this issue on our website.

If you are interested to receive this information regularly, we would like you to register for the newsletter on www.life-local-adapt.eu.

With kind regards and best wishes for your health

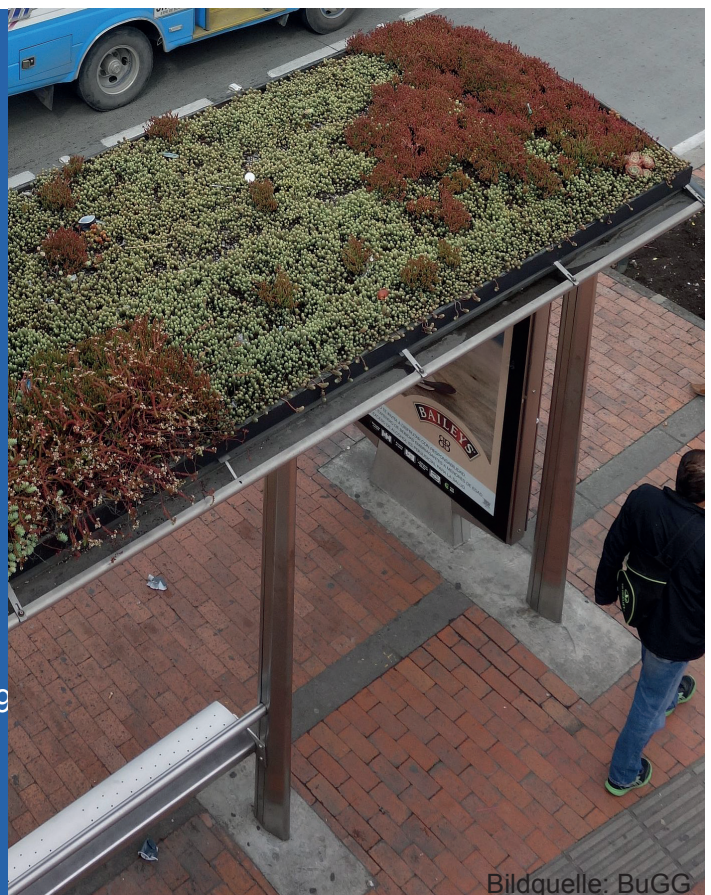
Prof. Dr. Christian Bernhofer

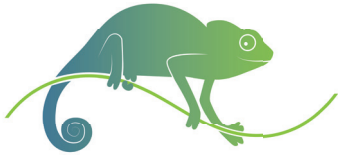
Project Coordinator

May 2020

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Case Studies from our Pilot Municipalities

The focus report of the current newsletter focuses on successfully implemented activities in the LIFE LOCAL ADAPT pilot regions. On the

following pages we present highlights from the pilot municipalities in Saxony, Styria and the north-western region of the Czech Republic.

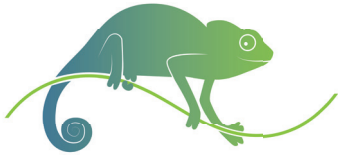
Activities in Saxony

The „Competition“ instrument for the support of innovative climate change adaptation projects, which was already successfully tested in 2017, was continued this year in a second round of calls for proposals. We have reported on this

in previous newsletters. The aim is to provide financial support for the selected projects in planning climate adaptation measures. The selected projects were awarded on 06. December 2019.



The award winners together with representatives of the project and the administration as well as the LIFE funding EASME at the EU © LfJULG, Burhard Lehmann



The following measures are planned and will be implemented in the awarded projects.

The spa town of Bad Dübén plans to develop a **communication strategy** for its current climate change adaptation projects. The population is to be specifically informed in four workshops on the topics of city greenery, sponge city, roof greening and vertical greenery.

