



■ About LIAISE

Editorial

by Jacques Jansen (ALTEERRA), Jan-Erik Wien (ALTEERRA) and Klaus Jacob (FUB)

The Network of Excellence LIAISE is entering its second year of activities, and this is a good time to summarize the progress towards the main achievements LIAISE is aiming to deliver: 1) a shared IA toolbox; 2) a shared research agenda on IA and 3) post-project durability, the continuation of the activities after the end NoE funding.

● Shared IA toolbox

An extensive survey has been undertaken in 16 European countries among officers responsible for overseeing the process of IA in the respective jurisdiction. Together with a review of literature and an analysis of previous case studies of IA this gives an overview on user needs and expectations regarding IA processes, IA tools, and IA training.

This is a key contribution to the design of the toolbox and the improvement of tools for IA. The basic design for the toolbox and a helpdesk have been discussed with the Policy Board. The modelling team of LIAISE has developed a reference model and analyses the requirements for IA tools. The toolbox and the models will be applied in test cases, which allow further feedback and learning. Options for test cases have been discussed with the Policy Board and are now being implemented. A first one on the Finnish climate policy has been selected; two other ones - CAP and resource efficiency - are in preparation.

● Shared research agenda

A mapping is undertaken on research projects for IA tools that received EC funding in FP6/7. This will be translated into research gaps. The inventory also includes information on the research institutions involved in this type of research, which are potential associated partners for the NoE. WP2 has established links with external scientific associations active in the field of IA research (e.g. IAIA) and presented LIAISE at several conferences. On these occasions, LIAISE has received considerable attention and several scientific organisations and conferences have expressed interest to host IA related working groups and sessions.

● Post project durability

LIAISE aims to develop an enduring virtual centre of excellence for IA tools. This requires resources beyond the funding of the NoE. Here the main achievements in the first year of the project were: 1) the development of a first version of the business plan for the future centre of excellence on IA with three preliminary business options; 2) the internal and external dissemination of information about LIAISE in order to strengthen the LIAISE profile in the communities of IA researchers and IA users; and 3) the development of synergy with IA research by external parties (e.g. OECD).

The activities mentioned above were accompanied by cross cutting activities: a dissemination strategy has been set up and is implemented (e.g. web page, newsletter), a Policy Board with members from different DGs, countries, and international organisations has been set up and held its first meeting in June.

A strategy has been developed to ensure the enduring commitment of the partners on an institutional level. All these activities led to many interactions: among the researchers in the network, with research communities beyond and with practitioners of Impact Assessment. We hope this newsletter indicates this spirit and you enjoy reading it.

■ Integration beyond LIAISE

Partnership for European Environmental Research

● Henrik Sandbech: collaboration a key to success

In an interview for the magazine International Innovation, Henrik Sandbech (NERI) chair of the *Partnership for European Environmental Research* referred to LIAISE as an example of an interdisciplinary approach with contributions from the sciences and social sciences. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

● FP8 Position Paper: Innovative environmental research essential for a changing society

The Partnership for European Environmental Research (PEER), which includes five LIAISE partners has published a foresight analysis on future research demands for the next EC Framework Programme. PEER concludes that strategic environmental research should be focused on the links between the grand challenges: water security, energy

■ Other events

Past events

● Seminar on the Vulnerability of International Trade to the Carbon Footprint

Santiago de Chile, 2-3 September 2010. The seminar was organized by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Regional Cooperation Delegation for the Southern Cone and Brazil of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the European Commission. Approximately 200 participants from 15 countries attended the seminar, including government officials and representatives of international organizations, industry and non-governmental organizations, as well as carbon footprint experts. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

● High Nature Value grasslands: securing the ecosystem services of European farming post 2013

Sibiu, 7-9 September 2010. EFNCP, in partnership with Fundaia ADEPT and Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, are proud to announce a major international conference to address the importance of High Nature Value Farmland for the delivery of ecosystem services in Europe. How can these vital services be secured post 2013 with the support of a reformed CAP? See: [\[READ MORE\]](#)

● World Water Congress and Exhibition

Montréal, 19-24 September 2010. The IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition is a high-profile biennial event that in previous years has been held in Vienna, Beijing, Marrakech, Melbourne, Berlin and Paris. In 2010, the Association is partnering with the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWAA) and the Canadian Association on Water Quality (CAWQ) to hold the event in Montréal. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

● Soil, Climate Change and Biodiversity – Where do we stand?

