



EDITORIAL by Anna-Lena Guske and Klaus Jacob (FU Berlin) Over the past 4.5 years LIAISE investigated Impact Assessment (IA) practices on the EU level and in the Member States and their relation to sustainable development (SD). LIAISE focused especially on how IA is related to processes of scientific inquiry and the development of policy relevant knowledge in research projects. Based on the evidence collected in LIAISE two superordinate gaps were identified which still need further attention. First, there is an underutilization of research findings in policy making and, secondly, there is still room for improvement to better link research programming to the research needs in support of IA for SD. The LIAISE partners are committed to contribute to bridging these gaps also in the future and to continue to work in the field of IA research for SD. To better ensure the relevancy of scientific work for societal decision making, a community is needed that provides a platform for exchange between researchers, policy makers, research funders and other interested stakeholders to improve the joint understanding of research needs and to build a basis for producing credible, relevant and legitimate knowledge that is of use in policy-making. Therefore, LIAISE aims at establishing a durable partnership for the post-funding period – the "LIAISE community of Practice on IA research for SD". The network is developing a mission for this future engagement in IA research for SD to perform the following functions:

- Impact Assessment knowledge and information hub: a web-platform, providing also meta-data on IA knowledge and tools
- Networking and Discussion forum: consisting of policy-makers, research funders, scientists and other relevant stakeholders for mutual exchange
- Innovation and Testing: creating venues for shared research programming and innovation testing
- Tool identification and quality monitoring: development of evaluation criteria for IA and IA knowledge and tools
- Learning: capacity building in form of training courses and shared learning approaches

LIAISE carefully analysed the potential needs of policy makers that can be addressed by the research community, and developed several products to implement these functions, which will be maintained and developed further by the community in the post-funding period of LIAISE. To disseminate and discuss the LIAISE findings and products, as well as to prepare for the work in the future LIAISE Community of practice, LIAISE organizes a **conference to be held in Brussels on 1-2 April, 2014** (see below under LIAISE News). At the conference the mission document – the LIAISE charter – for the future Community of Practice will be introduced and workshops will be organized with stakeholders from different communities. The aim is to explore options for future collaboration to implement durable products in support of IA research for SD. If you are interested in joining the conference to reflect on the LIAISE past and future activities, you can register [here](#).



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

LIAISE News

LIAISE Dissemination Conference on "Impact Assessment for Sustainable Development: Knowledge Systems for the Future"

The LIAISE consortium is pleased to invite you on 1-2 April 2014 in Brussels to the Final dissemination conference of this Network of Excellence, funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme. The conference title reflects LIAISE vision "Impact Assessment for Sustainable Development: Knowledge Systems for the Future".

Summer School "Building Interdisciplinary Tools for Long-term Contaminated Site Management"

The ADVOCATE-LIAISE Summer School, to be held in Leipzig, Germany, on 16-20 June 2014, develops the fundamental building blocks of site management to cover decision making at the local scale (public understanding of risk) and regional scale (constructive conflict resolution). With a hands-on approach that includes modelling tutorials and a visit to a remediation site, participants will be challenged to use scientific and socio-economic data to develop sustainable site administration plans.

LIAISE Policy Brief No. 2 "Impact Assessment - Assessment of National-level Policy Strategies"

LIAISE Policy Brief No. 2 on "Impact Assessment - Assessment of national-level policy strategies" presents results from a study focusing on the use of impact assessment in the renewal of Finnish energy and climate strategy. The renewal process of the strategy included two impact assessments focusing on the environmental effects of the proposed strategy and implications to the national energy system and economy.

LIAISE Policy Brief No. 3 "Re-assessment of CO₂ and SO₂ Emissions in Energy Sector by Using LEAP-model: Experiences from Estonian Energy Sector Planning"

LIAISE Policy Brief No. 3 presents the results of a study on "Re-assessment of CO₂ and SO₂ emissions in energy sector by using LEAP-model: experiences from Estonian energy sector planning". It deals with a re-assessment of LEAP modelling results on CO₂ and SO₂ emissions, carried out in the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Estonian National Energy Sector Development Plan. The study highlights the opportunities for policy learning through the re-assessment of modelling results.

LIAISE Policy Brief No. 4 "'Setting up Young Farmers' CAP Measure in Rural Areas of Greece"

LIAISE Policy Brief No. 4 on "'Setting up young farmers' CAP measure in rural areas of Greece" has just been published. The imbalanced allocation of age-classes with high share of older farmers against younger ones, and the difficult access of young and well trained farmers to the primary sector are important factors that negatively affect the rural areas in most of the European countries. 'Setting up young farmers' is a measure of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that tries to answer these problems.

