




# Policy Lab 1

## Sustainable cities

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Inspire policy making by territorial evidence

# Policy Lab 1: Sustainable cities

## Aim of the session

To identify key issues from a policy-making perspective concerning climate change and the impact this can/will have on our cities in the future, and how these can be tackled.

# Policy question 1

- Map differences between cities as a **three-dimensional matrix** of variables on exposure, sensitivity, adaptive capacity
- Research can 'load' this matrix with data on each variable  
-> **data-based typology of cities** and climate change
- Research to provide latest **projections** on climate change, land-use, population and economic projections  
(**long-term, multiple scenarios and at high resolution**)
- Research needs to provide accessible, **flexible, map-based tools** that allow users to relate expo., sens., adapt. cap. to each other (à la clipc.eu )
- **Under-researched cities regarding climate change:**  
climate change adaptation in a) small & medium sized cities,  
b) shrinking cities, c) cities with strong trans-border effects

# Policy Lab 1: Sustainable cities

## Question 1

- Are there any specific vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies related to climate change for cities in specific types of territories?

# Shaping tomorrow's urban environment today

*Climate in territorial perspective*

# Integration of Climate change in urban development?

Sectoral policy objectives (energy, transport, nature)

Societal needs and services

Safeguarding the quality of life and environment

**Urban ecosystem approach?**

**Socio-economic and environmental interactions**

*Diverse set of perspectives to address climate change issues*

# Understanding pressures and territorial impacts?

<i>Exposure units (Urban Ecosystem)</i>	<i>Climate pressures</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water resources</li><li>• Production systems and services (agriculture, forestry, tourism, nature)</li><li>• Health</li><li>• Sectors (grey infrastructure, transport, energy, housing etc.)</li></ul> <p>N.B. For many aspects of vulnerability more data is needed (NUTs, LAUs etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increasing drought tendency</li><li>• Increasing frequency of heat waves</li><li>• Increasing frequency of flood events</li><li>• Decreased environmental quality</li><li>• CO<sub>2</sub></li><li>• Shift in ecosystems functions</li><li>• .....</li></ul>



*Climate change in a territorial (spatial) perspective*

**Step 1: Assessment of the potential climate change impacts , including:**

- description of urban ecosystem
- long list of possible consequences of climate change for region and sectors
- prioritization of climate change trends and impacts, analysis of policy objectives to contribute to selection of impact indicators and thresholds

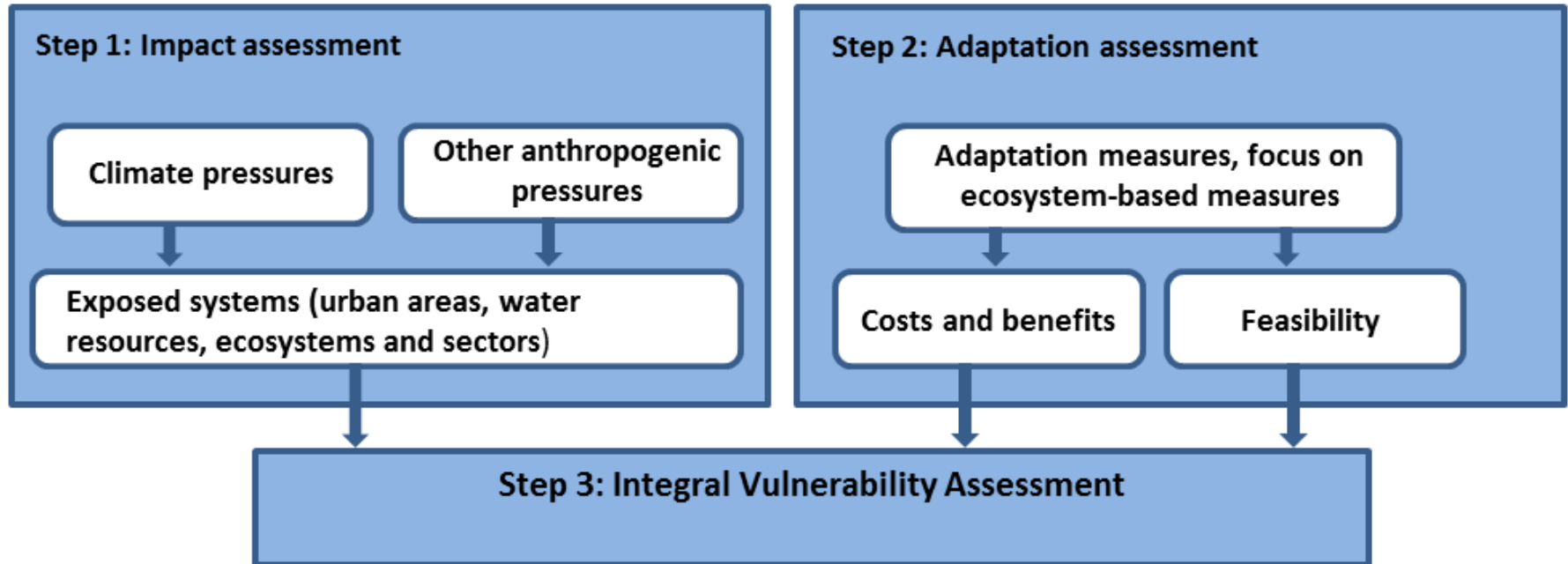
**Step 2: Identification and assessment of potential climate change adaptation measures, e.g. urban ecosystem approaches.**