Brussels, 23-24 September 2010. The Environment Directorate-General and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission will host a high-level conference on 'Soil, climate change and biodiversity: where do we stand?' in Brussels (Belgium) on 23-24 September 2010. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

● 'Policy Meets Research' - Workshop on Sustainable Food Consumption

Vienna, 21-22 October 2010. A workshop on sustainable food consumption was held by the CORPUS consortium on the premises of the Austrian Ministry of Environment on 21-22 October in Vienna. The workshop offered practical assistance in evidence-based policymaking, networking opportunities and innovative forms and methods of effective knowledge brokerage. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

● 32nd Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Busan, 11-14 October 2010. The approximately 300 participants focused on two primary tasks: revising the scope of the synthesis report (SYR) for the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5); and addressing the recommendations of the InterAcademy Council (IAC) Review of the IPCC processes and procedures. Progress reports were presented on the Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation (SRREN), the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) and the IPCC Peace Prize Scholarship Fund. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

● Convention on Biological Diversity - COP 10

Nagoya, 18-29 October 2010. The tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity is expected to, inter alia, assess the achievement of the 2010 target to reduce significantly the rate of biodiversity loss. It will be preceded by the fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Upcoming events

● Climate Change and Impact Assessment

Washington D.C., 15-16 November 2010. This symposium, organised by The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), will bring together international experts in climate change science and impact assessment for a two-day exchange to foster mutual collaboration. The symposium will explore the application of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and cumulative effects assessment (CEA). [\[READ MORE\]](#)

security, food security, social wellbeing, and the economy. Society and environment should be a lead theme in the European Union's next Framework Programme for research and technological development, FP8. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Chinese German Centre for Impact Assessment

In April 2010, the Chinese German Centre for Impact Assessment celebrated its inauguration meeting. Founded by the German Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) and the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the mission of the CGCIA is to provide a platform for facilitating collaboration, communication, and coordination among scientists who have been engaged in studies on impact assessment, especially impact of changing land use and ecosystem services, and response options for developing a harmonized human-nature relationship. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Publications

- Belhouchette, H., K. Louhichi, O. Therond, I. Mouratiadou, J. Wery, M.K. van Ittersum, G. Flichman, 2010. *Assessing farm responses to environmental and socio-economic changes: the use of a bio-economic modeling chain*. Agricultural Systems, in press.
- Gabbert, Silke, Martin van Ittersum, Frank Ewert, Carolien Kroeze, Serge Stalpers and Johanna Alkan-Olsson, 2010. *Uncertainty information in Integrated Assessment: The users' perspective*. Regional Environmental Change, 10, 131-140.
- Louhichi, K., A. Kanellopoulos, S. Janssen, G. Flichman, M. Blanco, T. Heckelet, P. Berentsen, A. Oude Lansink, M.K. van Ittersum, 2010. *FSSIM, a Bio-Economic Farm Model for Simulating the Response of EU Farming Systems to Agricultural and Environmental Policies*. Agricultural Systems, 103, 585-597.
- Sterk, B., M.K. van Ittersum and C. Leeuwis, 2010. *How, when, and for what reasons does land use modelling contribute to societal problem solving?* Environmental Modelling and Software, in press.
- Therond, O., Huib Hengsdijk; Eric Casellas; Daniel Wallach, Ph.D.; Myriam Adam; Hatem Belhouchette; Roelof Oomen; Graham Russell; Frank Ewert; Jacques-Eric Bergez; Sander Janssen; Jacques Wery; Martin K van Ittersum, 2010. *Using a cropping system model at regional scale: Low-data approaches for crop management information and model calibration*. Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment, in press.

Events

- **Berlin Conference on "Social dimensions of environmental change and governance"**
Berlin, 8-9 October 2010. The 2010 Berlin Conference, organised by the FU Berlin, was the 10th conference in the well established series of European Conferences on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change. Several panels addressed the issue of IA, including papers on "Evidence-based Policy Making and Public Participation" (von Raggamby, Ecologic) which discussed the strengthening of environmental considerations in policy appraisal through participation, and on "Scientific Research in the Field of IA" (Podhora et al., ZALF) which presented the preliminary results of current LIAISE WP2 work on the scanning of existing IA tools on EU level. [\[READ MORE\]](#)
- **Conference on increase of resource efficiency**
Berlin, 5 October 2010. "Resource Efficiency – Engine for Green Growth?" – this was the title of the final conference of the MARESS project ("Material Efficiency and Resource Conservation"), running from July 2007 to December 2010. At the conference, organised by the Wuppertal Institute, German Environmental Ministry and the Federal Environmental Agency, about 400 delegates from politics, economics, and science discussed the project results in five parallel panels. In panel V, Klaus Jacob presented the results of Impact Assessments on policies to increase resource efficiency of critical metals and discussed the resulting political challenges. [\[READ MORE\]](#)
- **IAIA Special Symposium: Climate Change and Impact Assessment**
Aalborg, 25-26 October 2010. "Climate change may be the biggest environmental challenge of our time. International consensus has formed around the problem, its causes and impacts but not the solutions. 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". [\[READ MORE\]](#)
- **PhD Summer School in Ecological modeling and Environmental Management**

