

100% CLIMATE NEUTRALITY



## **Documentation of Track A2 Workshop 'How do cities overcome challenges in their climate transition?' 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 in Sonderborg (Denmark)**

35 participants from 9 countries attended the meeting as documented in the signed participants list. Documentation is in ecolocloud.

Ryotaro Kajimura, *Act Now!* Partner Renewable Energy Agency, Germany, introduced the 'tandem approach' (municipal administration and external expert) in the *Act Now!* project. He explained the purpose of the workshop, the goals and the method of 'World Cafe'.

[https://ecolocloud.de/remote.php/webdav/Act\\_Now/Conferences\\_Workshops/International\\_Conferences/2019\\_Sonderborg/Tuesday\\_Track\\_A2\\_Workshop\\_How\\_do\\_cities\\_overcome\\_challenges\\_in\\_climate\\_transition/Workshop\\_TrackA2\\_R\\_Kajimura.pdf](https://ecolocloud.de/remote.php/webdav/Act_Now/Conferences_Workshops/International_Conferences/2019_Sonderborg/Tuesday_Track_A2_Workshop_How_do_cities_overcome_challenges_in_climate_transition/Workshop_TrackA2_R_Kajimura.pdf)



The keynote by Prof. Rüdiger Wurzel from the Department of Politics at the University Hull, UK, focused on „Innovation and Policy Learning in Municipalities“

[https://ecolocloud.de/remote.php/webdav/Act\\_Now/Conferences\\_Workshops/International\\_Conferences/2019\\_Sonderborg/Tuesday\\_Track\\_A2\\_Workshop\\_How\\_do\\_cities\\_overcome\\_challenges\\_in\\_climate\\_transition/191001\\_Workshop\\_TrackA2\\_Keynote\\_R\\_Wurzel\\_Innovation\\_and\\_policy-learning.pdf](https://ecolocloud.de/remote.php/webdav/Act_Now/Conferences_Workshops/International_Conferences/2019_Sonderborg/Tuesday_Track_A2_Workshop_How_do_cities_overcome_challenges_in_climate_transition/191001_Workshop_TrackA2_Keynote_R_Wurzel_Innovation_and_policy-learning.pdf)

He explained the increased importance of municipalities for climate change and pointed out that relatively little attention is paid to small- and medium-sized cities/municipalities and also to structurally disadvantaged cities/municipalities. He described the relations between municipalities and experts, innovation and policy learning and concluded with the following remarks:

- Municipalities as laboratories for innovation and transformation:
  - Transformations produce winners and losers
- Transnational networks can encourage policy learning and transfer between municipalities:
  - Disseminate knowledge, identify best practice, establish trust
  - Common language and understanding are important

- General ideas and goals/targets are more easily transferred than detailed plans and implementation measures
- Data is key for informed action
- Local/regional/national context matters
- Expert advice is highly valuable for municipalities
  - Experts and municipalities often have different timelines, resources, etc. and sometimes follow different operating logics



These were reflected very similarly in the experiences of the participants at the 'World Cafe'.

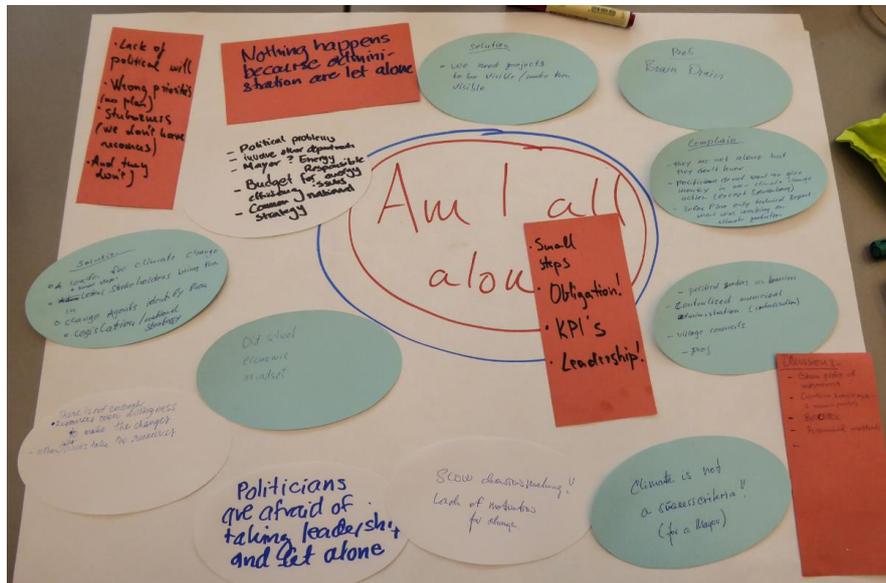
In the 'World Cafe' the following topics were talked about at 4 tables:

1. Am I all alone?
2. Money, money, money (*in general: resources, incl. personnell etc.*)
3. Do they even understand? (*cooperation between municipal administration and external eperts*)
4. Too many cooks

The participants dicussed lively their experiences, agreed on the following results and, at some tables, ranked their importance by placing dot-marks.



