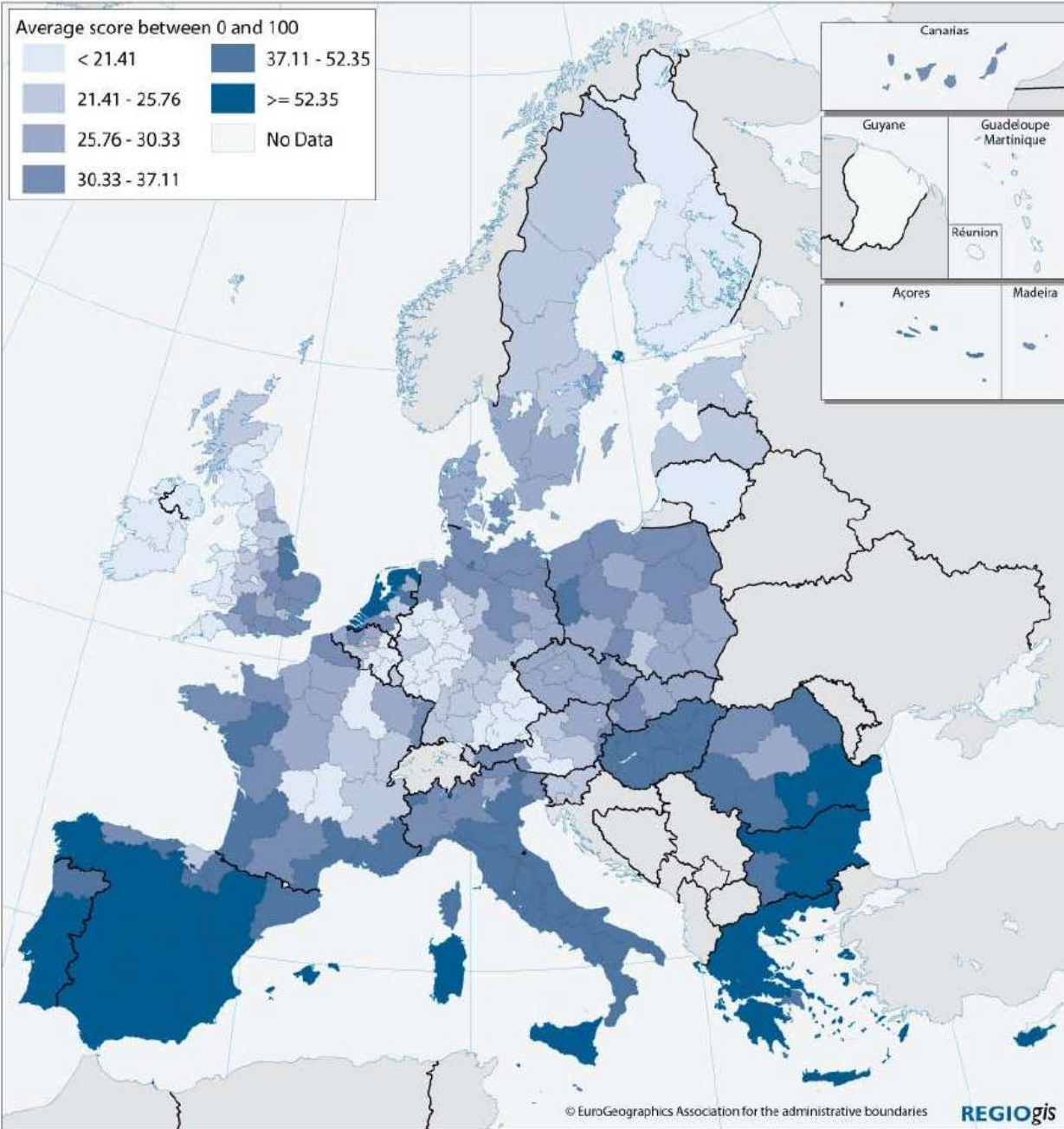




# Burden sharing for adaptation: a case for the EU?

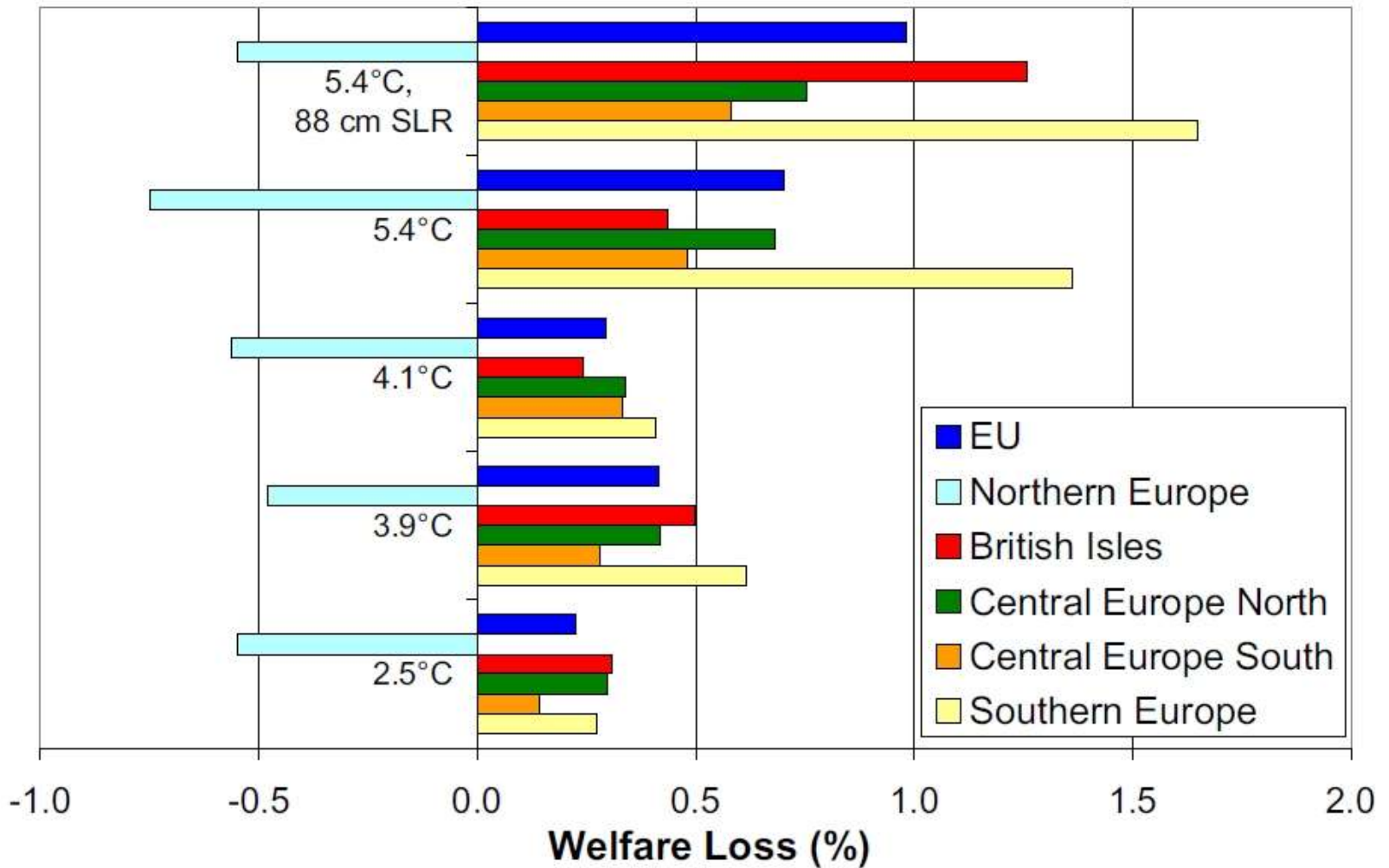
**Susanne Hanger**

**International symposium on 'The Governance of Adaptation'  
Amsterdam, 22nd and 23rd of March 2012**



## Regional exposure to climate change over the medium term (European Commission 2008)

Index based on change in population affected by river floods, population in costal areas below 5m, potential drought hazard, vulnerability of agriculture, fisheries and tourism, taking into account temperature and precipitation changes.



Annual impact of 2080s climate-change scenarios expressed as percent change in welfare (Ciscar et al. 2011)

# Burden sharing in the EU



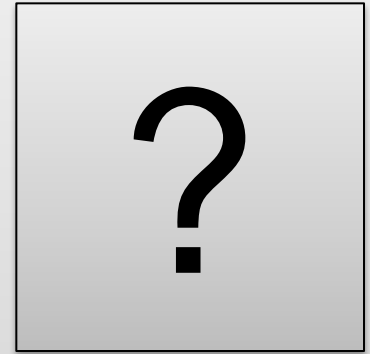
EU budget



Asylum seekers



Mitigation



Adaptation

# Questions

- Is there a case for EU action for burden sharing for adaptation?
- What are the motives/drivers for EU burden sharing efforts?

