



## ■ About LIAISE

### Editorial

by Camilla Adelle, Tyndall Centre, UEA

The widespread diffusion of Impact Assessment (IA) has increased the need for a greater understanding of what affects the demand for and supply of impact assessment tools - such as computer-based models and cost benefit analysis - amongst policy makers. But while there has been a strengthening of political commitment to improve the use of such tools in IA, both researchers and practitioners remain unclear as to which tools are used by whom and for what purpose.

The conventional wisdom - informed by rather limited research - is that the use of IA tools differs quite widely between jurisdictions. Even when tools are embedded in a formal policy assessment system such as IA, their use is differentiated and often very limited, in particular when it comes to more advanced tools. So-called 'simple' tools appear to appeal more strongly to the everyday needs of policy makers than some of the more advanced and complex tools. Lack of time, data, resources and skills are all factors which are thought to constrain the use of more advanced tools. Similarly, tools (such as modeling) appear to be used to understand the impacts of particular options, rather than to open up and explore a range of policy options (using scenarios for example). However, the overall picture of tool (non) use has not yet been fully explored.

LIAISE recognises that more information is needed on high level actors' perspectives - that is the perspective of those officials and other actors that are expected to develop, steer, evaluate and/or undertake IA. LIAISE partners have therefore embarked on the most comprehensive survey thus far of user needs and expectations with regard to IA tool use. It is focusing on those involved with IA in their country at a strategic level (i.e. those people who champion, oversee, guide, audit or write guidance for IA processes rather than officials who carry out IA). Over 120 people in seventeen European countries have been included in the survey so far. Previous surveys of this kind have been either narrower in focus or in less depth. None have focused on the experience and insights of those people involved in steering IA at a strategic level in such depth. The report resulting from this survey will build both a broad and, at the same time, in depth account of user needs and expectations regarding IA processes, IA tools, and IA training. When these insights are put together alongside those of tool developers, it should be possible to reach a better understanding of how to achieve a better connection between the supply of and demand for tools; which is of course one of the strategic goals of LIAISE.

## ■ Upcoming/recently started research projects

### • Developing tools for the assessment of the environmental impacts in Poland

The Freie Universität Berlin is part of a consortium led by the Institute for Structural Research (IBS) in Warsaw which will develop a tool for the assessment of environmental impacts as part of the Polish RIA. The study is commissioned by the Prime Ministers Office in Poland.

### • OECD study on assessing the environmental impacts of planned regulation

The OECD commissioned a study on assessing the environmental impacts of planned regulation to the Freie Universität Berlin. Special focus is given to tools for the assessment on carbon emissions. The study will gather information about recent innovations in this field and discuss the strength and weaknesses of different approaches. The study is part of the OECD efforts to increase the coherence of policy making by improving the requirements and the application of Regulatory Impact Assessment.

### • European Climate Change Impacts Vulnerability and Adaptation Clearinghouse- Implementation Phase 1

Alterra was successful in the DG-ENV's call for tender for the contract: 'European Climate Change Impacts Vulnerability and Adaptation Clearinghouse - Implementation Phase 1'. The Clearinghouse will fulfill a key role in the sharing and mobilization of knowledge and information. It will help European policy makers at different levels of governance, as well as scientists and professionals, to address real policy needs by using existing knowledge and information more effectively than in the current fragmented situation.

### • DG-AGRI on renewable energy and the impact on farmers and the rural economy

Alterra just started a project for DG-AGRI on renewable energy and the impact on farmers and the rural economy. One of the

## ■ Other events

### Past events

### • Workshop on sustainable development strategies and tourism

Paris, 18 June 2010. Co-organised by the Tourism Committee, the Annual Meeting of Sustainable Development Experts (AMSDE), the French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea and the French Ministry of Economy, Industry and Employment, with the technical assistance of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), this workshop examined the development of sustainable tourism strategies and policies and their integration in national and regional sustainable development strategies. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

### • The OECD Urban Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers

Paris, 25 May 2010. This is a unique global platform for addressing urban issues in a forum involving both national and local governments. In addition to its country delegate constituencies (comprised of high-level public officials from the 31 member countries), the OECD works directly with city and regional leaders, and major international associations of local governments. Since March 2007, this process has been formalised through the creation of the OECD Urban Roundtable for Mayors and Ministers, with the objective of fostering ongoing policy dialogue between local and national policy-makers responsible for urban policies. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

