



**EDITORIAL** by Klaus Jacob, FUB and Jacques Jansen, ALTERRA. The 2011 International Regulatory Reform Conference held in Amsterdam on March 10 and 11 in Amsterdam, organized by the Bertelsmann Foundation and the Dutch government, brought together ca. 300 participants from Europe and abroad to discuss innovations and trends in tools for better regulation. A special focus was given to issues of greening the economy and sustainable development. In a session on tools for Impact Assessment, Jan Erik Wien, Andrew Jordan and Klaus Jacob from the LIAISE team and Eric Philippart, deputy head of the unit for evaluation and impact assessment in DG Enterprise of the European Commission presented activities from the LIAISE network and discussed about needs on behalf of the policy makers. The panel was received with considerable interest by the participants of the conference. Together with several other sessions on greening the economy and on the integration of sustainable development in decision-making, the conference indicated a growing interest of the community in the issues in which also LIAISE operates. Tools for Better Regulation, and in particular Impact Assessment, are increasingly perceived as instruments to analyse long-term impacts and trade-offs between social, economic and environmental dimensions. IA is an instrument to improve the evidence base of decision-making and thereby ensure policy coherence and sustainability. Efficient and flexible tools are needed to support this: Model-based tools are increasingly used to support IA in the European Union. However, the developers of these tools face increasing limitations in time and budgets available for doing IA. Therefore, the LIAISE approach to better utilize the growing research reservoir on potential tools for IA is needed to provide efficient and flexible solutions for IA problems.

## ■ ■ ■ LIAISE News

### ● **LIAISE Session at International Congress on Modelling and Simulation (MODSIM 2011)**

A LIAISE Session on "Use and relevance of Modelling for Environmental Impact Assessments" will be held at the International Congress on Modelling and Simulation, as part of the theme "Participatory Decision Making, User-centered Design and Modelling Social Systems". The MODSIM 2011 Conference will be held from 12-16 December, 2011 in Perth, Western Australia. The call for papers is open until 2 May, 2011.

### ● **LIAISE Session on International Regulatory Reform Conference in Amsterdam**

The LIAISE team was invited by the Bertelsmann Foundation to organise a session on the development and the use of tools in Impact Assessment. A Presentation was given by Jan Erik Wien, Alterra and LIAISE Coordinator, on the state of the art of tool development. He demonstrated different approaches and types of tools which have been developed in the past and applied in IA. Andrew Jordan, UEA and LIAISE WP1 leader, presented the results of the survey on the use of tools in IA systems in 17 European Member States. Eric Philippart, deputy head of the unit Economic Analysis and Impact Assessment in DG ENTR, shared his views on the practice of tool use in the European Commission. The session was moderated by Klaus Jacob, Freie Universität Berlin and Co-Coordinator of LIAISE. The participants agreed on the potential added value of modelling tools for IA. Although not all relevant questions can be answered by using models, there is an increasing potential of and demand for tool use, in particular in the European Commission. The LIAISE approach to provide tools more efficiently by re-using, and combining different tools was welcomed.

### ● **LIAISE Summer School Impact Assessment in the Field of Land Use Management and Redevelopment of Contaminated Land**

LIAISE Summer School on Impact Assessment, 5-10 June, 2011, Leipzig, Germany The LIAISE Summer School on 'Impact Assessment in the field of land use management and redevelopment of contaminated land' will be run as a key event of the LIAISE Network of Excellence. The general aim of the Summer School is to initiate exchange between researchers in the field of IA and developing and discussing different research topics.

### ● **Chinese-German Centre for Impact Assessment (CGCIA)**

Founded in 2010, the CGCIA focuses on impact assessment of multifunctional land uses so as to improve the understanding on the functions of land use and its impact. The Centre has frequent meetings in Germany and China for scientific exchange.

### ● **Comments on the Guidelines for the Measurement of Regulatory Burden**

Germany's government has decided to extend the measurement of administrative burden. So far, this part of the Impact Assessment focused on the application of the Standard Cost Model to measure the costs of requirements to provide information. From now on, the full costs of regulation should be assessed. The costs for citizens, enterprises and for the administration will be analysed. The implementation of the assessment will be overseen by the Normenkontrollrat. The draft of the guidelines was discussed in an expert hearing organised by the Federal Chancellery. Klaus Jacob was invited to provide oral and written comments on the guidelines. In his statement, he welcomed the initiative, but suggested to strengthen the analysis of different options, to consider more transparency of the analysis and to encourage officers to provide qualitative evidence on costs which are difficult to monetize.

