



**EDITORIAL** by Klaus Jacob, FUB. The Green Week Conference 2011 will be held in Brussels from May 24 to May 27 with this year's theme: Resource Efficiency - Using less, living better. Improving resource efficiency is a flagship initiative of the European Commission and is a core topic of DG Environment. A number of policy initiatives are expected to establish and to implement effective policies for a more efficient use of the different natural resources. LIAISE prepares to provide models and knowledge to support the assessment of such policies. For example, opportunities are sought to improve the geographical resolution of models for the assessment of water policies. Other groups are discussing environment-economic models to analyse the flow of materials from the extraction to the final consumption and deposition. What is the most effective and the most efficient point to intervene in these often global value chains? Which measures are possible within Europe to take into account the different scarcities of resources and what are adequate measures which can be taken on a European level? The LIAISE consortium explores which models would be available to cover the many different questions and how the existing models can be improved and combined to contribute to the expected Impact Assessments.

## ■ ■ ■ LIAISE News

### ● **LIAISE Session at 2011 Colorado Conference on Earth System Governance "Crossing Boundaries and Building Bridges"**

A LIAISE session on "Linking Research to Practice. Knowledge, Measurement and Policy Appraisal" was held at the Colorado Conference on Earth System Governance "Crossing Boundaries and Building Bridges", 17-20 May, 2011, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. It included four papers on "Policy Appraisal and Policy Learning - Investigating the Science-policy Interface" (Sabine Weiland), "Supporting Scale-sensitive Policy-making: Scale Consideration in Policy Appraisal" (Sanna-Riikka Saarela, Tarja Söderman), "The Policy-relevance of Impact Assessment Tools" (Aranka Podhora et al.), "Linking Practice and Research: Uncovering Complex Relationships in Policy Appraisal" (Camilla Adelle et al.).

### ● **Presentation of Research Results from LIAISE WP2 "Science for IA tools and procedures" at the IAIA 2011 Conference**

The recent research results of LIAISE WP2 "Science for IA tools and procedures" will be presented at the annual conference of the IAIA "Impact Assessment and Responsible Development for Infrastructure, Business and Industry", to be held from 28 May - 4 June, 2011 in Puebla, Mexico. Aranka Podhora will present aspects of "Gender and diversity in policy impact assessment" in the session "Gender Impact Assessment: between benefits, betterment and betrayal".

### ● **LIAISE session on "Research for Policy Impact Assessment: Examples from the Americas" at IAIA 2011**

A LIAISE session on "Research for Policy Impact Assessment: Examples from the Americas" will be held at the annual IAIA Conference on "Impact Assessment and Responsible Development for Infrastructure, Business and Industry", 28 May - 4 June, 2011, in Puebla, Mexico. The session is organised and chaired by Aranka Podhora (ZALF). The idea is to expand the LIAISE expertise on policy IA by learning about other (non-European) IA systems and connecting with (non-European) researchers working in the field.

### ● **Session on "Evaluation of Transition Policy" at the 2nd International Conference on Sustainability Transitions in Lund, Sweden**

At the 2nd International Conference on Sustainability Transitions in Lund, Sweden (13-15 June, 2011), a thematic session will be held on "Evaluation of Transition Policy". The session papers aim to reflect on (1) the role of policy evaluation in transitions and (2) requirements and methods for policy evaluation in transitions. Sabine Weiland (FUB) will give a paper on "Policy appraisal – a contribution to 'better' and more sustainable policies?".

### ● **SEI Tallinn Organised a Stakeholder Workshop on Impact Assessment**

SEI Tallinn organised a national workshop on Impact Assessment on 14 March 2011 in Tallinn. The participants of the workshop were representatives of legal departments of line ministries (Ministries of Justice, Social Affairs, Finances and Environment), Strategy Bureau of the Government Office, and civil servants who conduct Impact Assessment of draft policies and legal acts in their line ministries. K. Peterson, P. Kuldna and T. Nõmmann from SEI Tallinn introduced the FP7 project LIAISE, the progress of implementation and expected outputs and outcomes of the project. The presentations were followed by lively discussions.

### ● **Colloquium on SUSMETRO at the Technical University (TU) Berlin**

On 4 May, 2011, Dirk Wascher, FU Berlin, presented the project SUSMETRO. The project is offering a set of tools and interactive processes for assessing the impacts of spatial planning with regard to the self-supportive capacities of a region (ecological footprint) in terms of food, recreation and nature conservation.

