



EDITORIAL by Sabine Weiland, Freie Universität Berlin, and John Turnpenny, University of East Anglia

The mission of LIAISE is to build up a broad interdisciplinary community of researchers and practitioners from the field of policy impact assessment to develop a mutual understanding of their respective needs and potentials. The 2012 Berlin Conference on "Evidence for Sustainable Development," co-organised by Freie Universität Berlin and LIAISE, will serve that goal in that it brings together researchers and policy people and make them communicate. The conference addresses the knowledge basis of political decisions required for sustainable development, the construction of evidence, and the ways evidence is used in decision-making. Bringing this knowledge to the attention of policy people, and discuss the challenges and chances related to that, will be an active contribution to strengthening the science-policy interface. The 2012 Berlin Conference will be held on 5-6 October.

Another ongoing endeavour of LIAISE is the work on different policy-making venues in which analytical decision-support tools are used. Policy or Regulatory Impact Assessment is a formalised and institutionalised activity, which follows well-defined time schedules. However, there are many other venues in the policy process in which tools are used, including task forces, scientific commissions, and reviews (e.g. the Stern review). Analytical tools are, of course, also deployed in less routinised forms during the ongoing process of policy development. LIAISE is organising a series of workshops to explore this topic. The first workshop, to be held in London on 10-11 September, 2012, will focus on the analytical tools-policy relationship from the perspective of experts in different types of tools. Commitments to contribute papers and discussion have been secured from world-renowned experts in analytical tool development and their applications. The second workshop (planned for early 2013) will focus more on the policy venues in which tools are used.

LIAISE News

Programme of the 2012 Berlin Conference online!

The programme of the 2012 Berlin Conference on "Evidence for Sustainable Development" is now online! Keynote speakers include Jacqueline McGlade (European Environment Agency) and Uwe Schneidewind (Wuppertal Institute of Climate, Environment and Energy). The 2012 Berlin Conference is jointly organised by the Environmental Policy Research Centre at FU Berlin and the LIAISE Network of Excellence. The conference theme addresses the knowledge basis of political decisions required for sustainable development, the construction of evidence, and the ways evidence is used in decision-making.

LIAISE Shared Research Agenda

LIAISE stimulates excellent research on all aspects of scientific research to support Impact Assessment (IA). It is a central product of LIAISE to develop, together with IA practitioners, a rolling research agenda on strategic IA tools and processes. IA on policy making requires interdisciplinary approaches that are problem and user oriented. This requires different evaluation criteria compared to disciplinary and science oriented research. The Shared Research Agenda will thus address three aspects: Topics (policies and processes), tools (tools and data) and transfer (science policy interface). The Agenda will provide cutting edge research questions to attract both researchers and funding agencies; it will be fed from scientists of different disciplines and practitioners.

Publications from the LIAISE Network

Alterra Report: Impacts of Cross Compliance Measures on Environmental Indicators

The new Alterra Report No. 2323 "Impacts of Cross Compliance Measures on Environmental Indicators - an assessment tool to evaluate environmental impacts on the European Scale" by Wim de Vries et al. describes the approach and application methodology of an environmental impact tool to evaluate cross compliance measures on environmental effect indicators.

Effects of CAP Policy on Farm Household Behaviour and Social Sustainability

This paper by B. Manos, Th. Bournaris, P. Chatziniakolaou, J. Berbel and D. Nikolov aims to assess the effects of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) on farm household behaviour and social sustainability by estimating main labour and employment indicators. In: Land Use Policy (2012), DOI 10.1016/j.landusepol.2011.12.012

Spatial Data and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as Support Tools for Environmental Assessment

A new special issue of the Journal of Environmental Assessment Policy and Management has just been published on "Spatial Data and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as Support Tools for Environmental Assessment" with Ainhoa Gonzalez as the special issue editor. LIAISE researcher Tarja Soderman (SYKE, Finland) and colleagues contributed an article on "Ecosystem services criteria for sustainable development in urban regions".

New Book Chapter on the Role of Impact Assessment in Policy Making

LIAISE partner UEA has published a novel account of the role of Impact Assessment in every day policy making processes including policy formulation and decision making. Focusing in particular at the EU level, the chapter examines the extent to which Impact Assessment has been able to introduce greater formality and predictability to policy making.

Events

2nd World Sustainability Forum

The organisers of the the 2nd World Sustainability Forum, which will be held from 1-30 November, 2012 at www.sciforum.net, a new platform developed by MDPI to organise electronic conferences are now calling for contributions. The Forum covers research in many areas relating to sustainability and sustainable development.

Scale in Environmental Governance: Power Reconfiguration, Democratic Legitimacy and Institutional (Mis-) Fit

The symposium on 'Scale in Environmental Governance' aims to elaborate the wide range of perspectives from which scalar issues in environmental governance can be addressed. The event will take place from 7-8 March, 2013 at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 1 October, 2012.

International Conference "Water in the Anthropocene - Challenges for Science and Governance"

The Global Water System Project and its International Project Office based in Bonn, Germany, is organizing an international conference on "Water in the Anthropocene: Challenges for Science and Governance. Indicators, Thresholds and Uncertainties of the Global Water System". The event will take place from 21-24 May, 2013 in Bonn, Germany.