### ● **New GHG-Emissions Tool**

In the project iSword (Innovative Toolbox: Development of an EIA tool for Poland), FUB researchers have developed a simple IA tool for assessing the impact of policies on climate change. This tool models the different sources of GHG emissions in Poland. Based on the assumptions of changes (by input of the policy maker, depending on the individual policy), the tool estimates the amount of changes in GHG (in CO<sub>2</sub>-eq) and the economic value that is likely to result from the policy. The GHG tool will be complemented by three other tools that deal with biodiversity, air quality and waste. The overall aim is to allow for a quick scan of planned policies from different policy fields regarding their environmental impacts.

## ■ ■ ■ Publications

### ● **Policy Instruments in Practice**

by A.J. Jordan, D. Benson, R. Wurzel, and A.R. Zito (2011), in: J.S. Dryzek, R.B. Norgaard, D. Schlosberg (eds) Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Society. Oxford University Press: Oxford, pp 536-49. This contribution to the 'Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Society' analyses policy instruments for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

### ● **Paper Back book: Climate Change Policy in the EU**

by A.J. Jordan, D. Huitema, H. van Asselt, T. Rayner and F. Berkhout (eds.) (2010). The European Union (EU) has emerged as a leading governing body in the international struggle to govern climate change. The transformation that has occurred in its policies and institutions has profoundly affected climate change politics at the international level and within its 27 Member States. But how has this been achieved when the EU comprises so many levels of governance, when political leadership in Europe is so dispersed and the policy choices are especially difficult?

### ● **Where Now for Post-Normal Science? A Critical Review of its Development, Definitions and Uses**

Editorial by J.R. Turnpenny, M. Jones, I. Lorenzoni, in: Science Technology Human Values, DOI: 10.1177/0162243910385789. "Post-normal science" (PNS) has received much attention in recent years, but like many iconic concepts, it has attracted differing conceptualizations, applications, and implications, ranging from being a 'cure-all' for democratic deficit to the key to achieving more sustainable futures. This editorial article takes stock of research on PNS and critically explores how such research may develop.

### ● **Navigating the Dilemmas of Climate Policy in Europe: Evidence From Policy Evaluation Studies**

by C. Haug, T. Rayner, and A. Jordan et al., Climatic Change, 101, 3-4 (August 2010), pp 427-445. This study reviews the content of 262 evaluation studies of European climate policies. The authors are interested in what these studies say about the performance of European climate policies and in their capacity to inform evidence-based policy making.

- **Consideration of Sustainability Aspects in Policy Impact Assessment: An International Comparative Study of Innovations and Trends**

by K. Jacob, A. Guske, V. von Prittwitz. This study undertaken by the Freie Universität Berlin on behalf of the Bertelsmann Foundation, gives an overview on the recent international developments in sustainability impact assessment (SIA). The study looks at innovations in SIA processes within the European Commission and five European countries (UK, Ireland, Belgium, Switzerland and Germany).

## Events

- **Modelling and Simulation Conference, Perth, Western Australia**

MODSIM 2011 - International Congress on Modelling and Simulation (MODSIM 2011) will be held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre in Perth, Western Australia, from 12-16 December, 2011.

- **Special Symposium: Impact Assessment and Climate Change**

This IAIA Special Symposium, to be held 29-30 August, 2011, in Beijing, China, is the third of a series of impact assessment and climate change symposia (the first two were in Aalborg, Denmark, October 2010, and Washington, DC, November 2010). This Asian special symposium will involve key actors and stakeholders from all levels and sectors to foster a fruitful dialogue and provide a bridge for the climate change and impact assessment communities.

- **FoSW Symposium- Ecosystem Services in Soil and Water Research**

The graduate school Focus on Soils and Water warmly invites PhD-students and researchers to participate in the symposium 'Ecosystem Services in soil and water research', taking place in Uppsala, Sweden June 7-10, 2011. The conference aims at encouraging interdisciplinary research as well as education on the topic.

