



## 2014 NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

### Editorial

Irene Ring  
President of ESEE



Dear ESEE members,  
dear ISEE 2014 participants,

#### Happy Anniversary, ISEE!

Founded in 1989, the International Society for Ecological Economics is celebrating its 25th anniversary! So a cordial welcome to our members and all conference participants who attend this year's anniversary conference of the ISEE on "Well-being and equity within planetary boundaries". Planetary boundaries and resource constraints, equity and economic development dynamics, and the great transition ahead are the major themes of the conference. Highlighting nature's boundaries and constraints to economic activity while stressing equity considerations have been at the core of ecological economics thinking right from the beginning of the society, and these topics have not lost any of their importance.

As an academic society, the generation of new knowledge is central to ecological economists, challenging traditional economic paradigms through theoretical and empirical research. Ecological economics has always been a highly interdisciplinary forum, bridging the natural and the social sciences. This can be seen both from its membership as well as the breadth and foci of its international meetings. In addition, many of the society's members have placed high value on transdisciplinary research, bridging science and policy as well as science and society. A transition to a more sustainable way of life needs different human behaviours; different decisions of decision-makers at all levels, and cannot be achieved without people and the communities, we live in.

So it comes as no surprise that ecological economics is becoming increasingly policy relevant and its members are more and more active and acknowledged in policy-relevant fora. One example is the Policy-Science Event as part of last year's ESEE 2013 Conference held directly in the premises of the European Parliament, hosted by a Member of the European Parliament. Another example is the very good representation of ecological economists nominated to the various expert groups of the re-

cently founded Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Our ESEE member and Hungarian ESEE Country Contact György Pataki has been nominated to the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) of IPBES, and elected MEP regional Vice-Chair for Eastern Europe. Implementing its current work programme, two IPBES deliverables are especially relevant to the expertise of ecological economists, namely "Policy support tools and methodologies regarding the diverse conceptualisation of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people" (Deliverable 3d) and the "Catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies" (Deliverable 4c). Ecological economists nominated to the expert groups of these two deliverables alone include two Presidents of ISEE Regional Societies (Peter May and myself), both ESEE Vice-Presidents (Tatiana Kluvánková-Oravská and Erik Gómez-Baggethun), active or former ISEE and ESEE Board members, next to ordinary members and researchers with a focus on ecological economics. I was really pleased to see the good representation of ecological economists in the context of IPBES!

Closing, I do wish the organisers of the ISEE conference here at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik all the best for a very successful anniversary event! Last but not least, the core question of this year's conference of how we can *transition* towards wellbeing and equity within planetary boundaries also leads us to the core topic of next year's ESEE 2015 Conference on *Transformations* and interdisciplinary challenges in a changing world. I am happy to invite you all to participate in the 11th Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics at the University of Leeds, UK, 30 June – 3 July 2015. Hope to see you all there again!

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## Inge Røpke wins the Georgescu-Roegen Award for Unconventional Thinking

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) felicitated the winners of the Second Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen Awards in February 2014 during the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2014. The Award comprises of two categories – Unconventional Thinking and Bioeconomic Practice. The Unconventional Thinking Category rewards contributions in academia, and publication of research and literature that reflects unconventional thinking.

Professor Inge Røpke has been named the winner of the Georgescu-Roegen Award for Unconventional Thinking and is a sound example of an unconventional thinker. She has been conferred with the Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen Award – 2014 for her important contribution to the consumption literature, her service to the ecological economics school of thought. Her two-volume textbook in ecological economics, co-edited with Joan Martinez-Alier, is considered the best of its kind.

The European Society for Ecological Economics cordially congratulates!