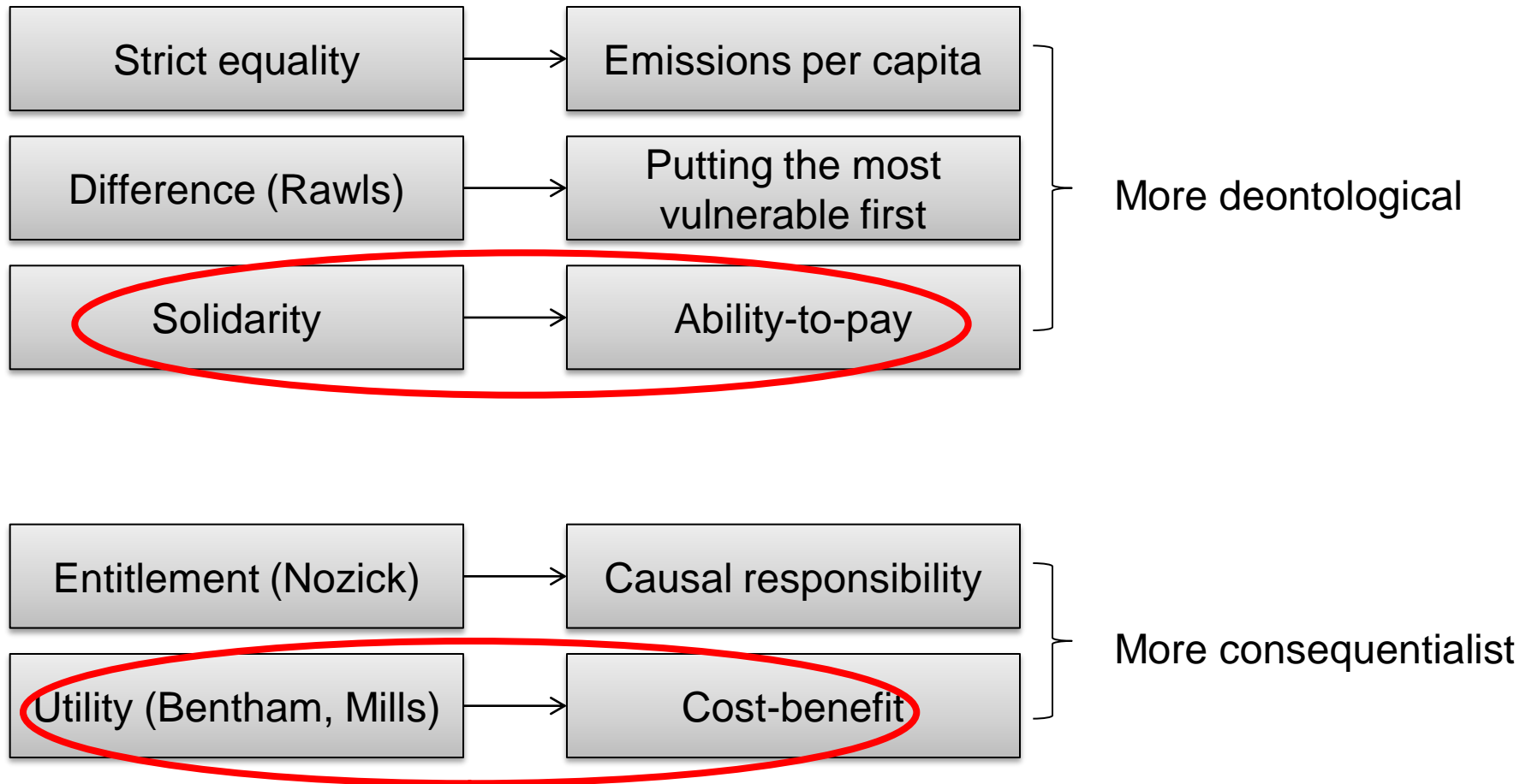
# Framing burden sharing

Who are the subjects of burden sharing?

What is the burden to be shared?

How (according to what principles) shall the burden be shared?

# Normative ethics



# Discourse analysis

*Discourses shape what can and cannot be thought, they delimit the range of policy options and thereby serve as precursors to policy outcomes.*

*(Hajer and Versteeg 2005)*



# Focus groups

- Group 1: EU level policy makers
- Group 2: national level policy makers
- Group 3: Researchers



# Barriers

- Local dimensions of adaptation
- Definitions for adaptation and vulnerability
- Attribution

*“What is a unit of adaptation?”*



# Instances for burden sharing

- Knowledge sharing
- Transboundary implications
- European implications
- Helping those who cannot help themselves
- Causal responsibility
- Beneficiary pays
- Network projects



# Instruments



- Mainstreaming
- Insurance
- EU Structural and Cohesion Funds
- (Trading schemes, adaptation fund)

*“I would say most of, maybe all the instruments are in principle available but the only thing is now to use them in a proper way”*

# Storylines

*Adaptation is local,  
we don't need  
burden sharing...*

*“But why would I  
finance an adaptation  
measure in, I don't know,  
Bulgaria or Hungary  
when it's not directly  
beneficial, because that  
is the actual nature of  
adapt its local its context  
specific”*

*Burden sharing yes,  
but there are too  
many challenges...*

*“At least several different  
hot points and that is so  
difficult to manage I don't  
know if it its ever... We  
have to start thinking of  
it...”*

*Solidarity, nothing  
else matters...*

*“...the point of  
having an EU in some  
ways is to be solidarity  
[sic!] ...”*

# Storylines

*Adaptation is  
we don't need  
burden sharing*

***Burden sharing yes, but  
there are too many  
challenges...***

*Solidarity, nothing  
else matters...*

# Implications

- Missing momentum
- Role for the EU in standardizing definitions for adaptation and vulnerability
- Strong tendency to consequentialist thinking

# Further research

- Including texts
- Crunching the numbers
- Case studies
- Investigating instruments
- Agenda-setting



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