**Step 3: Integration of the impact assessment and adaptation assessment in a comprehensive vulnerability assessment framework.**

Climate adaptation strategy in urban areas



# A quest for a systematic approach to vulnerability assessment in urban areas?



# Policy Lab 1: Sustainable cities

## Question 2

- Policy-making is lagging behind and does not reflect the acceleration of climate change. What kind of responsibilities does this put on the shoulders of policy-makers?



**Shaping tomorrow's urban environment today**

**Climate resilience in cities**

***Q 2: From policies to actions of the local governments***

# Climate change issues need to be integrated in urban planning?

Incorporation of environmental concerns in non-environmental policy sectors with recognition of this goal as a guiding principle.

*This way to urban sustainability*



new approach to urban policy?

change in existing planning practices

# What current approaches support integrated urban planning?



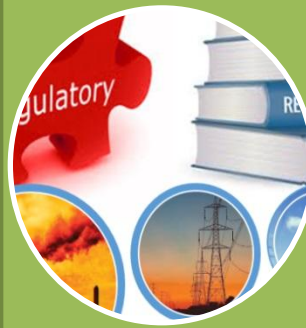
*Strategic*



*Coordinative*



*Structural*



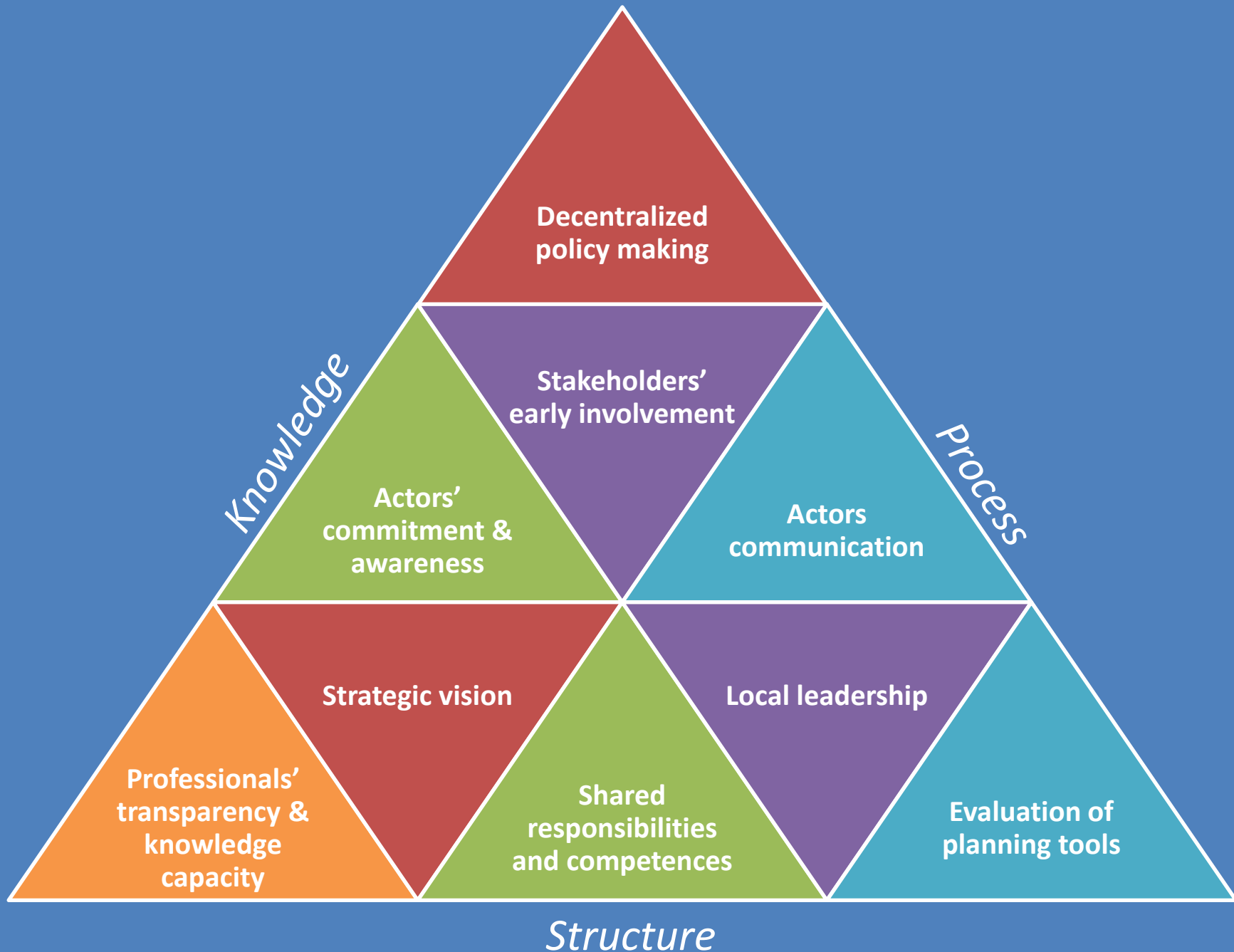
*Procedural*



*Collaborative*

***Policy approaches to integration of Climate concerns in urban planning***

# Key success factors for integrating Climate change in urban planning?



## Policy question 2

- **Socio-economic changes more dramatic & volatile** than climatic changes (CC)
- **Climate change interacts with and amplifies** existing environmental, economic and demographic problems
- **Electoral cycles** do not fit well to long-term CC problems
- **Refrain from apocalyptic scenarios**, seek mix of no regret and structural/transformational solutions
- **'Piggy-back'** on ongoing development planning processes, CC not rival to but supporting, enriching these processes
- Always consider **multiple scenarios**, develop **flexible** strategies
- **Lead by example** (at institutional & personal level)
- Seek **regional collaboration** to fit the scope of problems