In her Award Acceptance Speech Inge Røpke says on the relevance of Georgescu-Roegen today: "Georgescu-Roegen was known for promoting ideas that could be very inconvenient and at odds with mainstream economics. For instance, he was involved in considerable controversy on economic growth, emphasising the biophysical limits. More than ever, there is a need to be inconvenient and to emphasise that these limits call for sharing. Poor people need growth and increased consumption, but rich people do not. Sometimes it is argued that technological change ensures decoupling so the rich can carry on. But this is highly misleading, as for instance consumption-based emission accounts demonstrate. Technology should not be used to legitimize increased consumption for the rich, but to solve problems for the poor. The great challenge is that present social and economic systems generate large inequalities. Furthermore, due to global interconnections, improved living standards for the poor seem to depend on increased consumption also in the rich countries. This is absurd. Systems have to be changed. These system changes depend on inconvenient ideas. This is why Georgescu-Roegen is so relevant today."



*Inge Røpke receiving the Unconventional Thinking Award, © India Education Bureau*

Inge Røpke is Professor of Ecological Economics at Aalborg University, Copenhagen. She trained as an economist and holds a PhD in social sciences. Røpke has written about the development of modern ecological economics, trade, economic growth and consumption. Most recently, Røpke has taken up ecological macroeconomics and the need for institutional change for a no-growth society. She is the co-editor (with Lucia Reisch) of *The Ecological Economics of Consumption*, the co-editor (with Joan Martinez-Alier) of *Recent Developments in Ecological Economics*, and has published in *Ecological Economics*, the *Journal of Consumer Policy*, *Research Policy*, and many other journals and edited books.

# SOCIETY NEWS

## Upcoming ESEE Board elections

Dear ESEE Members,

The terms of office of four ESEE Board Members and of one student representative are ending this year after 3 years. Therefore, ESEE will be holding elections for the Board in November 2014. As the ESEE Board currently consists of only 12 Board Members, but according to the ESEE Constitution, can consist of up to 15 Board Members including the two student representatives, we aim to fill the positions of 7 Board Members and one student representative.

We hope that the Board Members whose terms are expiring will stand again. However, we also hope for a broad feedback among the larger ESEE membership and count on your interest in playing an active role in the ESEE Board and get nominated for the election later this year. To be elected to the Board provides an opportunity to influence the direction of the Society and Ecological Economics in Europe and to work in a well motivated team. Active engagement in the work of the sub-committees shall be considered as a matter of course.

As only paid ESEE Member are entitled to stand for elections and vote for the ESEE Board (exceptions apply to our student representatives who are elected by all Student Members), we encourage you to renew your membership as soon as possible.

An official call for nominations together with a more detailed timetable for the elections and information regarding the procedure will be made in the September newsletter.

Best wishes,  
Begum Ozkaynak, ESEE Secretary

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## ESEE Ecological Economics Training Institutes

The ESEE board is pleased to open a call for series of transdisciplinary and collaborative training institutes on Ecological Economics aimed at early career researchers, practitioners and decision-makers in Europe. Events can be focused on any of the diverse range of topics associated with ecological economics, but will share a common participatory approach and structure. Local organisers can (annually) bid for up to 2000 euro. Applications for 2015 can be made at any time by 31 October 2014, but will be decided upon in November 2014.

### EVENT CRITERIA

- Highly collaborative and participatory; not just a series of lectures and presentations.
- Transdisciplinary: including participants beyond academia, e.g. decision-makers, practitioners, community representatives, etc.
- Students are heavily involved in organising the event.
- Zero or low cost for participation, with some kind of bursary opportunities for those in a low-income situation.
- The organisers have to record participant feedback on the event and make this available to ESEE.
- Environmental awareness: a plan to minimise (and potentially compensate) the carbon footprint and other environmental costs.
- Involvement of one or more ESEE board members to guarantee criteria are met and to further year-on-year learning regarding format and engagement.

### PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATIONS

Candidates can apply annually with ESEE for up to 2000 euro towards the cost of an event to be held within the following two years, provided it meets criteria, but are responsible for the remainder of funding. Applications will include a short rationale for the meeting including a description of the meeting format (max 2 pages), a budget, an indication of what budget posts ESEE funds will be spent on, and an overview of other (potential) funding sources.

