



■ About LIAISE

Editorial

Welcome to the LIAISE Network. We invite you to become involved in the Network of Excellence "Linking Impact Assessment Instruments to Sustainability Expertise". The ultimate aim of this European FP7 project is to bring together researchers in the field of Policy Impact Assessment in a 'Community of Scientific Practice' for the practical application of scientific IA knowledge in the policy process. This is meant as a two-way science-policy interface. Researchers will learn about the priorities and needs for scientific knowledge in policy making. Policy makers will get direct access to state-of-the-art knowledge in IA tools and modelling. Together they will shape the types of interaction that are needed in a process of evidence-based policy making, which is crucial for meeting the great challenges Europe is facing. The financial, ecological and energy crisis have to be tackled within a framework of changing climate and demography. This has to be done in a sustainable way, preserving the natural, social and economic capital and answering the needs of intergenerational justice. Impact Assessment is gaining importance in the preparation of policy making throughout Europe. The European Commission and many Member States have established procedures to feed the policy process with ex ante assessment of likely impacts in the different dimensions of sustainable development. This provides a fascinating venue for the interaction of science and policy. The large number of FP6/7 research projects has greatly increased scientific knowledge on impact assessment, but further dialogue between researchers and policy makers is needed to improve the use of this knowledge in decision making and to analyse the possibilities and requirements of future scientific activities. LIAISE as a project is only the starting point for achieving this ambitious target. The ultimate goal is to develop the Network of Excellence from the present core group of 15 partners to a worldwide Community of Scientific Practice on IA with a business model allowing the continuation of its activities beyond the FP7 funding period. We would like to invite you to contribute to these efforts with your opinions, viewpoints, expertise and knowledge. This newsletter is part of a range of activities aimed at enabling and fostering such interactions. We would very much appreciate your participation in the many different activities and products of LIAISE described in this newsletter.

LIAISE products

Dissemination and training activities play a key role in LIAISE, with the aim to enhance the exchange between research and policy making on IA, and to bridge the existing gaps between and within the IA policy and research communities. Some of the main LIAISE dissemination products are illustrated below.

● News Bulletin

You are reading the first issue of the LIAISE News Bulletin. This monthly issue intends to provide an overview of relevant and selected activities in the field of IA of key interest to both researchers and policy makers. The left column of the Bulletin will illustrate the main achievements of the LIAISE NoE. On the right hand side you will find useful links to up-to-date information on forthcoming events, recent publications and case studies on Impact Assessment. Please follow this link to subscribe by email to the monthly issue of the Bulletin: [\[SUBSCRIBE\]](#)

● Innovation report

As a key dissemination product of the LIAISE NoE, the Innovation Report, released twice a year, aims to synthesise and meta-analyse existing research and new publications in the field of IA. The Innovation Report provides an overview of the latest developments in IA research to IA researchers, practitioners and other interested actors, thereby fostering the emergence of an IA community. Each innovation report has a thematic focus, addressing specific IA methodological issues as well as cross-cutting themes, and reviews five to ten new publications in the field of IA. The first issue of the LIAISE Innovation report is now available online (pdf-220Kb) and focuses on 'Impact Assessment and Sustainable Development': [\[DOWNLOAD\]](#)

● Toolbox

The shared toolbox will be an important focal point of the entire NoE. Relevant tools and knowledge to support IA will be described and stored in inventories of tools, good practices and data sources. The construction of the toolbox will start thanks to the experience developed within similar EC-funded projects, such as the IPTS IA TOOLS website. Step by step, the additional features developed within LIAISE will be incorporated in the IA TOOLBOX and will be accessible thanks to a friendly access for both policy makers and researchers. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

● Training curricula

■ Events

Conferences

- **Conference: Experiments, system innovation and sustainability transitions in Asia**
Chiang Mai, 15-17 July 2010. The conference aims at synthesising and reflecting on the current knowledge about pathways, barriers and opportunities for sustainability transitions in Asia. [\[READ MORE\]](#)
- **BIOECON Conference:**
Venice, 27-28 September 2010. The conference organised by Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) addresses a broad range of participants from researchers to policy makers. The central theme will focus on the identification of the most effective and efficient instruments for biodiversity conservation. Assessment procedures and indicators will be a central conference topic. [\[READ MORE\]](#)
- **Deltas in Times of Climate Change**
Rotterdam, 29 September - 1 October 2010. The conference centres around ecological, economic and social issues pertaining to river deltas. It is an aim of the conference to connect scientists and policy makers. You can register for an early bird fee until July 15th. [\[READ MORE\]](#)
- **3rd International Scientific Conference: Energy and Climate Change**
Athens, 7- 8 October 2010. The conference organised by the Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA) will focus on Energy Policy and Environmental - Climate Change Policy. [\[READ MORE\]](#)
- **Sustainable Innovation 2010 conference**
Rotterdam, 8-9 November 2010. The conference "Sustainable Innovation 2010 Creating Breakthroughs: Green growth, Eco-innovation, Entrepreneurship and Jobs" is organised by the Centre for Sustainable Design. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Training

