

EASY-ECO Training on Sustainability Assessment in a Transboundary Context in Tallinn, Estonia

14-18 June 2010

Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre, Estonia

This EASY-ECO Series Event is sponsored by



MARIE CURIE ACTIONS



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

Status: February 2010

The fifth training in the EASY-ECO 2008-2010 series of trainings and conferences will take place in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. The training, hosted by the Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre (SEI Tallinn), will provide a possibility for young researchers to enhance their knowledge on and competences in sustainability assessment in a transboundary context. In addition to a preceding 3-month e-learning course the training will offer exploration of issues related to transboundary effects of development pursued by one country on the economic, environmental and social aspect of other countries on the example of three actual sustainability assessment cases, concerning a gas pipeline, a nuclear power plant and a water canal. The training is sponsored by the EU Marie Curie Action, offering a grant covering all costs of participation to most of the participants.

Participants

The main target group of the training are young researchers (less than ten years of experience) with a strong interest in the areas of evaluation and impact assessment, sustainable development, urban development and international environmental law. Participants may be studying for their doctorates, working in a government department, in public administration, in NGOs, or for international organisations.

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 to one of the conferences following their training. Full details eligibility can be found on the EASY-ECO website www.easy-eco.eu.

Theme

Evaluation of sustainability of projects, programmes and policies is becoming increasingly important in all European member states. Most governments as well as the European Commission have introduced regulatory impact assessment procedures as part of their own policy-making. Environmental impact assessment (EIA), strategic environmental assessment (SEA), sustainability appraisal and other forms of evaluation are used to evaluate interventions in areas such as development assistance, infrastructural development, energy or EU's agricultural and structural funds. We consider evaluation as one of the key tools for transition to sustainability.

Each of the six EASY-ECO trainings each provide an opportunity to enable 30-40 participants to develop practical competences to conduct actual sustainability evaluation projects and become members in a thematic network of leading scientists and practitioners. To this end, each training consists of an e-learning course on evaluation of sustainable development lasting 3 months and a one-week on-site training devoted to specific themes.

This training focuses on sustainability assessment in a transboundary context. The purpose of sustainability assessment is to identify and examine environmental, social and economic effects of an intervention in an integrated way to provide for more informed, participative and transparent decision-making. All three cases in this training will be related to major infrastructural developments, which have potentially significant effects beyond the borders of their implementing countries.

Themes of the training will also include:

- the roles of evaluation in the policy cycle (such as learning, accountability, improvement, capacity building, policy integration, participation and institutional change)
- approaches to evaluation (such as utilization-focused

Deadline for application is 7 March 2010!



evaluation, deliberative democratic evaluation or theory-driven evaluation)

- stages of evaluation (from analyzing the tender through evaluation design and collecting, analyzing and aggregating data to communicating findings)
- methods and techniques to conduct evaluation (quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, participatory techniques, valuation and integration methods, indicators etc.)

More information on the content of the training and the case studies can be found at the EASY-ECO website.

Structure of the training

The **e-learning phase** will start in March 2010 and end in early June 2010. E-learning is designed to be flexible (mostly asynchronous and allowing a vacation or a work-related break) and interactive. The expected time investment is approximately 80 hours of course work, including reading

prepared texts and selected articles, watching videos and participating in forum discussions with other participants and evaluation experts such as Frans Leeuw, Peter Hardi or Wolfgang Meyer. Based on performance in the first half of the e-course **approximately 80 to 90 per cent of trainees will be awarded with EU-grants to cover their participation in the on-site training.**

The **on-site training** will take place 14-18 June 2010 in Tallinn, Estonia, and is organized by SEI Tallinn. Before the training, each participant will choose one of three offered sustainability assessments as a case study (more information can be found on our website). The resulting three groups of about 10-15 persons each will have the opportunity to work for one week hands-on on all stages of the actual evaluation case study under the guidance of experienced trainers (Panu Kontio of the Finnish Environment Institute, Wiek Schrage, former Secretary to the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, and Kaja Peterson of SEI Tallinn).

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
9:00 – 10:30	Introductions	Developing quality checklists	Developing an evaluation design, choosing methods	Performing data collection	Formulating and delivering evaluation findings and recommendations
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	Introducing the background of the case study, analysing a call for an evaluation	Stakeholder analysis and involvement strategy	Developing an evaluation design, choosing methods	Performing data collection	Formulating and delivering evaluation findings and recommendations
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Introducing the background of the case study, analysing a call for an evaluation	Stakeholder analysis and involvement strategy	Writing an offer, including a budget, analysis of the actual offer	Analysis of data, aggregation and weighting	Official conclusion of the training, reflection
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	Choosing an evaluation approach	Designing a communication strategy	Writing an offer, including a budget, analysis of the actual offer	Analysis of data, aggregation and weighting	Departure

The Host of the Training

The Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre/ Estonian Institute for Sustainable Development (SEI Tallinn) was established in 1992. The mission of SEI-Tallinn is to help shape decisions affecting societal development and the environment towards more balanced and sustainable results that take into account public interest. Its work includes policy analysis, interdisciplinary research, development and implementation of sustainable management methods in four programme areas: sustainability studies, environmental management, climate and energy, and environmental economics. SEI Tallinn collaborates with other international organisations, research institutes, the

public and private sector and NGOs. SEI Tallinn is part of the international network of the Stockholm Environment Institute.

For further information and questions on the EASY-ECO training in Tallinn, please visit the website www.easy-eco.eu or contact:

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