



EDITORIAL by Klaus Jacob (FU Berlin)

The research policies and programmes of the European Union and the Member States are increasingly geared towards achieving societal goals and an impact beyond mere scientific objectives. Science is expected to deliver marketable innovation and provide the evidence base of societal decision-making. At the same time, sustainable development remains to be a priority of European policies. This is first and foremost reflected in the Europe 2020 Strategy and also taken up in other European policies. However, the challenges and priorities have shifted and accordingly research policies will have to adapt to these altered needs. Against this background, it is important to understand to which extent and by what mechanisms research has contributed to achieving societal goals in the past.

This knowledge of impacts of research projects and programmes contributes to establishing an evidence basis of research programming, which support future research policies and eventually the ex-ante impact assessment of research policies with regard to their contribution to Sustainable Development. In addition, more participatory approaches to define the future research agenda may be explored to better understand and serve the needs of societal actors. During a workshop held on 15 April, 2013 in Brussels, organized by DG RTD in collaboration with LIAISE, a number of researchers presented their projects and discussed their findings regarding the contributions of research for sustainable development in Europe.

For example, the project "Monitoring the FP7 contribution to the renewed EU SD Strategy" ([www.fp7-4-sd.eu](http://www.fp7-4-sd.eu)), presented by Andre Martinuzzi, and the stocktaking of FP6 and FP7 research undertaken within LIAISE WP2 and presented by Aranka Podhara demonstrated various approaches to ex-post evaluation of research projects and programmes (see recent [publication](#)). The projects Eco-Innovation Observatory (<http://www.eco-innovation.eu/>) presented by Michal Miedzinski, and Environmental Macro Indicators of Innovation ([www.eminn.eu](http://www.eminn.eu)) presented by Philipp Schepelmann aim to provide comprehensive information on the environmental impacts of innovation and to develop methodologies for their monitoring. Furthermore, tools and toolboxes for the ex-ante impact assessment were presented by Zsolt Pataki from JRC and Klaus Jacob from LIAISE. Developing visions and strategies for a research agenda for sustainable development were presented from different angles by Katharina Helming (LIAISE), Anna Ledin ([www.visionrd4sd.eu](http://www.visionrd4sd.eu)) and Sander Janssen (LIAISE). The meeting was introduced and complemented by contributions from representatives from different services from the EC (Sec Gen, ENV, RTD, JRC) who presented on-going and planned activities in Impact Assessment, research and environmental policies. LIAISE aims to continue promoting the contribution of research to sustainable development in the future.



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

## LIAISE News

### • [LIAISE Toolbox Update No. 9: Workshop with Toolbox Lead Editors](#)

To maintain the quality of the content of the LIAISE Toolbox, the role of Lead Editors for impact areas and for families of Methods was established. Lead editors are responsible for the quality and for keeping the content for their section up-to-date. They invite other experts in this field to upload their profile to the LIAISE Toolbox, add relevant publications and invite modellers to contribute their model description. If you are interested to become part of the network of Lead Editors, please contact [liaise@zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:liaise@zedat.fu-berlin.de).

### • [New Associated Partners of LIAISE Network](#)

The mission of LIAISE is to build up a broad interdisciplinary community of research institutes and researchers in the field of policy impact assessment. 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, 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).

### • [LIAISE Meets Alter-Net - Science-policy Interface and Ecosystem Services](#)

LIAISE researcher Tarja Söderman, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and colleagues presented a poster on the LIAISE Network at the ALTER-Net Conference 2013 "Science underpinning the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy". On this occasion, DG Environment representatives raised expectations towards the science community to provide tools which could provide knowledge for identifying sustainable levels for the use of ecosystem services. In this context, the LIAISE Toolbox could provide a platform for ALTER-Net partners to show case their policy relevant methods and models.

### • [LIAISE at Conference on Impact Assessment in Europe](#)

LIAISE researcher John Turmpenny (UEA) spoke as an invited panel member at a conference on "Theory and Practice of Regulatory Impact Assessments in Europe" in Paris on 10 June, 2013. John presented and discussed the LIAISE WP1 work linking tool use across eight EU jurisdictions with motivations for appraising.

