

SN Bernd Vöhringer at the panel discussion on

Resilience in Action: Local Preparedness for Environmental Challenges

Istanbul, 1st October 2025 – 14.00 -15.00

Environmental challenges need to be addressed by multilevel Governance

- Many problems linked to environmental challenges and climate change are best tackled at local level (waste, water, air, noise, land use, climate adaptation).
- But in most countries, central government determines – top down – in detail what local administrations should do. Local governments often lack the resources, capacities
- multilevel governance is urgent to match better current problems: The triple environmental crisis (climate, pollution, biodiversity) does not stop at administrative borders.
- Environmental challenges are different on different scales/levels, but they also need a joint approach. They need to engage the whole of government & the whole of society.
- A recent Council of Europe conference held in Malta on **Multilevel Governance approaches to address environmental challenges** identified key points to strengthen multilevel governance collaboration:
 - **Clarify** responsibility and accountability across levels of governance
 - **Strengthen** Vertical and horizontal coordination between national, regional, and local authorities to ensure coherence in environmental policies and actions
 - Most importantly, everyone must have the **capacity to act** within their area of responsibility, fostering inclusive stakeholder engagement and effective participation in decision-making processes
 - National level should **support innovation and pilot projects** at the local level with mechanisms for scaling up successful initiatives through multilevel partnerships
 - **Engage citizens** and promote meaningful and effective public participation to help build trust in public administration and strengthen democratic responses to environmental challenges