

KLAR!-Climate Change Adaptation Model Regions for Austria

The impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly visible on the local level as the Austrian Assessment Report Climate Change 2014 reveals. In Austria, the temperature has risen by nearly 2 degrees Celsius in the period since 1880, compared with a global average of 0,85 degrees. Thus, Austria is badly affected by climate change and both adaptation and mitigation are vital. Despite great efforts on state and federal levels, the issue of climate change adaptation is still barely considered on local level and there is a lack of knowledge of concrete action possibilities in Austrian municipalities.

The Pilot Programme „ Climate Change Adaptation Model Regions for Austria -KLAR!“ is funded by the Climate and Energy Fund and offers a process-oriented approach for regions and municipalities to raise awareness for climate change adaptation and trigger concrete actions.

Status Quo:

23 regions with more than 460.000 inhabitants all over Austria (cf. Figure 1) receive funding to develop a local adaptation strategy and raise awareness for climate change adaptation in their regions. A service platform has been set up that provides regional climate information, advices on adaptation actions and helps to prevent maladaptation. Implementation of adaptation measures will start in spring 2018.

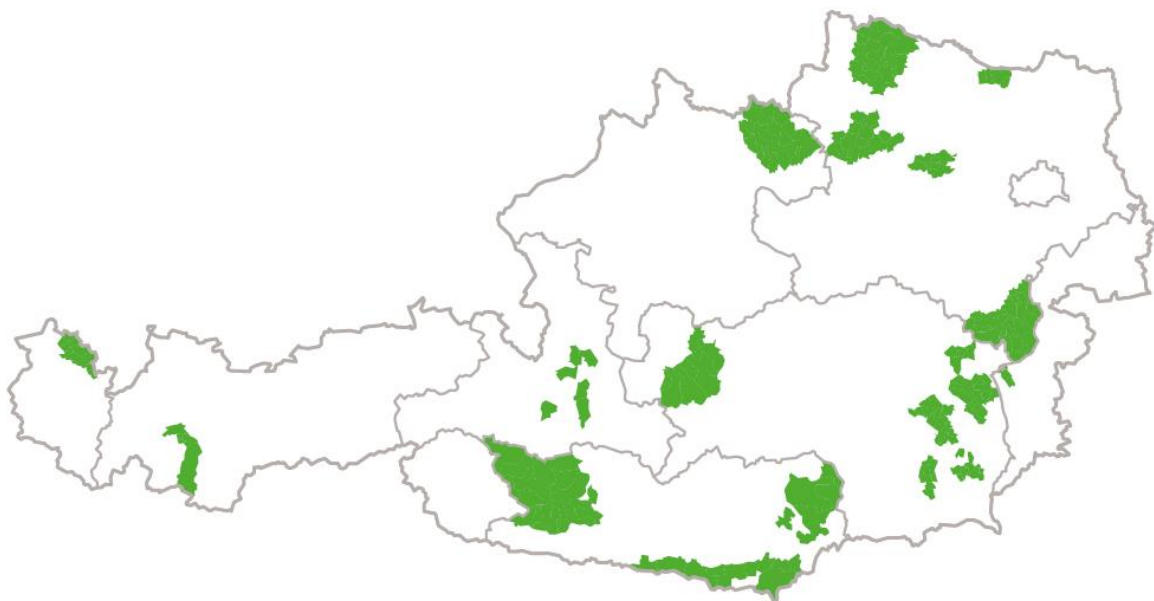


Figure 1: 23 KLAR!-Region received funding for developing local adaptation strategies

Objectives:

The KLAR!-Pilot Programme aims to:

- Strengthen the implementation of the National Adaptation Strategy at the local level;
- Foster a process-oriented approach comprising the dimensions adaptation, mitigation, nature conservation and the avoidance of maladaptation;
- Raise awareness for climate change and climate change adaptation in regions and municipalities;
- Implement findings of the Austrian climate research in practice; and
- Strengthen regions and municipalities against climate change impacts and help them to exploit the benefits of climate change.

The Programme is based on 3 phases (cf. Figure 2), which will be implemented in the coming years.

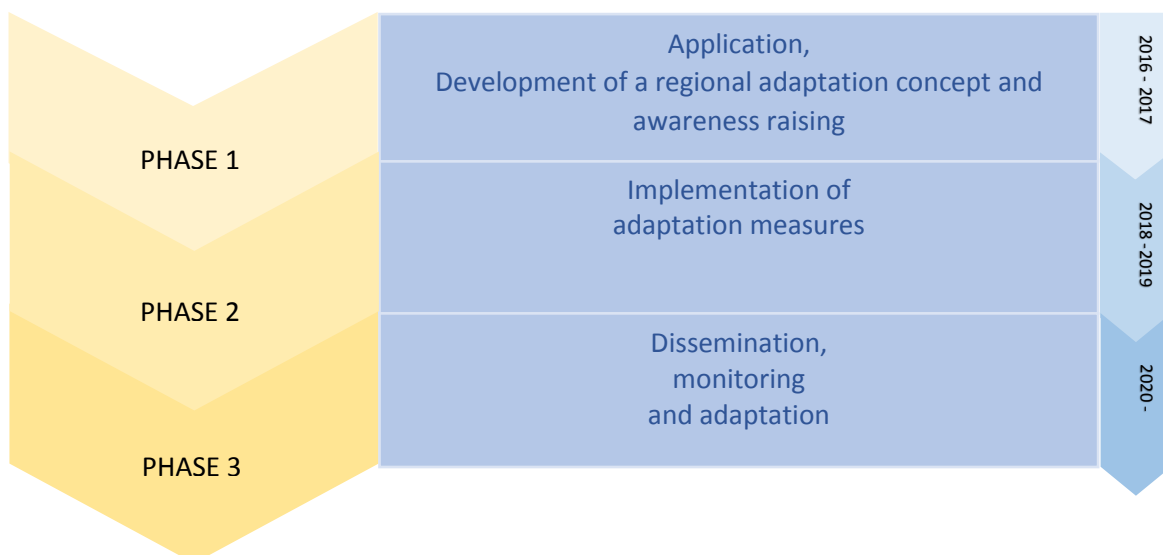


Figure 2: KLAR!-Pilot Programme builds on 3 phases

Service Platform

The KLAR!-regions are supported by a service platform consisting of experts from the Environment Agency Austria (UBA Austria) and the Austrian Met Service (ZAMG). The service platform supports KLAR!-regions when creating the adaptation concept by providing information materials, conducting workshops and carrying out advisory services.

More information can be found on the website www.klar-anpassungsregionen.at (only in German).