3rd Climate Change Technology Conference: Engineering for Global Sustainability

The 3rd Climate Change Technology Conference (CCTC 2013) will be held from 27-25 May, 2013 at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. The two day event is meant to be a Canadian and international forum for the promotion and exchange of ideas about climate change technology. Moreover, it is also an opportunity to keep pace with emerging techniques and technologies for mitigation of, and adaptation to the impacts of a changing climate.

Policies

EU Announces Green Research Funding for 2013

The EU will fund research that addresses key challenges facing Europe. For example, investment in research to preserve oceans and water, make better use of raw materials,

develop smart cities and tackle issues such as improving the delivery of public services, brain research and anti-microbial resistance. Funding will also go to high-risk/high-gain "frontier research" in all domains of science through European Research Council grants and to support individual researchers' careers through Marie Curie Actions.

- **Consultation on New Sustainability Development Indicators**

The UK's department of Environment (Defra) is leading a consultation on a new set of Sustainable Development Indicators which will provide information as to whether the UK is developing on a sustainable path. The consultation document sets out a range of issues and considerations that have led to the development of the proposed indicator set, including those relating to the streamlining of the indicator set, and its relationship with the proposed ONS measures of National Wellbeing.

- **European Aluminium Association Welcomes 'Fitness Check' to Assess Impacts of EU Policies**

In 2010, the European Aluminium Association (EEA) had welcomed the EU Commission's flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 strategy, but expresses now its concerns that adequate framework conditions to maintain the industry's competitive position at the global level are still missing. In order to meet this goal, they propose a number of concrete actions. To properly conduct impact assessment, the EEA points at the need for a cross-sectoral implementation of LCA methodologies and the adoption of sound indicators.

- **European Gender Summit 2012: Aligning Agendas For Excellence**

The European Gender Summit 2012, taking place from 29-30 November, 2012 at the European Parliament in Brussels, aims to bring together top-level researchers, science leaders, and policy makers in order to examine gender issues impacting on the implementation of the upcoming Horizon 2020, the European Research Area, and Innovation Union.

Training

- **Integrated Assessment of Agricultural Systems (IAAS) at Regional Level**

The course is organized by CIHEAM-IAMM in collaboration with the SupAgro and the UMR-System, with speakers from Wageningen University (NL), SubAgro (France) and Lund (Sweden). The target of the course is to present concepts for integrated assessment of agricultural systems from field and farm to regional level and understand conceptually and practically how integrated assessment and modelling can support ex-ante impact assessment and decision making processes. The course will be held in Montpellier, France on 22-25 October, 2012.

- **International Fall Academy 2012: The Economies of the Commons - Reshaping Economic Education**

The Right Livelihood College (RLC) Campus Bonn calls to apply for scholarships for PhD students from developing and transition countries to participate in the International Fall Academy on 'The Economies of the Commons: Reshaping Economic Education', taking place from 19 to 23 September, 2012 in Bonn, Germany. The Fall Academy bringing together the winners from the 'Alternative Nobel Prize' aims to foster the transdisciplinary dialogue between the winners in order to promote theory and practices for a just and sustainable economy.

- **IPCC Scholarship Programme**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is calling for applications for the second round of awards under the IPCC Scholarship Programme. The Programme aims to build capacity in the understanding and management of climate change in developing countries by providing opportunities for young scientists from developing countries. Applicants must be post-graduate students under the age of 30 studying at PhD level, and nationals of developing countries.

- **European Summer School on "Uncertainty, Innovation and Climate Change"**

The 2013 EAERE-FEEM-VIU European Summer School will take place from 30 June - 6 July, 2013 at the VIU Campus on the Island of San Servolo. The topic of the event is "Uncertainty, Innovation and Climate Change". It is designed for students having a sound understanding of climate change economics and would like to contribute with original work focusing on the stochastic dimension of the problem.

Links

- **Methodspace - Online Resource on Research Methods**

The Methodspace networks of methodological innovations aims to bring together academics, researchers, and research stakeholders. The site is created for students and researchers to network and share research, resources and debates. Methodspace users have free access to selected journal articles or book chapters among others.

- **VISION RD4SD (Research and Development for Sustainable Development)**

The major objective of the VISION RD4SD (Research and Development for Sustainable Development) network is to support Europe in contributing to a worldwide sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions are formulated based on sound and up-to-date knowledge. In doing so, VISION RD4SD aims to develop a shared vision between science funding bodies and national science policy institutions in the EU Member States on how research and development opportunities for a sustainable development can best be used.

- **EC Publishes Draft Footprinting Methodologies**

The DG Environment, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and other European Commission services have worked towards the development of a technical guide for the calculation of the environmental footprint of products and organisations. The twin methodologies are based on life-cycle assessment standards and aim to lead to harmonised EU-wide framework standards.

- **The Socio-cultural Landscapes of Global Climate Change - Ethnographic Views from all over the World**

Starting from the assumption that climate change can only be experienced in everyday life through various forms of cultural coding and interpretive patterns, the website "The socio-cultural landscapes of global climate change" provided by the University of Bielefeld, Germany is dedicated to connecting ethnographic research on climate change concerns. The individual research findings presented on the website shall merge into an ethnographically grounded and culture-sensitive notion of global climate change.

Jobs & Funding

Please visit our website for opportunities in the field of Impact Assessment and Sustainable Development. You are invited to send your vacancies, research programs, events or other relevant content to liaise@feem.it



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