

IC - (20957) - PARTICIPATION FOR BUILDING URBAN CLIMATE RESILIENCE: AN EVALUATION STUDY OF PARTICIPATION EFFECTS AND THE SUCCESS FACTORS INFLUENCING THEM

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Background and objectives

High expectations—in science and in practice—are associated with participation especially at local levels for building resilience to increasing climate change impacts. Nevertheless, there is a lack of evaluation studies that a) empirically confirm the many expected positive participation effects and b) identify success factors important for these effects.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

To evaluate the effects, we developed a new resilience concept differentiating three dimensions: resilience knowledge (including risk and action knowledge), resilience action (including action and its psychological determinants such as efficacy and responsibility beliefs) and resilience network (including networks within and between actor groups). We used this concept in participant questionnaires to evaluate the effects of eight government-led public participation events that focused on urban adaptation to climate change. To analyse the success factors responsible for the effects, several indicators of possibilities for learning and for “having a say” in the events were included in the questionnaires.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

The events were effective in increasing participants’ knowledge (particularly knowledge integration), action (supporting rather than triggering action) and networks. Increases were moderate and could not be achieved for all participants. Hence, effects of participatory approaches on building resilience should not be overestimated. Correlation analyses indicated that possibilities for learning were positively related with knowledge increases, possibilities for “having a say” in the events correlated positively with increases in participants’ action motivation.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

The increases in collective efficacy beliefs regarding collective action of governmental actors together with citizens as well as increases in perceptions of governmental *and* private responsibilities for taking action support ideas of co-management and a shared responsibility for urban resilience. The apparent influence of “having a say” in the participation events on the participants’ action motivation indicate that mere information events are not sufficient to motivate citizens to take measures to protect themselves from increasing climate change impacts. “Real” participation is needed.

Palavras-chave : participation, evaluation, climate change adaptation, climate resilience, urban