
During the course of the project work, we empirically detected a narrow interweaving of vertical and horizontal forms of trans-local action. Correspondingly, both projects cooperated closely and jointly developed the concept of the *trans-local action arena*.

The trans-local action arena results in both restrictions and opportunities. These are mediated through institutional contextual circumstances and local patterns of knowledge generation and processing. Consequently, local actors conceive these restrictions and opportunities in diverging manners. This influences both perception of political options and concrete political actions at the local level. The trans-local actions arena affects municipal activities in various ways.

Selected publications

Benz, A., J. Kemmerzell, M. Knodt, A. Tews (2015) "The trans-local dimension of local climate policy. Sustaining and transforming local knowledge orders through trans-local action", *Urban Research & Practice* 2015, 8 (3).

Kemmerzell, J., A. Tews (2014) "Akteursorientierungen im überlokalen Handlungsraum. Herausforderungen und Chancen lokaler Klimapolitik im Mehrebenensystem" [Actor orientations in the trans-local action space. Challenges and opportunities for local climate policy in the multi-level system], *der moderate staats*, 7 (2), pp. 269-287.

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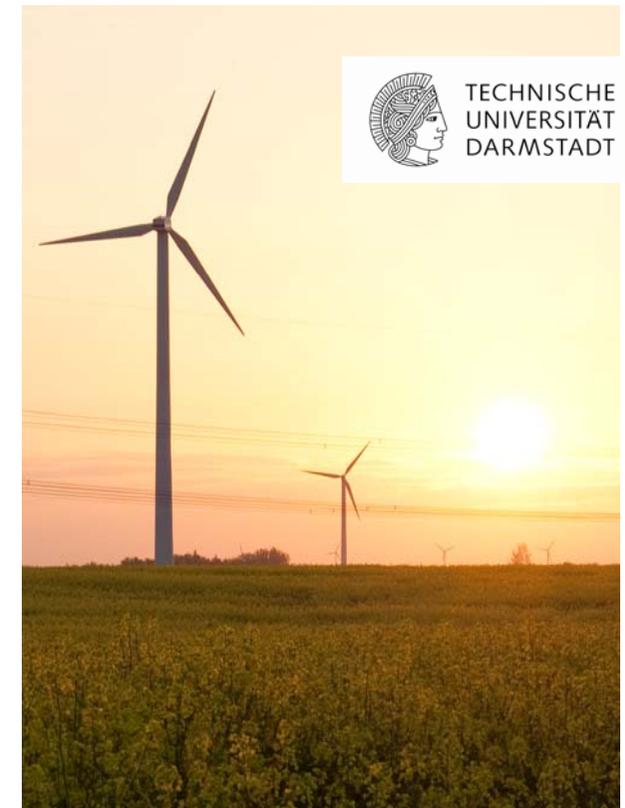
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Trans-local action and local innovations in climate change

A comparative analysis of major German cities



Summary

This project aims at analyzing innovative solutions of municipalities dealing with climate change. How do learning processes evolve? Under which circumstances are innovative approaches to local climate policy developed?

We are evaluating innovations in climate change policy as programmatic, institutional and policy modifications. It is presumed that specifically trans-local action strongly contributes to learning processes and innovations in climate change policy.

This project adds to preliminary work that was done in the context of the German Research Foundation (DFG) research group “Local Generation of Knowledge Relevant for Action – The Case of Local Strategies and Measures Dealing with Climate Change,” which executed comparative case studies of the cities of Frankfurt, Munich and Stuttgart.

This project expands the case studies of the research group. By increasing the number of cases the subsequent results concerning the circumstances of local innovations can be verified and generalized.

Project start:

April 2015, duration 3 years

Approach

The study consists of three steps:

1. Through the analysis of key documents and statistics of 85 cities we can identify climate protection programs and therein formulated goals and measures as well as contextual conditions and trans-local activities of the municipalities. The archival analysis is supported by a closed, short questionnaire which is sent to the responsible authorities of the investigated municipalities.
2. The gathered data of the first section of the study is processed for qualitative comparative analysis (QCA). Based on this data collection we can comparatively analyze which conditions promote innovations.
3. The QCA simultaneously provides a systematic identification of typical and atypical cases for qualitative case studies. In these examples we aim at verifying and deepening the results of the comparative analysis on the influence of trans-local activities on municipal climate policy.

Methodology

Methods include:

Collection of documents by archival analysis,

Conducting surveys through a standardized questionnaire,

Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) via fs/QCA 2.5 software, and

Conducting qualitative expert interviews with administrative officers of municipalities of selected cities, with deep analysis of relevant documents acquired during the interviews. The interviews are guided.

Preliminary work

The research project builds on preliminary work done by the DFG research group “Local Generation of Knowledge Relevant for Action – The Case of Local Strategies and Measures Dealing with Climate Change.”

Within this DFG research group, the two projects “City competition, city networks and local policy learning concerning climate change” (lead: Arthur Benz) and “Local generation of knowledge in the context of the European Union” (lead: Michèle Knodt) aimed at analyzing the impact of trans-local activities on local climate policy.
