URBAN CLIMATOLOGY

X. Adaptation and mitigation

Summary of expected climate changes in Central Europe

- Rising temperatures and higher intensity of Urban Heat Island
- Higher frequency and longer duration of heat waves
- Changes in precipitation distribution during a year
- More frequent occurrence of high precipitation totals of short duration, higher probability of local floods
- Higher frequency of drought periods without precipitation

Survive New York's Heat Waves
Stay cool during your trip to New York
(http://www.frenzytours.com)

Adaptation and mitigation in urban climatology

Two main goals :

1) To deal with negative effects of urban climate as a type of local climate (higher extremity, UHI, heat load, etc.)
2) To deal with negative impacts of recent climate change in cities

- In cities climate change is **strongly intertwined** with other **socio-economic changes**: demographic trends, higher proportion of older people, urbanization, competing demand for water, etc.
- These socio-economic changes **increase the vulnerability** of people, property and ecosystems under current climate conditions as long as no adaptation measures are taken.
- Negative impacts of climate change in cities require various **actions**, strategies, technologies that help inhabitants **to adapt or mitigate**.

Adaptation and mitigation - terminology

Adaptation to climate change is the adjustment in urban areas in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects. It moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities of climate change.

Adaptive capacity is the ability of urban areas to adjust to climate change to moderate potential damages, to take advantage of opportunities or to cope with the consequences.

Vulnerability is the degree to which a system is susceptible to, and unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes.

Mitigation of climate change is an anthropogenic intervention to reduce the anthropogenic forcing of the climate system. It includes strategies to reduce greenhouse gas sources and emissions and enhancing greenhouse gas sinks.

Resilience is the ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self-organization and the capacity to adapt to stress and change.

Goal 1: Causes of urban warming and mitigation strategies (Grimmond, 2007)

Urban heat island causes	Mitigation strategy
Increased surface area	
Large vertical faces	
Reduced sky view factor	
Increased absorption of shortwave (solar) radiation	High reflection building and road materials, high reflection paints for vehicles
Decreased longwave (terrestrial) radiation loss	Spacing of buildings
Decreased total turbulent heat transport	Variability of building heights
Reduced wind speeds	
Surface materials	
Thermal characteristics	
Higher heat capacities	Reduce surface temperatures (changing albedo and emissivity)
Higher conductivities	Improved roof insulation
Increased surface heat storage	
Moisture characteristics	
Urban areas have larger areas that are impervious	Porous pavement
Shed water more rapidly – changes the hydrograph	Neighbourhood detention ponds and wetlands which collect stormwater
Increased runoff with a more rapid peak	Increase greenspace fraction
Decreased evapotranspiration (latent heat flux, Q_E)	Greenroofs, greenwalls
Additional supply of energy – anthropogenic heat flux – Q_f	
Electricity and combustion of fossil fuels: heating and cooling systems, machinery, vehicles.	Reduced solar loading internally, reduce need for active cooling (shades on windows, change materials)
3-D geometry of buildings – canyon geometry	District heating and cooling systems
	Combined heat and power systems
	High reflection paint on vehicles to reduce temperature
Air pollution	
Human activities lead to ejection of pollutants and dust into the atmosphere	District heating and cooling systems
	Combined heat and power or cogeneration systems
Increased longwave radiation from the sky	
Greater absorption and re-emission ('greenhouse effect')	

Adaptation strategies (approaches)

1. **'Grey' infrastructure approaches** - physical interventions or construction measures and using engineering services to make buildings and infrastructure essential for the social and economic well-being of society more capable of withstanding extreme events.
2. **'Green' infrastructure approaches** - contribute to the increase of ecosystems resilience and can halt biodiversity loss, degradation of ecosystem and restore water cycles. At the same time, green infrastructure uses the functions and services provided by the ecosystems to achieve a more cost effective and sometimes more feasible adaptation solution than grey infrastructure.
3. **'Soft' approaches** - include policies, plans, programs, procedures, information dissemination and economic incentives to reduce vulnerability, encourage adaptive behavior. They are related to behavioral changes, emergency systems and the adequate provision of information to vulnerable groups.

