

EASY-ECO 2008-2010

EvAluation of Sustainability

European COnferences & Training Courses

The EASY-ECO 2008-2010 Series is sponsored by



MARIE CURIE ACTIONS

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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). So far, five major conferences and four training courses have taken place. 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 |
| Feb. 2010 | Training | Trento, Italy | University of Trento |
| Apr. 2010 | Training | Teplice, Czech Republic | The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe |
| June 2010 | Training | Tallinn, Estonia | Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre |
| 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 will be continued until 2010.

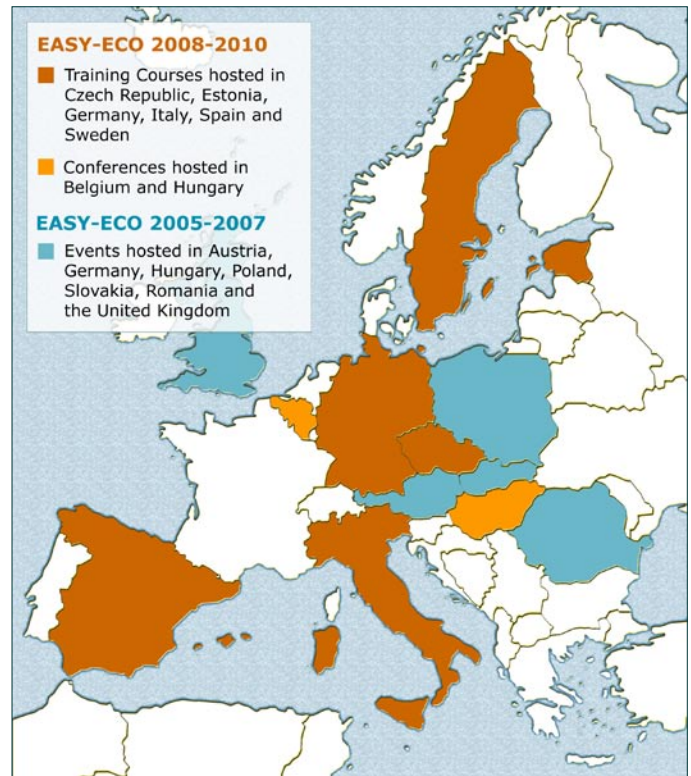
EASY-ECO 2008-2010 will consist of two conferences and six training courses with about 40 participants each. The last conference of the ongoing EASY-ECO 2005-2007 project will also act as the “kick off” event for the new series of conferences and training courses.

Based on our accompanying evaluations and experiences regarding the previous events, the new series of events will chart new territory:

- We will involve new project partners and cover new countries (conferences in Belgium and Hungary, training courses in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden).
- We will take current political developments in Europe into account by focussing the trainings on selected case studies on, for example, peer reviews and impact assessments.
- We will use cutting-edge e-learning methods for delivering theoretical contents that will deal 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 evaluations,
 - data collection and analysis methods,
 - complementary skill for communicating in evaluation projects, and
 - SD evaluation markets.

This part of each training will be run on an e-learning platform in the internet over a period of three months.

- Those who complete this virtual training successfully will be invited to a five day case training which provides hands-on experiences with case studies of actual evaluation projects.
- To encourage the trainees 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)