The local authorities are faced with the task of second order water maintenance. This includes maintenance, development but also flood protection. A **guideline for watercourse maintenance** is to be developed, which compiles the steps necessary for watercourse maintenance in climate change in a practice-oriented manner. This includes the determination of the data basis, but also the development of measures and action plans. The Local Action Group Leipziger Muldenland e.V. plans to support the local municipalities in this.

After the last two summers, the problem of urban greenery is visible in many communities and cities. The city of Zwickau is particularly affected. A **plant list of climate-resilient tree species** is to be compiled. Especially native and drought-resistant tree species are in focus. But also the securing of irrigation, connection of disused springs, unused water cisterns and the potential for rainwater management will be investigated.

The district of Central Saxony sees a long-term threat to the drinking water supply in some regions in connection with climate change. Water availability was already investigated in the preliminary study. Now, **measures for securing water in times of emergency and crisis** should be developed, which will ensure the water supply even in emergency situations such as drought lasting several years and create an

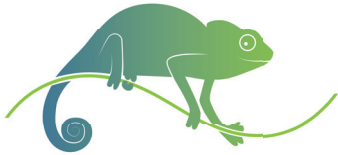
awareness of the problem among those responsible.

Erosion is a consequence of heavy precipitation and is accompanied by mudslides. This occurs mainly in mountain pastures bordering on agricultural land. In the town of Freital the positive effects of various measures such as green strips, reforestation and targeted drainage have already been modelled. However, an effective implementation can often fail due to conflicts of interest. A **targeted moderation to balance conflicts of interest** between different actors is aimed for.

Erosion is also a major issue in the district of Saxon Switzerland Osterzgebirge. The problem should be approached from the perspective of land users. It will be investigated, which **new possibilities and measures of land use** are effective and which direct effects these measures have on the environment. A feasibility study will examine the financial and legal aspects.

Heat in particular is becoming a health stress factor in many densely built-up municipalities. The lack of green-blue infrastructure and cold air corridors as well as a high degree of sealing will be the main focus of urban planning in the future. City Lauta would like to plan and analyse some of the possible solutions and how **innovative urban development and climate adaptation can work together**. The focus here is on rainwater management, greening and water retention.

In February 2020 a workshop on heat and health was held. The need for support in the preparation of **heat action plans** was identified by the representatives of the municipalities. Our Austrian project partners have dealt with this issue in greater depth.



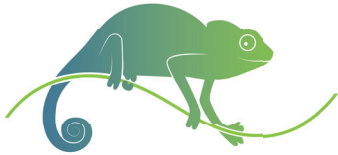
Activities in Styria

In early summer this year, a joint workshop is planned with the five pilot municipalities in Styria to identify concrete implementation measures. During this workshop, all five municipalities will **identify measures which they will then implement** by the end of the year. Two municipalities already have a concrete idea of their implementation measures:

As the municipality of Weiz is expecting a massive increase in the number of heat days in the future, it plans to invest in **measures to cool public spaces**. The idea: the municipality wants to implement a greening of the bus stations in the inner-city area in the fight against heat islands. Green areas have a cooling effect on the urban climate and since, according to current climate scenarios, we can expect a doubling of heat days by the middle of the cen-

ture (in the business as usual scenario RCP 8.5) and even an increase of 500% by the end of the century, which means that every third day in the summer months will be a heat day, the cooling of bus shelters is a sensible measure.