## Publications from the LIAISE network

### • [The Policy-Relevancy of Impact Assessment Tools: Evaluating Nine Years of European Research Funding](#)

A new article by Podhara et al. evaluates the relevance of impact assessment (IA) tools. Scientific tools should play an essential role of providing the evidence base to assess the impacts of alternative policy options. This paper analyses the variety of IA tools designed in projects funded by European Framework Programmes 6 and 7. It finds a number of shortcomings, such as unclear tool descriptions available on the internet which may limit the application potential of the tools because of a mismatch of technical terms and categorisation criteria between tool providers and tool users. The article is an outcome of LIAISE Work package 2.

### • [New Edited Volume: Long-Term Governance for Social-Ecological Change](#)

Edited by Bernd Siebenhüner, Marlen Arnold, Klaus Eisenack und Klaus Jacob, Routledge 2013. The book discusses how to tackle long-term social and ecological problems by using different environmental governance approaches to creating sustainable development. It explores opportunities and requirements for the governance of long-term problems, and examines how to achieve a lasting transformation.

### • [Mainstreaming Ecosystem Services in European Policy Impact Assessment](#)

A new paper by Helming et al. on the mainstreaming of ecosystem services in European policy impact assessments discusses the mainstreaming of ecosystem services into policy making which requires a framework that allows the transition of the scientific concept into the rationale of policy making. The authors hypothesize that the procedure of policy impact assessment is a suitable venue for this transition.

### • [Mainstreaming Ecosystem Services into EU Policy](#)

This paper presents a synthesis of the PEER initiative (PEER-Research on Ecosystem Services). In support of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, this initiative demonstrated a multi-scale mapping and assessment approach of ecosystem services using three case studies, including one on water purification, recreation, and pollination.

### • [A Spatially Explicit Scenario-Driven Model of Adaptive Capacity to Global Change in Europe](#)

The paper of Acosta et al. presents the first spatially explicit scenario-driven model of adaptive capacity. The model applied fuzzy logic analysis to combine twelve socio-economic indicators and generate an adaptive capacity index, provides insight into broad patterns of adaptive capacity across Europe, and explains how adaptive capacity changes over time under different global environmental change scenarios. The model can be combined with impact models to support quantitative vulnerability assessment.

### • [Spatially Explicit Computation of Sustainability Indicator Values for the Automated Assessment of Land-Use Options](#)

The paper by Schädler et al. introduces a scheme to transfer the evaluation of site-specific sets of sustainability indicators into automated assessments that can be integrated into multidisciplinary spatial optimization algorithms. It is suggested that a spatially explicit algorithmic evaluation of sustainability indicators may significantly improve the applicability, comprehensiveness and reliability of the indicator-based evaluation of sustainability.

#### • **Participatory Design of Farm Level Adaptation to Climate Risks in an Arable Region in the Netherlands**

This study by Ben Schaap and colleagues from Wageningen UR shows how modelling can be complemented with a semi-quantitative and participatory approach to identify adaptation measures to climate change, which are directly recognizable and relevant for stakeholders.

## Events&Calls

#### • **Systemic Sustainability Management: Complexity, Resilience and Systems Thinking**

Sustainability management and systems thinking include a broad variety of themes, discussed by different scientific communities by using a broad variety of terms. The autumn meeting 2013 on systemic sustainability management calls for abstracts which are able to connect both topics in a new and innovative way.

#### • **Comparative Policy Analysis Conference: Validating Methods For Comparing Public Policy**

A celebratory policy analysis conference - celebrating 15 years to the Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis and 10 years to the International Policy Analysis forum - will be held in Leuven from 27-30 November, 2013. The conference addresses the question of how academics practice methods of comparison; as well, it seeks to generate an advanced understanding of the methods of comparison used by national governments and international institutions.

