

EASY-ECO Training on Strategic Environmental Assessment in Trento, Italy

8-12 March 2010

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of the University of Trento, Italy

This EASY-ECO Series Event is sponsored by



MARIE CURIE ACTIONS



UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO - Italy

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

Status: November 2009

The fourth training in the EASY-ECO 2008-2010 series of trainings and conferences will take place in the city of Trento, a small city with a very rich history lying in northern Italy. The training provides a possibility for young researchers to enhance their knowledge and competences in Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), one of the major fields of evaluation of sustainable development. The training is sponsored by the European Union's Marie Curie Actions, offering a grant covering all costs of participation to almost all participants.

Participants

The 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 landscape planning. 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 on eligibility for grants is given 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.

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 Strategic Environmental Assessment, a procedure extending the concepts of environmental impact assessment into higher-level decision-making. The purpose of SEA is to ex ante identify and assess potential environmental consequences of plans, programme and policy proposals in such diverse areas as land use, trade, agriculture, industrial development, transport infrastructure or energy. SEA aims to raise the profile of environmental considerations in decision-making and to provide for more informed, participative and transparent decision-making.

Themes of the training will include:

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

Deadline for application is 6 December 2009!



- approaches to evaluation (such as utilization-focused evaluation, deliberative democratic evaluation or theory-driven evaluation)
- stages of evaluation (from analyzing the tender through evaluation design to collecting, analyzing and aggregating data to communicating findings)
- methods and techniques to conduct evaluation (including quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, participatory techniques, valuation and integration methods, indicators and indices)
- political context of evaluation and evaluation markets

including reading prepared texts and selected articles, watching videos and participating in forum discussions with other participants and evaluation experts. E-learning will be supported by a moderator who will also monitor learning progress. 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 8-12 March 2009 in Trento, Italy, and is organized by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of the University of Trento. Before the training, each participant chooses one of three offered SEA projects as a case study. The resulting three groups of about 10-15 persons will have the opportunity to work for one week with the actual evaluation case study under the guidance of experienced trainers (Prof. Corrado Diamantini and Dr. Davide Geneletti, University of Trento; Dr. Stefano Bagli, GECOSistema s.r.l.), dealing hands-on with the different steps of an SEA.

Structure of the training

The **e-learning phase** will start in December 2009 and end in February 2009. 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,

	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	Strategy Environmental Assessment and Sustainability	Stakeholder analysis and involvement strategy	Developing an evaluation design, choosing methods	Analysis of data, aggregation and weighting	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 studies	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	Performing data collection	Comparing alternatives	Departure

The Host of the Training

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of the young University of Trento has been established in 1990. Its mission is to advance knowledge and educate students in science and technology which best serves the protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources.

Research at the Department, conducted in partnership with many national and international research networks, focuses mainly on land protection and preservation, with particular emphasis on the mountain regions, water resources, river and estuary dynamics, analysis of the environmental impact of infrastructures, urban settlements, design of ecological and energy saving

buildings, interaction between energy and environment, as well as surveying and remote sensing.

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

Davide GENELETTI

Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering
 University of Trento
 Via Mesiano, 77
 38050 Trento, Italy
 Tel. +39 0461 882 685
 Fax. +39-0461-882672
 E-mail: easyeco@ing.unitn.it

Further Information and Bookings: <http://www.easy-eco.eu>