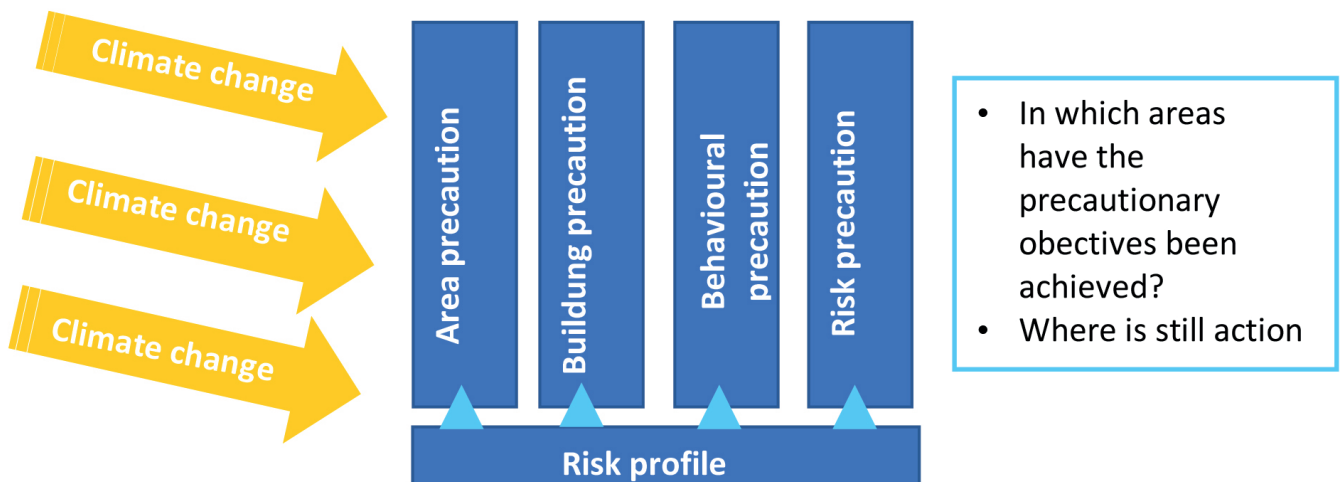
Hartberg also plans to invest in the **cooling of public spaces**. In order to provide adequate cooling for the population during the summer months, **spray fog showers** should be installed in public spaces in addition to planting trees. This is because Hartberg will also have to reckon with an extraordinary increase in temperature in the future. Tropical nights in particular will rise very sharply by the end of the century (+19 tropical nights in the business as usual scenario RCP 8.5). The increased greening and thus shading of public spaces is therefore very welcome.



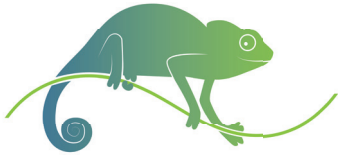
Natural Hazards in Climate Change

In order to prepare for future climate change and its expected impacts, it is not only necessary to draw up adaptation plans, but also to focus more strongly on precautionary measures against natural hazards. As municipalities are important and central actors in precautionary measures and the central contact for the population in security matters, precautionary checks in the area of natural hazards are also carried out in municipalities. In recent months, the check has been carried out in two of the five pilot municipalities - in Weiz and in Deutschlandsberg.

The aim of the precautionary check on natural hazards in climate change is to sensitise municipal decision-makers and actors to locally relevant natural hazards and climate risks and to strengthen risk awareness and precautionary capacity in the municipality's fields of responsibility. Applying this approach allows to identify both existing precautionary potential and possible need for action for the four pillars of precaution (land use, building, behavioural and risk prevention) in order to be even better prepared for disaster and the challenge of climate change.



Identification of critical areas for action in the four pillars of natural hazard prevention



Status Report Styria

The focus of the check is on strengthening the competence and capacity of the municipality in the context of self-provision. The precautionary check is also intended to intensify the internal communication and coordination processes between the various departments and actors in

the municipality and offers the opportunity for a comprehensive and structured discourse on the topic of natural hazards. Several natural hazards can be discussed within the framework of the precautionary check:



Hydrological natural hazards

gravitational natural hazards

Climate related natural hazards



Natural hazard types in the precautionary check (© Martina Offenzeller - Federal Environment Agency, based on Markus Wurzer/CC-Act, Evelyn Fuchs - Skolaut NaturRaum)