#### • **Nexus 2014: Water, Food, Climate and Energy Conference**

On 4-7 March, 2013 the "Nexus 2014 Water, Food, Climate and Energy Conference" will be hosted by the Water Institute at the University of North Carolina. The Conference will bring together researchers and practitioners working in government, civil society and business, focusing on the nexus approach. Building on the "Water, Food and Energy Nexus Conference" held in Bonn, Germany in 2011, this Conference aims to address the connected, but distinct, relationships between water, food, climate, energy, security, sustainability and development.

#### • **11th European International Farming Systems Association Symposium**

The 11th European Symposium of the International Farming Systems Association (IFSA) will take place from 1-4 April 2014 in Berlin, Germany. The Conference will focus on challenges for farming systems through climate change, food safety concerns and changing consumption patterns. The call for abstracts is now open.

## Policies

#### • **2°C Objective Can Still Be Met, According to IEA**

In a report published in June to coincide with the latest UNFCCC climate talks in Bonn, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has set out a set of measures it says would still be able to keep global carbon emissions on a trajectory consistent with the objective of limiting mean temperature change to below 2°C. In what it calls a '4-for-2°C Scenario', four energy policies are selected that can deliver significant emissions reductions by 2020. These rely on existing technologies only and have already been adopted successfully in several countries.

#### • **Call for EU Resource Efficiency Targets**

The first report of the EU's high level panel, the Resource Efficiency Platform, has called for ambitious targets on decoupling economic growth from resource use to be set 'as soon as possible'. The report proposes that indicators to measure progress should focus on water, land and material productivity, measured by GDP relative to raw material consumption. However, the report does not propose any resource efficiency targets itself.

#### • **Negotiations on CAP Reform Reach Critical Stage**

Negotiations on reform of the common agriculture policy (CAP) have reached a critical stage, with uncertainty continuing over the fate of the Commission's proposals for 'greening'. In the Commission's original proposal, 30% of direct payments would be conditional on meeting three greening obligations: on crop diversification, permanent grasslands and 'Ecological Focus Areas' (EFAs). Given that the CAP proposal will miss its deadline for implementation next year, the Commission has prepared contingency plans allowing the new measures to be introduced in 2015, with a transitional period in 2014 to shift to a new payments scheme.

## Training



#### • **Short Course: Spatial Multicriteria Analysis for Environmental Decision-Making**

A training course on the use of multicriteria spatial analysis in environmental decision-making will be held by the University of Trento, Italy, from 11-13 September, 2013. The course targets PhD students, research fellows and practitioners.

#### • **Seminar on "Risk Interpretation and Action: Decision-making under Conditions of Uncertainty"**

The International Social Science Council (ISSC) calls for applications for its seminar on "Risk Interpretation and Action: Decision-making under conditions of uncertainty". The seminar for young scientists takes place from 7-15 December, 2013 in Wellington and Christchurch, New Zealand. Participants will become World Social Science Fellows.

## Links

#### • **LSE Handbook on the Impact of Social Sciences: Maximizing the Impact of Academic Research**

The Public Policy Group at LSE has published a guide book for social researchers entitled "Handbook on the Impact of Social Sciences: Maximizing the Impact of Academic Research". It provides a large menu of advice and guidance on how to ensure that your work achieves its maximum visibility and influence with both academic and external audiences. The document is available as PDF download.

#### • **Climate Research Nearly Unanimous: Climate Change is Anthropogenic**

In their article "Quantifying the consensus on anthropogenic global warming in the scientific literature", John Cook and colleagues conclude that climate change is anthropogenic. For their study, they analyzed 11,944 climate abstracts from 1991-2011 matching the topics 'global climate change' or 'global warming'. Among those abstracts that expressed a position on the human impact on climate change, 97,1% stated that human activity is causing global warming.

#### • **Project RESFOOD: Resource Efficient and Safe Food Production And Processing**

RESFOOD is an EU-funded project aiming to achieve maximised resource productivity and recycling and re-use of valuable materials by research and demonstration of the proposed green solutions. The project aspires to have a great impact on the resource efficiency in food production and processing, by big saving and recovery of water, nutrients, energy and recovery of valuable materials from raw agricultural materials.

## 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](mailto:laise@feem.it)



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