- **ICLEI European Convention 2011: Cities in Europe 2020 - Enhance sustainability now**

The ICLEI European Convention 2011 will act as a forum to discuss the implementation of Europe-wide sustainability measures in cities focusing on the "EU 2020" Strategy. As resources decline and the planet is increasingly subjected to the effects of climate change, it is clear that the goal of cohesive European sustainability is more vital than ever before. The title, "Cities in Europe 2020 -- Enhance sustainability now!" captures the urgency with which the issue must be approached. The primary question of the conference therefore is: Should Europe change its focus from "growth" to enhancing sustainability or are these concepts compatible?

- **UNEP Finance Initiative: Global Roundtable**

The upcoming Global Roundtable is a high-profile event, serving as a key platform for the financial sector to engage with UNEP FI Signatories, partner organizations, government, and broader stakeholders. The organisers expect the event to bring together around 600 industry leaders and policymakers. ...

- **RegioResources 2011 - A Cross-disciplinary Dialogue on Sustainable Development of Regional Resources**

The conference, to be held from 17-19 May, 2011, in Dresden, Germany, addresses spatial key units for the sustainable management of natural and human resources by focusing on new approaches and tools to support regional resource development, including sustainable environmental management, economic development, public participation and multi-criteria decision processes. The organisers invite scientists from diverse backgrounds to join a cross-disciplinary discussion on future perspectives of sustainable development of natural and human resources in regions.

- **Global Environments Summer Academy 2011 - Socio-Ecological Interactions in a Dynamic World**

The Global Environments Summer Academy 2011 (GESA 2011) is a part of the Munich International Summer Schools and will be held from 2-26 August, 2011. The Rachel Carson Center and the Global Diversity Foundation will host this Summer Academy. 15-18 Masters or PhD students from around the world, who have the potential to become future environmental leaders in academic, business, community or governmental institutions, will be selected to participate in GESA 2011.

- **18th Ulvön Conference on Environmental Economics**

The 18th Ulvön Conference on Environmental Economics will take place the 21-23 June, 2011 at the Island of Ulvön, Sweden. A key purpose of the Ulvön meetings is to provide an opportunity for PhD students to interact with leading researchers in their field of specialization. The number of conference participants is typically about 30.

- **3rd German Environmental Sociology Summit 'Innovation and Sustainability: Beyond Technology'**

A call for papers has been issued for the 3rd German Environmental Sociology Summit "Innovation and Sustainability: Beyond Technology", to be held from 16-18 November, 2011, in Frankfurt, Germany. Abstracts should be submitted before 1 April, 2011. More information can be found on the conference website from mid-April onwards.

- **Conference: Green Energy for Towns and Cities 2011**

This international conference, to be held from 28-30 September, 2011, in Reykjavik, Iceland, is aimed at regional, city and town planners, who have the task to reduce the carbon emissions of their constituents. The aim is to give answers to green applications like the cost of implementation, return on investment, possible funding and case studies, and how different solutions could be effectively rolled out at community level.

- **SEA Implementation and Practice: Making an Impact?**

This Conference, to be held from 21-23 September, 2011, in Prague, Czech Republic, will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the SEA Directive and the entry into force of the SEA Protocol and to evaluate progress in Europe and internationally. What is the state of SEA practice? Is it making a difference to planning? How does the experience of EU member states compare internationally? This SEA conference is a special global IAIA thematic meeting separate from IAIA's Annual Conference.

- **Special issue: Environmental Values and Environmental Change - Call for Contributions**

The newly founded journal "International Review of Social Research", edited by the University of Bucharest, seeks manuscripts for a special issue on Environmental Sociology. The complete call for papers can be found on the journal's website. The deadline for the submission of manuscripts is 15 May, 2011.

- **25th International Conference on Environmental Informatics: Innovations in Sharing Environmental Observation and Information**

The international conference on Environmental Informatics will be held from 5-7 October, 2011 in Ispra, Italy. Topics to be covered include, among others, informatics applications for the environment, the monitoring of environmental threats and integrated environmental assessment. A special focus will be on innovative applications and efforts to include environmental informatics into existing EU research programs are particularly welcome. A detailed agenda can be found on the conference website. Abstracts for papers and poster contributions should be submitted before 6 May, 2011.

- **Green Week 2011: 'Using less, living better'**

This year's 'Green Week', organized annually in Brussels by the European Commission, focuses on resource efficiency. It consists of a conference, various workshops and an exhibition. It aims at bringing together people involved in government, public administration, industry and NGOs and is open to everyone without prior registration. More information is available at the Event's website.