## 1. Am I all alone?



### Problems and Complaints

- Brain Drain
- Nothing happens because administration is left alone, Politicians are afraid of taking leadership and be left alone
- they are not alone but they don't know
- Slow decision making !
- Lack of motivations for change
- Climate is not a successcriteria ! (for a Mayor)
- Wrong priorities (no plan)
- Lack of political will, political problems, political borders and barriers
- Centralized municipal administration
- Village councils
- old school economic mindset
- Stubbornness
- Not enough resources to make the changes, other department issues take the resources
- politicians do not want to give money for climate change action (except Sonderborg)
- before Project Zero only technical Department was working on climate protection

### Discussions and Solutions :

- Show profit of investment
- Financial methods
- Budget for energy efficiency issues
- Combine knowledge & municipalities, involve other departments
- Biocratic, small steps, obligation!, KPI's
- Leadership! leaders for climate change
- Should the Mayor have Energy responsibility?
- We need projects to be visible / make them visible
- Lokal stakeholders bring in climate change issues
- Common national strategy; legislation

2. Money, money, money (in general: resources, incl. personell etc.)



Rankings with 8 points and more:

- Show profit of investment
- Show if no investment is done
- Subsidies is a driver for municipalities

Rankings from 3 to 7 points:

- Financial methods (advices)  
Example: Pay-off methods, savings for future, speaking LCC
- Climate issues included in all political plans strategies and discussions
- Sharing tasks among municipalities (save costs)
- Capacity building
- Personall resources for applying for financial funds

Rankings less than 3 points:

- Lack of knowledge for funding possibilities (National, EU, ESER – Projects)
- Bottom-up Change
- See Citizens a a resource
- Value same as profits, jobs, security etc.
- Seed Money
- Municipalities don't cooperate because of e. g. local competition
- Cross country learning in investment
- Money to Kick-Start a Process
- Looking for new oportunities to create „money“

3. Do they even understand? (cooperation between municipal administration and external experts)



High Rankings and interconnectivities:

- Telling a story with many chapters ,Walk the talk'
- Connect different sectors/departments  
Low hanging fruits vs ,big concept' (resource-intensive) > implementation in collaboration of municipalities > region
- Different Languages and timelines  
Lack of motivation/just another task > technical staff vs. Experts – different languages – municipalities need translation from expert level, who are the experts – consultants/scientists? - different methods and goals  
citizens bring in their demands  
politicians explain benefits < municipalities need quick help – research takes time
- Municipalities are stuck between superiors and experts
- Long-term partners

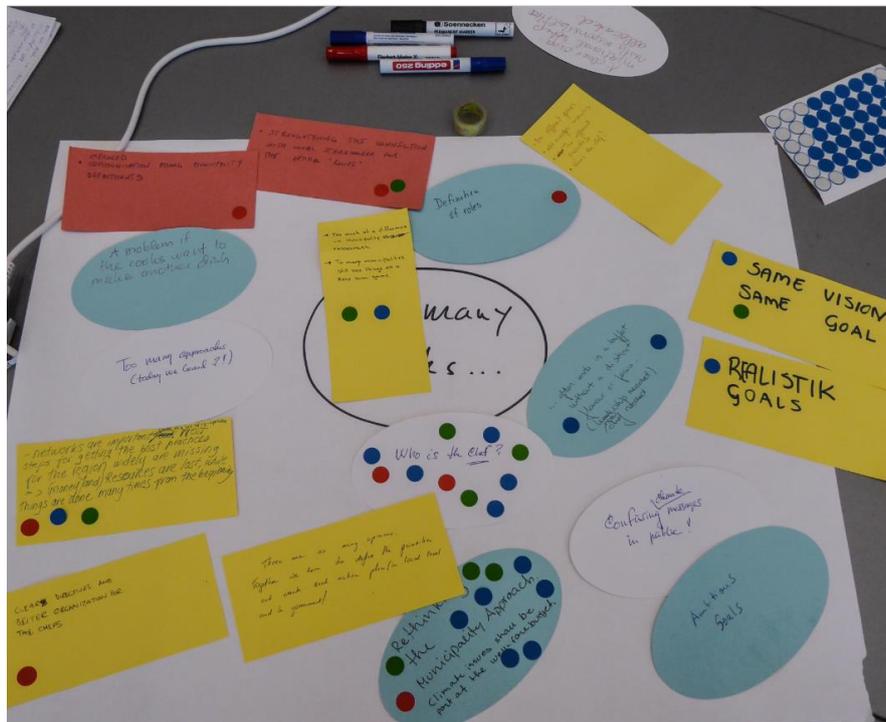
Other rankings and interconnectivities

- value of data – transparent to technical staff - not enough data, standardization, quality, comparability
- Economy, politics, health
- Seap just a box to tick
- Do understand but hesitate to take action - question whether it is necessary

Solutions

- Gentle pressure from national government
- Collaboration between municipalities
- Need for intermediary ,brokers'
- Action research

#### 4. Too many cooks



Highest rankings - 10 points – and interconnections:

- Rethinking the municipality approach – climate issues shall be part of the welfare budget
- Who is the chef?  
too many different goals and priorities, not enough resources,  
problem if the cooks want to make another dish, too many approaches,  
so many opinions –together we have to define the priorities and create real action-plan (on local level and in government)  
clear directives and better organisation for the chefs, clear organisational setup with responsibilities allocated

Next-highest rankings – 3 and 2 points:

- Networks are important  
next steps for getting the best practices for the wider region are missing > (money/and) resources are lost, while things are done many times from the beginning
- Same vision, same goal; realistic goals; ambitious goals
- Strengthening the connection with local stakeholders for the optimal ,recipe‘
- ... often ends in a buffet without a distinct flavour or focus (leadership/chef/master needed)
- Too much of a difference in municipality resources, too many municipalities still see things as a zero sum game

Rankings 1 point and less:

- Improved communication among municipality departments
- Definition of roles
- Confusing climate messages in public