

# Climate Governance in the EU Multi-level system: The Role of Cities

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# Introduction

- n Cities are *important actors* within multi-level arrangements
- n Global climate change affects cities in *three* different ways
  - l Cities generate GHG emissions (mitigation)
  - l Cities are affected by climate change (adaptation)
  - l Cities generate social and technological innovations
- n *Interdependence* of EU, national, and local climate policies
- n Cities have developed from *policy-takers* to *policy-makers*
- n Opened *offices in Brussels*, founded *transnational city networks*



# Dimensions of the Europeanization of cities

- n Discussion complements *multi-level governance* approach
- n *Top-down* perspective dominates discussion; *bottom-up* and *horizontal perspective* also relevant
- n Cities and towns are *neglected* in the Europeanization debate
- n *Three* dimensions of the *Europeanization* of cities:
  - l (i) hierarchical (vertical, top-down, downloading)
  - l (ii) cooperative (vertical, bottom-up and top-down, uploading and downloading)
  - l (iii) horizontal (crossloading)



# Climate governance and hierarchical Europeanization

- n Prior to the Single European Act (SEA) European legislation ***only limited effects***
  - n Today cities ***affected by many decisions*** made in Brussels, EU influence only indirect
  - n Cities as ***affected objects*** rather than active subjects
  - n All Members States under ***pressure*** to develop successful programs
  - n In most countries ***no direct links*** between national goals and their implementation at regional and local level
- à **Hierarchical Europeanization** vs. climate change policy as ***voluntary task***



# Climate governance and cooperative Europeanization

- n In most innovative countries we find independent ***climate change policies at local level*** (bottom-up Europeanization)
  - n Leading cities started ***earlier*** and set ***more ambitious goals*** than national governments and EU
  - n ***Rapid diffusion*** of membership in transnational city networks
  - n EU initiatives altered ***opportunity structure***
  - n ***Three different forms of cooperation***: (i) lobbying, (ii) project funding, and (iii) direct collaboration
- à ***Cooperative Europeanization offers new opportunities for cities***

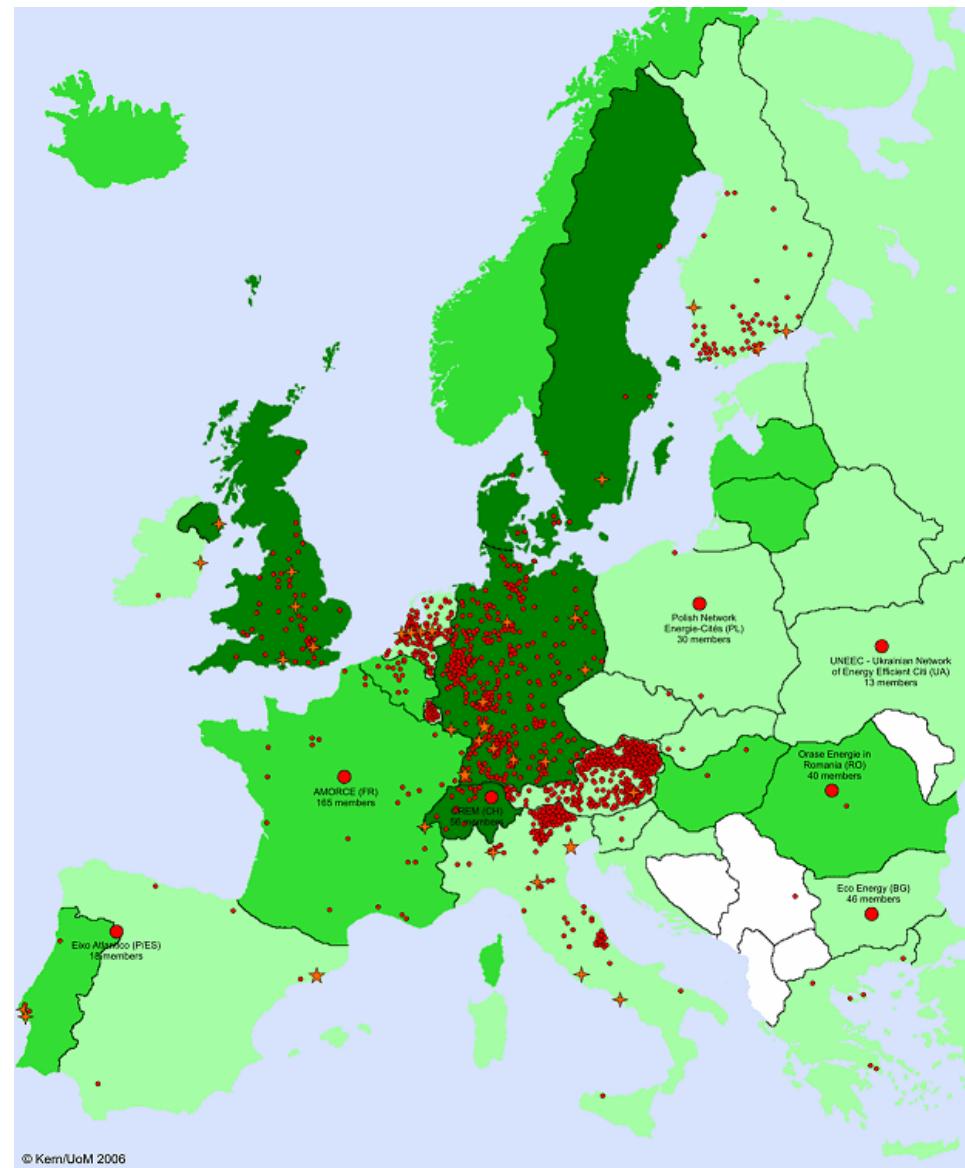


# Climate governance and horizontal Europeanization

- n ***Horizontal perspective***, direct relations between cities
  - n ***Not dependent*** on ***direct*** influence of EU institutions
  - n Capacity building through ***exchange of experience*** and ***best-practice transfer***
  - n Emergence of a ***foreign policy*** and ***para-diplomacy*** of European cities
  - n ***Three types of transnational networking:***
    - (i) Bilateral twinning; (ii) transnational city networks; (iii) project networks
- à Horizontal Europeanization offers new opportunities for cities***



## Membership in transnational city networks in the area of climate change policy



Members of transnational municipal networks:

- ★ In 3 networks
- ★ In 2 networks
- in 1 network
- Collective members of Energie Cités

Climate Change Performance Index:

- high
- medium
- Low

Kern and Bulkeley, 2009



# Conclusions

- n Three ***dimensions of the Europeanization*** (hierarchical, cooperative, horizontal)
- n ***Hierarchical Europeanization*** vs. climate change policy as voluntary task of cities
- n ***Cooperative*** and ***horizontal Europeanization*** as privilege of the pioneers
- n Development of a ***cluster of Europeanized cities***
- n Whether cities gain or lose from Europeanization depends primarily on their ***own initiative***





# Thank you for your attention!

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