



Arbeitsgruppe für
regionale Struktur- und
Umweltforschung GmbH



Climate adaptation, demographic change & co.

Experiences from co-creative and collaborative projects in the northwest of Lower Saxony

Presentet by
Occasion:

Ernst Schäfer
Online Conference „Connecting Co-Creation and Climare Action
22.05.2019

Content

- **CALL:ISS – Climate Adaptation in Living Labs: Integrated Spatial Strategies**
- **“Wat Nu?” – Demographic change in the Wadden Sea region**
- **Some Key findings**

- **CALL:ISS – Climate Adaptation in Living Labs: Integrated Spatial Strategies**
 - 06/2014 – 04/2015
- **Idea/target:**
 - Creation of a real-world laboratory concept in the German-Dutch border region, to develop, implement and support climate adaptation measures
- **Intention for Co-Creation:**
 - Development of a common vision for the concept and contents of the real-world laboratory
 - Sensitization for and development of climate adaptation needs
 - Getting to know the municipalities among each other
 - Getting to know the area of scope and climate-relevant issues



- **Co-Creation Team:**



ca. 10 Persons

CALL:ISS -Process

Phase 1: Risks and fields of action

Get to know each other &
exploration of the
municipality

Keynote speech

Co-Creation

30/0/30 Method

Discussion

Documentation and
findings

Phase 2: Problem areas within the fields of action

Exploration of the
municipality

Keynote speech

Co-Creation

Group work with maps

Discussion

Documentation and
findings

Phase 3: Living Lab Concept

Exploration of the
municipality

Keynote speech

Co-Creation

Serious Game: Rotunda

Discussion

Documentation and
findings

**Living Lab
Concept**



- **Achievements**

- An interesting Living Lab concept was jointly developed
- Support from administration / planning authorities
- Joint INTERREG sketch prepared
- Raising awareness of climate change
- Potential for cross-border and cross-level cooperation
- Getting to know the NL & GER municipalities

- **Barriers/Challenges**

- Low political support on the German side
- From a political point of view: Too deliberative orientation of the project
- The project was not initiated by the municipalities
- Spatial layout of the project proposal not optimal (relevant municipalities were missing)
- Climate change not high on the political agenda (peak of refugee crisis)

Wat Nu?

- **Wat Nu? – Demographic change in the Wadden Sea region**

06/2016 – 06/2019

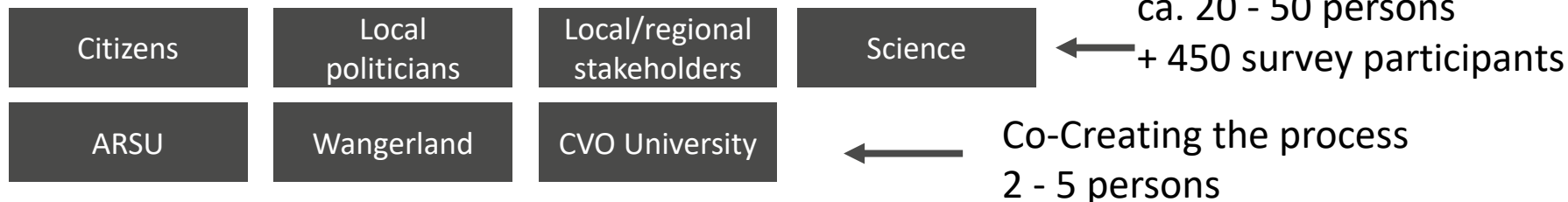
- **Idea/targets:**

- Identification of essential fields of action
- Use & testing of co-creation methods
- Activating and harnessing endogenous and exogenous potential
- Identification of pulse generators and existing approaches

- **Intention for Co-Creation:**

- Identification of relevant action and problem area
- Prioritization of action and problem areas
- Development of ideas and concepts
- Implementation of ideas and concepts

- **Co-Creation Team:**



**Wat
Nu?**

Wat Nu? - Process

Phase 1: Contextualization and problem identification

Co-Creation (standard)

Future talks
Demography Café
Community workshops

Co-Creation (additional)

Mental Maps
Interviews
Photography
Field trips

Scientific support

Student projects
final theses
short movies

Documentation and
findings

Phase 2: Develop and implement experiments

Co-Creation (standard)

Community workshops

Co-Creation (additional)

Household survey (n=450)
Bus-tour
Small group work

Scientific support

Student projects
good practice
final theses
short movies

Documentation and
findings

Phase 3: Continuation and evaluation

Co-Creation (standard)

