How to assess climate change impacts and sustain health on regional level

Ilonka Horváth
Austria National Public Health Institute / Department for Climate Resilience and One Health
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Climate change and health

- Impacts of climate change on human health are based on complex interrelations
- Facing multiple burdens and less adaptive capacities
- Need for awareness and preparedness

How to sustain health in climate change?

Climate-Resilience Check Health 2050 for Austrian regions and municipalities
* piloted in 2023

AIMS
- systematically address the interface of climate change and health
- reach out to local communities and “experts by experience”
- increase the adaptive capacities and to sustain future health on regional level

Key questions

1. To what extent is the region susceptible to the health impacts of climate change? (e.g. demographics, socioeconomic factors or underlying medical conditions in the local population)

2. What adaptation measures can be taken in the region to shape the potential for health-promoting and sustainable living environments and increase climate resilience and health?
**KLIC Health 2050 Assessment process**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 Assessment planning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Build up a partner network in the region</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carry out an Initial assessment of regional health risks &amp; outcomes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map out the research question, communication plan &amp; time frame</td>
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<td>Identify information and data to analyse</td>
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<th>2 Data-driven assessment process</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vulnerability</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Describe the current burden of climate-sensitive health outcomes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assess the accessibility and capacity of health and health-relevant systems</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Future risks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Describe future climate-sensitive health outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional status quo and scenarios (data-driven)</td>
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<th>3 Participatory assessment process</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decide on the research question &amp; target groups for the participatory process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carry out the participatory process using workshops and other intervention formats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Derived options for action to increase climate resilience</td>
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<th>4 Adaptation assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify and prioritize existing strategies, programmes and measures to address current and future health risks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations to adjust adaptation strategies</td>
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<th>5 Synthesis of the assessment</th>
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<td>Synthesize the assessment resulting in recommendations for the ongoing development of adaptation strategies in the region</td>
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<td>Regional profile KLIC Health 2050</td>
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</table>

Source: GÖG
Pilot region

KLAR! Waldviertler Kernland

Source: GÖG

Climate resilience check health 2050 | Horváth, Ilonka
Results of data-driven assessment in pilot region

Vulnerability assessment

Capacity assessment

Source: GÖG
Key topic

• Derived jointly with regional partners
• Based on quantitative assessment of regional vulnerabilities and health/long-term care capacities
• Key question for participatory process in pilot region:

"What steps shall we as a region take today to ensure the well-being of older residents of the Waldviertel Kernland in 2050 despite climate change impacts?"
Step 1 Participatory foresight-workshop

Phase 1
What does the future persona want to tell you about her/his quality of life in the region in 2050?

Phase 2
Use of climate change cards to anticipate climate change impacts on the persona

Phase 3
What could improve the well-being of the future persona in 2050?
Step 2: Intervention board

**What can we do as a region today to ensure the well-being of older people in the “Waldviertler Kernland” in the future as well?**

**IT’S YOUR VOTE! PLACE YOUR STICKY DOTS NEXT TO THE THREE IDEAS WHICH APPEAL TO YOU MOST.**

(a maximum of three sticky dots per person)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design climate-proof public spaces (village square, town centre) to promote social interaction even on hot days</th>
<th>Provide information and counselling services for a climate-smart lifestyle for older people</th>
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<tr>
<td>Provide a free counselling service on the topic of “climate-smart, barrier-free and disaster-resilient housing”</td>
<td>Establish and actively maintain village communities as a social network to ensure supplies in times of crisis</td>
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<td>Expand regional purchasing options to safeguard local food supply</td>
<td>Establish local day care centres with medical, social and nursing services.</td>
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Source: GÖG
Communicating the results

Annual board meeting
Adaptation assessment

Integrating results in existing and planned climate change adaptation strategies

➔ Integrate health aspects in climate policy
➔ Highlight the synergies of climate change adaptation and health promotion
Conclusions

- Involvement of regional “experts by experience” guarantees tailored adaptation action to sustain future health
- Participatory approach raises awareness on climate-health nexus and increases preparedness
- Deployment of persona facilitates the anticipation of future health scenarios
- Build local capacities for joint effort of climate change adaptation and health
- Results support informed decisions, empower regional actors and support regional transformation pathways
Acknowledgments

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Let’s continue the conversation!
Post questions and comments in the IAIA24 app.

Ilonka HORVÁTH
Austrian National Public Health Institute
Department for Climate Resilience and One Health
Austria
ilonka.horvath@goeg.at
www.goeg.at