



The Norwegian Case:

Climate Change Adaptation and the Land Use Planning Sector
- how can we strengthen the adaptation capacity of municipalities?



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Regional and Local Government Structure in Norway

- **19 counties**
 - County Councils, elected
 - County Governors, representatives of the central government
 - State agencies

- **430 Municipalities**
 - Municipality Councils, elected





Division of Planning Tasks

- **National**
Planning authority:
Ministry of Environment
Provides guidelines for planning at regional and local level
 - White Papers
 - National policy guidelines
 - Resolve conflicts

- **Regional**
Planning authority:
County Council
Prepares county plans for the development of the county
 - Guidelines for the planning in the municipalities and sectorial planning

- **Local**
Planning authority:
Municipal Council
Prepares municipality masterplans and legally binding zoning plans



The Planning Tasks of the Municipalities: Developing healthy, sustainable and climate proof cities and towns



My assumption: We have to mainstream adaptation to climate change as a "normal" spatial planning issue!

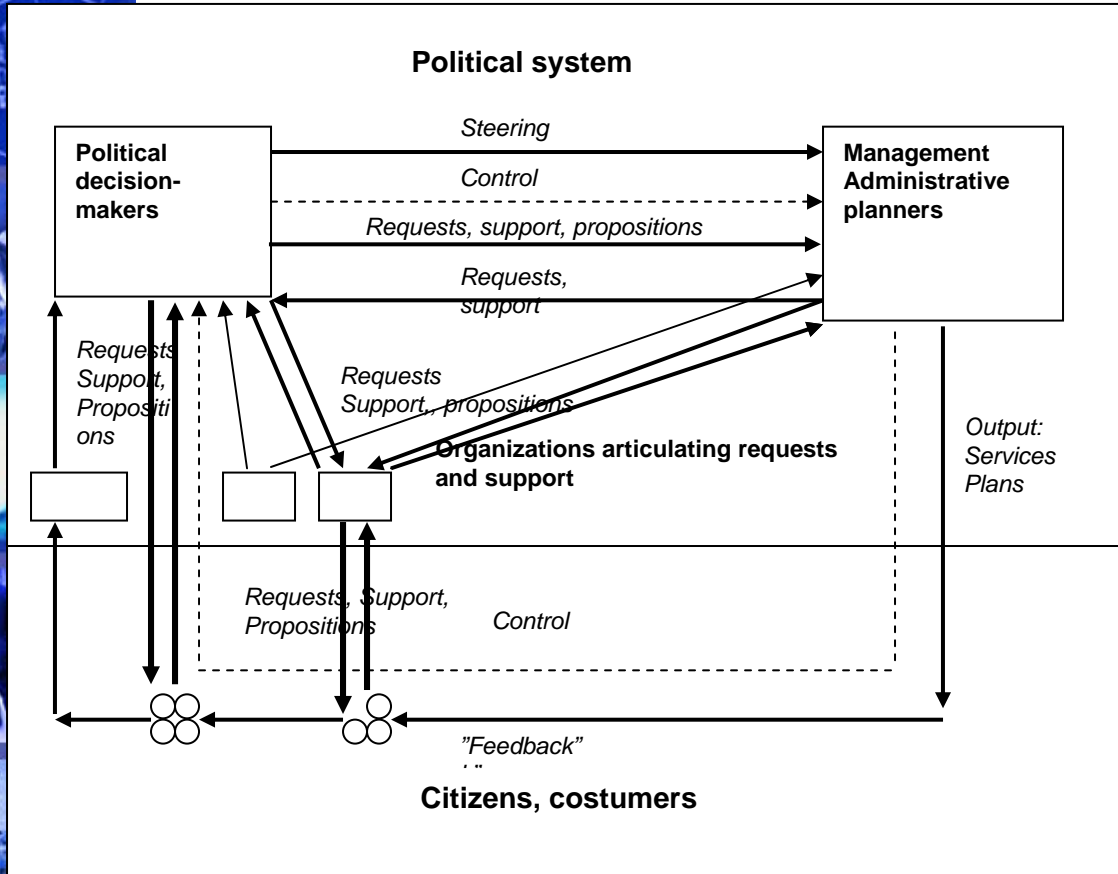
What influences the local governments capacity to focus on long term objectives such as sustainability an adaptation to climate change?





The Complexity of Governance- Planning

The democratic networking-process (Lundquist 1971)



What are the actual implications of the current neo-liberal planning practices for the legitimacy and accountability of urban planning?

How can we ensure that politically decided masterplans are framing the zoning plans the way they are meant to?

How can planning be designed to secure essential democratic norms related to participation rights and elected politicians?

(Falleth, Hanssen and Saglie 2010)



Climate Change

– Impacts and Adaptation Policy in Norway

- ❑ **Sudden events with large impacts:**
 - Heavy rainfalls, floods, springtides and land slides
- ❑ **Others more gradually and over time**
 - Rising sea level and ecological changes
- ❑ **White paper on Climate Change Adaptation**
 - The proposition is now on public hearing
 - Adaptation – an issue primarily on the local level and **subject to local decision**
 - **Land use planning as the most important arena** for adaptation policy

 - However: One of the propositions is a **new specified central regulation** on climate change adaptation
 - Suggests that **the County Governour** should have the main responsibility for the Adaptation policy at the regional level



**What about the County Council's roles and tools?
How can we strengthen the municipalities' capacity of implementing adaptation in the local spatial planning?**



My Hypothesis: The County Councils have complementary roles and tools in the implementation of adaptation in the municipal planning

