



EDITORIAL by Stefan Reis (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, CEH) and Melanie Heyde (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ)

The LIAISE postgraduate training courses aim at both acquiring in-depth knowledge on impact assessment and procedures in specific areas within IA for Sustainable Development, as well as broadening the candidates' scientific scope and competences.

The LIAISE Winter School in January 2012, which was organised and hosted by UFZ in Leipzig, had a general focus on modelling and tools for impact assessment. In April 2013, a Spring School will take place in Edinburgh, Scotland, and address the specific areas of **Biodiversity and Ecosystem services** and include **valuation methods**, with a particular focus on tool use in that area. Lectures and practical activities during the spring school will introduce participants specifically to the application of tools for assessing and valuing biodiversity losses and corresponding impacts on ecosystem service provision, for instance with regard to adaptation to or mitigation of climate change effects. The organizers draw on the manifold and interdisciplinary experiences of their home institutions in this area, including researchers working in large-scale European research projects (e.g. [CLIMSAVE](#), [OPEN-NESS](#), [OPERAs](#), [ECLAIRE](#)).

The LIAISE training course intends to deliver an overview and new insights into different tools and assessment methods to participants in early stages of their career (PhD or MSc students), from academia, research institutions and policy/regulatory backgrounds. Participants will learn how tools can be used for biodiversity assessments and how data sets can be evaluated.

The LIAISE Spring School will combine different approaches from natural sciences as well as from other fields related to ecosystem services and will incorporate lectures, as well as practical training sessions with hands-on applications and group work with IA tools. Furthermore, discussions and short presentations/poster presentations of the participants' own research projects will be key elements of the Spring School.

More details and the call for applications can be found in the LIAISE news section below.

LIAISE News

LIAISE Spring School 2013 on "Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Assessment and Valuation Tools"

LIAISE invites applicants for the LIAISE Spring School which will be held in Edinburgh from 15-19 April, 2013 organised by the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH) in close collaboration with the Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Germany. The focus of the LIAISE Spring School will be on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services and valuation methods, with a particular focus on tool use in that area. Deadline for application is 15 January, 2013.

Tools in the Policy Formulation Process

The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK is inviting applications for fully funded places in a small, research-intensive workshop examining the role of analytical tools within the policy formulation process. The workshop, which will take place in London in March 2013, will examine: how various tools are selected and combined, and by whom, in different venues; how institutional, cultural and organisational contexts shape tool use; how the influence of tools on policy may be addressed; and how far tool use can be explained using theories and methods of public policy, political science, regulation, public administration, evidence use and evaluation.

Linking Policy Impact Assessment and Sustainability Expertise: LIAISE Workshop on the Concept of Ecosystem Services in Policy Assessment

A LIAISE workshop on "Ecosystem services in policy impact assessment" was held in Villa Vigoni, Italy, from 18-21 October, 2012. The event was organised by the Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) e.V. in cooperation with DG Joint Research Centre (JRC), Ispra, and brought together researchers and experts working in the field of ecosystem services in policy and practice. The documentation from this workshop is now available!

Publications from the LIAISE network

LIAISE Working Paper No.4: The LIAISE Approach for Co-designing Knowledge on Impact Assessment Tools

Impact Assessment (IA) intends to collect evidence on the likely impacts of new policies and thereby minimize unwanted side-effects and maximize the benefits to society. Although it is a requirement in the EC and all OECD countries, the scope and methods vary considerably.

A Framework for Structuring Interdisciplinary Research Management

The paper presents an interdisciplinary research management framework that makes coordinator functions explicit and plausible. The framework aims to facilitate structured planning, conducting and evaluating of management activities for large interdisciplinary projects.

An Assessment of the Impact of Climate Adaptation Measures to Reduce Flood Risk on Ecosystem Services

The paper presents an integrative land use modeling approach to assess impacts of climate change adaptation measures that involve modification of land use and land use planning practices on the provision of various ecosystem goods and services for the European Union. The results indicate a large spatial variation in the consequences of the adaptation measures on the provisioning of ecosystem services.

From Acid Rain to Climate Change

In this Policy Forum commentary entitled "From Acid Rain to Climate Change" LIAISE researcher Stefan Reis (CEH) and colleagues discuss how scientists and policy makers working together have developed and implemented policies to improve air quality and reduce the impacts of air pollution on human health and ecosystems over the last decades.

Challenges for Land System Science

While considerable progress has been made in understanding land use change, land system science continues to face a number of grand challenges. The paper discusses these challenges with a focus on empirical land system studies, land system modelling and the analysis of future visions of land system change.

Assessment of N and P Status at the Landscape Scale Using Environmental Models and Measurements

The paper assesses the compliance of a Dutch landscape, dominated by dairy farming, with environmental quality standards using a combination of model calculations and measurements. The results suggest that compliance monitoring at the landscape scale needs to include source indicators and cannot be based on state indicators alone.

Events&Calls

Call for Sessions: 2nd Global Land Project - Open Science Meeting 2014

The 2nd Open Science Meeting of 2014 "Land Transformation: between global challenges and local realities", will take place from 19-21 March, 2014 in Berlin, Germany. The conference aims to discuss the role of the land system as a platform for human-environment interactions, which connect local land use decisions to global impacts and responses. The call for session proposals is open until 5 January, 2013.