Publications from the LIAISE network

Impact Assessment of Land Use Policies

This publication is the introduction to a special issue of Land Use Policy, which was built around a series of impact assessments of land use policies and sustainable development in developing countries, carried out in the EU-funded project LUPIS. The project targeted at the development and testing of impact assessment tools of land-use-related policies in seven developing countries: Brazil, India, China, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali and Tunisia.

Ignorance in the Long-term Remediation of Contaminated Land

This article departs from the view in which ignorance is seen as necessarily detrimental and analyses how specified ignorance (here called 'nonknowledge') can even serve as a productive resource. By using the example of cleaning up contaminated land in a timely and effective manner, it is argued that nonknowledge is a useful resource; in some instances, on a par with knowledge in its importance. The article discusses some of the strategies used to cope with ongoing situations involving ignorance.

- **[A Multicriteria Model for the Assessment of Rural Development Plans in Greece](#)**

The research tries to measure the impacts of "setting up young farmers" measure ex-post. This research is part of a suite of case studies which was developed under the LIAISE network of excellence.

- **[Efficiency of Agricultural Measures to Reduce Nitrogen Deposition in Natura 2000 Sites](#)**

This paper quantifies the efficiency of emission control measures in agriculture at landscape scale on the N deposition and critical N load exceedances in Natura 2000 sites. The model INITIATOR2 was run with spatially explicit farm data to predict atmospheric emissions of ammonia.

- **[Policy Coherence for Development in the European Union: Do New Procedures Unblock or Simply Reproduce Old Disagreements?](#)**

Policy coherence for development (PCD) - the integration of the needs of developing countries into all policy areas - is now an EU policy goal. This article focuses on how far this ambitious goal has been addressed in a policy procedure - impact assessment (IA) - established to support such cross-cutting goals.

- **[Dynamic Market Power in an Exhaustible Resource Industry. The Case of Rare Earth Elements](#)**

This paper investigates China's capability to exert power on Rare Earth markets until 2020. A dynamic partial equilibrium model allowing for a disaggregated representation of the mining sector and endogenous investment in capacities is developed. The model is calibrated on a novel dataset on Rare Earth mines.

- **[Values in Socio-environmental Modelling: Persuasion for Action or Excuse for Inaction](#)**

This paper deals with the role of values in environmental modelling. It discusses several challenges for recent socio-environmental modelling and conclude with ten propositions that modellers and scientists in general can follow to improve their communication with the society and produce results that can be understood and used to improve awareness and education and spur action.



Events&Calls

- **[5th International Sustainability Transitions \(IST\) Conference](#)**

The University of Utrecht, Faculty of Geosciences, announces its 5th International Sustainability Transitions (IST) Conference which will take place in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on 27-29 August, 2014. Sustainability transitions are transformations of major socio-technical systems such as energy, water, transportation, and food towards more sustainable ways of production and consumption. The IST Conference aims to serve as a central platform for interdisciplinary discussions with inputs from heterodox economics, environmental governance, innovation studies, sociology and history.

- **[International Conference "Resilience in Urban and Regional Development. From Concept to Implementation"](#)**

The Dresden Leipzig Graduate School (DLGS) announces its international conference "Resilience in Urban and Regional Development, to be held in Berlin, Germany on 27-28 March 2014. From Concept to Implementation". The conference will include various speeches and the sessions "Concepts, Interrelations and Determinants", "Themes and Perspectives of Regional and Urban Resilience", "Operationalisation of Resilience" and "Implementation of Resilience Strategies".

- **[3rd European Environmental Evaluators Network Forum 'Linking Evaluation Findings to Enhancing Sustainability'](#)**

The 3rd European Environmental Evaluators Network Forum will be held on 28-29 April, 2014 at the Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki, Finland. The theme of the 3rd EEN forum is 'Linking evaluation findings to enhancing sustainability' paying particular attention to the influence of evaluations, coordination of knowledge generated by evaluations, and linking the evaluation of policy measures to long-term policy goals.

- **[2nd "Deltas in Times of Climate Change" Conference](#)**

The second international conference "Deltas in times of climate change" will be held on 24-26 September 2014 in Rotterdam, Netherlands. The organisers invite paper submission on the following themes: Climate projections and extremes, flood risk management, fresh water management, coastal systems and wetlands, urban adaptation to climate change, rural development and food security, among others.



