



Linking Impact Assessment
Instruments to Sustainability Expertise

Conference

Impact Assessment for
Sustainable Development:
Knowledge Systems for
the Future

2014, April 1st-2nd
Brussels, Belgium

AGENDA



Background

The ex ante Impact Assessment of planned policies has developed as an important part of policy making within the European institutions as well as in Member States. The analysis of expected economic, social and environmental impacts informs the decision making process, and collecting relevant and trustworthy evidence is indeed a challenge. At the same time, Impact Assessment is an opportunity for researchers, research organisations and funding agencies to develop knowledge relevant for societal decision making.

As a European research consortium LIAISE investigated over the past 4.5 years the Impact Assessment (IA) practices in relation to Sustainable Development (SD). Specific attention was given to the question how the process of IA at various levels is related to the processes of research and knowledge production. LIAISE identified important gaps between:

- 1) the current use of research results and what would be potentially feasible;
- 2) the current system of research programming and what would be required to better support the process of IA for SD.

We explored the possibilities offered by transdisciplinary creation and contextualisation of knowledge, co-design, meta-data repositories, joint agenda setting, quality review and monitoring, and community and capacity building to tackle these shortcomings.

In order to ensure the relevancy of research for societal decision making, the network aims for a continuation of its efforts and will provide services in the context of impact assessment for sustainable development. The mission of the network is outlined in the LIAISE Charter which will be presented, commented and discussed on April 1st.

The LIAISE Conference is structured as follows: 3 half days each with a different focus, but all open to interaction with interested parties.

Sessions A - LIAISE Knowledge, Information and Tools

Session A on April 1st Morning starts with the assessment of current Practices of IA in Europe, LIAISE is then proud to present its LIAISE KIT: A knowledge and community platform for Impact Assessment for Sustainable Development. At its core is the concept of Quality of models and methods for IA, together with a sensible Co-Design of Knowledge with interested parties. This concept will also be addressed in the subsequent sessions. The Shared research agenda session naturally closes the morning programme with a discussion on the path ahead for joint research programming.

Sessions B - Science for Sustainable Development

Session B on April 1st Afternoon offers different perspectives on Sustainable Development: those of the most renowned European Research institutions working in the field. The Director of each institution will deliver a speech, followed by a quick overview of the perspectives of the member states. The day will end with the talks of outstanding keynote speakers.

Sessions C - European Research & The Future of LIAISE

Session C on April 2nd Morning will be dedicated to the path ahead for LIAISE. We will first discuss - within 3 parallel working sessions with the wider community of research networks, training providers, and funding agencies - how to engage with the LIAISE Community of Practice on desired directions for future research and activities. The results of the 2 day - discussions will be summarised by the rapporteurs, and reported to the LIAISE Policy Board for insights before a final assessment by the coordinators.

**March
31st 2014
18:00
22:00**

18:00 – 19:00 Welcome cocktail + Early registration

20:00 Conference Dinner

**April 1st
2014
08:30
13:00**

08:30 – 09:00 Welcome Breakfast + Registration

Sessions A - LIAISE Knowledge, Information and Tools

The LIAISE Network of Excellence presents its key findings in five short presentations, each followed by comments of distinguished representatives of prominent institutions working in the field, and discussions, questions and answers with the audience.

- A1 09:00 – 09:20 **Welcome Address**
Javier Peinado, European Commission,
DG Research and Innovation
Klaus Jacob, (FUB)
Sander Janssen, (ALTERRA)
- A2 09:20 – 10:00 **The Practices of IA in Europe**
Andrew Jordan, (UEA)
Tim Rayner, (UEA)
- Commentators**
Andrea Renda, The Centre for
European Policy Studies
Hens Runhaar, Utrecht University,
The Netherlands
- A3 10:00 – 10:40 **LIAISE KIT: A repository for
Knowledge, Information, Tools**
Klaus Jacob, (FUB)
Stefan Reis, (CEH)
Onno Roosenschoon, (ALTERRA)
- Commentators**
Sandra Bernick, Milieu Consultant
Jens Otto, Joint Research Center,
European Commission, Belgium
Arn Sauer, Federal Environment
Agency, Germany

*Speakers to be confirmed

**April 1st
2014**

A4 10:40 – 11:20

Quality of models and methods for IA
Paul Hinssen, (WUR)
Jacques Jansen, (ALTERRA)

Commentators

Sjoerd Hardeman, European
Commission, JRC

Rob Maas, National Institute for
Public Health and the
Environment, The Netherlands

11:20 – 11:40 Coffee Break

A5 11:40 – 12:20

The Co-Design of Knowledge
Sanna-Riikka Saarela, (SYKE)
Tarja Södermann, (SYKE)

