



EDITORIAL by Aranka Podhora, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)

Early career researchers (Ph.D. candidates, post-docs, pre-docs, master students) play an important role in creating a stable scientific impact assessment community. Their research provides excellent results on specialised topics related to the assessment of policies. Therefore, the LIAISE early career scientists' support forum – called LIAISEoffspring – was established to support all the interested early career scientists who work on impact assessment related topics.

LIAISEoffspring cordially invites **both LIAISE and non-LIAISE early career researchers** to join in order to get support for developing their academic career. This mainly occurs by three means:

- **Staying informed on IA related topics and news:** The LIAISE IA Bulletin, from this issue on, highlights with the LIAISEoffspring icon those items that are particularly interesting for early career researchers. Also, the LIAISE website offers information on events, training, jobs, funding opportunities etc. that are particularly suitable for early-career researchers - these are tagged with the keyword [Offspring](#).
- **Exchanging and learning from others:** LIAISE supports early-career researchers in different respects, in particular with regard to facilitating research exchange with LIAISE institutions, facilitating joint dissemination through participation in relevant conferences, and capacity-building through [LIAISE training](#) for early career researchers.
- **Presenting your research and expertise:** Early career researchers may upload abstracts of their research (e.g. Master theses, Ph.D. theses, both concluded or current) to the [LIAISEoffspring research section](#).

ZALF (Katharina Helming/ Aranka Podhora, [Aranka.Podhora@zalf.de](mailto:Aranka.Podhora@zalf.de)) and FEEM Jacopo Crimi ([liaise@feem.it](mailto:liaise@feem.it)) act as facilitators for LIAISEoffspring. Please, do not hesitate to contact us for further questions or comments.

## LIAISE News

### • [LIAISE Toolbox Update No. 6: Toolbox Beta Testing](#)

The Toolbox Beta version is making good progress. We have continuously been working to improve the platform functionality. A revision process for the content has been implemented. Currently we are working hard to merge the Alpha faceted search into the Beta version. Along the way, we have learned a lot about our domain and how it can be represented by means of taxonomies and ontologies. Before calling for wider contributions from the entire LIAISE Network, the Beta Version will be tested at the LIAISE Toolbox Testing Workshop in Berlin, on 28 November, 2012.

### • [2012 Berlin Conference - A Great Success](#)

This year's Berlin Conference on "Evidence for Sustainable Development", held from 5-6 October, has been a great success. About 250 participants from more than 40 countries gathered at the Freie Universität Berlin to present their research, meet colleagues and discuss the latest trends in research on the knowledge basis of political decisions for sustainable development, the construction of evidence, and evidence use in decision-making. The conference was organised by the Environmental Policy Research Centre at Freie Universität Berlin, in collaboration with LIAISE. The conference film and some photo impressions of the conference are now available on the conference website at [http://www.berlinconference.org/2012/?page\\_id=1081](http://www.berlinconference.org/2012/?page_id=1081).

### • [Ongoing Evaluation of the LIAISE Project](#)

The Ecologic Institute has been commissioned to conduct an ongoing evaluation of LIAISE which will accompany the project over its course. The main focus of the evaluation is to provide timely feedback in order to induce critical reflexions during the course of the project. This enables the project actors to consider and if necessary, undertake adjustments in order to reach long-term project impacts. The results from the first evaluation round are now available.

### • [LIAISE Workshop on "The Concept of Ecosystem Services in Policy Impact Assessment"](#)

A LIAISE workshop on ecosystem services in impact assessment was held in Vigoni, Italy, from 18-21 October, 2012. The event was organised by ZALF in cooperation with JRC and attended by seventeen researchers and policy makers. Starting from the fact that the European IA Guidelines (2009) refer to the impact area "Biodiversity, flora, fauna and landscapes" and do not embrace the concept of ecosystem services, the participants discussed options for including this concept in the policy making process. The results contribute to the development of the LIAISE shared research agenda.

## Publications from the LIAISE network

### • [LIAISE Policy Brief No. 1 "Impact Assessment Systems and Tools in Europe: Current Practices and User Expectations"](#)

LIAISE Policy Brief No. 1 on "Systems and Tools in Europe: Current Practices and User Expectations" has just been published. This policy brief presents the key findings on the most comprehensive survey yet conducted of user needs and expectations with regard to Impact Assessment (IA) systems and tools in 17 European countries. A more detailed description of the survey's results can be found in the LIAISE Innovation Report No. 2 dated January 2011.

### • [The LIAISE Approach to Unite Researchers and Practitioners in a Community of Experts on Impact Assessment](#)

The LIAISE Network is designed to bridge the gaps between researchers with a strong orientation towards their (disciplinary) peers and practitioners who tend to focus on their policy domain and policy problems. A lively interaction between the different communities involved is essential. This paper presents the LIAISE approach to bridging this gap, in particular with regard to the proliferation of IA tools from the scientific community and their actual use in the policy process.

### • [Sustainable Development, Evaluation and Policy-Making: Theory, Practice and Quality Assurance](#)

The new book 'Sustainable Development, Evaluation and Policy-Making' edited by Anneke von Raggamby and Frieder Rubik contributes to the discourse of evidence-based policy-making. It does so by combining the two issues of policy evaluation and sustainable development and linking both to the policy-cycle. LIAISE researchers Katharina Helming and Katharina Diehl (ZALF) contributed a paper on "Integrated Approaches for Ex-Ante Impact Assessment Tools: The Example of Land Use".