Further guidelines and suggestions: <http://www.euroecolecon.org/esee-ecological-economics-training-institutes-call-for-application-extended/>

Tatiana Kluvánková-Oravská, Chair of education committee

## Call for future ESEE Conference Organisers

ESEE holds its conference biennially. These conferences normally attract 300-450 social and natural scientists. Last year we met in Lille, and Jon Lovett, Tim Foxon and their team are currently busy organising next year's meeting in Leeds. For 2017 and 2019 we are now looking for individuals / groups who might be interested in applying for organising a conference in either of these years. Organising a conference is an opportunity to highlight the profile of a research group (or several groups in a country). Don't worry, if you don't have much experience in organising big academic events. ESEE offers advice based on past experience and key points have been summarised in a conference handbook. We encourage people with enthusiasm for the field of ecological economics and for bringing people together. If you are interested, please send an Expression of Interest until 15 November 2014 to Olivier Petit at [olivier.petit@univ-artois.fr](mailto:olivier.petit@univ-artois.fr) - Your proposal should include:

1. Contact information of point person and other already committed members of the local organising committee (LOC) (individuals and groups in the host location or country willing to help organising the conference). List all individuals that you would like to involve in the conference committee and any staff resources for local assistance in organising the conference logistically.
2. Proposed location: Please identify a suitable meeting venue that can accommodate up to about 450 conference participants. The proposed meeting facilities must be able to accommodate the following: Plenary sessions, about 10 concurrent sessions, poster and exhibition area, information and registration desk, receptions, catering area and other potential functions, such as computer and internet access, student workshops, and other small meeting rooms.
3. Accessibility and lodging: Please describe transportation and lodging options and ease of conference site. The location of the conference venue should be reasonably accessible for international and national participants and not too costly or time-consuming. Accommodation should be available in broad price and quality ranges for all conference participants.
4. Finance, potential sponsorships and in-kind support: The LOC is responsible for all financial aspects linked with the administration and organisation of the conference that should be self-financing. Next to conference registration fees, sponsoring and in-kind support may play an important role. It is advisable that the LOC organises fund-raising activities: financial, scholarships, and in-kind contributions towards the conference are welcome. Please describe your ideas in this respect.
5. Amenities of the location: including restaurants, arts, recreation and other attractions.
6. Sustainability and environmental advantages: please list the advantages your site and conference can offer in this area. This can refer to offerings by local hotels, food and waste options, (public) transportation, etc.
7. Previous experience in organising scientific meetings or conferences: Please list events, responsible individuals / groups (who are also members of the ESEE conference LOC) and participant numbers.

A proposer is not expected to have firm answers to all questions at this stage. However, these items are important as a first checklist for you and for the ESEE Board to decide upon future ESEE conference venues. A final decision for the conference venue of ESEE 2017 is expected to be taken by June 2015. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

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## News on Environmental Policy and Governance (EPG)

The ESEE Journal, Environmental Policy and Governance, is developing really well, with the journal including some really high quality papers and special issues with much more international coverage. We are optimistic that the impact factor will increase this summer. The EPG website will soon be up-dated including the notes for authors to better reflect the journal's policy of asking for papers with the major emphasis on broader debates and issues of cross-cutting interest and relevance, and the minor emphasis on case studies or more specific issues that will both illustrate and contribute to the development of the broader debates. We, as the ESEE board together with Andy Gouldson (EPG Editor), particularly thank authors and the many referees who have helped in the development of the journal in the last years.

Begum Ozkaynak, ESEE editor of EPG

# SOCIETY NEWS

## ESEE Country Contact Network Update

The ESEE is proud to announce its updated Country Contact Network to facilitate the transfer of information between the membership and the Board of ESEE. Country Contacts have been re-confirmed or nominated by the Board of ESEE in the following countries:

Austria  
**Christian Kerschner**  
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Greece  
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The board of ESEE is happy to consider proposals regarding the appointment of Country Contacts for additional countries.

**Erik Gómez-Baggethun**

The Country Contacts will:

- Provide the first port of call to present and prospective ESEE members in their countries;
- Promote ESEE membership in their country;
- Provide and channel news, announcements and other information to ESEE Newsletter;
- Represent the membership in a country towards the Board.