Policies

- **[EU Common Agricultural Policy: New CAP Wins Final Political Approval](#)**

EU ministers gave their final seal of approval on 16 December to the Common Agricultural Policy, which sets out the EU's farming strategy for the 2014-2020 period. Approval means there will be no further delays to a policy whose implementation has already been postponed until 2015, due to the difficulty of finding an agreement. The CAP budget is due to be €408.3 billion over its seven-years, making it worth 38% of the EU budget.

- **[EU Climate Policy: Commission's 2030 Proposals Disappoint De-carbonisation Advocates](#)**

The capacity of the EU to maintain its position of international climate leadership has been thrown into doubt with the publication in January of the European Commission's long-awaited proposals for 2030. Although fears that the proposed new emission reduction target could be as low as 35% were not realised, the 40% figure agreed by the Commission falls short of what most consider to be consistent with the two degree C warming target. But it is the call for an EU renewables goal of 27% for 2030, with no binding national targets, that has drawn most criticism from environmental NGOs and low-carbon industry groups.

- **[First EU Resource Efficiency Scoreboard Published](#)**

Two years after a Commission commitment to produce one, on 6 December, 2013 the EU's statistical agency, Eurostat, issued the first version of a resource efficiency 'scoreboard'. The scoreboard is expected to evolve over time, with data gathered from EU institutions and other internationally recognised sources. The current scoreboard is based on 30 indicators, drawn from the EU's resource efficiency roadmap, and presents available national data on each for the 2000-12 period.



Training

- **[Istanbul Quantitative Lectures Programme 2014](#)**

Istanbul Quantitative Lectures offers three one-week courses (35 hours each) on the topics "Structural Equation Modeling", "Panel Data Analysis Using Cross-section & Spatial Models" and "Data Mining with R" in 2014. The detailed description and more information about the courses is available on the ISTQL website.

- **[Masters Study in Public Policy at the University of East Anglia](#)**

The University of East Anglia (UEA) offers two cross-disciplinary MA programmes designed for students from a wide variety of backgrounds: MA in "Public Policy and the Environment" and MA in "International Public Policy, Regulation and Competition". The courses appeal to both policy practitioners, and to graduates in a variety of disciplines (e.g. environmental sciences, politics, law, business studies, economics, international development) seeking deeper understanding of policy-making processes and specialist skills.

- **[Summer School on Sustainability BLISS 2014](#)**

The TERI University in India announces its Summer School "Building Learning in Sustainability Science" (BLISS), to be held from 10-14 March, 2014. The summer school aims to generate interest among the students in the field of energy, environment, sustainable development, and business sustainability.

- **[Climate Change Governance Course](#)**

The Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation is offering a course on climate change governance. Course theme is "Adaptation and mitigation as institutional change processes". The course is intended for mid-career professionals, dealing with climate change adaptation and mitigation options in developing countries, working for a research organization, NGO, government or civil society.

- **[International Summer School "The Regulative Capacity of Knowledge Objects: Opening the Black Box of Knowledge Governance"](#)**

The Post-Graduate Program in Philosophy, Science and Values (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU, and National Autonomous University of Mexico, UNAM) and the Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (KIT/ITAS) will be holding an International Summer School for PhD students on

"The Regulative Capacity of Knowledge Objects: Opening the Black Box of Knowledge Governance". The aim of the Summer School, to be held on 28 July to 1 August, 2014 is to untangle the relationship between knowledge objects and governance phenomena. Contributions from different disciplines are welcome.

Links

- **[BASE European Climate Adaptation Newsletter](#)**

The first issue of the biannual European Adaptation Newsletter of the EU-funded BASE (Bottom-up Climate Adaptation Strategies Towards a Sustainable Europe) project is out. The newsletter reports on latest research and activities from the BASE project as well as on climate adaptation news and events from across Europe.

- **[Policy Design Lab Project Website](#)**

The team of the Policy Design Lab Project is happy to announce that its website has now gone online. The project aims to provide a ready reference for policy practitioners to assist them in policy design. Because it operates at the interface of public policy theory and practice, the project was called 'design lab' initiative. One of its main purposes is to serve as an interactive platform for sharing and exchange of perspectives and experiences of diverse users.

- **[New Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\) Engagement Forum](#)**

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services has set up a new "IPBES Engagement Forum" open for everyone interested in IPBES' activities.

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 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.