- **Working with Impact Assessment in the European Union**
Maastricht, 25-26 November 2010. The European Institute of Public Administration offers a two-day seminar aiming to give participants an intensive and practical introduction to integrated Impact Assessment in the context of the European Union institutions. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Call for papers

- **Ester Boserup Conference**
July 12 2010 is the deadline for abstract submissions. "Long-term trajectories in population, gender relations, land use, and the environment": Vienna, 15-17 November 2010. [\[READ MORE\]](#)
- **Sustain' 2010: Sustainable Future for Human Security 2010**
August 31 2010 is the deadline for abstract submission. The conference will take place in Uji, Japan on December 4th 2010, covering a wide range of topics from the realm of sustainability issues one of them being "Environmental impact assessment from life cycle perspective". [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Call for training course proposals

- **IAIA11**
July 30 2010 is the deadline for courses submissions. IAIA is inviting proposals for training courses to be delivered at the 31st annual IAIA conference, to be held in Puebla, Mexico, from 28 May till 4 June 2011. It is anticipated that training courses will be delivered as part of the pre-conference program on 28-29 May 2011. Given that IAIA11 will be held in Mexico, training courses offered in Spanish are also invited, particularly on the topics of SEA and multi-criteria analysis. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

■ Links and resources

WITCH Policy Simulator

- The WITCH Policy Simulator is an online tool for exploring the effects of different mitigation policy scenarios on the environment, on the energy and on the economy. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

LIAISE will develop specific training curricula for policy makers and researchers, and test them by using the existing networks and training activities of the partners in LIAISE. The theoretical and methodological activities for researchers will focus on capacity building at all levels on subjects such as: translating IA problems into researchable questions, development and testing of quantitative tools for IA, operational methods to enhance interdisciplinary research, methods for up- and downscaling, methods for uncertainty and post-model analysis. The NoE will set up a database of existing IA training activities also thanks to the development of networking with existing IA training schools. LIAISE will explore opportunities - including additional funding - to implement training activities during and beyond the NoE.

LIAISE highlights

● Survey on IA practices

The LIAISE team is currently undertaking an extensive review of literature and interviews with experts on the practice of Policy Impact Assessment and in particular on the use of scientific tools to support IA. The research will provide a most comprehensive picture on IA practices not only in the European Commission, but also in the Member States. A report will be available in September 2010.

● Networking

Members of the LIAISE team will participate in international conferences to present and to attract new research on IA. Papers will be submitted and presentations delivered e.g. at the IAIA conference in Geneva, the Easy Eco Conference in Brussels, the Berlin Conference on the Human Dimension of Global Environmental Change.

● IT facilities

An Email list and a web site have been set up to support interaction with the many different communities and actors with interests in IA. The IA bulletin and the IA innovation report are being published through these channels. Furthermore, an Open Access Server has been set up to make LIAISE publications widely available free of charge. The current version of the LIAISE website currently online is provisional and intends to provide basic information on the NoE. This version will be replaced with a dynamic and enhanced website in Fall 2010. [[PROVISIONAL WEBSITE](#)]

Bioscore tool

- The BioScore tool assesses biodiversity impacts of biofuel plantations. Containing indicator values on the ecological preferences of more than 1000 species the tool assesses possible impacts of changing environmental variables. [[READ MORE](#)]

Research internet platform for policy impact assessment

- Researchers at the IAIA established a research internet platform, which also includes a special section for policy impact assessment. The platform is in a two-month testing phase since mid-May. [[READ MORE](#)]

Climate Competitiveness Index

- The Climate Competitiveness Index is a new analysis of how countries create enduring economic value through low carbon technology, products and services. [[READ MORE](#)]

IA and SD policies

New ESDN Quarterly Report

- The European Sustainable Development Network has published its quarterly report on "Future studies in the governance for sustainable development: Overview of different tools and their contribution to public policy making". [[READ MORE](#)]

Report calls for EU carbon footprinting standards

- European Commission president José Manuel Barroso Europe has received a report on a new strategy for a single market commissioned to Prof. Mario Monti in 2009. The report states that Europe should create a single market for green products by developing EU standards for measuring and auditing their carbon footprints. [[PRESS STATEMENT](#)] [[REPORT](#)]

Czech Republic: Updated NSDS

- The Czech Republic has updated its national strategy for Sustainable Development under the title "Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development in the Czech Republic". [[READ MORE](#)]

Wales, UK: 8th Annual Report on SD

- Wales has published its eighth report on progress towards sustainable development, covering the financial year 2008-2009. [[READ MORE](#)]

Europe 2020

- The European Commission introduced its strategy "Europe 2020" in early March, and the European Council discussed and approved it on 25-26 March 2010. [[READ MORE](#)]

Land in Europe: prices, taxes and use patterns

- Developments in land use patterns across Europe are generating considerable concern, particularly in relation to achievement of environmental goals. [[READ MORE](#)]

Evaluation of the Lisbon Strategy

- The European Commission has published its evaluation of the Lisbon Strategy. [[READ MORE](#)]

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LIAISE - *Linking Impact Assessment Instruments to Sustainability Expertise* has received funding under the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) THEME 6 Environment (including Climate Change). Grant agreement n° 243826. EC Project Officer : Peter De Smedt

