

THE WHEEL OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Tools for an economic policy of adaptation in France

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SYNTHESIS

At the time of the COP21, the fight against climate change has been making international headlines. Yet, ironically, the subject of our countries' adaptation to the consequences of climate change has been all but forgotten, particularly in our own country (France). This brush-off could lead to serious consequences. It is why this note, based on a clear analysis, is raising the alarm and proposing new tools so that the various participants will be capable of meeting such challenges.

The theme of adaptation to climate change has for a long time been dismissed by policymakers because of the supposedly defeatist image it gives to the general public. It would indicate a kind of resignation in terms of mitigation. If anything, the opposite is true: action on adaptation accelerates awareness and also contributes towards mobilisation to improve mitigation. What's more, we do not have a choice: climate changes are happening and will happen in our country, and must therefore be anticipated. It is high time to stop denying it and make up for our significant delays in that field.

In order to do so, this note, which will concentrate on the economic aspects, proposes an original method: a wheel of climate change adaptation based on the Deming wheel used by companies to favour a process of continuous improvement. This tool has the advantage of being able to be put into motion at whatever stage: awareness, evaluation and knowledge, action or decision. The detail of the three wheel revolutions highlights several administrative and economic obstacles, as well as numerous "windows of opportunity", especially in terms of economics and network organisation. This wheel also highlights the importance of debating together over our resilience capabilities and initiates a dialogue with citizens about choices that will be inevitable.

Three structural approaches emerge from this wheel:

- Make a big qualitative leap forward in data and decision-making tools to enable the policymakers to act, notably thanks to a redesigning of the ONERC (French national observatory on the effects of global warming) to turn this observatory into the motor of adaptation mainstreaming
- Organise the financial sector and economic networks in order to spread out and absorb the risks. Since each network is unique, it will be important to reproduce and adapt pre-existing models of network structuring.
- Be able to use collective mobilisation locations, by making a teaching and educational effort to convert existing structures to adaptation. Regarding water, this evolution could be driven by the Basin Committees.