The ESEE will:

- Facilitate and foster collaboration among the members through the Country Contacts;
- Seek consultation and advice of country contacts and membership in their countries in matters where geographic representation is important, such as preparation for elections;
- Use the Country Contact network for fact-finding and dissemination;
- Support national activities and events of members in different countries on the basis of requests from national contacts by adopting, marketing and publicising them.



## Report from the European Alliance for Social Science and Humanities meeting, 9th May 2014, Berlin

ESEE was invited to participate in this year's Open General Meeting of the European Alliance for Social Science and Humanities (EASSH), aimed at elaborating an action plan designed to better position the social sciences and humanities (SSH) in the new EU funding environment of "Horizon 2020". A previous letter by EASSH on this matter to the EU Commissioner as of November 2013 can be found here. The Berlin meeting agenda focused on sharing and learning from experiences with advocacy for SSH from across Europe and beyond, next to identifying needs, designing opportunities, and defining areas for action at European level. The ESEE Board will continue its exchange with the EASSH officials and discuss our society's potential support for the new petition upon due consideration. As no ESEE Board member was available to attend the meeting, Ilona Otto kindly offered to participate in this meeting on behalf of ESEE. Here follows her report.

Irene Ring

### Meeting report from Ilona Otto, PIK Potsdam, Germany

The meeting of the European Alliance for Social Science and Humanities (EASSH) took place on May 9th, 2014 in Berlin, Germany, at the Freie Universität Berlin Campus. The meeting was opened by Rudiger Klein, the executive director of the EASSH and Lejf Moos from the European Education Research Association. Over 70 representatives of national and international organizations participated in the meeting, bringing together European researchers, lecturers and teachers in social sciences, humanities, and arts. It was striking to see that so many similar organizations exist which do not necessarily know about each other. To give some examples: The European Environmental Humanities Alliance has a similar profile to ESEE as well as the Human Development and Capability Association.

Several presentations during the meeting focused on the place of social sciences and humanities in the current EU funding schemes. Prof. Sean Ryder, chair of the Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA) Network Board at the NUI Galway gave a speech on social sciences and humanities research in and beyond Horizon 2020: prospects and perspectives for positioning social sciences and humanities research. Prof. Milena Žic-Fuchs from the European Science Foundation Scientific Review Committee ALLEA talked about advancing alliances to strengthen Europe's social science and humanities research. Both presentations were followed by lively discussions on the weak recognition of social sciences and humanities by funding agencies as well as dispersion of social scientists and their weak lobby. Practically all participants were convinced that there is a need for collective action to foster recognition of social sciences and boost funding for research in the social sciences and humanities. Rudiger Klein and EASSH board are currently working on a petition to research funders that will express these concerns and will be distributed to all organizations having participated in the meeting, including ESEE, to ask for their support.

# HOT TOPIC

## Institutions and Policies for Ecosystem Services in Europe

by Tatiana Kluvánková-Oravská

The importance of ecosystem support in terms of sustainability and human well-being has been accepted scientific knowledge for decades. Current approaches to ecosystem management and conservation, which are aimed at habitat and species' protection, tend to overlook ecosystem functioning and the resilience of complex biophysical systems. There are also major gaps in addressing the importance of ecosystem services and their effects on well-being in the related policies and management practices of users, as also recognized by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Interactions between science and policy are challenged by the complexity of the environmental governance system, as well as the problems the system seeks to address.

As ecosystem services can be public or common goods, the scale at which ecosystem service decisions are made often differs from that where they benefit different actors. Distant users operate across governance scales and with diverse interpersonal and social interest, often ignoring the sustainability and carrying capacity of local ecosystems. This is largely due to the institutions that to date have allowed and encouraged accessing and using a limited proportion of ecosystem services in ways that reduce other ecosystem services. The actors that enjoy and produce ecosystem services rely on information sources other than those that produce ecosystem services. For this reason, the vulnerability of ecosystem services is aggravated by the multilevel factor. Cooperative approaches are required to support decision making, in order to deal with asymmetric and imperfect information and complexity (Muradian, Rival, 2012).

The key challenge is represented by understanding the potential benefit of ecosystem services for the effectiveness of biodiversity policies (Ring, Schröter-Schlaack, 2011), as well as the shift from sectoral governance to ecosystem services governance and integrative policies (Primmer, Furman 2012).