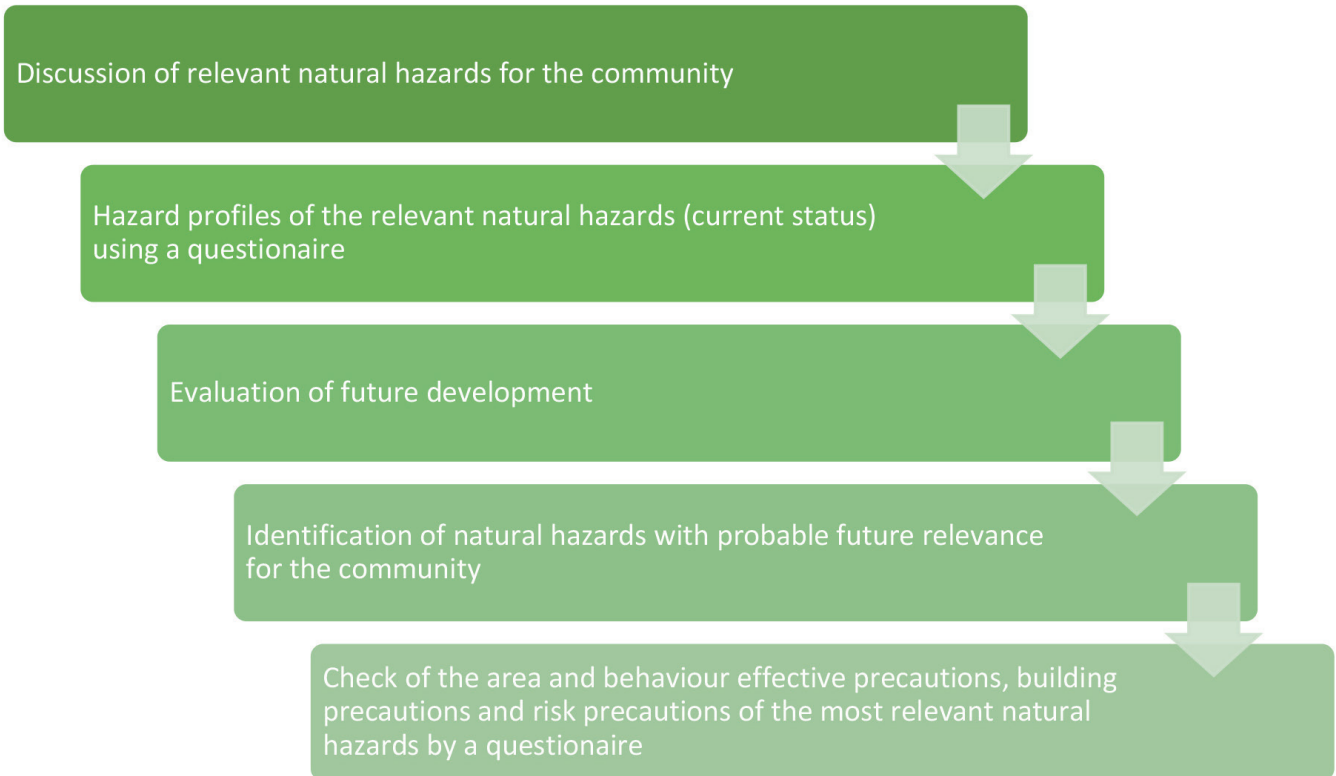
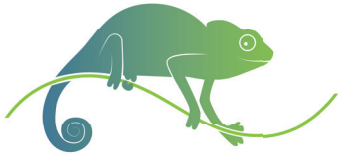
In a first step, possible natural hazards and their today's relevance for the municipality are discussed.

The most relevant hazards are selected and prioritised by the representatives of the municipality. For the selected natural hazards the respective hazard profiles are discussed.

This is followed by a look into the future. With

this information base, the natural hazards are located in a matrix (x-axis: vulnerability of the community, y-axis: change due to climate change).

