

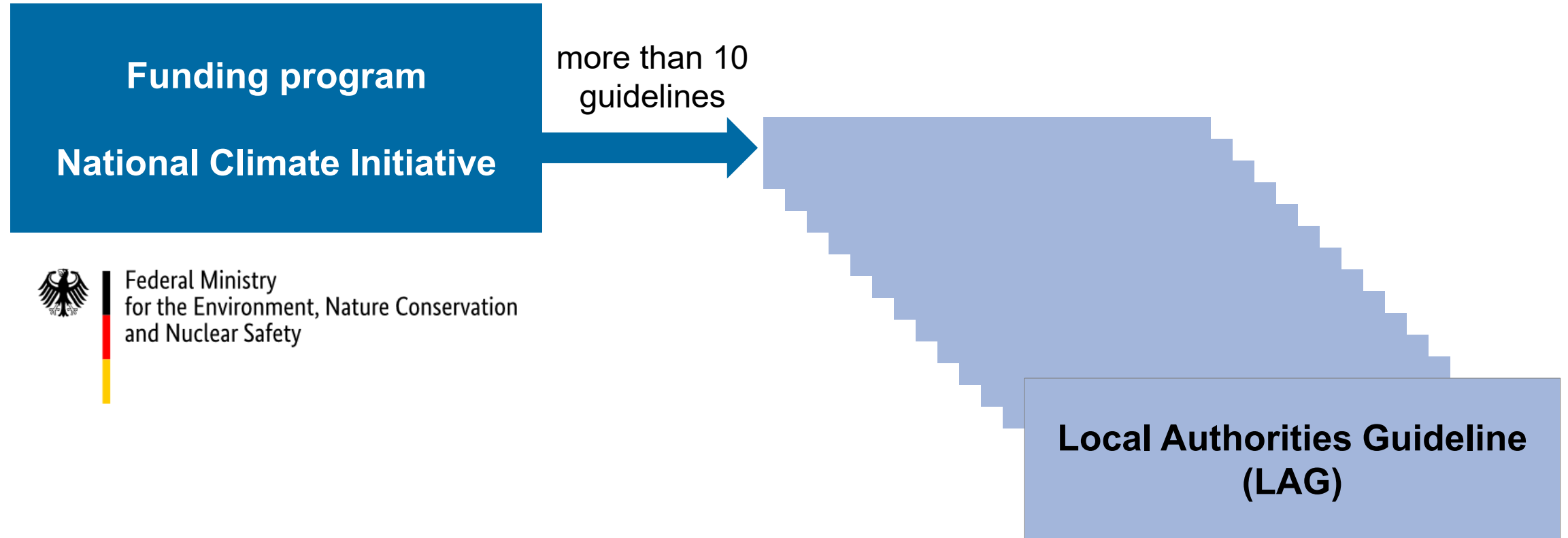
Municipalities in focus: Evaluating the Local Authorities Guideline (LAG): challenges and findings

