

EASY-ECO

EvAluation of Sustainability

European COnferences & Training Courses

The EASY-ECO 2008-2010 Series is sponsored by



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Evaluating Sustainable Development: A European challenge

Over the last two decades, sustainable development has evolved from a vague vision to a set of basic principles that guide decisions and actions on various levels. In knowledge-based societies, decisions should be based on reliable information. Evaluations in the context of sustainable development (SD evaluations) provide exactly this much needed resource. They document drawbacks as well as progress, identify related barriers and success factors and support learning processes.

Regarding SD evaluations, a number of innovative methods and new areas of work have emerged in recent years, such as strategic environmental assessments, impact assessments, peer reviews, systemic evaluations, theory-based evaluations and participatory approaches. These new developments confront both contractors and evaluators with new methodological and practical challenges. Coping with these challenges requires capacity building through networking and training.

EASY-ECO: A successful series of EU conferences and trainings

Since 2002, the Research Institute for Managing Sustainability (RIMAS) at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration has successfully coordinated the EU-project "EASY-ECO - Evaluation of Sustainability" (funded within FP5 and FP6). As of November 2009, six major conferences and seven training courses have taken place under the EASY-ECO stamp. The involvement of countless outstanding academics, very good feedback from the trainees and a book series on SD evaluations show the success of this series. Consequently, the German UNESCO commission acknowledged EASY-ECO 2005-2007 as an official project of the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).



Date	Event	Location	Organized by
Mar. 2008	Conference "Governance by Evaluation"	Vienna, Austria	Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration
Sept. 2008	Training	Saarbrücken, Germany	Saarland University
Apr. 2009	Training	Lund, Sweden	Lund University
June 2009	Training	Bilbao, Spain	University of Basque Country
Oct. 2009	Conference "Stakeholder Perspective"	Budapest, Hungary	CEU Business School
Mar. 2010	Training	Trento, Italy	University of Trento
June 2010	Training	Tallinn, Estonia	Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre
Sept. 2010	Training	Prague, Czech Republic	The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
Nov. 2010	Conference "European Perspective"	Brussels, Belgium	Université Libre de Bruxelles



**EASY-ECO 2008-2010:
Going one step further**

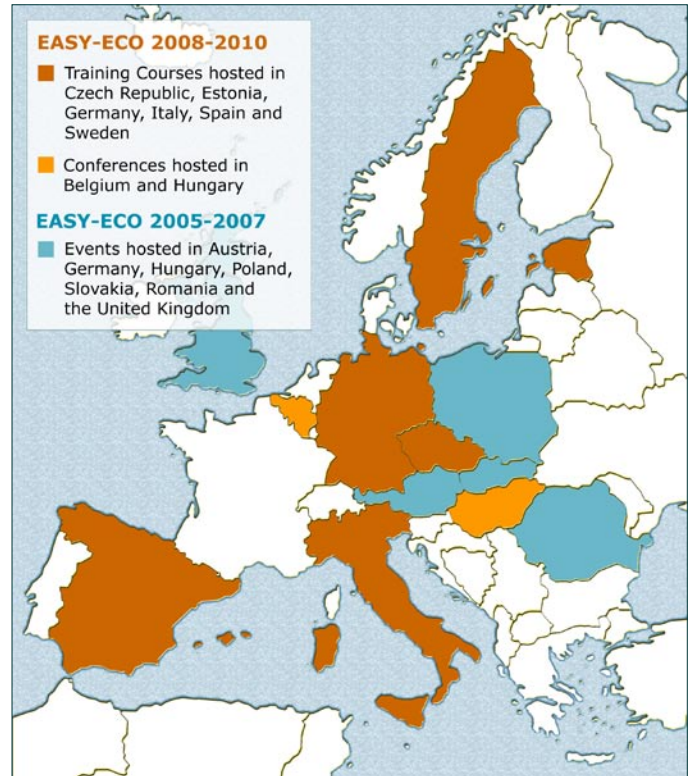
In order to meet the growing interest and demand of young researchers regarding SD evaluations, the EASY-ECO series of events continues until 2010, with two additional conferences and six training courses with about 40 participants each.

Based on our accompanying evaluations and experiences regarding the previous events, the 2008-2010 series of events charts new territory:

- It involves new project partners and covers new countries (conferences in Belgium and Hungary, training courses in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden).
- It takes current political developments in evaluation in Europe into account by focusing the trainings on selected case studies on, for example, peer reviews and impact assessments.
- It utilises cutting-edge e-learning methods for delivering theoretical contents dealing with
 - foundations of evaluation,
 - theory-based evaluation and other emerging evaluation models,
 - new demands on evaluation from the perspective of sustainable development,
 - participation and stakeholder involvement in the context of evaluation,
 - data collection and analysis methods,
 - data synthesis and integrating environmental, economic and social impacts
 - complementary skill for communicating in evaluation projects, and
 - SD evaluation markets.

The e-learning part, constant for each training, will take place on an e-learning platform over a period of three months.

- Successful participants will be invited to a five day case training which provides hands-on experience with case studies of actual evaluation projects.
- To encourage the participants to present a paper at one of the EASY-ECO conferences and to improve the quality of their own projects, the trainers will support them during a subsequent virtual follow-up phase.



Contact

For further information about the EASY-ECO series of conferences and training courses, please visit the EASY-ECO website at www.easy-eco.eu or contact us.

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Illustration:  Virtual trainings on e-learning platform (3 months)  Case Trainings (5 days)  Conferences (4 days)