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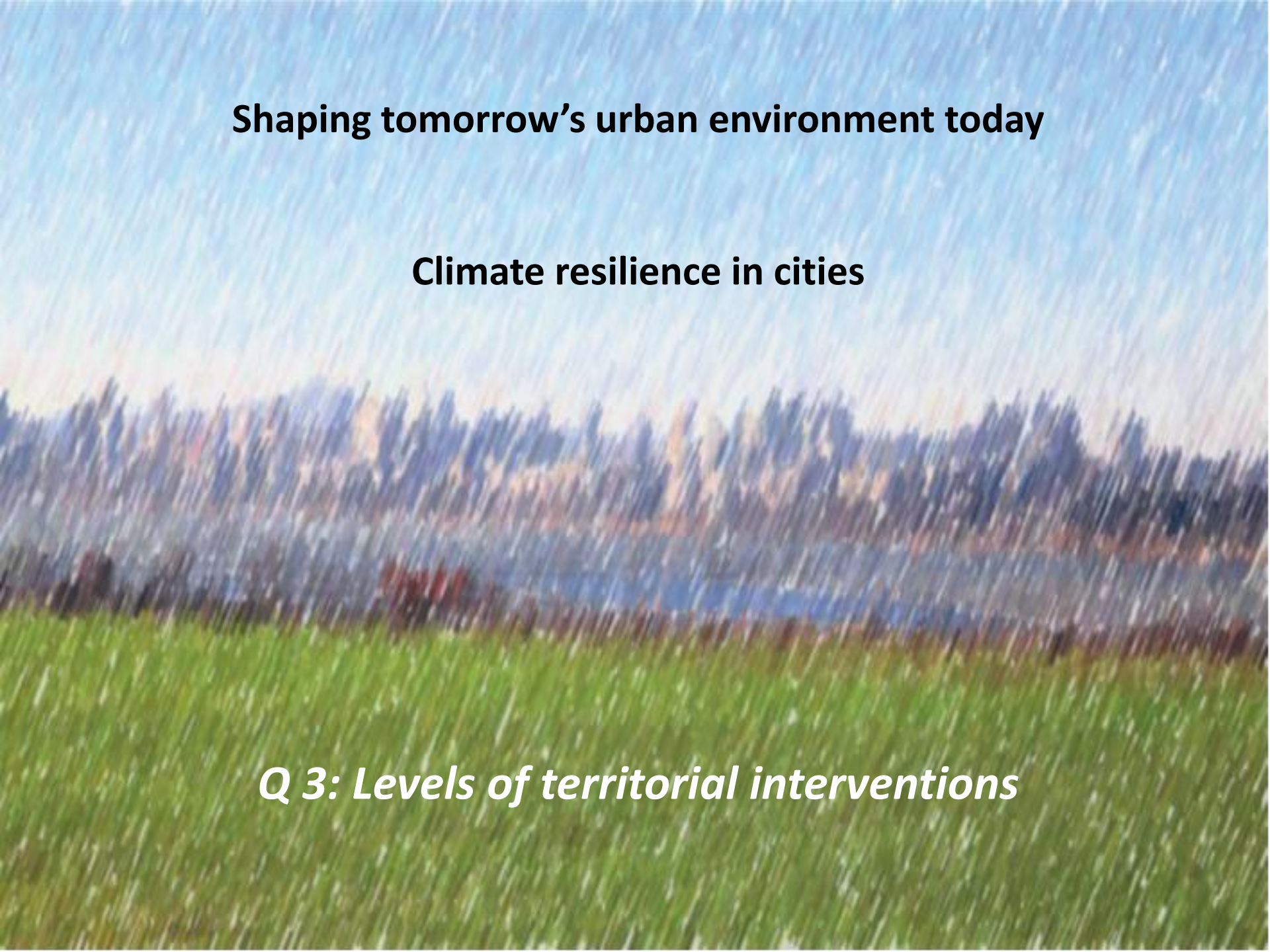
## Question 3

- How to reach a better linkage among the mitigation and adaptation issues and other strategies/policies at city level?



## Policy question 3 b

- EU and national policies/directives should make climate change **assessments** & adaptation & mitigation **plans legal requirement**
- But climate change adaptation **always local challenge** due to great diversity of cities
- Often **regional or trans-boundary collaboration** necessary to address underlying causes (e.g. river basin management)
- Enable **exchange** (national and international) **between cities** with similar climate change and adaptation challenges (e.g. through databases with systematic city profiles)



