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Summary :

Numerous European cities are actively pursuing climate neutrality and adapting to the impacts of climate change. Yet, the execution of mitigation and adaptation policies remains notably intricate, demanding close collaboration among diverse stakeholders and the integration of potentially conflicting sectoral objectives, all within resource constraints. Complex climate-related challenges in urban settings, such as heatwaves, floods, heavy precipitation, droughts, air quality, and water scarcity, necessitate multifaceted policy interventions, as no single societal sector (e.g., building, mobility, energy, waste, water, etc.) can singularly tackle these issues.

With this context in mind, the focus of this thesis is to examine the collaborative efforts among various actors and sectors in implementing climate policies at the local level. The central question guiding this research is: What are the factors that facilitate or hinder the intersectoral implementation of climate policies?

To facilitate a comprehensive analysis, cities from two countries and political systems—Bologna and Padua in Italy, and Lausanne and Zurich in Switzerland—have been selected for study. The data collection process emphasizes organizations and sectors actively participating in the ecological transition, aiming to discern the roles and responsibilities of involved actors, their capabilities, and how they navigate the complexities of relationships to ensure a cohesive ecological transition.

An innovative mixed-method approach has been employed for this analysis, encompassing a quantitative dictionary-based text analysis to identify policy sectors involved in the policy implementation process, social network analysis to visualize the interconnectedness among actors and interaction types, as well as Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and process-tracing to elucidate the necessary conditions and the mechanisms facilitating intersectoral implementation.