Foundation of an mobility
association
Final event
Visioning

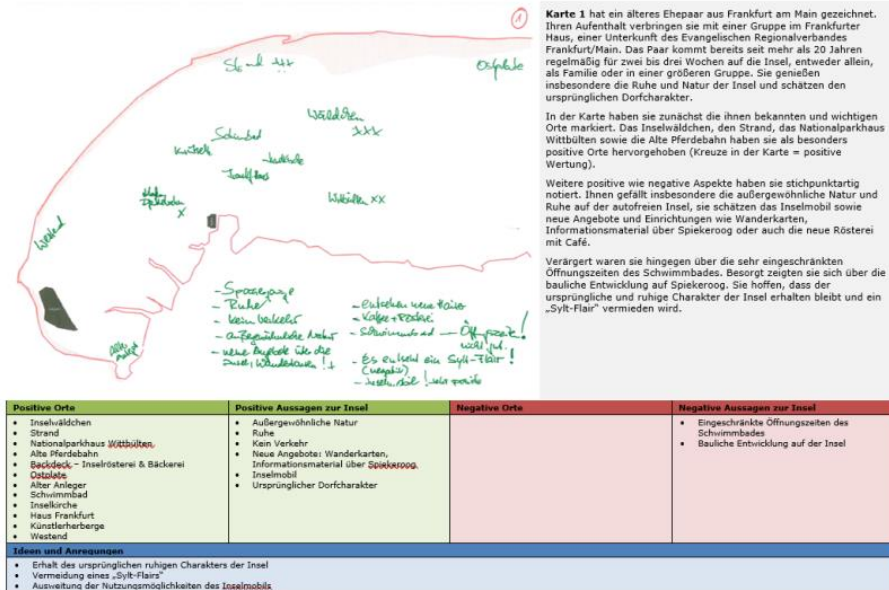
Co-Creation (additional)

Small group work

Scientific support

Evaluation
Experiment to finance
projects

Documentation and
findings



Impressionen von der Station Handlungsort



Wat Nu?

- **Achievements**

- Continuation of the mobility initiative
- Revealing central fields of action and key issues
- Very positive response to the project (population and local press)
- Support and assistance from the population
- Support and assistance from policy makers and administrations
- Continuous presence of the project in the community
- Increased cooperation between locals and newcomers
- Positive effects on the community
- Numerous findings on voluntary work and participation

- **Barriers/Challenges**

- No project capacity for supporting the associated communities
- Already active, strongly involved/committed municipalities difficult to motivate for further projects (inhibiting factor: overparticipation/overcommitment)
- Conflicts of interest related to the temporal availability of actors
- Municipality of Wangerland: Structure like a region (9.900 inhabitants, 176 km² / 16 districts,)!)
- Accessibility of the islands very difficult (high travel expenses).
- To keep distance from the "pure" political agenda of the community

Some findings: Activation & motivation of participants

- **Activation**

- Methods mix is required
- Time and continuity
- Appropriate preparation of methods and formats is highly valued (participants feel picked up and valued)
- It is not (always) necessary to have as many participants as possible
- Possibility for entry/exit/entry must be given
- Exploit existing endogenous potentials
- Activation of pulse generators is important to overcome the state of pure deliberation
- Project name: memorable and identity-forming ("Wat Nu?")

- **Attitude/resonance to the project, the participants and the idea**

- Consider and respect the limits of honorary engagement and time resources
- Respond to wishes and sensitivities
- Neutral attitude towards the organizers necessary
- Didactics of participation
- Error tolerance

Some findings: Activation & motivation of participants

Progressive participants

Participate regularly in projects and working groups and are positive about change/transformation.



Activation through regular meetings and the possibility to do something concretely or to be able to contribute

Rather low

Repressive participants

Participate regularly in projects and working groups, but tend to take a negative view of change/transformation



Activation through regular meetings and the possibility to be present during changes, not to miss them or to prevent them

Low to medium

Sleepers

Do not become active on their own and must be awakened due to spatial, temporal, local, personal barriers.



Activation through participatory interventions or outreach participation or actor-specific formats and methods

High to very high

Inactive

Have no interest in active participation and participation in principle.



