

# Setting the Stage for Urban Climate Adaptation

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# **The importance of urban climate adaptation**

**“Cities lie at the heart of the challenge of addressing climate change” (Bulkeley et al 2015)**

**“Climate change requires us to reorient our spatial planning to pay more explicit and systematic attention to future possible pathways” (Wilson and Piper, 2010: 13)**

# **On the one hand we witness...**

**An increasing awareness of current and future urban climate risks**

**A strong agreement that urban planning can balance interests in the urban realm to support climate-proofing**

**Adaptation plans, policies and strategies are being formulated**

**CITIES**  
2018 • CONFERENCE  
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The logo graphic consists of a green horizontal line with three grey circles above it, resembling a stylized horizon or a wave.

**Resilient  
Cities** *series*



100 RESILIENT CITIES



A stylized, pixelated cityscape background in various shades of green. The buildings are simplified shapes with white rectangular windows. The tallest building is on the left, and the scene is filled with other buildings of varying heights and colors, creating a dense urban feel.

**New innovative adaptation  
measures are being tested**



# **On the other hand research show...**

**Poor practical enactment: progress on adaptation at the municipal level is reported as being modest in many Nordic countries.**

**A number of barriers for climate adaptation have been identified related to e.g. distribution of responsibilities, vertical and horizontal coordination, weak legislation, lack of funding, goal conflicts and political priorities, engaging private actors...**

# Some National Policy Highlights



## The Danish portal for Climate Change Adaptation states:

“Climate change can have enormous consequences for the future spatial planning activities of Danish municipalities. /.../ The 98 Danish municipalities have made climate adaptation plans, which they now have to put into practice”

SIRKKU JUHOLA,  
Helsinki University:

”The National Adaptation Plan does not directly steer the local level, so any adaptation focused processes tend to be voluntary and self-financed. This means that those cities that have capacity to undertake adaptation, are likely to do so, but there are many regions and urban centres where not much is taking place.”

**LOTTA ANDERSSON,**

National knowledge center for climate adaptation, SMHI:

“The launching of the National Climate Adaptation strategy has, on a general level, provided a clarification of expectations from national, regional and local levels. Where this will lead us is still uncertain. A change of mindset towards integration of climate change aspects in planning and decisions is still in its early stage.”

## CARLO AALL

Western Norway Research Institute:

“Climate adaptation is a low-politicized area. Attempts are made to strengthen judicial policy-measures (in particular technical standards for physical infrastructure and land-use planning) and horizontal and vertical policy integration. Policy-integration does not work properly yet. Funds for measures and research on climate adaptation are still limited.”

# It all boils down to implementation!



Implementation "needs to be regarded as a process of interaction and negotiation, taking place over time, between those seeking to put policy into effect and those upon whom action depends" (Barret and Fudge 1981: 4)

"Implementation is a complicated process. Therefore, much can go wrong" (Hill and Hupe, 2014: 7)



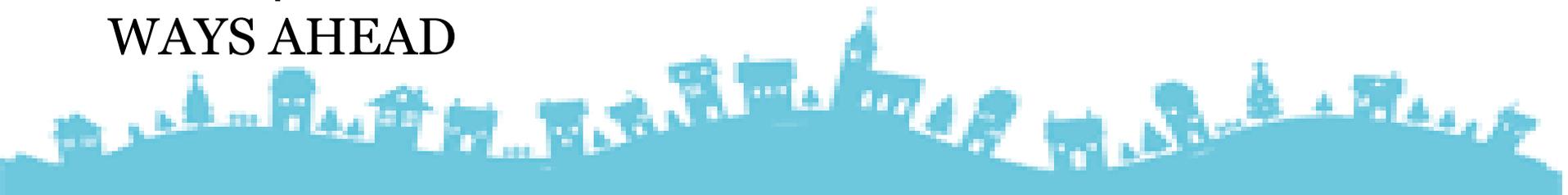
# SESSION 1A: Policy, planning and implementation: critical concerns and approaches for climate-proof urban areas

PART 1 SETTING THE STAGE FOR URBAN CLIMATE ADAPTATION

PART 2 MAKING THE CASE FOR URBAN CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN AGENDA SETTING AND PLANNING

PART 3 IMPLEMENTING URBAN CLIMATE ADAPTATION: LESSONS LEARNED

PART 4 WRAPPING UP: CRITICAL CONCERNS AND WAYS AHEAD



LETS GO!