Call for Papers: Thematic Issue "Modelling Systemic Change in Coupled Socio-environmental Systems"

Guest Editors: Gary Polhill, Tatiana Filatova, Maja Schlüter and Alexey Voinov. This thematic issue of Environmental Modelling and Software focuses on modelling systemic change in coupled socio-environmental systems, with an emphasis on how model design is (or should be) aimed at representing the processes and consequences of systemic

changes, and how such changes may be governed.

- **1st European Conference on Technology Assessment: Technology Assessment and Policy Areas of Great Transitions**

The 1st European Conference on Technology Assessment "Technology Assessment and Policy Areas of Great Transitions" will take place from 13-15 March, 2013 in Prague, Czech Republic. It will address issues of technology assessment in relation to policy areas of great transitions, such as health care and medicine, energy supply, climate change and mobility in addition to the use of computer technology in all areas of society.

- **ICPP 2013: 1st International Conference on Public Policy - Panel Session on "The Context and Use of Ex ante Evaluation within Governments"**

The 1st International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP 2013) will take place from 26-28 June, 2013 in Grenoble, France aims to join together all of the researchers who work on public policy and their different approaches and topics. Of particular relevance in the LIAISE context is the panel session "The context and use of ex ante evaluation within governments". It aims to enhance the development of empirical and conceptual understandings of ex-ante evaluation as a mechanism to support policy making and to strengthen policy analytical capacity within governments.

- **Energy Systems in Transition: Inter- and Transdisciplinary Contributions**

The Helmholtz Alliance ENERGY-TRANS has launched the Call for Papers for the conference "Energy Systems in Transition: Inter- and Transdisciplinary Contributions", which will take place from 9-11 October, 2013 in Karlsruhe, Germany. The main objective is to gain a better understanding about the conditions, dynamics and impacts of energy transitions towards sustainability. The deadline for submitting papers is 14 February, 2013.

- **Climate Change Research Symposium and Resources for Early-Career Scholars**

The Dissertations Initiative for the Advancement of Climate Change Research (DISCCRS) catalyzes interdisciplinary collegial interactions and professional development necessary for successful careers dedicated to understanding climate change and mitigating its impacts. DISCCRS is inviting applications for its 8th Climate Change Research Symposium for early-career scholars. The event will take place from 12-19 October, 2013 at the La Foret Conference Centre in Colorado Springs, CO.



Policies

- **Commission Publishes New Environmental Action Programme (7th EAP) to 2020**

The European Commission published its new Environmental Action Plan (7EAP) on 29 November, 2012 which sets the EU's policy priorities in this area until 2020. The implementation of environmental legislation, policy integration and improving the science policy interface are emphasised.

- **Too Late for Two Degrees? - New Report by PWC**

A new report by Pricewaterhouse Coopers claims that ambitions to limit warming to 2°C appear highly unrealistic. The report shows that global carbon intensity decreased between 2000 and 2011 by around 0.8% a year. The global economy now needs to cut carbon intensity by 5.1% every year from now to 2050. Keeping to the 2°C carbon budget will require sustained and unprecedented reductions over four decades.

- **Climate Conference of the Parties Closes in Doha**

The 18th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 18) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Doha, Qatar between 26 November and 8 December, 2012. The outcome has been hailed by environmental groups as one of the weakest yet, with governments returning without any major new pledges on cutting carbon or on a new climate finance package for developing countries.



Training

- **CMCC-ICCG Summer School: Climate Change Impacts and Policy in the Mediterranean Basin**

The CMCC-ICCG Summer School will take place from 20-29 May, 2013 in Venice, Italy. The summer school will be about "Climate Change Impacts and Policy in the Mediterranean Basin". The course will address issues of climate change impacts, energy consumption, agriculture, climate change adaptation, and climate change governance in the Mediterranean Basin.



- **Master and PhD Programme 'GAVA - Governance for Sustainability'**

The newly introduced Master and PhD Programme "Governance for Sustainable Development" that has been developed in the scope of the EU GAVA Project is now open for applications.



- **Post-Graduate course - The Art of Crop Modelling, Quantifying crop growth in face of global food security and climate effects through modelling tools**

This course 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 (i.e. soil, nitrogen, water, air). Many different models are available, a recent inventory lead to a total of 250. This course focuses on the core aspects of these models, in the representation of processes of growth and development through dynamic modelling techniques.



- **42nd GESIS Spring Seminar "Aspects of Statistical Modeling with Survey Data"**

GESIS has organised its 42nd Spring Seminar. This time the lectures will address "Aspects of statistical modeling with survey data". The lectures will take place from 25 February to 15 March, 2013 at various universities in Spain, The Netherlands and South Africa.



- **PhD Course on Europeanization**

Given to its multidisciplinary character the PhD course on Europeanization is designed to attract students from a broad range of disciplines, such as European studies, political science, public administration, law, policy sciences, environmental sciences and spatial planning. The course will be held from 25-29 March, 2013.



Links

- **Making Housing in Europe More Sustainable - Science and Policy Experts Propose New Research Agenda**

Recent research indicates that one third of average citizen's total environmental impact is caused by housing. The European knowledge brokerage consortium CORPUS outlines research needs for moving towards sustainable housing in Europe. In order to develop a new research agenda for sustainable housing in Europe, more than 100 experts from science and policy are involved in the debate.



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



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.