A special session: ***Institutions and policies for ecosystem services in Europe*** will address these challenges at the Conference of the International Society for Ecological Economics: Wellbeing and Equity within Planetary Boundaries. The main focus of the session will be on the institutional innovations and decision-making approaches of ecosystem services, and navigating the behavioral change of ecosystem users and managers towards sustainability under the conditions of multi-level governance and the increasing pressure of a global market. *The session will take the form of a discussion forum to address the following questions. (i) How can the concept of ecosystem services be promoted in integrative policies to contribute to wellbeing and sustainability?; and (ii) Which innovative policies and decision-making approaches can foster behavioral change to the sustainable use of natural resources and the promotion of the ecosystem service concept?* The session will take place on Wednesday (please consult the program for times), and you are welcome to join us in the discussion.

## SPIs in Environmental Policy and SWAFS in the Horizon

by Nuno Videira

Jay Forrester, the lead system dynamicist who paved the grounds for the Limits to Growth work, once argued that, if a scientific community wishes to sustain its influence one must continuously build the public constituency to support policy reversals, as "most debate is expended on policies of little leverage for change"(1).

Since its early days, modern ecological economics has directed attention towards high leverage points of intervention head-on. Some of the big societal issues related with economic growth and the environment, quality of life and wellbeing, the role of technological changes, implications of international trade, and recognition of nature's intrinsic values, have all been part of ecological economics "processes of identity formation" (2). Adding to this mix, there are the "core beliefs" of transdisciplinary work, pluralism, systems thinking, awareness of basic ignorance in the understanding of human-nature relationships and the adoption of a post-normal science stance in addressing complexity (2). These foundational ideas catered for an enthusiastic acceptance of deliberative participation in several topics of ecological economics research. In a time when there is an increasing interest for the development of sound science-policy-society interactions, what can we learn from past ecological economics experiences? And what challenges and opportunities arise ahead for effectively sustaining such interfaces?

The science-policy event that took place in the premises of the European Parliament last year in Brussels (3), in tandem with the ESEE 2013 conference in Lille, offered a rich ground for exploring some of these issues. The event fostered a debate on how the core messages, paradigms, and methodological stances of ecological economics find an echo in European policy making and to what degree ecological economics is percolating into the institutions at EU-level. Some of the lessons learned pointed to how the field is making strides through prominent scholars and research groups, participation of researchers in many EU funded projects, educational programs and summer schools, influential publications, consideration of several concepts and approaches (e.g. post-normal science, material flows accounting, deliberative methods, design of policy instruments) by EU institutions (e.g. the European Environment Agency) and its translation into EU policies. It was also argued that many important issues and concepts are not yet as institutionalized, such as resilience, rebound effects and beyond growth proposals, and there is work to do in leveraging influence on wider political framings and agenda-setting environmental policies.

In March this year, again in the same building of the European Parliament, the RESPONDER project final conference entitled "Austerity, stimulus or post-growth for Europe? Revisiting Sicco Mansholt's Vision" attracted a diverse group of 140 researchers, policy makers, representatives of civil society and non-governmental organisations (4). The event highlighted key messages produced throughout the project and stirred a broad debate on the issues of sustainable consumption and economic growth. A distinctive feature of the RESPONDER project was the testing of systems thinking modelling tools as knowledge sharing and co-production platforms, which were deployed in 13 events where researchers and policy makers mapped in a collaborative fashion some of the contradictions arising in five sustainable consumption areas (food, housing, information and communication technologies, transport and household savings). Picking upon project results, a lively debate followed addressing growth, green stimulus and degrowth views for building prosperity pathways in face of the current crisis in Europe. This has shown that leverage in wider science-policy-society dialogues picks-up when debate framings are opened enough to challenge the deeply rooted worldviews shaping the policy context. Thus, RESPONDER knowledge-brokerage events and final conference are good examples of how ecological economics has a lot to offer in advancing the deliberative methods for science-policy interactions and providing the conceptual strength that fuels thinking through important societal issues.

