

# 2C: The role of the citizen in adapting to climate change: how to engage residents in developing robust, attractive and low-carbon societies

Wednesday Oct 24 13-16.15

Organisers: Erik Glaas and Julie Wilk (Linköping University), Christine Wamsler (Lund University) and Heleen Mees (Utrecht University)

Speakers:

- Lisa Van Well, Swedish Geotechnical Institute
- Nina Baron, University College Copenhagen
- Bjørn Kalsnes, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute
- Heleen Mees, Utrecht University
  
- Saara Ihanamäki, Finnish Environment Institute
- Sebastian Irminger Street, Sweco
- Rasmus E. Benestad, Norwegian Meteorological Institute
- Erik Glaas, Linköping University
- Christine Wamsler, Lund University

# Background

Citizens involvement can facilitate CC adaptation through:

## Substantive values

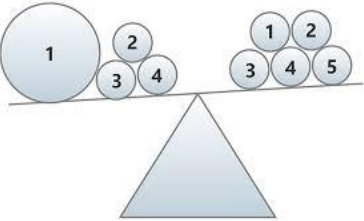
- Breaking out of “silos” and finding better solutions
- Insuring that decisions reflect local conditions and peoples’ ideals and avoiding disputes
- Facilitating learning and implementation

## Normative values/Democracy

- Letting people have a say in decisions which affect them
- Creating agreements and a sense of ownership
- Empowering vulnerable and often neglected groups

However – Participation can also be instrumental

- Used to manage blame and justify pre-decided outcomes

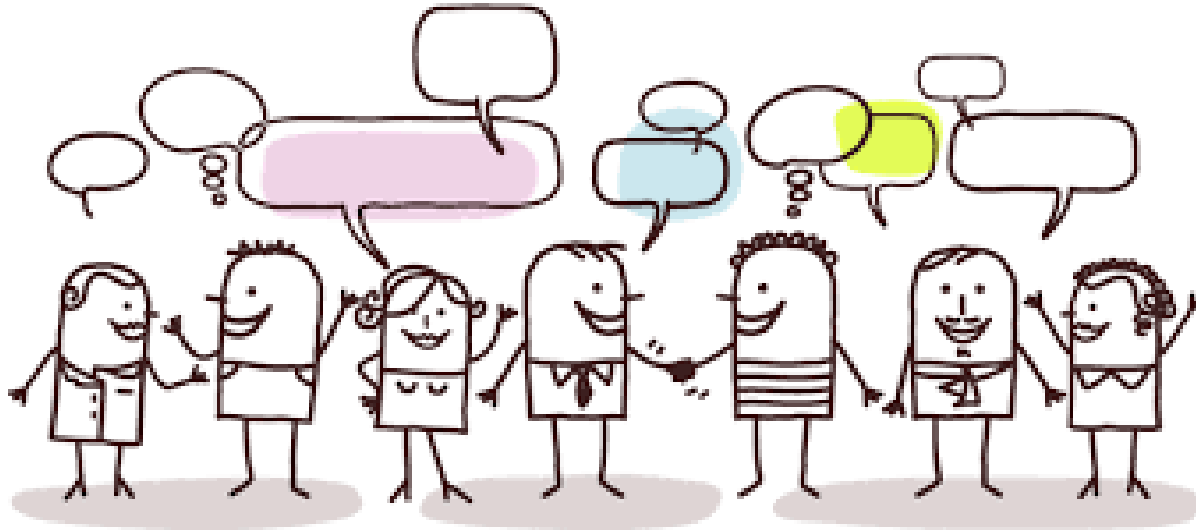


# Challenges of participation discussed in research

- There are numerous approaches to, and examples of, citizen participation in adaptation
- Yet, research shows that methods for citizen involvement are often not useful or - at least - not adapted to what they aim to accomplish
- There are also different rationales for citizen engagement
- It is difficult to keep people/groups engaged over time
- New methods may be needed to contribute to social learning that do not only involve regular meetings
- Marginalized people/groups that may be the most vulnerable are absent in citizen participation
- Marginalized people/groups if included are only represented indirectly but without direct involvement of people/leaders

# Interviews with citizens, politicians and officials: - What role should citizens have in adaptation?

- Somewhat different rationales for participation expressed by interviewees:
  - Mostly democracy – voice opinions (officials and politicians)
  - Mostly efficiency – facilitate better decision (citizens)



# Interviews with citizens, politicians and officials: - Perceived challenges of participation?

- Create engagement
- Lack of capacity and time
- Different objectives among staff
- No standard procedures for participation (often ad hoc)



# Why are we here today?

- Share practical experiences of citizen participation
- Learn from each other and find new collaborators
- Specify what we can do to improve citizen participation for adaptation
- Clarify for us and Nordic policy-makers what is needed to do this (e.g. support structures, regulations, resources, organization, etc.)
- **Much time devoted to discussion:** 9 discussion tables (6 in Scandinavian, 3 in English) divided into three sub-themes:

# Sub-Themes

- 1. Communication & Learning** (How to increase the dialogue on climate change risks and measures?)



- 2. Strategic Planning & Governance** (How to facilitate citizen involvement in strategic decision-making and planning?)



- 3. Local change** (How to cooperate with residents in designing effective and attractive local responses?)



# Session structure

- **Presentation round 1** - How we understand and approach citizens
- **Group discussion 1**
  - What are your experiences with citizen participation?
  - What are the main benefits and challenges in cooperating with citizens?
  - How can the society better support citizen engagement?

14:15-14:30 Coffee break

- **Presentation round 2** – Methods/tools for involving citizens
- **Group discussion 2**
  - What are successful examples of citizen involvement?
  - What methods/tools can be (further) developed?
  - What support could e.g. governments offer?
- **Summery** – Our input to the Nordic Council of Ministers



# Group discussion 1

- What are your experiences with citizen participation?
- What are the main benefits and challenges in cooperating with citizens?
- How can the society better support citizen engagement?

# Group discussion 2

- What are successful examples of citizen involvement?
- What methods/tools can be (further) developed?
- What support could e.g. governments offer?

# Summary

- What inputs should we pass on to the Nordic Ministers?

Thanks!