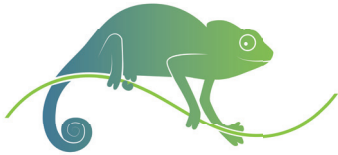
Subsequently, the check focuses on those natural hazards which are feared to be particularly relevant for the community or which are expected to be massively aggravated by climate change.



Procedure for a precautionary check on natural hazards in climate change in a municipality

The core question of the precautionary check is: “How well prepared are we?”. The results make the existing hazard knowledge and the precautionary capacity of the community visible, but also indicate any need for action in individual precautionary areas. The precau-

tionary check supports the municipality’s self-assessment of relevant natural hazards and climate risks. It should be seen as an impetus for further development steps for prevention and adaptation.



Past Success Stories

In the course of the project so far there has been a close cooperation with the municipalities of Ústí nad Labem and Litoměřice. From this cooperation important findings for the future cooperation with Kadaň and Cheb were gained.

During the cooperation with Litoměřice an adaptation strategy for the municipality was elaborated. Within the framework of numerous participatory workshops it was possible to accompany the development of the strategy. The insights of the stakeholders are considered key to a successful adaptation strategy and so it was possible to integrate adaptation to climate change into the decision making of the municipality.

Currently Litoměřice is a member of the Covenant of Mayors and has the Sustainable

Energy and Climate Action Plan. Through the work in LIFE LOCAL ADAPT, important foundations have been laid and capacities built in the municipality so that issues relating to climate change and adaptation to expected impacts can now be promoted independently.

Participatory workshops have also been held in Ústí nad Labem, which have helped to increase awareness and knowledge about climate change, its impacts, risks, vulnerable groups and available adaptation measures.

It is hoped that Ústí nad Labem will continue to promote adaptation to climate change. For example, last year a conference was held on the importance of greenery and water for the well-being of urban citizens. This also laid the foundations for the road to a sustainable and climate-friendly future.

A Way Forward

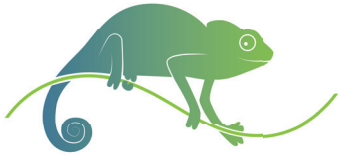
Fortunately, the cooperation with the municipalities Kadaň and Cheb is progressing well. The experience gained from previous cooperation is very helpful in integrate adaptation to climate change into local decision-making and policy.

It was planned to hold first workshops with the municipalities in early April. Unfortunately, these had to be postponed due to the public health emergency caused by the SARS-CoV-2

outbreak.

However, everything is prepared for the workshops, so that as soon as the situation improves, the cooperation with the communities can continue.

The aim of the workshops is then to prepare the development of adaptation strategies to climate change in cooperation with Kadaň and Cheb.