### • IUFRO World Congress: Forests for the Future, Sustaining Society and the Environment

Seoul, 23 August 2010. The XXIII International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress, co-organized by IUFRO and the Korea Forest Research Institute, gathered over 2700 participants from international organizations, governments, academia, the private sector and civil society, heard an opening speech by the President of the Republic of Korea Lee Myung-Bak and discussed forest research issues in an opening ceremony, plenary, three sub-plenaries, 12 IUFRO business sessions, 19 technical sessions, and poster sessions. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

### • AgEng 2010

Clermont-Ferrand, 6-8 September 2010. On behalf of the European Society of Agricultural Engineers, EurAgEng and of the French Society of Engineers and Technicians in Mechanization and Agricultural Engineering, SitmAFGR, Cemagref organizes the International Conference on Agricultural Engineering AgEng 2010 that will be held in Clermont-Ferrand, France, on September 6-8, 2010. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

### • German Council for Sustainable Development's 10th Annual Conference "Resetting the clocks: 2050"

Berlin, 27 September 2010. More than 1,000 participants from the fields of politics, business and society are expected to attend the German Council for Sustainable Development's 10th Annual Conference "Resetting the clocks: 2050". The Conference on sustainability, which is the largest of its kind in Germany, will be held at the Berliner Congress Center (bcc) on 27th September 2010. The overriding theme of the event is a vision for the year 2050 - why Germany must continue to work towards long-term sustainability goals in spite of crises and political constraints. The Federal Chancellor will deliver an address on the government's sustainable development policy. The German Council for Sustainable Development was given a new mandate in June 2010 and will be presenting its new members at the Conference. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

### • EEB Annual Conference: Future of EU Environmental Policy

Brussels, 1st October 2010. In 2010 an assessment will be made for DG Environment on the effectiveness and impact of the 6th Environmental Action Programme. The Belgian Presidency deems the 7th EAP as one of its main themes. It is planning a major conference on this issue on 25-26 November 2010 in Brussels. This conference will be preceded by discussions focusing particularly on strategic issues. As climate change will find a special place in the Commission's organisation, an important question will be whether this subject will remain an integral part of the future EU environmental policy vision. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

models developed in the SEAMLESS-FP6 project is used to evaluate the adoption of different forms of renewable energy production.

- **Evaluating Policy Instruments for Sustainable Water Management in Europe (EPI-Water)**  
FEEM will be coordinating this new project funded under the last EC-FP7-ENV call. EPI-Water sets to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of Economic Policy Instruments in achieving water policy goals, and to identify the preconditions under which they complement or perform better than alternative (e.g. regulatory or voluntary) policy instruments.
- **Public health impacts in Urban environments of Greenhouse gas Emissions reduction strategies (PURGE)**  
FEEM will participate in this new research project just funded under the last EC-FP7-ENV call. PURGE will examine the health impacts of greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction policies in urban settings in Europe, China and India, using case studies of 3-4 large urban centres and three smaller urban centres. Sets of realistic interventions will be proposed, tailored to local needs, to meet published abatement goals for GHG emissions for 2020, 2030 and 2050.
- **Vectors of Change in Oceans and Seas Marine Life, Impact on Economic Sectors (VECTORS)**  
FEEM is one of the partners of this new research project just funded under the last EC-FP7-OCEAN call. VECTORS will elucidate the drivers, pressures and vectors that cause changes in marine life, the mechanisms by which they do so, the impacts that they have on ecosystem structures and functioning, and on the economics of associated marine sectors and society.