### • [Environmental Policy: Governing by Multiple Policy Instruments?](#)

This chapter from Andrew Jordan and colleagues sets out how the EU uses multiple policy instruments in its environmental policy. It seeks to answer questions such as, have the EU's new modes and instruments replaced regulation, combined with it, or replaced it altogether? And what does the (un)changing pattern of policy instrument use at EU level tell us about the functioning of a policy state at EU level, bearing in mind the historical associations that are often made between statehood and the capacity to utilize particular types of policy instruments?

## Events&Calls

### • [Submit Thematic Sessions' Proposals for EAERE 2013](#)

The 20th Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists will be held in Toulouse on 26-29 June, 2013. The deadline for submitting Thematic Sessions proposals is upcoming 1 December, while the call for papers expires on 1 February, 2013.

### • [STREAM and STEP-WISE Final Conference "Science-policy Interfacing in Water Management"](#)

STEP-WISE and STREAM projects are jointly organising their final conference on 3-4 December, 2012 in Brussels, presenting concrete instruments to facilitate the dialogue between researchers, politicians and research-users. The first day will focus on presenting, evaluating and discussing practical tools to improve communication and

dissemination of project research results. On the second day, MEPs, national and regional politicians, researchers and industry representatives will discuss the tools, needs and recommendations in a panel debate at the European Parliament on how to further improve Science-policy Interfacing.

- **Envecon 2013 - Applied Environmental Economics Conference**

The UK Network of Environmental Economists (UKNEE) is calling for the submission of papers for its annual Applied Environmental Economics Conference, to be held on 15 March, 2013. The conference brings together environmental economists from public and private sectors, academia and consultancy to share results of recent research and to discuss issues relevant to the practical application of environmental economics in the UK and elsewhere.

- **Conference "Transformation in a Changing Climate"**

The "Transformation in a Changing Climate" conference, to be held in Oslo, Norway, on 19-21 June, 2012, aims to bring together diverse perspectives on deliberate transformation in response to climate change. The conference will serve as a creative, innovative and inspirational gathering that catalyzes new insights on transformation processes and the implications for research, policy and practice. Such insights will contribute to international transdisciplinary research initiatives, including Future Earth.

- **13th International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology (CEST 2013)**

The 13th International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology (CEST2013) will take place from 5 to 9 September, 2013 in Athens, Greece. The biennial event is one of the worldwide leading environmental conferences. The closing date for the submission of abstracts is 1 November, 2012.

## Policies

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- **Review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive**

As a result of the review and public consultation process that has started in 2010, the Commission adopted a proposal for a new Directive on 26 October, 2012 to amend the current Directive. The proposal is intended to lighten unnecessary administrative burdens and make it easier to assess potential impacts, without weakening existing environmental safeguards. The quality of the decision-making process will be reinforced, current levels of environmental protection will be improved, and businesses should enjoy a more harmonised regulatory framework.

- **EEB Annual Conference - Rio+20 Follow-up in Europe**

The EEB's 2012 Annual Conference, which took place on 1 October 2012, focused on what the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference - both its successes and its failures - means for Europe. The conference examined to what extent Rio+20 has changed the environment and sustainable development governance framework and provided a stimulus to a greener economy; and what tools and opportunities it has provided for addressing future challenges.


- **European Commission Work Programme for 2013**

The European Commission has adopted its Work Programme for 2013. The overarching task remains to return the EU to sustainable growth which requires targeted action in a limited number of key policy areas. The Work Programme includes a new climate and energy package for the period up to 2030.

## Training

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- **2013 CCES Winter School on "Science Meets Practice"**

 How can scientists lead a true dialogue with people and institutions outside the scientific community? This is the topic of the CCES Winter School "Science Meets Practice", which will be held in Wislikofen, Switzerland, from 7-10 January and 4-7 February, 2013. The School supports exchange efforts and enhances capability to create interactions beyond scientific boundaries.

- **UNITAR E-Learning Course: Strengthening the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD)**

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research is offering an E-Learning course with the topic 'Strengthening the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development' (IFSD). The target groups of the course are civil servants, diplomats, environmental managers, researchers and students or citizens being interested in obtaining a general understanding about international sustainable development and latest developments.

## Links

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- **The IRS Handbook - Analysing Institutional and Political Contexts of Water Resources Management**

The IRS Handbook, developed within the scope of the 'WaRM-In' project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, provides an analytical framework to refine research projects and programmes in both planning and implementation phases. The rationale for this is that projects objectives should be context-specific, oriented to the problems in a particular place and aware of the existing institutional and political arrangements found there.

- **New Carbon Emissions Mapping System**

Researchers at Arizona State University have developed a new software system called 'Hestia' capable of estimating greenhouse gas emissions on a city level scale, all the way down to roads and individual buildings. Until now, scientists have only been able to quantify carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions at a much broader level.

- **CLUES - New Tool for Strategic Planning**

A new tool for strategic planning has been developed as an output of the CLUES project (Challenging Lock-in through Urban Energy Systems). The tool provides information on local case studies of urban energy initiatives, an interactive self-evaluation tool for assessing drivers, barriers and capacities for developing such initiatives and two scenarios for 2050 futures with guidance on their use on local strategy development.

## Jobs & Funding

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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](mailto:liaise@feem.it)



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