### ● **Research Project: Institutions and Procedures of Parliamentary Sustainability Policy**

The Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU) at the Freie Universität Berlin has begun a new research project on institutions and procedures of parliamentary sustainability policy. On behalf of the German Bundestag, the FFU, in collaboration with the Institute for Future Studies and Technology Assessment (IZT), conducts a study on "Institutions and Procedures of Parliamentary Sustainability Policy". The aim of the research is to identify opportunities for the strengthening of sustainability policies in Germany and notably in the German Bundestag.

## ■ ■ ■ Events

### ● **Forum: The Future of Sustainable Lifestyles and Entrepreneurship**

This conference, to be held from 24-25 May, 2011, in Cologne, Germany, marks the launch of a European social platform that envisions a world of sustainable living, moving, consuming and society. The EU-FP7 project "SPREAD Sustainable Lifestyles 2050" brings together current knowledge, experience and stakeholders from across society (business, consumers, research, civil society, and policy) in a highly interactive process that will develop a vision for sustainable lifestyles in 2050.

### ● **European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) Conference 2011: European Resource Policies in the Context of Sustainable Development**

The conference, to be held from 27-29 June, 2011, in Szentendre (near Budapest), Hungary, has two main objectives: to broaden the discussion on resource policies in Europe, advocating a more comprehensive approach from a sustainable development perspective, and to develop recommendations for the EU and Member States on integrated resource policies in the context of sustainable development.

### ● **Conference on the 40th anniversary of UNESCO's MAB Programme - For Life, for the Future**

UNESCO's programme "Man and the Biosphere" (MAB) is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2011. On this occasion, an international conference to be held from 27-28 June in Dresden, Germany, will assemble representatives from politics, administration, science and practice to discuss the future of the MAB programme in times of climate change.

### ● **Nature™ Inc? Questioning the Market Panacea in Environmental Policy and Conservation**

The conference, to be held from 30 June to 2 July, 2011, in The Hague, Netherlands, seeks to critically engage with the market panacea in environmental policy and conservation in the context of histories and recent developments in neoliberal capitalism. The conference is steeped in traditions of political economy and political ecology, in order to arrive at a deeper understanding of environmental policies and conservation in an age of late capitalism.

- [Dryland Ecosystem Functioning and Resilience: Integrating Biophysical Assessment with Socio-economic Issues](#)**  
 The Conference on "Dryland ecosystem functioning and resilience: integrating biophysical assessment with socio-economic issues", organized by European Science Foundation, DesertNet International and NRD Desertification Research group (University of Sassari), will be held in Alghero, Italy, from 6-8 July, 2011. It intends to relate a better understanding of the landscape-scale dynamics that lead to improvements in nutrient and water cycling, to their impacts on the climate sensitivity of desertification.
- [IN-STREAM Workshop: Sustainability Indicators for Policymaking - Green Growth and Green Innovation](#)**  
 This workshop, to be held on 7 July, 2011, in Berlin, is organised in the context of the FP7 project IN-STREAM ("Integrating Mainstream Economic Indicators with Sustainable Development Objectives"). It will focus on providing key insights and preliminary outcomes of the qualitative and quantitative analyses conducted in IN-STREAM, linking economic indicators with measures of sustainability and well-being. The workshop aims to gather experts' and policy makers' feedback on a number of innovative sustainability indicators and to provide a platform for the sharing of experiences and best practices in the use of these tools.
- [World Resources Forum 2011 in Davos, Switzerland](#)**  
 The World Resources Forum (WRF), to be held from 19-21 September, 2011, in Davos, Switzerland, transcends the current political focus on climate change and aims to bring the broader issues of global resource consumption and resource productivity onto the agenda. It aims to create a science-based, realistic vision of sustainable resource use. The forum is directed towards academics, politicians, research-oriented practitioners, sustainability officers, consultants and other professionals working in the areas of sustainable development, resource efficiency, eco-innovation, and climate change.
- [Workshop on "Access and Benefit Sharing \(ABS\) Governance after the Nagoya Protocol: Architecture and Actors"](#)**  
 The Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI, Lysaker, Norway) and the Institute for European Studies (IES, Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium) invite applications for their workshop on "Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Governance after the Nagoya Protocol: Architecture and Actors" to be held from 26-27 September, 2011 at the FNI in Norway. The deadline for applications is 21 May, 2011.
- [International Conference "Science for the Environment - Environment for Society"](#)**  
 The overarching aim of this International conference in Denmark (Aarhus) on 5-6 October 2011, is to place existing scientific knowledge of environment and society within the context of relevant EU environmental legislation, and vice versa. The common theme is: "How can we ensure that the research agenda and policy solutions are sufficiently holistic to address the complex issues which interlink science, environment and society". The main topics cover a range of issues which confront both scientists and practitioners within today's legislative policy framework.
- [4th International ESP Conference - Ecosystem Services: Integrating Science and Practice](#)**  
 The aim of this conference, to be held from 10-14 October, 2011, is to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners and policy-makers to exchange information and ideas about new developments and pressing issues on the Science and Practice of Ecosystem Services (ES), and to strengthen the ES-Partnership (ESP) as a global platform for dialogue on this topic.
- [International Conference on Payments for Ecosystem Services](#)**  
 The ZALF based research team CIVILand together with ETH and Bayreuth University announce their international conference on "Payments for Ecosystem Services and their Institutional Dimensions", to be held from 10-12 November, 2011, in Berlin, Germany. The conference aims to investigate the different actors and their institutional arrangements that make PES work in practice. The organisers strive to foster dialogue regarding the further consolidation of the PES approach in developing and industrialized countries.

