



EDITORIAL by Klaus Jacob and Anna-Lena Guske (FU Berlin) and Sander Janssen (Alterra)

The mission of LIAISE is to build up a broad interdisciplinary community of research institutes and researchers in the field of policy impact assessment (IA). So far, research within the LIAISE network mainly focuses on the environmental and economic dimensions. However, it is the aim of LIAISE to cover the full spectrum of environmental, social and economic impacts.

Therefore, LIAISE aims at expanding its network to integrate competences in all three areas of sustainable development and to deepen the cooperation with other institutes of the IA research community. As a first step towards this expansion of the Centre of Excellence in the field of IA, the LIAISE consortium invited two research institutes with competences in the field of social impact assessment to become associate partners of LIAISE: The Institute of Occupational Medicine (IOM) and the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA).

The [Institute of Occupational Medicine](#) (IOM) is a UK based institute carrying out research in the fields of occupational and environmental health, hygiene and safety. The IOM employs specialists in epidemiology and risk assessment, human exposure assessment and measurement, etc., drawing upon the expertise of their medical, scientific and technical staff across three streams of work: research, consulting and services. Hence, the IOM provides a range of health and safety solutions encompassing many diseases and risk factors. The IOM works for government agencies, local authorities, private healthcare providers, large industrial concerns and small businesses, and others mainly within the UK but also across the world.

The [Institute for the Study of Labor](#) (IZA) is a research institute located in Bonn, Germany, that conducts labor market research with a focus on the national as well as international level cooperating closely with the Economics Department at the University of Bonn. Their main research focus is on the analysis of problems associated with the organization of labor in a rapidly developing globalized economic environment. Beyond fundamental research, IZA also provides policy advice on today's labor market issues and offers information on crucial issues of labor market policy to the general public. IZA considers itself as an international research institute that fosters communication between academic science, politics, and economic practice.

The IOM, IZA and the LIAISE consortium anticipate a large potential for developing synergies and complementarities from this collaboration. Beyond that, further options are investigated to continue the enlargement of the network of IA institutions and to integrate IA competences from different policy areas in the LIAISE network. We also invite experts to become engaged in LIAISE and in Impact Assessment for sustainable development, as contributors to and lead editors of the LIAISE Toolbox. If you want to become involved in LIAISE in one or the other role, please contact us at info@liaise-noe.eu.



All the items marked with this icon are related to LIAISE Offspring: Early Career Scientists Support Forum

LIAISE News

● **LIAISE Workshop on "Transport and Innovation in Policy Impact Assessment"**

A LIAISE workshop on "Transport and Innovation in policy impact assessment" will be held in Brussels on 5-6 March, 2013. Policy makers and researchers will jointly discuss options and challenges for transport and innovation aspects in European policy making, specifically IA. The results will contribute to the LIAISE Shared Research Agenda.

● **LIAISE Innovation Report No. 5, 'Transdisciplinarity'**

The 5th issue of the LIAISE Innovation Report deals with transdisciplinarity. It reflects the fact that knowledge production is increasingly transgressing the (disciplinary) boundaries of science and is becoming more inter- and transdisciplinary. Researchers are engaging in forms of research characterised by the integration of different bodies of knowledge for complex problem solving. This is largely driven by a demand from society for re-thinking research strategies and coping with the current problems of unsustainability in our societies.

● **OECD Discloses Impact Assessment Studies**

The OECD has just disclosed the results of two studies on impact assessments that have been conducted by the Environmental Policy Research Centre at FU Berlin. The first study "Sustainability in Impact Assessments: A Review of Impact Assessment Systems in selected OECD countries and the European Commission" focuses on the consideration of sustainability aspects in impact assessments. The second study "Integrating the Environment in Regulatory Impact Assessment" discusses ways of improving consideration of the environment in regulatory impact assessments; it also includes a focus on climate assessments.

● **LIAISE Session "Making Knowledge Work - Interactive Approaches to Science-Policy-Society Relations" at IPA 2013 Conference**

The 8th International Interpretive Policy Analysis (IPA) conference will be held on "Societies in Conflict: Experts, Publics and Democracy" from 3-5 July 2013 in Vienna. LIAISE will organise a panel entitled "Making Knowledge Work - Interactive Approaches to Science-Policy-Society Relations" (Session 31, convenors: Sabine Weiland, FU Berlin, and Marta Perez-Soba, ALTERRA). Abstract submission is possible until 28 February.

Publications from the LIAISE network

● **LIAISE Working Paper No.5: Policy-relevant Assessment Method of Socio-Economic Impacts of Floods: An Italian Case**

This paper estimates the direct and indirect socio-economic impacts of the 2000 flood that took place in the Po river basin (Italy) using a combination of Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model and Spatial and Multi-Criteria Analysis. The indirect economic losses are assessed using the CGE model, whereas the direct social and economic impacts are estimated with spatial analysis tools combined with Multi-Criteria Analysis.

● **IA Tools Applied to Impact Assessment of EU Policies in Agriculture and Environment**

This paper by B. Manos, Th. Bournaris, Ch. Moulougianni and S. Arampatzis aims to provide a review of the IA tools applied for the assessment of the EU policies in agriculture and environment, to analyse them and to classify them by different criteria according to the policy that they have been applied to and by the impacts that they have been measured. International Journal of Environment and Sustainable Development, Vol. 12, No. 2, 2013

● **Policy Relevant Sustainability Research**

The publication 'Policy Relevant Sustainability Research' guides various kinds of interested parties by providing detailed actor-specific requirement profiles for policy relevant sustainability research that aims to bridge specific knowledge to bear on policy issues relating to sustainable development.