Both of these experiences relate to the concept of SPIs, i.e. *Science-Policy Interfaces*. A SPI designates one of the several ways through which researchers, policy-makers and other societal stakeholders communicate and interact to exchange and co-produce knowledge, thus enriching policy-making, decision-making and research processes (5). SPIs are receiving a renewed interest with increasing attention stemming from both scientific and policy communities, taking shape through inter-governmental panels and platforms (e.g. IPCC and IPBES), advisory boards, participatory research projects, workshops or conversations (5). Numerous research projects in the latest EU research framework programmes incorporate SPI elements, some are designed with strong participatory research components, and others are exploring innovative methods and tools to facilitate science-policy-society interactions.



# HOT TOPIC

The European Commission recognizes that “especially in the area of environment, it is important for researchers to communicate scientific findings in an appropriate and accessible way to policy-makers in order for them to make the right choices in drawing up policies aiming at sustainable solutions to environmental problems”(6). The *Science for Environment Policy* service of DG Environment, *Bridging the Gap conferences*, and several SPI workshops are some of the examples illustrating initiatives promoted at the EC level in this domain. The General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020, *Living well, within the limits of our planet*, also adopted recently as one of its priority objectives, the improvement of knowledge and evidence base for environmental policy (7). The programme calls for further steps to strengthen the science-policy interface and citizen engagement, although it remains uncertain to which extent the risk of focusing predominantly on a data-supply role for science and on a framing within green growth objectives might narrow down debates.

EU’s Horizon 2020 also devotes attention to creating stronger interfaces between societal actors (e.g. researchers, citizens, policy makers, business, civil society organizations). In particular, the Science With And For Society (SWAFS) programme creates incentives for these groups to work together and align research processes and their outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of European society, following the so-called RRI (Responsible Research and Innovation) approach (8). SWAFS aims to engage society more broadly in research activities, but it is not fully clear yet how these goals will be met in practice and end up linking to the societal challenges addressed in Horizon 2020. The VOICES project – *Views, Opinions and Ideas of Citizens in Europe on Science* – eventually provides a more concrete example of the RRI rationale underlying SWAFS. In a nutshell, VOICES promoted 100 focus groups in 27 EU countries where citizens were engaged to address the topic of “Urban waste as a resource”. Participants identified household management practices, barriers and concerns regarding urban waste, and developed ideas, which translated into research questions and priority issues that were then used to draw up research calls for Horizon 2020 (9). This innovative approach surely can be applied widely, to bring the concerns of European citizens and stakeholders into research priorities. But perhaps it is too optimistic to expect anytime soon a similar exercise to address questions such as “Is more economic growth the solution to deliver prosperity and well being?” or “How much is enough for treading softly in a full world?”.

In conclusion, SPIs and SWAFS programmes tap upon deliberative principles, which have for long been cherished by ecological economics as means to spread debates and promote the kind of healthy societies that enable and encourage meaningful discussions (10). Participatory methods and tools offer potential for engagement of societal actors, not only in knowledge sharing processes, but also in co-creation of new knowledge arising in such collaborative research and learning spaces. For being effective, these platforms need to overcome recurrent obstacles, such as, difficulties in attracting certain stakeholder groups, nurturing collaborations over long-term periods and following-up outcomes after project funds run dry. Most importantly, they should strive for opening discussion framings wide enough to challenge paradigms and keep building up public constituency considering “the ebbs and flows of the social perception of the clash between the scale of the human economy and the environment” (11).

## Notes:

(1) Forrester, J., 2007. *System Dynamics – The Next Fifty Years*, D-4892, Cambridge, USA.

(2) Ropke, I., 2005. *Trends in the development of ecological economics from the late 1980s to the early 2000s*, *Ecological Economics*, 55: 262-290.