Activation through high incentives or through commitments, even then no guarantee of participation

Very high

Activation effort

Some findings: Politics/Administration

- Political support is important (not only for the procedure (legitimation) but also for the perception and acceptance by the participants)
- Docking “station” or a permanent reference and organizational person within the municipality is required (otherwise you (the project) are always an outsider), the process is not followed in everyday life or plays no role and threatens to fizzle out (no political acceptance of measures or results)
- Processes must be endogenously desired and driven
- **Possible danger:** Political appropriation of the process, so that the process “only” follows a political agenda
- **Consequence:** Process technically and methodically adapted to political wishes
- **Consequence:** High acceptance in politics/administration but low acceptance by the participants/citizens

Some findings: Politics/Administration

- **Integration in regional/municipal strategies**
- **Strengthening voluntary and civic engagement**
 - Stronger embedment/integration into municipal processes
 - Greater appreciation of citizens commitment/engagement
 - Development/definition of a volunteer/commitment strategy
 - Creating an interface for municipality \leftrightarrow citizen engagement
- **Creation and consolidation space for innovation**
 - (Re-)Establishment of an entrepreneurial/maker culture in rural areas
 - Business incubators in and for rural areas
 - Social, technical, organizational innovation laboratories
- **Greater use of exogenous potential**
 - Strengthening cooperation and exchange between "locals" and "multilocal" residents
 - The Wadden Sea region as an attractive landscape worth living in, with which many people also identify outside the community.
- **Strengthen cooperation between urban/rural and scientific institutions**
 - Exploiting the potential of scientific institutions
 - Rural area as a real world laboratory for (young) scientists
 - Strengthening the identification of young scientists with the region

For a future co-creation project, I highly recommend to leave your comfort zone and that of the people involved

Thanks for your attention!

Questions?

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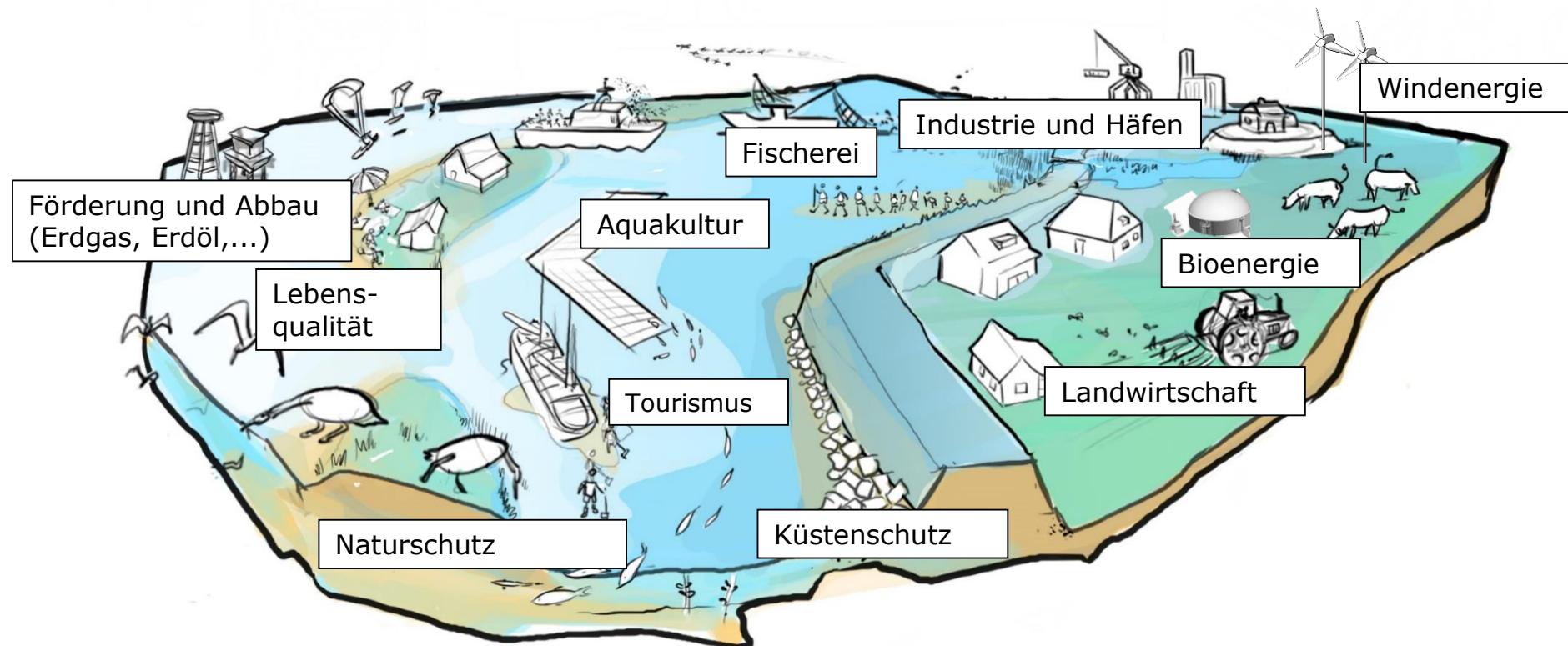
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Spatial claims