Tanja Kenkmann, Oeko-Institute
EEE 2021

10.03.2021



Introduction: Funding climate action in municipalities

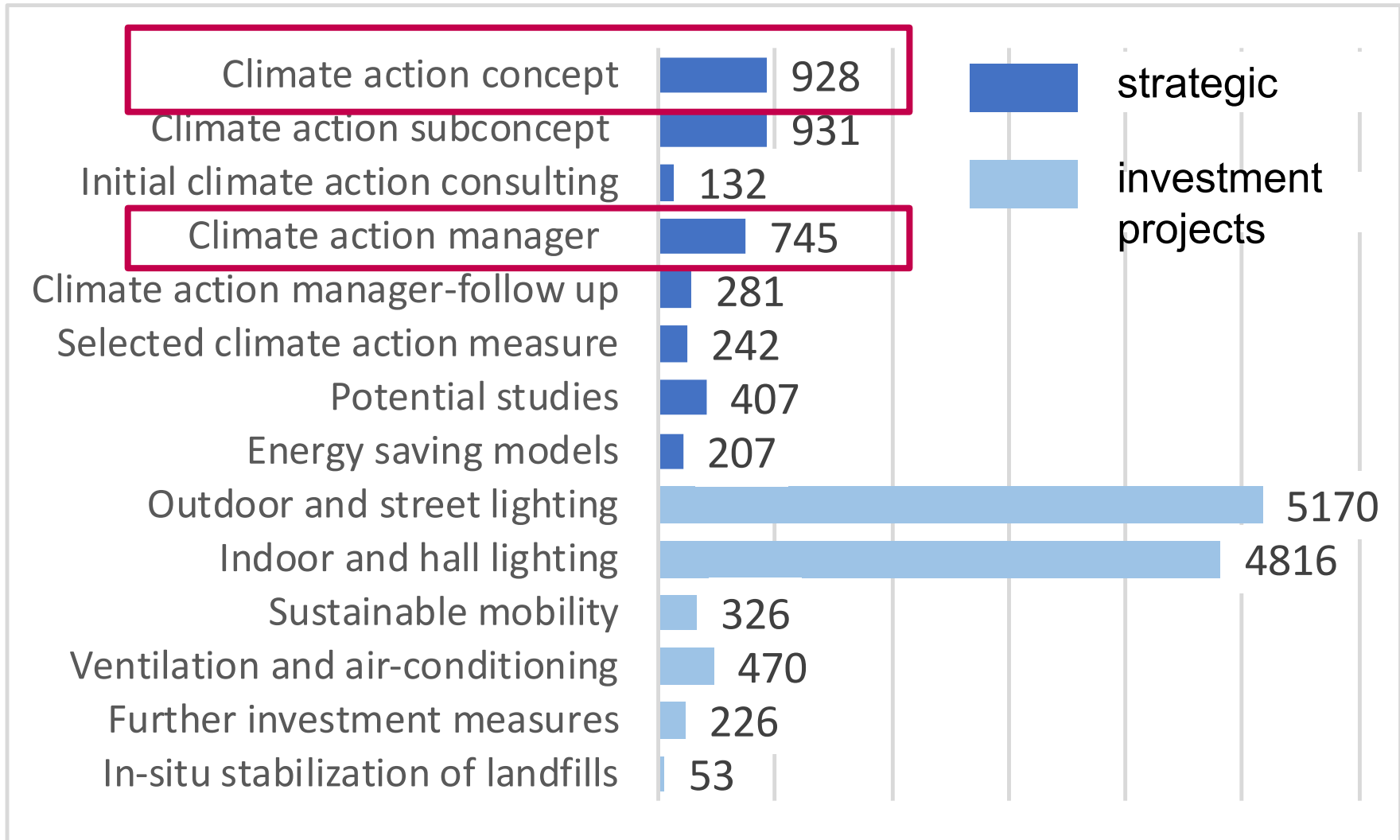


Introduction: Funding climate action in municipalities

Federal funding for municipal climate action since 2008 by the **Local Authorities Guideline (LAG)**:

630 mill. Euro in subsidies for almost 15,000 projects

Funding priorities and number of projects applied for from 2008 to 2018 (fig.)



Introduction: Funding climate action in municipalities

Climate action concept

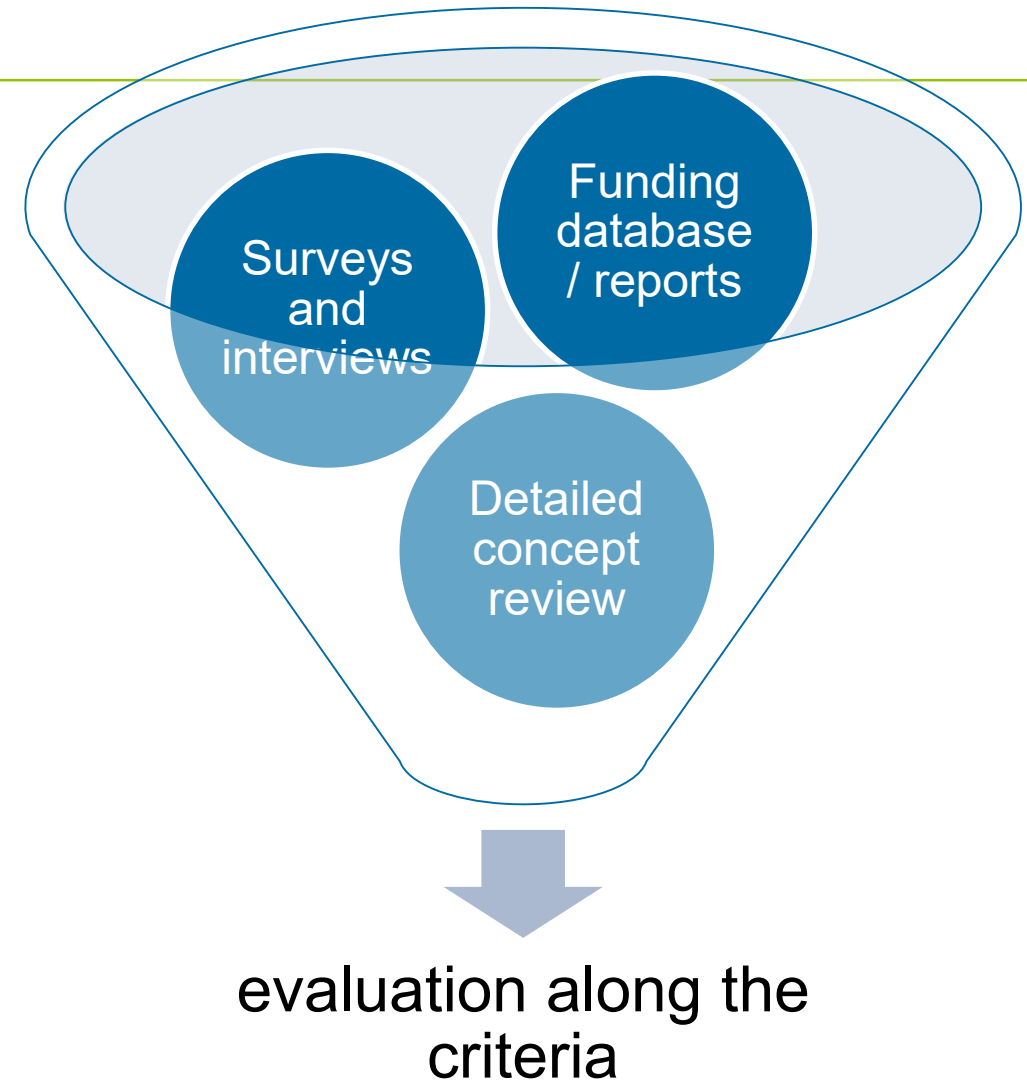
- addresses all relevant fields of action in the municipality
- mainly comprise a
 - description of the status quo,
 - a GHG and energy balance,
 - and a list of measures ready for implementation.
 - Participation and public involvement play an important role.