Adaptation strategies (approaches)

Overview on grey, green and soft adaptation measures to heatwaves
(Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe, EEA Report 2012)

Grey measures	Green measures	Soft measures
• Building insulation to keep the inside cool • Blinds to provide shade • Passive cooling of buildings • Urban designs providing shade • Ventilation of urban space by intelligent urban design • Emission reduction of air pollutants	• Boosting green infrastructure, such as green urban areas, trees, green walls and roofs where possible, but ensuring sustainable watering • Ensuring that fresh air from green areas outside the city can flow in	• General awareness raising and ensuring broad participation • Mapping of urban heat island as well as cool places • Identification of vulnerable groups and their distribution as basis for targeted action • Warning systems • Heat action plans including appropriate institutional structures • Preparedness of health and social care system • Information on adapting behaviour during heatwaves in particular to the vulnerable • Adapting building codes to include insulation and shadowing to cope with heatwaves • Consider reducing heatwave impacts through urban renewal projects and urban planning • Transport management to reduce air pollutants

Adaptation strategies (approaches)

Resilient cities


"green" city

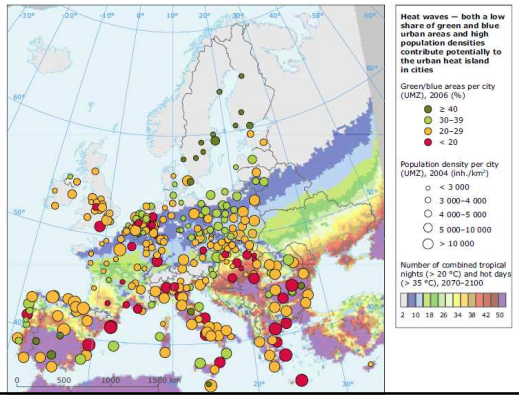

"blue" city


"white" city

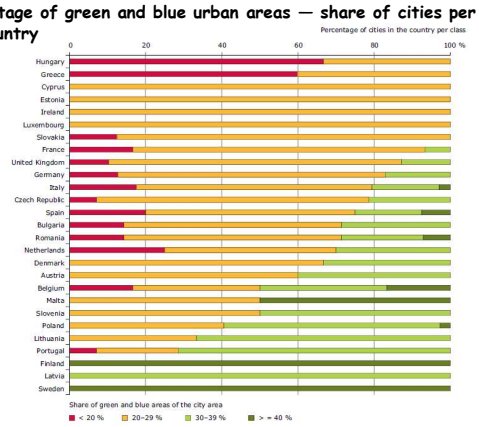
Further possibilities:

- Energy saving and passive houses
- Warning systems and disaster risk management programs
- Urban adaptation relies on action beyond cities' borders (flooding due to inappropriate land use and flood management in upstream regions) and incudes reducing cities' dependency on external services

Low share of green and blue urban areas and high population densities can contribute to the urban heat island effect in cities
(Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe, EEA Report 2012)