- **British-German Workshop on Landscape Governance: Towards 'The Big Environmental Society'? - A Trans-disciplinary Symposium**

The Research Group CIVILand (Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Germany) and the Cardiff School of City and Regional Planning, BRASS Research Centre and the new Sustainable Places Research Institute jointly organize the symposium "Towards 'The Environmental Big Society'?" that will take place from 14-15 April at Cardiff University, UK. The symposium aims at bringing together policy-makers, practitioners and researchers from the UK and Germany. It provides the opportunity to discuss future developments in the field of nature conservation and ecosystem service management.

## Policies

- **Report on "A New Growth Path for Europe"**

A new report called "A New Growth Path for Europe. Generating Prosperity and Jobs in the Low-Carbon Economy", presented on 21 February, 2011 in Brussels, demonstrates the possibility and chance to create more jobs in Europe and boost the European economy by raising the European climate target

from 20% to 30% and thus reducing CO2 emissions.

- **Discussion about new EU directive on Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment**

The EU Council has outlined a new directive to improve the recycling of electric and electronic equipment and to reduce illegal exports of toxic material. Environment ministers in the EU Council have presented plans to renew WEEE legislation to require individual member states to work towards collection targets based on their size and economic situation, rather than existing weight-based goals.

- **World Water Day: Commission calls for improved protection of European Waters**

On March 22, World Water Day 2011, the European Commission has called on governments to improve the protection of European waters. The day was also set as the deadline for national administrations to present their river basin plans. This step is part of the EU's Water Framework Directive, adopted in 2000, which establishes a European framework for the protection of all water bodies in the European Union with a view to achieving good quality water resources by 2015. By 2012, a "Blueprint to safeguard European Waters" is envisaged.

- **Socioeconomic and Environmental Impacts on Agriculture in the New Europe: Post-Communist Transition and Accession to the European Union**

This newly published book focusses on farming in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and its consequences. It studies the changes that the transition of formerly communist countries to EU member states has brought to their agricultural system. Both the risks and the benefits of intensified and modernised farming in the new EU member states are looked at, bearing in mind the societal dynamics behind the transition.

- **New Report: "Embracing complexity: Meeting the challenges of international forest governance. A global assessment report."**

A new report on international forest governance has recently been published. It finds that a new policy regime might hinder rather than help the protection of forests worldwide. Hence, it suggests that improved coordination of existing governance instruments and organisations is the way forward. In order for this approach to be successful, existing distrust between different stakeholders has to be overcome, the authors claim. The report is available online.

- **New JRC Report on Greenhouse Gas Effects of Livestock in the EU**

The European Commission has launched a report by the Joint Research Centre that evaluates the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) effects of European livestock. The report provides an estimation of the net GHG emissions which are generated by animal production in the EU. This evaluation is based on a life-cycle assessment.

- **Eurostat Releases Data on Waste Recycling in the EU**

Eurostat Releases Data on Waste Recycling in the EU The EU's statistics office Eurostat has released data on the recycling and composting of municipal waste in all 27 EU countries in 2009. On average, every EU citizen produced 513 kg of municipal waste in 2009, however, the amount of waste varies considerably among the different member states. Treatment methods as well as recycling quotas differ as well. While more than 50 percent of the municipal waste produced was recycled or composted in Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Sweden, this quota is below 10 percent in seven EU member states.

- **European Commission: Roadmap for Moving to a Low-carbon Economy in 2050**

European Commission: Roadmap for Moving to a Low-carbon Economy in 2050 The DG Climate of the European Commission is working on a roadmap for moving to a low-carbon economy in 2050. In this context, a stakeholder conference has been organized on 17 March, 2011. On this occasion, the Partnership for European Environmental Research (PEER) published a LCE-statement pointing out that environmental research is needed to assess the combined consequences of this roadmap. Five partners in the LIAISE consortium are also members of PEER.

- **"Blueprint for Safeguarding Europe's Water" by the European Commission planned for 2012**

The European Commission plans to launch a "Blueprint for Safeguarding Europe's Water" in 2012. It will include policy recommendations building on three reviews of the EU's legislation and initiatives on water. These are the EU Water Framework Directive (2000), the strategy on water scarcity and droughts (2007) and measures that address the vulnerability of water resources to climate change (2009). The EU will focus on agriculture as well as land use and management to improve water efficiency in the Member States.