## Publications

- Brouwer, F M, Ittersum M K van (Eds.) (2010). *Environmental and Agricultural Modelling - Integrated Approaches for Policy Impact Assessment*, Dordrecht : Springer,
- Jacob K (2010). *Regulatory Impact Assessment and Sustainable Development: Towards a Common Framework?* In: European Journal of Risk Regulation. Issue 3/2010, pp. 268-272.
- Helming K, De la Flor I, Diehl K. (2010). *Integrated Approaches for ex-ante impact assessment tools - the example of land use*. In: Raggamby, A. von and F. Rubik (eds.): Sustainable Development, Evaluation and Policy-making. Edward Elgar, Cheltenham.
- Prager K, Schuler J, Helming K, Zander P, Ratering T, Hagedorn K (2010). *Soil degradation, farming practices, institutions and policy responses: An analytical framework*. Land Degradation & Development. DOI: 10.1002/ldr.979
- König H, Schuler J, Suarua U, McNeill D, Imbernon J, Damayanti F, Dalimunthe SA, Uthers S, Sartohadi J, Helming K, Morris J (2010). *Assessing the Impact of Land Use Policy on Urban-Rural Sustainability Using the FoPIA Approach in Yogyakarta, Indonesia*. Sustainability 2010, 2(7), 1991-2009
- Schöber B, Helming K, Wiggering H. (2010). *Assessing Land Use Change Impacts – a comparison of the SENSORLand Use Function approach with other frameworks*. J. of Land Use Science 5:159-178
- Sieber S, Zander P, Verburg P H. : Ittersum, M. v. (2010): *Model-based systems to support impact assessment: methods, tools and applications*. Ecological Modelling. 221 (18): 2133-2135
- Uthes, S, Fricke K, König H, Zander P, van Ittersum M, Sieber S, Helming K, Pierr A, Müller K (2010). *Policy relevance of three integrated assessment tools – a comparison with specific reference to agricultural policies*. Ecological Modelling 221 (18):2136-2152
- Helming K, De la Flor I, Diehl K (2010). *Integrated Approaches for ex-ante impact assessment tools - the example of land use*. In: Raggamby, A. von and F. Rubik (eds.): Sustainable Development, Evaluation and Policy-making. Edward Elgar, Cheltenham.
- Tavoni A, Schlüter, M, Simon, L (2010). *The survival of the conformist: social pressure and renewable resource management*. FEEM Working Paper n.119.2010.

## LIAISE participation in events

- **2010 conference of the International Society for Ecological Economics**  
Oldenburg, 22-25 August 2010. In a special session on the use of indicators for sustainable development, Klaus Jacob (FUB) gave a presentation on Sustainability Impact Assessment., showing how indicators for Sustainable Development are integrated in the Impact Assessment in various jurisdictions.
- **Evangelische Akademie Loccum**  
Berlin, 31 May -1 June 2010. In a seminar held at the Academy ,

## Upcoming events

- **Meeting and Workshop on Decision Support from Predictive Modelling**  
Tallin, 6- 8 October 2010. TESS is an international research project supported by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission. It aims to assist the integration of information about biodiversity and related environmental matters from the local level into planning and land-use decisions and to devise new ways of encouraging people to collect such information. The ultimate goal is to provide tools which contribute to an enhanced ability to maintain and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services. [[READ MORE](#)]
- **3rd International Scientific Conference: Energy and Climate Change**  
Athens, 7- 8 October 2010. This conference organised by the Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA) will focus on Energy Policy and Environmental - Climate Change Policy. [[READ MORE](#)]
- **IAIA Special Symposium: Climate Change and Impact Assessment**  
Aalborg, 25-26 October 2010. This special symposium will deal with solutions and actions to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Innovative work on methodological developments, the institutionalisation of assessment methodologies, the construction of regulatory frameworks, and governance perspectives will be brought to the fore during the symposium. Together with IUCN, the ZALF hosts a session on 'Landscapes and Ecosystem Services'. This session will explore the use of impact assessment tools and of the ecosystem service concept for climate change mitigation and adaptation at landscape level." Together with the IUCN, WP2 organises a joint session: "Landscapes and Ecosystem Services". [[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](#)]
- **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](#)]
- **SDRN Annual Conference 2010**  
London, 9 December 2010. This year's SDRN Annual Conference will take place on the 9th of December 2010 at the Wellcome Collection Conference Centre, London. The Annual Conference is SDRN's flagship event, bringing together over 150 sustainability practitioners, policy-makers and researchers to share and discuss recent findings, and to review how research efforts can better contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals. [[READ MORE](#)]