Commentators

Peter DeSmedt, European
Commission, Joint Research Centre

Ana Jakil, Federal Chancellery of Austria
Patrick Ten Brink, Institute for European
Environmental Policy, United Kingdom

A6 12:20 – 13:00

Shared research agenda
Katharina Helming, (ZALF)
Aranka Podhora, (ZALF)

Commentators

Jesus-Maria Alquezar Sabadie, European
Commission, DG Research and Innovation

Bernhard Berger, European Commission,
DG Environment

Frank Dreger, Project Management Juelich,
Germany

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

**April 1st
2014**

Sessions B - Science for Sustainable Development

LIAISE aims to acknowledge different perspectives on Sustainable Development, starting with those of the most renowned European Research institutions working in the field. The Directors of each institution will deliver a speech, followed by a quick overview of the perspectives of the member states. The day will end with the talks of outstanding keynote speakers.

- B1** 14:30 – 15:15 **Research for Sustainable Development: an institute's perspective**
Sander Janssen, (ALTErrA)
- Keynote speakers
Jan-Erik Wien, ALTErrA, The Netherlands
Lea Kauppi, Finnish Environment Institute
- B2** 15.15 – 16.00 **Sustainable Development: a Member States' perspective**
Jacopo Crimi, (FEEM)
- Ana Jakil**, Federal Chancellery of Austria
Joerg Mayer-Ries, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
- B3** 16:00 – 17:30 **Sustainable Development and evidence based decision making**
- Keynote speakers
Bas Eickhout, Member of European Parliament
Ben Goldacre, Author of Bad Science and Bad Pharma, United Kingdom
Leen Hordijk, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

20:00 Conference Dinner

**April 2nd
2014**

08:30 – 09:00 Welcome Breakfast

Sessions C - European Research and the Future of LIAISE

Science in support of societal decision making takes place in many different projects and networks. During the workshops we invited representatives of projects, institutions and networks to present their activities in research, training and research programming. The workshops will provide a space to explore if and how future LIAISE activities will provide benefits for the wider research community.

C1 09:00 – 09:15 **Introduction**
Klaus Jacob, (FUB)
Sander Janssen, (ALTERRA)

09:15 – 11:00 **Parallel working groups**

Room Royal A

C2 **Research networks and projects**

Session C2 specifically aims to provide reflections on the topic of impact assessment for sustainable development from experts in different fields of IA, representing other existing networks and research activities. We will discuss, on a strategic level, what the niche for LIAISE could be, the type and level of services LIAISE could offer, including potential of synergies and collaborations with the networks represented and the wider community.

Chair
Stefan Reis, (CEH)
Onno Roosenschoon, (ALTERRA)

Panel
Jan Bakkes, The Integrated Assessment Society - TIAS
Marco Martuzzi, World Health Organisation
Frank Vanclay, International Association for Impact Assessment

Room Royal B

C3 **Training for Impact Assessment**

Session C3 focuses on capacity building and training components for IA. Spreading the results of research activities to target groups in communities of IA users and IA researchers is key in strengthening the LIAISE community. We will therefore discuss the available options for the future of the LIAISE trainings and for potential collaboration with existing networks and training programs.

Chair
Sabine Weiland, (FUB)

Panel
Scott H. Jacobs, Jacobs Cordova & Associates Europe Ltd
Melanie Heyde, Helmholtz Interdisciplinary GRADuate School for Environmental Research - UFZ

April 2nd 2014

Salon 2 (7th Floor)

C4

Research in support of sustainable development

Session C4 How should research be designed in order to leverage sustainable development? What are the key features of the evidence base that researchers should develop in support of policy and business decision making? What are the key characteristics for a research agenda in support of sustainable development?

LIAISE elaborated on these questions from the specific viewpoint of policy impact assessments. Other projects and initiatives took different viewpoints to approach the question of what makes research relevant and useful for sustainable development. In this session, findings and viewpoints from different projects and programs at European and national levels will be presented and discussed. Synthesis findings for a shared research agenda and research programming will be identified.

Chairs

Katharina Helming, (ZALF)

Klaus Jacob, (FUB)

Aranka Podhora, (ZALF)

Panel

Lino Paula, European Commission,
DG Research and Innovation

Michael Weber, Project Management
Juelich, Germany

Zsolt Pataki, European Commission,
DG for Parliamentary Research Services,
Directorate for Impact Assessment
and European Added Value

André Martinuzzi*, Research
Institute for Managing Sustainability,
WU Vienna

C5 11:00 – 12:30

Policy Forum

Input from the rapporteurs of the parallel sessions C2, C3, C4

Jérôme Vignon, (Chair, LIAISE Policy Board)

C6 12:30 – 13:00

The way forward

Klaus Jacob, (FUB)

Sander Janssen, (ALTERRA)

13:00 – 14:00 Light lunch and Departures





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