## Policies

---

- [Update: European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register](#)**  
 The European Commission and the European Environment Agency updated the data for the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR). The E-PRTR provides easily accessible key environmental data from industrial facilities in the EU Member States as well as in Liechtenstein, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland. This new register contains data from 2009 from approximately 28,000 industrial facilities covering 65 economic activities across Europe.
- [EU Commission presents 2020 Biodiversity Strategy](#)**  
 On 4 May, the European Commission has adopted a new strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. There are six main targets, and 20 actions to help Europe reach its goal. Biodiversity loss is an enormous challenge in the EU, with around one in four species currently threatened with extinction and 88% of fish stocks over-exploited or significantly depleted.
- [EEA Technical Report No. 1/2011: Catalogue of Scenario Studies — Knowledge Base for Forward-Looking Information and Services](#)**  
 This report, which has been published on 1 April, 2011, contains a review of 263 scenario studies that are relevant to environmental assessment and decision making at the European or sub-European scale. Besides, it includes facts sheets of 44 selected studies using common description categories. The report is seen as a contribution to the evolving knowledge base for Forward-Looking Information and Services (FLIS).

## Training

---

- [European Summer School on Developments in Resource Economics](#)**  
 The summer school, to be held from 3-7 July, 2011, in Venice, Italy, is organized by the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE), Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) and the Venice International University (VIU). It will be of interest for students who have a thorough understanding of the classic natural resource theory, and who would like to make their own contribution in various topics rooted in resource economics.
- [Summer School of the German Environmental Impact Assessment \(EIA\) Association](#)**  
 The German EIA Association hosts its 6th Summer School, to be held from 6-8 October, 2011, in Dresden, Germany. Topics will be EIA (methods, procedure, cases), new aspects of impact assessment (climate proofing, sustainability impact assessment in Germany and the EC) and EIA role games. The Summer School will be taught in German. Applications are invited and can be made via the website of the German EIA Association.

## Links

---

- [New Knowledge Portal for Sustainable Development: Thinktosustain.com](#)**  
 Thinktosustain.com is a knowledge portal for sustainable development initiatives that are taken by individuals, the industry or institutions worldwide. The team consists of environmentalists, industry professionals, knowledge management experts, researchers and consultants. The aim of the platform is to facilitate awareness thought leadership.
- [Knowledge Platform: Knowledge Base for Forward-looking Information and Services \(FLIS\)](#)**  
 The EEA established a new knowledge platform called "Knowledge base for Forward-looking information and services" (FLIS) that can support long-term decision-making. The platform introduces forward-looking components and perspectives into existing environmental information systems.
- [KNOWandPOL: New EU Project on Knowledge and Policy](#)**  
 An EU funded project on the relationship between knowledge and policy making (KNOWandPOL) has recently published new results. Highlighting that knowledge is socially embedded and constructed, the research project found three significant trends: increasingly diverse flows of knowledge, a growing emphasis on using knowledge to inform policy and a wider use of comparisons, best-practice and experience-based knowledge. These trends have a number of policy implications. Detailed information is available at the project's website.

## Jobs & Funds

---

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)



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.

