MARIE CURIE ACTIONS

EASY-ECO Bratislava Training

21st-30th September 2005



THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER for Central and Eastern Europe The EASY-ECO 2005-2007 Series is sponsored by



Status June 2005





EASY-ECO has been awarded an Official Decade Project by the German Commission for UNESCO.

The aim of this training in Bratislava is to provide young sustainability evaluators with the possibility to develop their understanding of different forms of evaluation and impact assessment as a key part of the EASY-ECO programme. The overall effect of EASY-ECO will be to strengthen European

Participants - apply in June 2005!

the sustainability evaluation field.

The training is designed for a specific target group of **young researchers** (less than ten years experience) with a strong interest in the areas of evaluation and/or sustainable development. Participants may be studying for their doctorates, working in a government department, in public administration, in NGOs or for international organisations in the sustainability/evaluation field.

sustainability at all levels and to provide a stimulating

educational programme for young people working in

Importantly, **EU-Grants are available to cover all costs** (travel expenses, participation fees, accommodation and living allowance) for participants of this target group. Young researchers are highly encouraged to visit a conference, and then attend one of the EASY-ECO Trainings, all of which can be covered by an EU-Grant. Ideally, participants will submit a paper on an aspect of evaluation of sustainability for one of the conferences following their training. Full details on eligibility for grants is given on the EASY-ECO website at www.sustainability.at/easy.

Application for EU-Grants closes on the 25th June!

Training venue: This training will be held in Bratislava, the small and vibrant capital of the Slovak Republic. A city which has lived its life in many phases, in several countries and under many different names, Bratislava is now the administrative centre of a state adjusting itself to life in the EU. The training venue itself is the Institute for Public Administration, situated just outside the historic centre of Bratislava, close to the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains.

Theme

Evaluation and impact assessment are playing increasingly important roles in all European member states. Most governments have introduced regulatory impact assessment procedures for their own policy-making processes and candidate countries are being encouraged to do the same. Local Agenda 21 initiatives, and private sector corporations' sustainability reporting and environmental management systems are also increasingly widely used. Many development assistance programmes, as well as the EU's agricultural and structural funds, are subject to impact assessment or evaluation procedures.

This use of evaluation and impact assessment as a tool for strengthening public policy-making presents many challenges. The need for better evidence in decision-making, for greater civil society involvement in governance, and for closer alignment of policy with the goal of sustainable development, is well understood in principle, but less readily applied in practice.

The training in Bratislava is intended to enable young researchers to conduct actual evaluation projects in the future, to develop their skills and build their own capacity in the evaluation of sustainability. The virtual pretraining and follow-up phases allow for solid preparation, continued personal development and extended networking opportunities, especially when combined with participation at one of the conferences.





EvAluation of SustainabilitY

Structure of the training

The training will combine a morning core-course with a series of afternoon case-study practical sessions. The core course comprises a series of high-quality lectures given by experienced international trainers. Each afternoon the course shifts its focus to practical case-study sessions,

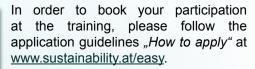
during which participants have the opportunity to work hands-on alongside case-owners and apply the content of core-course materials. Participants are given the choice of working on evaluation/impact assessment case-studies focusing on international and EU policies and programmes; national policies for sustainable development; and regional and local activities for sustainable development (LA 21 etc).

In groups of 10-15, participants will be supported by a scientific tutor throughout the duration of the training. During the three-month virtual follow-up phase, participants can work on their own papers towards submission at one of

the conferences, with the full support of case-owners and scientific tutors. Contextual issues that may be addressed in these papers include: integration into policy-making processes; institutional transformation and capacity-building; identification of goals and needs; stakeholder identification and involvement; evaluation culture and strategies to enhance it; expert networks, overview of the evaluation praxis in the participants home country.

Further Information and Bookings

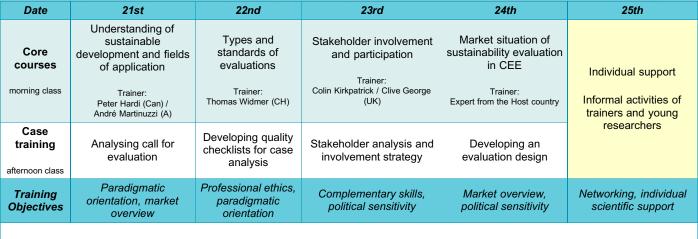
The training itself runs for ten consecutive days, starting on the 21st of September and finishing on the 30th September. In excess of 35 young researchers from a variety of countries will attend, along with around ten teaching staff and case-study tutors.



The REC Slovakia: The conference is being organised by the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe – REC Slovakia, which is based in Bratislava. The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is a non-partisan, non-advocacy, not-for-profit international organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe. Please take a look at the REC website for more information www.rec.org.

The EASY-ECO website <u>www.sustainability.at/easy</u> has been carefully constructed so as to provide answers to all your questions. Should you not have access to the internet, or you require any assistance not available on the website, please do not hesitate to contact James Grellier at the REC Slovakia on:

Tel.: +421 2 5263 2942, Fax: +421 2 5296 4208 Email: <u>rec@changenet.sk</u>



| Date | 26th | 27th | 28th | 29th | 30th |
|------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| Core courses | Theory-based evaluation and policy analysis | Evaluation design and data collection | Data analysis, aggregation and valuation methods | Communication of evaluation results | Get-together with local commissioning agents and evaluation professionals |
| morning class | Trainer: Frans Leeuw (NL) | Trainer: Alexandra Caspari (D) | Trainer: Mario Giampetro (I) | Trainer: Barbara Anton (D) | |
| Case training | Analysis of actual offer | Handling of quantitative and qualitative data | Aggregating and analysing the data provided and discussion of possible judgements | Recommendations and communicating results | |
| Training Objectives | Theoretical and methodological knowledge | Theoretical and methodological knowledge | Theoretical and methodological knowledge | Communication skills and political sensitivity | Networking |