Transfer Concept

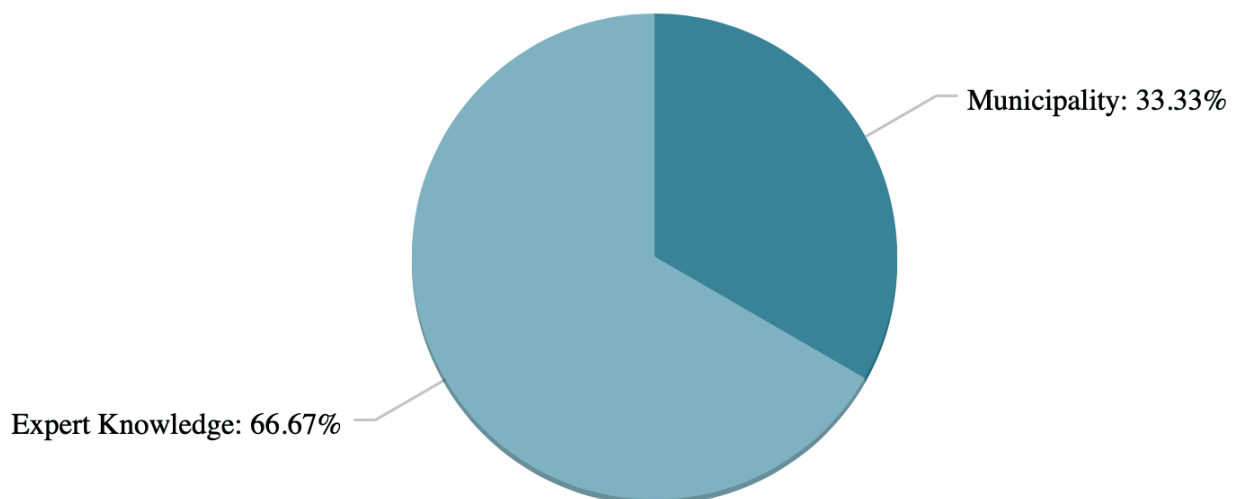
Work on the successful transfer of the main results of LIFE LOCAL ADAPT is progressing. The aim is to prepare the results in such a way that they can be applied in other municipalities. For this purpose, a transfer concept on the one hand and a guidance document on the other hand are under development. Currently, the identification of those concepts, instruments, measures and methods developed by the project partners in LIFE LOCAL ADAPT that are particularly promising for transfer is on-going.

In order to identify and systematize the concepts and instruments developed so far, a questionnaire was developed. The project partners were asked to give an assessment of the concepts, instruments and measures developed so far. Among other things, the aim was to find out what the feedback from the municipali-

ties on individual instruments was like, how the project partners assessed the relevance and transfer potential of the individual instruments and measures, and which methods were used during implementation.

For example, it was asked whether the strategies for adapting to the impacts of climate change and the resulting action plans could be developed by a municipality (in case they get some guidance) or whether this would require a certain degree of expert knowledge.

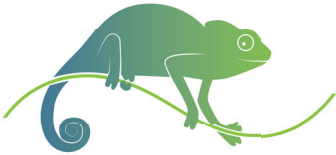
In the opinion of the experts in the project, the majority of them consider expert knowledge to be indispensable for the development of such strategies and action plans. This means that decision makers either need support or very well-prepared documents that explain step by step how to proceed and what to consider.



The evaluation of the questionnaire is still ongoing, but will be completed shortly. The results of the survey will then be discussed together with the partners of LIFE LOCAL ADAPT to determine, which instruments are particularly

suitable for transfer.

For the components that are then jointly classified as particularly important, a Guidance Document will be prepared in the next step, explaining step by step how they can be applied.



Team members of LIFE LOCAL ADAPT

Technische Universität Dresden, Germany

Christian Bernhofer, Valeri Goldberg, Majana Heidenreich,
Barbara Köstner, Rico Kronenberg and Ines Schmidt



Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht / GERICS, Germany

Jörg Cortekar, Torsten Weber and Uwe Kehlenbeck



Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology (LfULG), Germany

Dominic Rumpf, Martina Straková, Andrea Hausmann and
Werner Sommer

LANDESAMT FÜR UMWELT,
LANDWIRTSCHAFT
UND GEOLOGIE



Provincial Government of Styria, Austria

Bettina Fischer, Adelheid Weiland and Andrea Gössinger-Wieser



CzechGlobe – Global Change Research Institute, The Czech Academy of Science, Czech Republic

Helena Duchková, Lenka Suchá, Eva Horváthová, Vojtěch Cuřín, Eliška
K. Lorencová and Dava Vačkářů



Valka Municipality, Latvia

Jana Putniņa and Inga Aleksejeva



For further information please visit our website: www.life-local-adapt.eu

The newsletter was compiled by Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS)

Imprint

Technische Universität Dresden
Institute of Hydrology and Meteorology
Chair of Meteorology

01062 Dresden, Germany
<https://tu-dresden.de/bu/umwelt/hydro/ihm/meteorologie>
Contact: barbara.koestner@tu-dresden.de