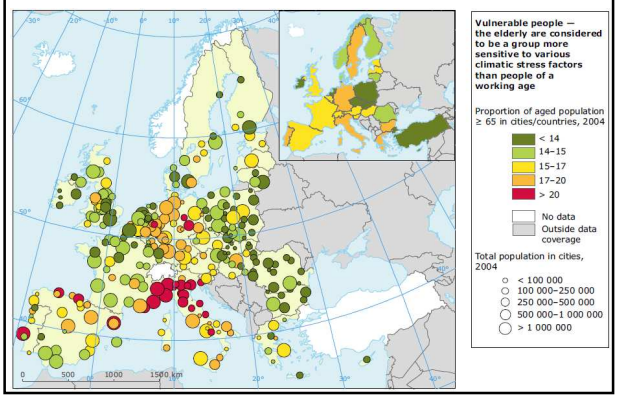


Percentage of green and blue urban areas — share of cities per class per country

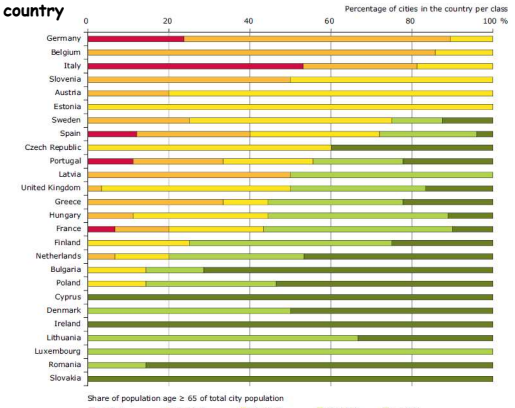


(Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe, EEA Report 2012)

Vulnerable people — the elderly are considered to be a group more sensitive to various climatic stress factors than people of a working age
(Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe, EEA Report 2012)

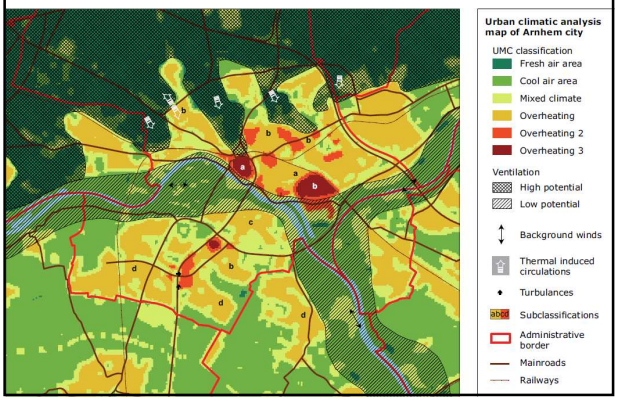


Percentage of population aged ≥ 65 — share of cities per class per country



(Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe, EEA Report 2012)

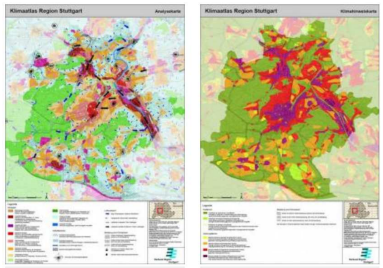
Urban climate analysis map for the city of Arnhem, the Netherlands
(Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe, EEA Report 2012)



Climate planning strategy, Stuttgart (Germany)
(Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe, EEA Report 2012)

An excellent example of urban heat island management. The city of Stuttgart has been designed to not only respect and protect nature, but to exploit how natural wind patterns and dense vegetation can actively help the city to reduce its problems of overheating and air pollution.

At night cool air sweeps down from the surrounding hills and runs through a series of 'ventilation-corridors' which have been kept open as wide, tree-flanked arteries within the city's street infrastructure.

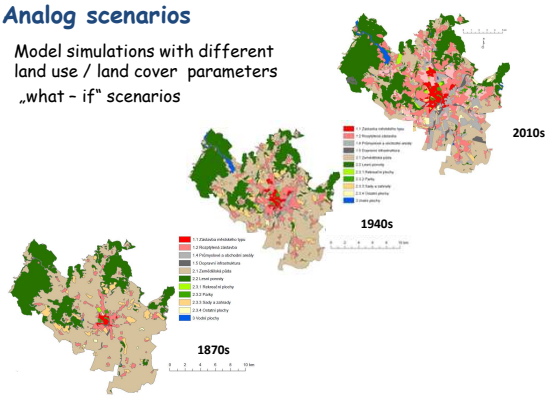


Klimaanalysekarte Stuttgart | Planungshinweiskarte Stuttgart

http://www.stadtklima-stuttgart.de

Analog scenarios

- Model simulations with different land use / land cover parameters
- „what – if" scenarios



Land cover maps of Brno in 1870s, 1940s and at present

Final remarks and questions

Mills (2006) - the sustainable city is the new urban *utopia*

1. How to persuade politicians (local authorities) that some adaptations/mitigations are needed?
2. What is the role of geographers in the adaptation process of cities to climate change?