## IA and SD policies

### DG Agri: The future of the CAP

- A Communication by DG AGR1 is planned for November 2010. This Communication will prepare grounds for the legal proposals on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), originally planned to be adopted by the Commission in July 2010. The impact of the economic crisis has been more severe than previously thought for EU agriculture, leading to a cumulative decline in agricultural income that erased in just two years the gains of the past fifteen. This development is neither related to the reform of the CAP, nor to developments in agricultural markets. On the contrary, it is directly linked to the way in which agriculture has been caught in the turbulence of the parallel boom and bust of all commodity markets in the aftermath of the financial crisis. It should be noted that the first phase of this communication does not require an Impact Assessment, but that IA will follow for the second phase entailing an SWP and [Legal Proposal](#) in July 2011. [[READ MORE](#)]

### DG Enterprise & RTD: Research and Innovation Plan

- The Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth announces the presentation of the Research and Innovation Plan in particular to implement the flagship initiative "Innovation Union". One of the central problems identified is policy fragmentation and the role of instruments, an issue that is at the heart of LIAISE. At EU and national level, and between EU and national policies, policy fragmentation leads to sub-optimal impacts of the different instruments and lack of critical mass. The articulation between the R&D Framework Programmes, the Structural Funds and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme is still underdeveloped in terms of coordination, synergies, efficiency and simplification. This is increasingly seen as an import deficit in realising coherent policies within the framework of the knowledge triangle. [[READ MORE](#)]

### DG Enterprise: Communication on the renewed EU Tourism Policy Framework

- According to the Commission, the recently adopted Europe 2020 Strategy positions the enhancement of the competitiveness of the

Klaus Jacob (FUB) gave a talk on the experiences with Sustainability Impact Assessment in other European countries. The seminar brought together national academics and practitioners to discuss opportunities to improve the practice of IA in Germany.

- **3rd Workshop on Adaptation Research in Social Science**

Bonn, 27 September 2010. Paper presented by Katharina Helming: *Integrated impact assessment - the example of land use.*

- **Berlin Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change**

Berlin, 8-9 October 2010. Paper presented by Aranka Podhora: *Science for Impact Assessment Tools – European examples for implicit research.*

- **Global Land Project Open science Meeting 2010**

Arizona, 16-18 October 2010. Special Session: *Tools and methods for impact assessment of land use policies*, organised by Katharina Helming (ZALF, DE) and Lin Zhen (IGSNRR, CN) Paper presented by Katharina Helming: *Ex-ante impact assessment of land use policies – reform scenarios of the common agricultural policy.*

- **IAIA Special Symposium: IA and Climate Change.**

Aalborg, 25-26 October 2010. Session: *Landscapes and Ecosystem Services*, organised by Andrea Athanas (IUCN), Katharina Helming, Aranka Podhora (ZALF, DE).

- **EasyEco Conference**

Brussels, 17-19 November, 2010. Session *Science for Tools and Procedures in EU Impact Assessment* moderated by Klaus Jacob. Paper presented by Aranka Podhora: *Research on IA tools – examples for implicit IA research in the 6th and 7th EU Framework Programmes.*

European Tourism sector as one of the actions of high importance. A combination of recent developments and the creation of a new EU competence for tourism have created expectations in the Member States and among the public and private tourism stakeholders for political action at EU level that would provide synergies with, and between, national tourism policies. One of the key problems that have been identified is lack of comprehensive and reliable information on the impact of tourism activities, including information on tourism demand at EU level. The communication should be adopted in October 2010. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

## DG Environment: Communication on a new post-2010 EU biodiversity policy and Strategy

- In the light of the EU's failure to achieve its target, a mid-term assessment report of the BAP carried out in 2008 (COM(2008) 864), which represented the last opportunity for stock-taking before 2010, presented a detailed picture of the state of implementation, highlighting the need for more action. The post-2010 Communication is due for the 4th quarter of 2010 and aims at many economic sectors and social groups depending on the sustainable use of biodiversity, addressing economic operators who may have an impact on biodiversity and several EU policies that have a direct bearing on biodiversity. The existing roadmap document makes several references to impact assessment. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

## European energy policy and the transition to a low-carbon economy

- OECD analyses how European energy policy faces a number of interrelated challenges, including making the transition to a low-carbon economy, increasing cross-border competition in electricity and gas markets and diversifying Europe's energy supply. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

## Links and resources

### Environment Tools - the largest database of environmental software

- Listing over 350 green accounting tools, the Environment Tools Directory considers itself as the largest up-to-date, independent database of environmental software tools anywhere on the web. New tools can be listed and their details kept up to date for free. Users can rate and comment on any tools listed. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

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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 : Katerina Hejdova