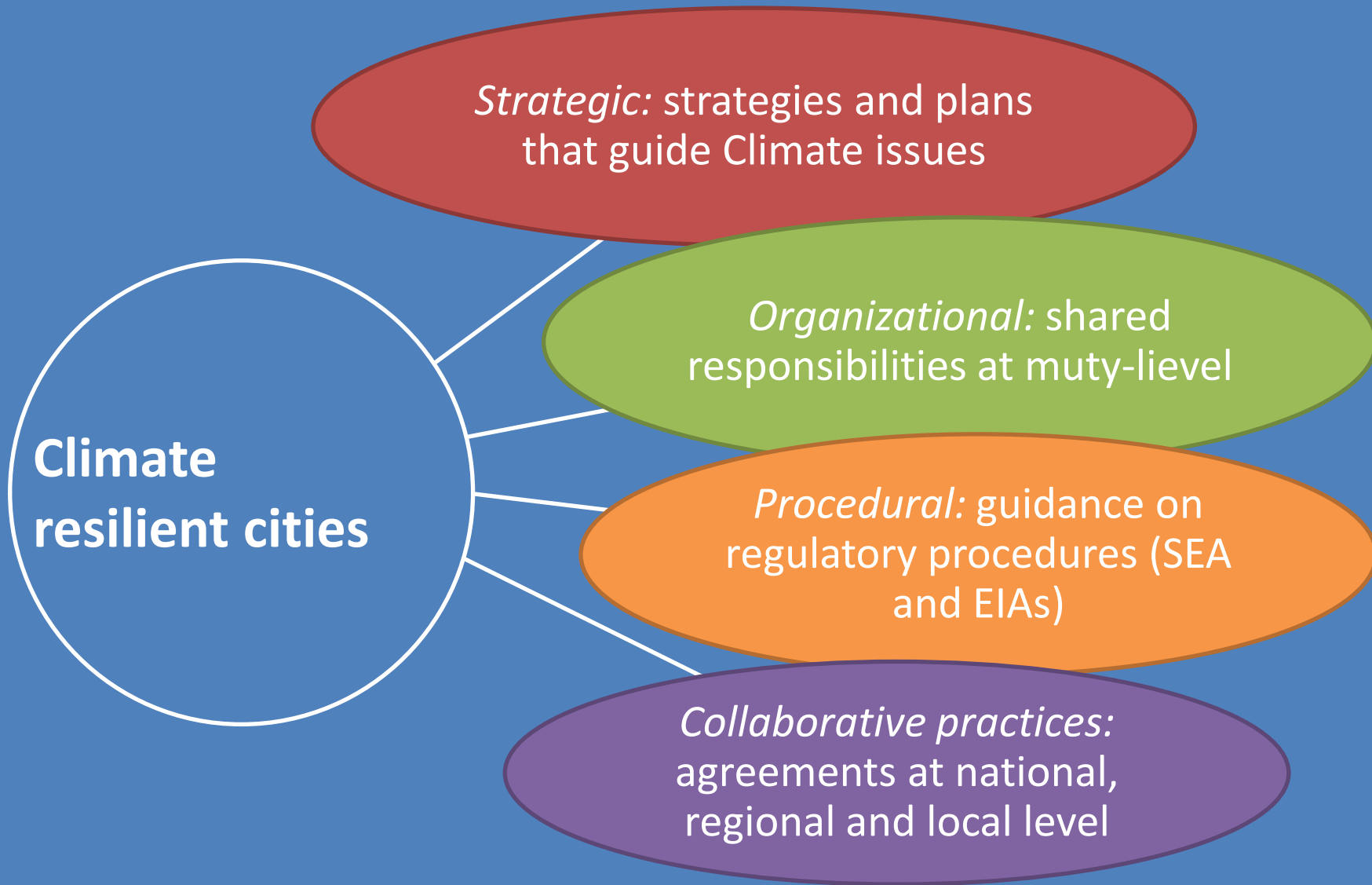
**Shaping tomorrow's urban environment today**

**Climate resilience in cities**

***Q 3: Levels of territorial interventions***

# Guiding the mitigation and adaptation process?

Central-decentral interactions



Climate  
resilient cities

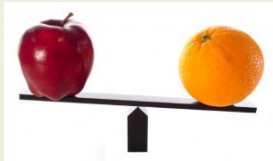
*Strategic:* strategies and plans  
that guide Climate issues

*Organizational:* shared  
responsibilities at muty-lievel

*Procedural:* guidance on  
regulatory procedures (SEA  
and EIAs)