The County Councils role as a collaborator, partnership-builder and networker

The County Councils tools in the planning system – formal hierarchic steering through county plans

	Little focus on deliberative work on identifying a common understanding and "best solutions"	Strong focus on deliberative work on identifying a common understanding and "best solutions"
Strong steering	The municipalities may save time and gain a stronger position in the planning processes and can demand the actors to implement adaptation in the land use zoning plans. However this might lead to resistance and suboptimizing and heavy use of dispensations	The municipalities prepare sustainable land use zoning plans adapted to climate change
Weak steering	The municipalities do not develop an understanding of the need for adaptation planning, and will not succeed in implementing adaptation in the land use zoning plans	The municipalities develop a common understanding about the need for adaptation planning, but because of the lack of sanctions and the weak steering from the County Council, adaptation is an issue in just a few of the spatial plans





The Casestudy

- ❑ 5 municipalities
- ❑ 4 county councils
- ❑ Interviewing planning officers at the strategic level



A growing awareness of the need for climate change adaptation

The actors in the planning system ask for relevant knowledge

A sector-divided and uncoordinated state limits the possibilities of local adaptation

The municipalities ask for a coordinated adaptation policy!

Pointing out the County Council in the role of the coordinator

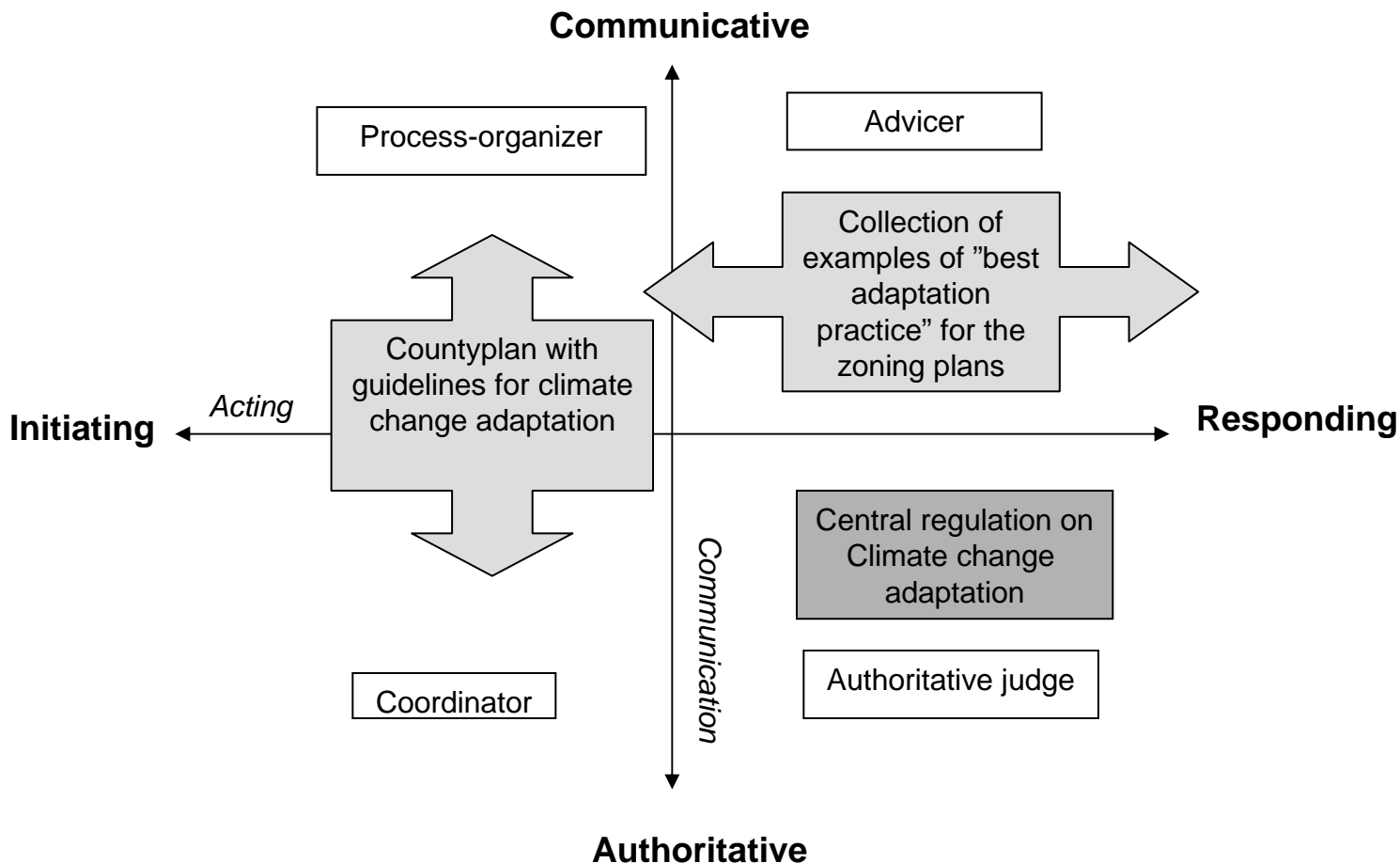
County plans with common guidelines as possible adaptation steering tools

However: The County plans should be prepared in cooperation with the municipalities in a communicative planning process!





Developing a Balanced Adaptation Governance Policy - Roles and Tools at the Regional Level





Implementing Adaptation in Local Land Use Planning - possible strategies for the County Councils

- ❑ **Preparing County plans with guidelines for climate change adaptation in the municipal land use planning**
- ❑ **Involving the municipalities in preparing the County plans through communicative and deliberative planning processes to secure acceptance of the guidelines**