● **New Book: Dismantling Public Policy: Preferences, Strategies and Effects**

Researchers in the Tyndall Centre at University of East Anglia have just produced the first comparative analysis of policy dismantling in different policy fields. Policy dismantling is a distinctive form of policy change, which involves the cutting, reduction, diminution or complete removal of existing policies. This book looks at the dynamics of cutting in two different policy fields: social policy and environmental policy.

Events&Calls

● **Young Researchers Workshop "New Climate Policy"**



The organisers of the Young Researchers Workshop "New Climate Policy", which will take place on 12 March, 2013 in Friedrichshafen, Germany, are now inviting thesis papers by young/early career researchers at post-graduate or early post-doc level. The abstracts should address the possible directions of a "New Climate Politics". The workshop will be followed by an evening plenary with Steve Rayner, Roger Pielke, and Klaus Hasselmann (former Director of the Max-Planck-Institute of Meteorology, Hamburg).

- **26th PhD Workshop on International Climate Policy - Studies in Economics, Politics and Social Science**



The ICP workshops series is organized semi-annually under the auspices of the European PhD Network on International Climate Policy. It aims to offer doctoral candidates the opportunity to present their research ideas and results, receive feedback and assistance in an informal and interdisciplinary setting. The 26th ICP workshop, to be held from 25-26 April, 2013 in Paris, will cover topics of relevance for climate change mitigation and adaptation, such as: climate change and energy economics, media and discourse research on climate change policies, climate change negotiations and new climate governance architectures, policy instrument design and market mechanisms, among others.

- **Nordic Environmental Social Science Conference - Welcome to the Anthropocene**

Although the need for more sustainable ways of living is well-recognized, respective policy efforts to halt 'old' problems caused by human behavior such as climate change, excessive consumption and a degradation of the environment and biodiversity are only slowly taking effect. The organizers of the Nordic Environmental Social Sciences Conference, to be held from 11-13 June, 2013 in Copenhagen, Denmark, are calling to submit papers contributing to stimulate a new thinking, which goes beyond current paradigms acknowledging that humankind is already facing a new age, namely the Anthropocene.

Policies

- **Nicholas Stern Admits Climate Change is Far Worse**

Lord Stern, author of the 2006 UK government-commissioned review on climate change that became the reference work for politicians and green campaigners, now says he underestimated the risks, and should have been more 'blunt' about the threat posed to the economy by rising temperatures.

- **The UK Conservative Party Will Seek to Renegotiate EU Environmental Laws**

The UK government wishes to renegotiate the EU's environmental policy powers, prime minister David Cameron said on 23 January. Cameron made the comment shortly after giving a major speech on the UK's relationship with the EU. The speech did not detail which areas of environmental legislation the party feels need to be weakened. However, political insiders feel there are several areas the Conservatives would ask to be changed including, renewables; habitats and birds Directives; air quality; the Water Framework Directive and the Common Agricultural Policy. They have even discussed withdrawal from the latter.

- **2012 Offshore Wind Targets Missed**

A report by the EU energy sector warns that member states have fallen 14% short of their collective targets for installed offshore wind capacity by the end of 2012. The report by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) claims that the total capacity was just under 5GW in 2012, 0.8GW short of the pledges in their national renewable energy action plans (NREAPs).

Training



- **Post-Graduate Course: The Art of Crop Modelling, Quantifying Crop Growth in Face of Global Food Security and Climate Effects**

This course, which will be held from 4-8 March, 2013 in Wageningen, Netherlands, teaches the principles of crop growth modelling for early career researchers. Crop models allow to simulate the growth and development of annual and perennials crops, often in interaction with the environment. This course focuses on the core aspects of the various available models, in the representation of processes of growth and development through dynamic modelling techniques.



- **Summer School on Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM) in Europe**

This year's EITM Summer School, to be held from 16-28 June, 2013, will focus on theoretical and empirical foundations. In the first week, the theoretical models addressed span game theory, spatial theory, public choice theories, agent-based and behavioral economics models as well as general equilibrium models. Empirical methods covered include inferential and Bayesian statistics, experimental and computational methods, and quantitative text analysis. The second week's class will focus on selection and strategic modelling.

- **IMPACT Course on Health Impact Assessment (HIA)**

The International Health Impact Assessment Consortium (IMPACT) will be running its comprehensive HIA Training Course on 17 June, and again later in the year on 11 November, 2013. Short, online introductory courses are also planned for 15 April and 1 July.

- **Landscape Functions and People - Strategic Approaches for Climate Smart, Sustainable and Productive Landscapes**

The Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation is offering a course on "Strategic Approaches for Climate Smart, Sustainable and Productive Landscapes" taking place from 18-29 November, 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The main course objective is to familiarize the course participants with current landscape approaches and to develop practical skills and experience in the use of principles and tools for landscape level planning, monitoring and implementation in their own working environment.

Links

- **RESPONDER: Linking Sustainable Consumption and Production with Growth Debates**

RESPONDER is a European project funded within the 7th EU Framework Programme aiming to link research and policy-making in the field of sustainable consumption with academic debates about economic growth. Part of the RESPONDER project is a series of knowledge brokerage events taking place across Europe, each of which dealing with specific topics of sustainable consumption and production.

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 laise@feem.it



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