- **European Commission Consultation on Roadmap for a Resource-efficient Europe**

European Commission Consultation on Roadmap for a Resource-efficient Europe The European Commission has begun a consultation process on resource efficiency in Europe. This is part of its preparation of the Roadmap for a resource-efficient Europe. The Commission is also asking stakeholders to consult on the issue of a bio-based economy. Businesses as well as the general public have been invited to submit "informed opinions" on these topics before 22 April, 2011 via the website of the DG Environment.

- **New Report on Subsidies by the European Parliament**

According to the new report 'EU Subsidies for Polluting and Unsustainable Practices', commissioned by the European Parliament's environment committee, subsidies in areas like agriculture, transport and energy or cohesion policy should be removed from the EU's budget as they have unintended harmful effects on the environment. Before reforms of the system are carried out, the EU's subsidy framework should be assessed in-depth with regard to the direct and indirect effects.

## Training

- **IAIA Training Course at Special Meeting IAIA-SEA Prague 2011 - SEA Implementation and Practice: Making an Impact?**

In September, 2011, IAIA will hold a special meeting in Prague, Czech Republic. The theme of the event is Strategic Environmental Assessment. In conjunction with this special meeting, IAIA offers three two-day training courses. The courses are offered on 19-20 September, with the meeting itself held 21-23 September. Training courses may cover any aspect of strategic environmental assessment.

- **Climate Change Adaptation: Drivers, Barriers and Strategy**

Imperial College London and Collingwood Environmental Planning Limited (CEP) are organising a training programme to provide practical knowledge of policy and current practice relating to climate change adaptation. The aim is to learn about the risks and how to plan an effective strategic response.

- **"Methods in Landscape Analysis I + II" for Master Courses in Environmental and Land Use Sciences**

The Taught Module consists of two one-week sessions (Module I and II). Each one-week course consists of lectures, practical sessions and excursions. All lectures/practical sessions deal with a critical evaluation of various methods in landscape analysis. Number of participants is limited to 15 persons. Intending participants should apply as soon as possible. The language of the course is English. Participants must be fluent in spoken English.

- **SENSE PhD Training School on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change**

The SENSE PhD Summer School will help students to better understand the causes of global change in an integrated manner and at the same time to develop options for the governance of a transition to more sustainable development paths at the national and global levels. The Summer School will consist of intensive lectures and seminars...

## Links

- **Thematic Issue of Science, Technology & Innovation Studies: "Ambiguous Progress. Advisory and Regulatory Science between Uncertainty, Normative Disagreement and Policy-Making"**

ed. by Stefan Böschen and Peter Wehling This edited volume addresses some tough questions like: How is scientific knowledge constructed, how is expertise organised, how do the experts deal with uncertainty, ignorance, ambiguity and dissent, how is expert knowledge integrated in political decision-making, what relations of science to politics as well as to society emerge in cases of social conflict?

- **New Knowledge Brokerage Platform on Sustainable Consumption**

An international consortium launched a project aiming to connect scientific evidence on sustainable production and consumption (SCP) with policy makers' needs in decision making. The new web platform has been launched and will be the major tool for brokering relevant knowledge.

- **International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)**

The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) seeks to improve the lives of poor people in low- and middle-income countries by providing, and summarizing, evidence of what works, when, why and for how much.

- **The Change! Tool**

The Change! Tool has been developed by WWF-UK and CAG Consultants Ltd to evaluate the impact of their community engagement projects, programmes and interventions on sustainable behaviour. It measures the impact that community engagement has on changing and maintaining sustainable behaviour.

- **NEF Report: "Measuring Our Progress - The Power of Well-being"**

The New Economics Foundation (NEF) has published a new report on how peoples' well-being can be measured other than with traditional scales such as GDP, in order to be more inclusive and precise. The report aims at making a contribution to the debate about the question how scientific data can help to improve policy-making by providing indicators.

- **SPiRAL - Interfacing Policy and Biodiversity**

The FP7 programme SPiRAL will enhance the connectivity between biodiversity research and policy making in order to improve the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

- **Soil - SOER Thematic Assessment 2010**

The European Environment Agency and the European Commission Joint Research Center have recently published a new report on soil in Europe. It studies the current state of affairs, threats from over-use or degradation, as well as the legislation for the protection of soil that has been proposed at EU level.

- **European Climate Foundation - Carbon Brief**

'Carbon Brief' is a new online project that has recently been launched to follow and analyse the public debate around climate science. It focuses not just on providing information about climate change but about how climate change science and stories are communicated.



## **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.