*Collaborative practices:*  
agreements at national,  
regional and local level

# More research in understanding Climate issues un the context of urban planning practices?



*Climate and sectors*



*Climate and regional  
multi-site perspective*



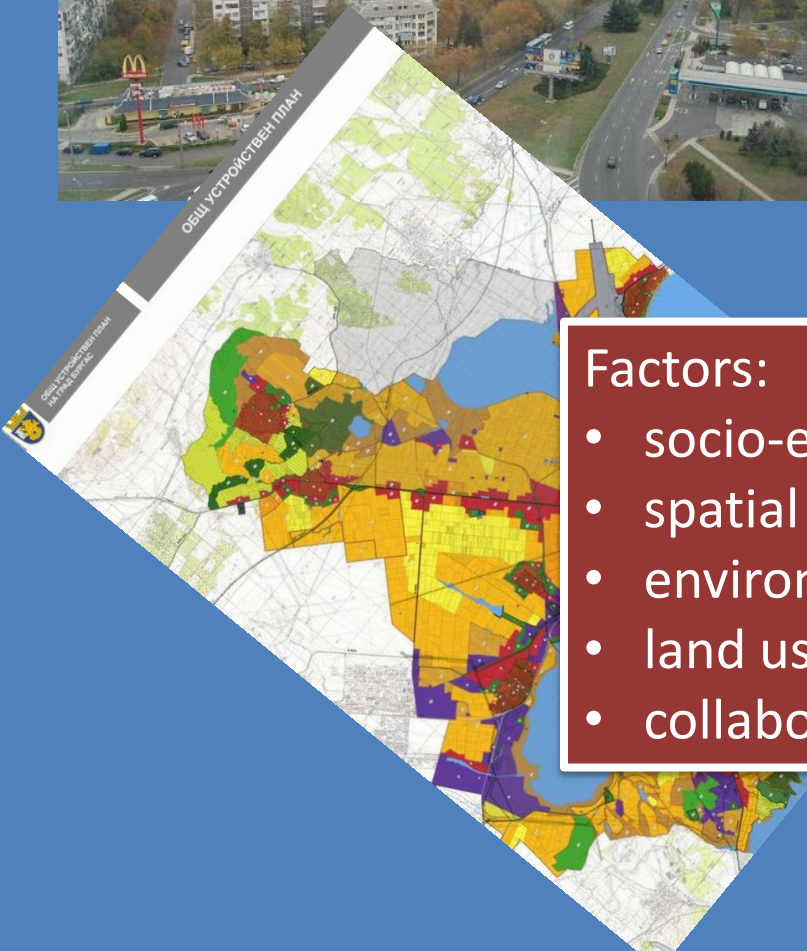
*Climate in a local  
perspective*

*Feedback from experiences: What works and what not?*

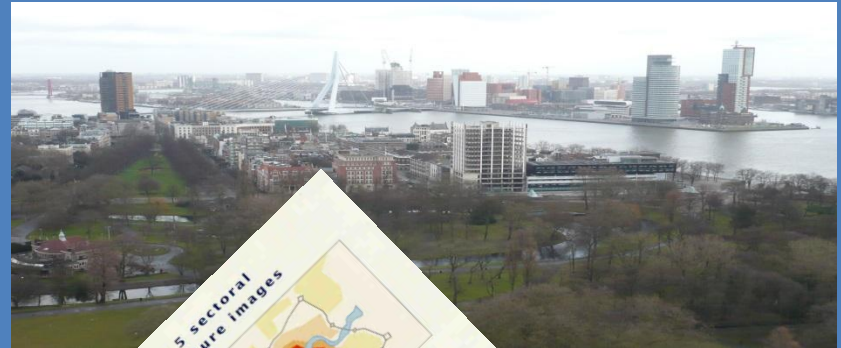
# Different practices, different planning systems?

## Western and Eastern European cities

### *Burgas, Bulgaria*



### *Rotterdam, the Netherlands*



### Factors:

- socio-economic contexts
- spatial planning traditions
- environmental policy priorities
- land use planning tools
- collaboration practices