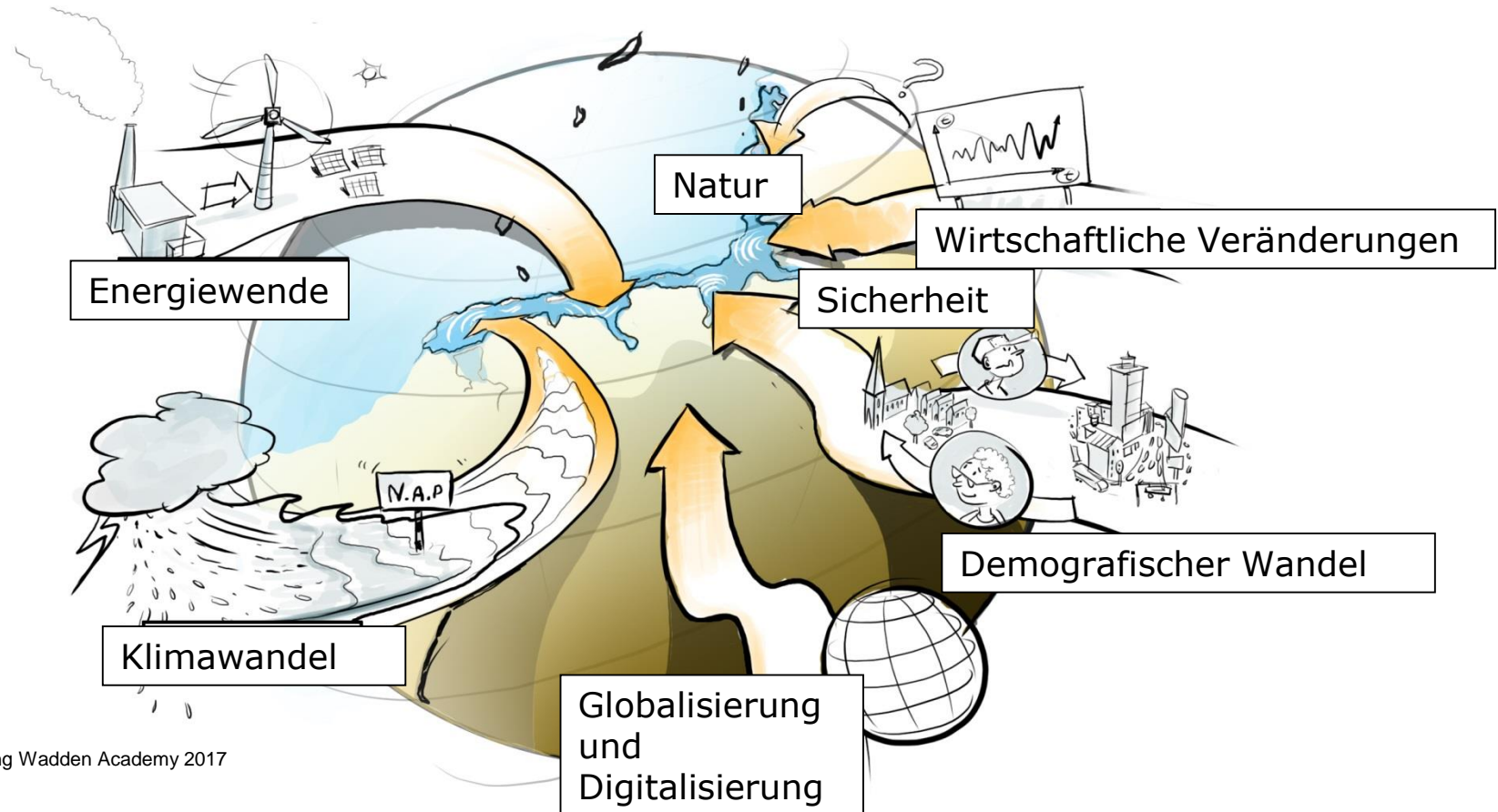
Example: Wadden Sea Region



Quelle: Young Wadden Academy 2017

Global trends, external and internal factors in the North-West

Example: Wadden Sea Region



Quelle: Young Wadden Academy 2017

Need for co-creation/collaboration

Environmental & sustainability policy decisions are complex:

- No right or wrong but better or worse decisions
- Assessment of risks, consequences & effects is not fully possible
- Design and impact of environmental policy measures controversial
- Limits of (state) planning and control approaches
- Increasing alienation between citizens and decision makers (e.g. politics, planner, entrepreneurs etc.)
- Growing political self-confidence in society
- Sociopolitical polarization and social disruption