● SDRN Annual Conference 2010

London, 9 December 2010. This year's SDRN Annual Conference will take place on 9th December 2010 at the Welcome Collection Conference Centre. The Annual Conference is SDRN's flagship event, bringing together over 150 sustainability practitioners, policy-makers and researchers and to share and discuss recent findings, and to review how research efforts can better contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Call for papers

The Natural Resources Forum

● A quarterly journal issued by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and published by Wiley-Blackwell, is inviting your views on the following question for the Viewpoints section of the February 2011 issue: "Is the concept of a green economy a useful way of framing policy discussions and policymaking to promote sustainable development?" The Viewpoints section offers a platform for academics, practitioners and experts to share their perspectives and to feature these perspectives alongside other responses in the journal. Each entry should be 200 words or less addressing the above question. Our Editorial Team will select contributions that address an important dimension of the debate. The deadline for submission to the Viewpoints for the February 2011 issue is: 15 November 2010. We look forward to receiving contributions at nforum@un.org. When submitting a contribution, please provide your name, title, affiliation and contact details. [\[SUBMIT CONTRIBUTION\]](#)

IA and SD policy issues

Evaluation of the European Court of Auditors on the performance of the EU IA system

● The Court's audit found that, since 2002, the Commission has had a comprehensive impact assessment system in place. Impact assessment has become an integral element of the Commission's policy development and has been used by the Commission to improve the design of its initiatives. The audit identified areas for improvement related to the Commission's procedures in respect of impact assessments and the content and presentation of impact assessment reports. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Public Goods Emerging as a Central Rationale for Future CAP Support

● Recent rhetoric at the Commissioner's conference on 20 July 2010, which assembled key stakeholders for a discussion surrounding the consultation responses, suggests that this reform could mark a significant shift in policy – particularly towards the use of public money to support the provision of public goods. In a briefing IEEP presents the concept of public goods and analyses how it is currently being used in the debate. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

EU marine strategy directive criteria released

● The European Commission adopted on Wednesday the criteria and indicators. EU member states will use to assess the environmental status of their seas under the marine strategy framework directive. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

EU transport can cut emissions by 89% by 2050

● Greenhouse gas emissions from transport in the EU could be reduced by 89% by 2050 compared with 1990 levels if all the options currently available are embraced with bold ambition, new research shows. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

EC consults further on indirect land-use change

● The European Commission is consulting on a series of recent studies on the indirect land-use change (ILUC) impacts of biofuels to find out whether the work produced so far is sufficient to assess the magnitude of the problem. Stakeholders are invited to comment on four studies, including one on the global trade and environmental impact of Europe's biofuel policy. The commission also wants to know if, based on the studies' findings, EU action is needed to tackle ILUC impacts [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Green groups urge greater support for HNV farms

● Four environmental groups have called on the EU to increase support for high nature value (HNV) farmlands as part of a reform of its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The call was made at a conference on HNV grasslands in Sibin, Romania this week. A report issued by the European Environment Agency in March showed that little CAP funding was being spent on supporting such farmlands, which could help to halt biodiversity loss: the majority of this funding goes to intensive farming activities... [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Links and resources

– 3 ETCS, 06 June 2011, Marine, NERI The objective of the first PhD Summer School is to inform and discuss PhD activities and science development within the framework of integrating agriculture, fishery, environmental quality of surface waters and economy. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



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.



Best Foot Forward's Footprinter

• Footprinter is powerful yet easy to use carbon footprinting software, enabling organisations of any size and type to visualise and reduce their long-term carbon risk. Footprinter is available in a number of variants, including industry- and company-specific versions. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Manual of European Environmental Policy

• Earthscan has launched the online Manual of European Environmental Policy – the essential tool for all who need to keep pace with EU environmental legislation. Previously published as a loose-leaf binder, the Manual has been restructured to reflect the changes in EU environmental policy-making. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Environment Inside

• This site highlights approaches that deserve to be recognised and built on - for example, public environmental expenditure reviews that identify what a country is getting out of environmental assets, what it is spending on their development, and how to improve cost-benefit ratios. Environment Inside includes case studies, key documents and links to other sources of information. It is structured to enable new inputs based on diverse experience. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

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