

## EASY-ECO Brussels Conference 2010

17–19 November 2010

# Sustainable Development Evaluation in Europe: From a Decade of Practices, Politics and Science to Emerging Demands



This event is sponsored by



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

### EASY-ECO – Evaluation of Sustainability European Conferences and Trainings

EASY-ECO is a conference and training programme on evaluation in the specific context of sustainable development (*SD evaluation, sustainability evaluation*). Twelve European top-class research institutions are collaborating with the common aim of building capacity for SD evaluation and facilitating the exchange of analyses, concepts and experiences (for further details please see [www.easy-eco.eu](http://www.easy-eco.eu)).

#### Focus

The forthcoming 2010 EASY-ECO conference in Brussels will focus on the European perspective of evaluation of sustainable development, taking stock of almost a decade of integrated evaluation practice at EU- and national levels in order to identify the challenges ahead. Practitioners, academia and institutional actors have devoted considerable efforts to the development of methods and capacities for SD evaluations. The decision of the EU Commission to implement a systematic integrated assessment procedure could mean that SD evaluation has reached a position at the heart of decision-making processes. Europe, as an array of institutional actors and as a space for diffusion and homogenisation of principles and practices across EU member states, appears as an adequate focus to explore the challenges ahead among which we identify issues such as methods and tools, insertion into policy agendas and processes, institutionalization and governance processes, issues of power, participation and collaboration of various actors (from evaluation practitioners and institutional actors to civil society and academia) in evaluation studies and systems.

The primary aim of the conference is to highlight critical insights gained through the development and implementation of almost a decade of SD evaluation: What are the remaining methodological and policy challenges related to the European Commission's Impact Assessment (CEC-IA) procedure? How is SD integrated into various EU-level evaluation procedures (e.g. EU Structural Funds, IA of trade measures and agreements, work of the European Court of Auditors)? What is the role of the different actors in the CEC-IA (e.g. EU Parliament, European Court of Auditors, stakeholders)? Being the last of the EASY-ECO 2008-2010 series of events, the Brussels conference also aims to explore the future of SD evaluation, and in particular the current challenges and forthcoming demands, the expectations, uses and effects related to SD evaluation: Who are the effective and potential users of SD evaluations? What types of uses have been made of SD evaluations? Which effects of SD evaluations are expected and which are achieved? How does SD evaluation support actors in managing competing agendas? Will reorienting SD evaluation towards integrated evaluation make a difference?

#### Venues

This three-day conference will close the (FP6, Marie-Curie) EASY-ECO cycle. Given the European focus of this final conference, it will be starting in the **European Parliament**. Next days' sessions will take place in the **Belgian Royal Academy of Sciences** (European Quarter) and in the **Université Libre de Bruxelles** (Solbosch Campus).

Applications for paying participants still open!  
See [www.easy-eco.eu](http://www.easy-eco.eu)



## Scientific committee

**Alain AYONG LE KAMA**

*Université de Lille, FR*

**Alessandro BONIFAZI**

*Università degli Studi di Bari, IT*

**Peter HARDI**

*Central European University, HUB*

**Klaus JACOB**

*Freie Universität Berlin, DE*

**Andrew JORDAN**

*University of East-Anglia, UK*

**Colin KIRKPATRICK**

*University of Manchester, UK*

**Markku LEHTONEN**

*University of Sussex, UK*

**André MARTINUZZI**

*Vienna University of Economics and Business, AT*

**Miranda SCHREURS**

*Freie Universität Berlin, DE*

**Anneke VON RAGGAMBY**

*Ecologic, DE*

## Organising committee

The Brussels EASY-ECO conference is organized by the **Centre d'Etudes du Développement Durable** (Centre for Studies on Sustainable Development) of the **Université Libre de Bruxelles, BE**.

**Dr Tom BAULER** – *Université Libre de Bruxelles*  
*tbauler@ulb.ac.be* (Chair)

**Prof. Edwin ZACCAÏ** – *Université Libre de Bruxelles* (co-Chair)

**Prof. David AUBIN** – *Université catholique de Louvain* (co-Chair)

**Dr Marc PALLEMAERTS** – *Université Libre de Bruxelles* and  
*Institute for European Environmental Policy*

**Valentine VAN GAMEREN** – *Université Libre de Bruxelles*  
*vvgamere@ulb.ac.be* (contact)

**Emilie MUTOMBO** – *Université Libre de Bruxelles*

For regular updates on the event, please visit the project website at [www.easy-eco.eu](http://www.easy-eco.eu).

The project coordinator is the **Research Institute for Managing Sustainability (RIMAS)** at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, which has successfully coordinated the EU-project **EASY-ECO - Evaluation of Sustainability** (funded within FP5 and FP6) since 2002.

