

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 Austrian Climate and Energy Fund and offers a process-oriented approach for municipalities to raise awareness for climate change adaptation and implement concrete actions on regional level.

The concept is based on 3 Phases. (cf Figure 1) In a first step, regions submit a general concept to apply for the KLAR!-Programme. In Phase 1, those regions that are nominated for funding, develop a regional adaptation concept for their communities and regions with a minimum of 10 specific measures. In Phase 2, the regions implement these adaptation measures within two years. In the final Phase 3, with a duration of 3 years, further measures are developed and existing ones monitored and continued.

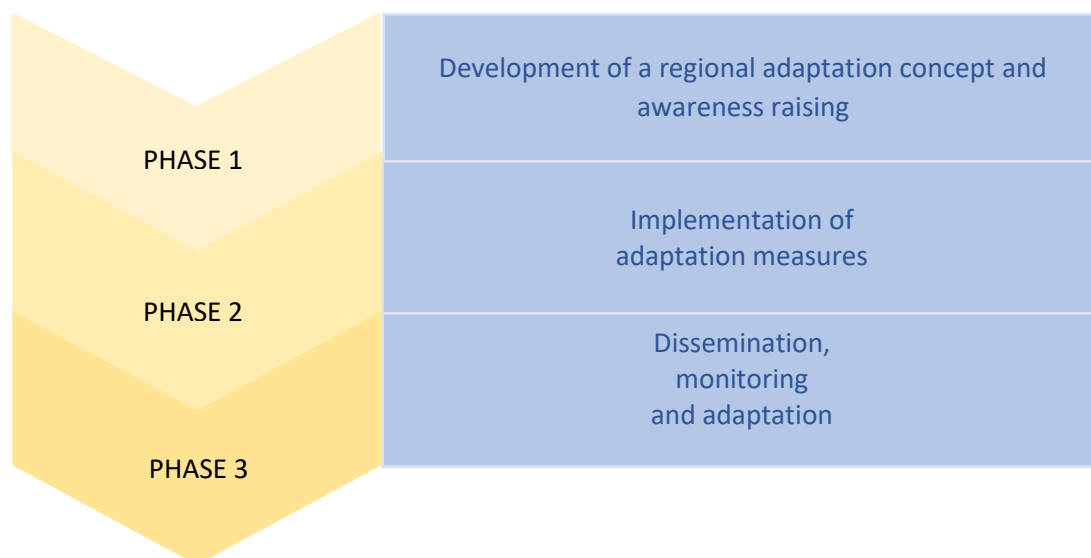


Figure 1: KLAR!-Pilot Programme builds on 3 phases

Service Platform

Throughout all programme phases, a service platform supports the KLAR!-Regions. The regions receive easy to understand regional climate information, as well as advice on adaptation actions and support to prevent maladaptation. The platform consists of experts from the Environment Agency Austria (EAA), the Austrian Met Service (ZAMG), and the University of natural resources and life sciences Vienna (BOKU).

Status Quo (01/2020)

Altogether, 44 regions with more than 900.000 inhabitants all over Austria (cf. Figure 1) receive funding to develop a local adaptation strategy, to raise awareness for climate change adaptation and to implement adaptation measures in their regions. From May 2019 to January 2020, 24 regions develop a local adaptation concept with concrete adaptation actions in phase 1. From 2018 to 2020, 20 regions are implementing their local adaptation actions in Phase 2 of the programme.

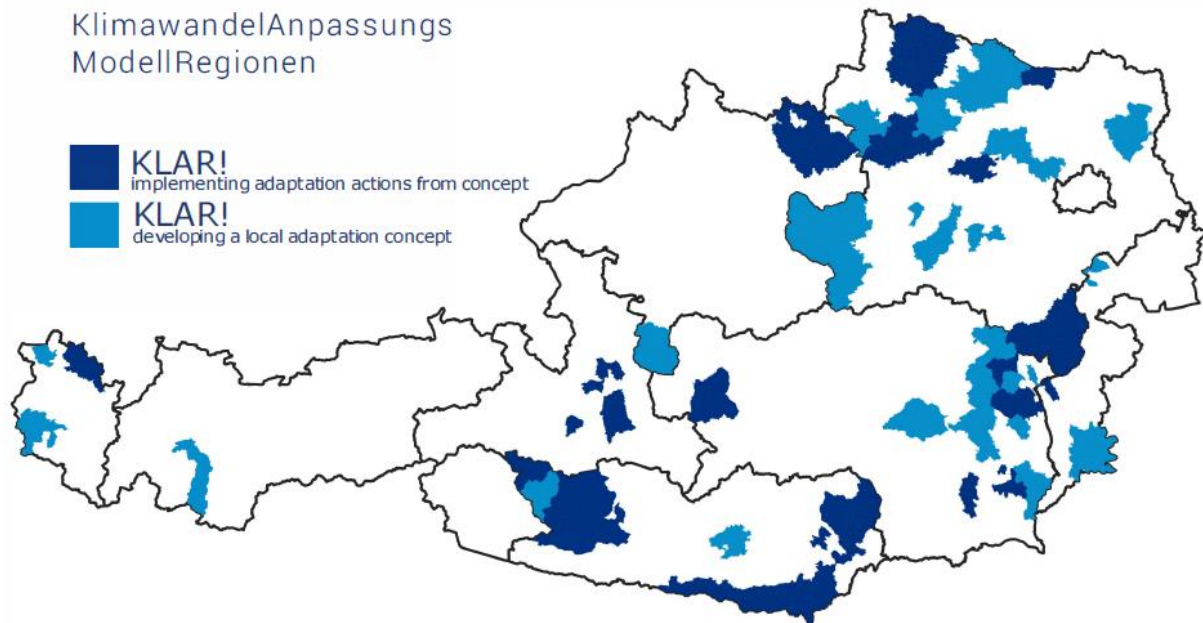


Figure 2: 44 KLAR!-Region received funding for developing local adaptation strategies

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.