Climate action manager

- Position in the administration funded for 3 years (follow up of 2 years possible)
- Task is implementing the measures of the concept
- Usually one position per municipality (or less), regardless of the size

Evaluation of the LAG: methods

- **Evaluation as part of the NCI** with uniform **criteria**: (i) GHG emission reduction, (ii) feasibility, transferability and visibility (developed from the criterion “model character”), (iii) broad impact, (iv) continuity, and (v) economic effects
- Additional criteria to determine the impact of concepts
 - Implementation of concepts and measures
 - Concept quality
- Additional criteria to determine the impact of climate action managers
 - focus of their work



Evaluation of climate action concepts

Criterion / indicator	Key questions
Implementation of concepts and measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there a political decision to implement the concept? - To what extent will the concept be implemented and monitored? Is this dependent on the existence of a climate action manager? - Does the creation of the concept increase the relevance of climate action in the municipality?
a)_ Concept quality from the perspective of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is the concept considered helpful, practical and implementation-oriented? - Are local conditions taken into account? - Are the measures described in sufficient detail?
b)_ Concept quality from the perspective of the evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To what extent does the concept meet the requirements of the funding? - Does the concept identify or take into account potentials for GHG emissions, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies? - Is a participation process documented? - Have relevant stakeholders been networked?

Evaluation of integrated climate action concepts: results

Implementation of concepts and measures

- 63 % discussed the concepts in the municipal bodies ✓
- 89 % decided the implementation in the highest decision-making body ✓
- 85 % already implemented measures from the concept ✓

Quality of concepts – perspective of the municipality

- 78% important and helpful instrument for implementing climate policy (51% true, 27% rather true) ✓
- 70 % implementation-oriented and relevant in practice ✓
- 85 % specific conditions in the municipality are taken into account ✓
- 69 % good (56%) or very good (13%) planning instrument ✓

Evaluation of integrated climate action concepts: results

Quality of concepts – evaluators' perspective

- Majority of concepts are complete according to the funding requirements
- Level of detail of energy and GHG balances differs greatly, data and methodologies partly less good
- Lists of measures vary widely in scope, both in terms of the number of measures and in description. (Number of measures ranged from 17 to 183)
- GHG-saving potential of the measures is not always shown
- Level of detail of the explanation and regional/local adaptation of the measures varies considerably



Evaluation of climate action managers

Criterion / indicator	Key questions
Role and results of their work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- What are the tasks of the climate protection manager and are they suitable for advancing climate protection?- Is the climate action manager anchored in the administration of the municipality?- Is climate action anchored in the administrative processes (climate protection mainstreaming)?- Do new climate protection projects emerge beyond the concept?

Evaluation of climate action managers: results

Role and work of managers

- press and public relations work, high-profile actions, campaigns and websites
- coordination of steering and working groups, advisory boards, reporting to elected representatives on committees
- facilitate professional exchange and promote projects by organising networks and specialist groups, specialist events, excursions and lectures
- educational projects in schools and daycare centres
- implement climate protection measures included in concepts and beyond
- raise additional funds from national, federal and EU funding programmes



Conclusion

- The chosen methodology to evaluate the strategic funding areas proved to be a good approach, but there should be efforts to supplement them
- The development of a concept leads to climate action being better perceived in local politics, gaining greater relevance and stimulating discussion in political bodies, although some contents should be improved
- Climate Action Managers make a significant contribution to the implementation of climate action policy in local politics and administration and have an impact both internally and externally on urban community
- The evaluated strategic funding areas of the LAG have a considerable impact on the local implementation of the energy system transformation in the municipalities and on raising public awareness.

Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!
Thank you for your attention!

Haben Sie noch Fragen?
Do you have any questions?