To contact the coordinators please send an e-mail to **Dr Michal Sedlacko** ([michal.sedlacko@wu.ac.at](mailto:michal.sedlacko@wu.ac.at)) or **Dr André Martinuzzi** ([andre.martinuzzi@wu.ac.at](mailto:andre.martinuzzi@wu.ac.at)), or visit the website at [www.sustainability.eu](http://www.sustainability.eu).

## Overall event moderation

**Ursula Kopp** – *Vienna University of Economics and Business, AT*



## Provisional program

**Wednesday, 17 November 2010**  
**European Parliament, Brussels**

*Sustainable Development Evaluation in Europe in 2010:  
The Actors' Assessment*

**13:00** *Registration (European Parliament)*

**14:00** *Welcome and introduction*

**André MARTINUZZI**, *EASY-ECO Network Coordinator, Vienna University of Economics and Business, AT*

**Isabelle DURANT**, *Member of the European Parliament, The Greens- European Free Alliance*

**14:30** *Keynote*

***The challenges of sustainable development in Europe***

**Andrew JORDAN**, *University of East-Anglia, UK*

**15:15** *Statements by EU policy actors*

***Critical insights on a decade of sustainable development evaluation in Europe: from principles to best practice?***

**Stephen WHITE**, *DG Environment, European Commission*

**Jérôme VIGNONE**, *form. DG Employment, European Commission, Chair of LIASE Policy Board (tbc)*

**Claude TURMES**, *MEP, European Parliament*

**John HONTELEZ**, *European Environmental Bureau*

**Jock MARTIN**, *European Environment Agency*

**Jakub KONIECKI**, *Secretariat General, Impact Assessment Board*

**16:30** *Round table and plenary discussion with EU policy actors*

***The future of sustainable development evaluation in Europe***

*Moderated by: Marc PALLEMAERTS, IIEP, UK*

*Discussant: Ian Craig DAVIS, President of the European Evaluation Society*

**17:45** *Closing followed by a cocktail*

**20:00** *Welcome dinner for grant holders (La Bécasse)*



**Thursday, 18 November 2010**  
**Palais des Académies, Brussels**

*The Politics and Science of Sustainable Development  
 Evaluation in Europe*

- 08:30** Registration
- 09:00** Welcome and introduction  
**Tom BAULER**, EASY-ECO Conference Chair,  
 Université Libre de Bruxelles, BE
- 09:15** Plenary session A  
**Does SD evaluation improve environmental  
 policy?**  
**Peter KNOEPFEL**, Swiss Graduate School of Public  
 Administration, CH
- 10:15** Coffee break
- 10:30** Parallel sessions A.1 to A.4  
 A.1 – Multi-level impact assessments  
 A.2 – Influence of evaluation  
 A.3 – LIAISE session  
 A.4 – Cities and SD evaluation
- 12:30** Lunch break
- 14:00** Plenary sessions B  
**The diffusion of SD evaluation standards  
 and principles as a lever for  
 homogenisation and quality?**  
**Thomas WIDMER**, Universität Zürich, CH
- 14:45** Coffee break
- 15:00** Parallel sessions C.1 to C.4  
 C.1 – Challenges for EU SD evaluation  
 C.2 – Participation in SD evaluation  
 C.3 – SD evaluation in national policies  
 C.4 - Theoretical discussions: new SD  
 evaluation tools and methods
- 17:00** Plenary session D  
 D.1 – Flash presentations by Young  
 Researchers - I  
 D.2 – Flash presentations by Young  
 Researchers - II
- 18:30** Closing
- 19:30** Dinner (Ateliers des Tanneurs)



**Friday, 19 November 2010**  
**Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels**

*The Challenge for Research:  
 Networking and Capacity-building in the Future*

- 08:30** Registration and poster installation
- 09:00** Parallel sessions E.1 to E.4  
 E.1 – Refining tools for evaluation  
 E.2 – Indicators for SD evaluation  
 E.3 – SD evaluation and rural development  
 E.4 – Workshop: systemic evaluation
- 10:30** Coffee break
- 11:00** Plenary session F  
**Evaluating Sustainable Development –  
 Communities, Achievements and still a lot of  
 Challenges**  
**André MARTINUZZI**, Easy-Eco Network  
 Coordinator, Vienna University of Economics  
 and Business Administration
- 11:45** Round table discussion  
**Evaluation research and practice: some  
 prospects**  
 Clive **GEORGE**, form. University of Manchester, UK  
 Wolfgang **MEYER**, University of Saarland, DE  
 Karolina **MIKOVA**, Partners for Democratic Change, SK  
 Miranda **SCHREURS**, Freie Universität Berlin, DE  
 Daniel **WACHTER**, Federal Office for Spatial  
 Development, CH  
**Thomas WIDMER**, Universität Zürich, CH
- 12:30** Closing words and farewell  
**Tom BAULER**, EASY-ECO Conference Chair,  
 Université Libre de Bruxelles, BE
- 13:00** Lunch and departure

