

Barriers and enablers for engagement in local climate change policy approaches to mitigation and adaptation

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Aim

Develop a theoretical framework to analyse how different climate change policy implementations could be perceived by people, leading to people's engagement in adaptation and mitigation measures or not. The theoretical framework is used to analyse policies in the region of five cities across Europe (Oulu, Finland; Augsburg, Germany; Geneva, Switzerland; Bologna, Italy; Heraklion, Greece).

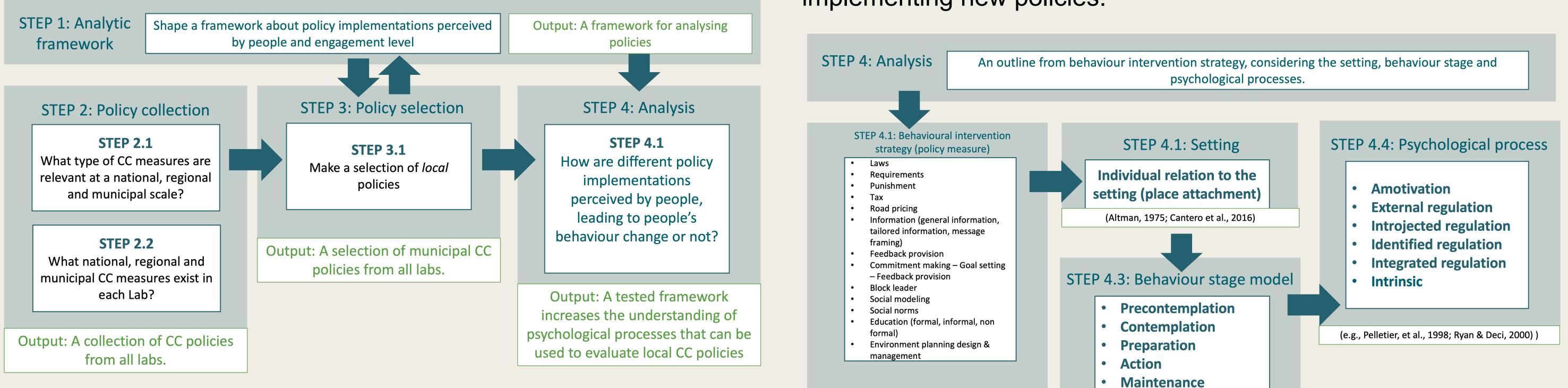


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Methodology

Development of framework: A narrative review was conducted to establish a theoretical framework. The search was an iterative process using the Scopus database, relevant articles, and books.

Policy collection: Relevant climate change policies were collected in the five case study areas.



Key results/conclusions

Hard and soft policy measures may according to motivation theory lead to different psychological processes within an individual, leading to their engagement or not. Intrinsic motivation is important in relation to pro-environmental behaviour, because most of these behaviour do not have a natural direct reward (Bolderdijk et al., 2018). Decision and policymakers could benefit from taking the psychological processes into account when implementing new policies.

Figure 1. Overview of the research process.

Motivation as key to people's engagement

Motivation is highly valuable because it produces results. According to self-determination theory (Ryan & Deci, 2000; Teixeira et al., 2020) people can be motivated because they value something that they want to achieve or because there is a strong extrinsic demand. However, if people's engagement is self-motivated or externally regulated could have very different consequences for personal experience, performance, wellbeing, and learning (Ryan & Deci, 2000). In our analyses we ask if and how climate change polices address motivation for engagement.

People's engagement in adaptation and mitigation behaviour could be more or less established. The behaviour stage model (Bamberg, 2012) differentiates between four stages. People in the preconception stage has not thought about changing their behaviour. In the contemplation stage, people has thought about it, but has not done so. In the preparation stage, people have seriously thought about it and considers the pros and cons. In the action stage, the new behaviour is acted upon. In the final maintenance stage the behaviour keeps going.

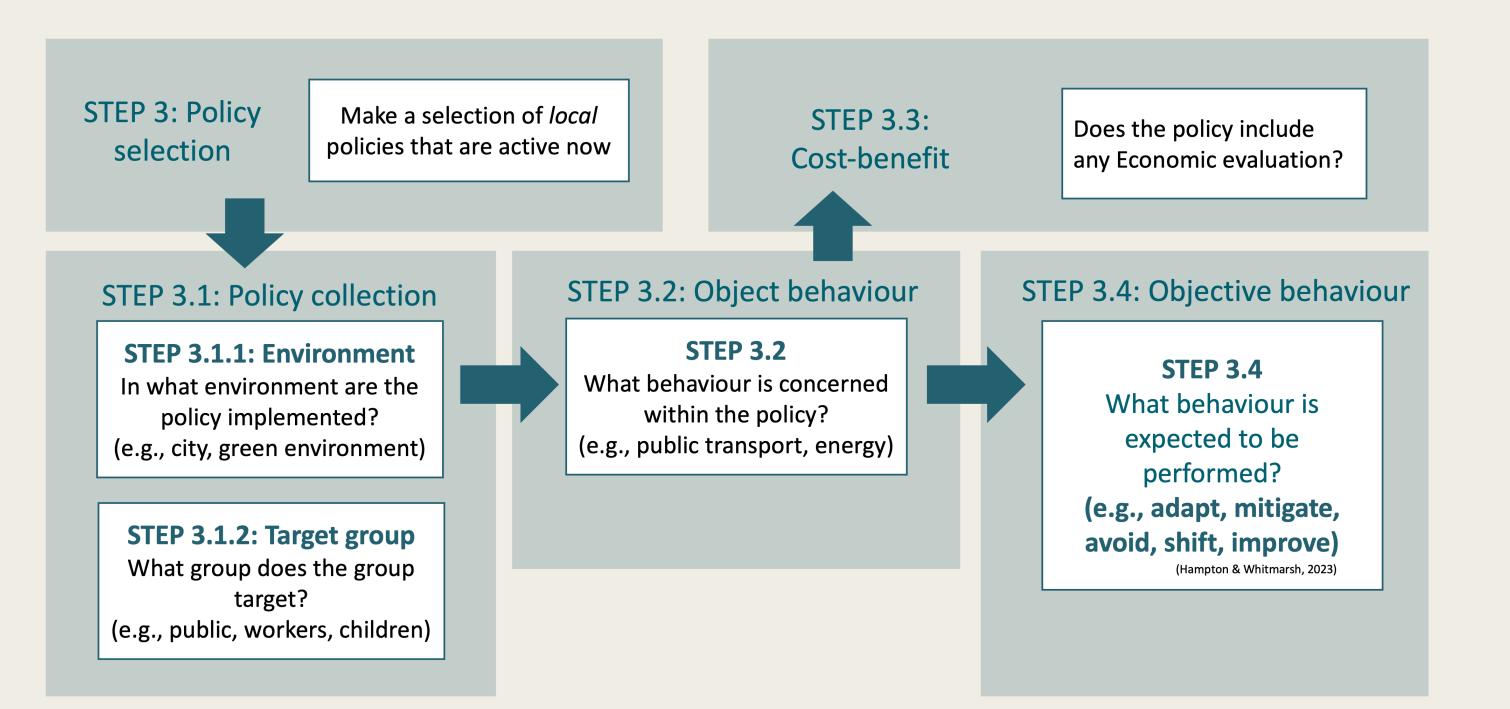
Figure 3. Overview of the analysis phase.

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(e.g., Bamberg, 2012; Steg et al, 2018)

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Figure 2. Expanding on the policy selection phase.