(3) Event information available at: <http://igeat.ulb.ac.be/fr/presentation/esee2013-brussels/>

(4) Event information available at: <http://www.scp-responder.eu/events/conference>

(5) Young, J.C., Watt, A.D., van den Hove, S. and the SPIRAL project team, 2013. *Effective interfaces between science, policy and society: the SPIRAL project handbook*. <http://www.spiral-project.eu/sites/default/files/The-SPIRAL-handbook-website.pdf>

(6) European Commission – DG Environment, 2014, Available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/interface\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/interface_en.htm)

(7) European Commission, 2014, *General Union Action Programme to 2020, Living well, within the limits of our planet*, Luxembourg.

(8) Information available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal>

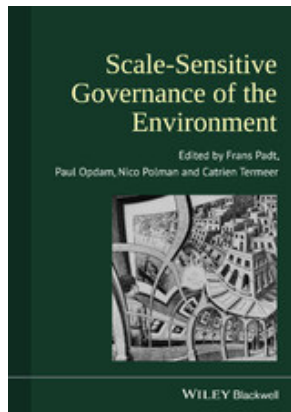
(9) Information available at: <http://www.voicesforinnovation.eu>

(10) Spash, C., 2006. *The state of ecological economics: a decade of European experience*. *ESEE News*, 8-9.

(11) Martinez-Alier, J., 2006. *Between Europe and India: Fragments of a speech for the Ninth Biennial Conference of ISEE*. *ESEE News*, 12-15.

**New book: Scale-Sensitive Governance of the Environment.**

*Edited by Frans Padt (The Pennsylvania State University, USA), Paul Opdam, Nico Polman, Catrien Termeer (Wageningen University and Research Centre, the Netherlands)*



Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford, 2014

This edited volume of 18 chapters provides a conceptual and methodological basis for scale-sensitive governance of the environment. The authors present new visions, methods, and innovative applications of thinking and decision making across spatial, temporal, and governance scales. Primary case studies were performed in Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Nepal, Poland, Portugal and the UK. Other chapters use secondary case studies from Europe, southern Africa and South America. The topics that these chapters address include biodiversity, climate change, commodities (palm oil and tea), cultural landscapes, energy, forestry, natural resource management, pesticides, urban development and water management. The book is aimed at students, academics and professionals in the field of environmental governance.

<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1118567153.html>

**Wetlands2014: Wetlands Biodiversity and Services: Tools for Socio-ecological Development**

The ninth European Wetlands Congress takes place from 14 – 18 September 2014 in Huesca, Spain.

The conference will cover key topics related to all types of wetlands, their ecology, management and applications. Particular emphasis will be given to topics dealing with wetland restoration and creation and the integration of wetlands with socio-ecological issues. These include: the benefits and services that wetlands contribute as part of the landscape, wetland restoration at landscape and watershed scale, the role of wetlands in ecotourism and rural development, valuing the natural resources of wetlands and using them to alleviate poverty, strategies and practical solutions for environmental conflicts related to wetlands, and the contribution of wetlands to global change mitigation.

The event is promoted and supported by Society of Wetland Scientists- European Chapter, European Pond Conservation Network, Comarca de Los Monegros, EU LIFE Programme, Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología-CSIC and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

For details, see the conference website: <http://www.wetlands2014.eu/>

**EUROPARC Annual Conference: Understanding the Value of Nature**

In 2014, the EUROPARC Annual Conference: "Understanding the value of nature", will take place from 28 September – 1 October 2014, in Killarney, Ireland.

An exciting programme focusing on the topic "Understanding the Value of Nature" will be investigated through keynote speeches with protected area relevance, in-depth workshops looking at practical applications and stimulating field trips across the beautiful south of Ireland to see some practical examples. For details, see the event website.

More information: <http://europarc.org/conferences/overview/europarc-2014/>

# PUBLICATIONS & CONFERENCES

## Biodiversity and Food Security – From Trade-offs to Synergies

This 3rd International Conference on Biodiversity and the UN Millennium Development Goals will take place from 29 – 31 October 2014 in Aix-en-Provence, France. It is organized by the French CNRS Institut Ecologie et Environnement (InEE) and the German Leibniz Association (WGL).

The goal is to identify science-based solutions for global sustainability focusing on the issues of biodiversity and food security. Current ecological, economic and societal challenges for development require a holistic understanding of food security and environmental management: from this perspective, biodiversity can be seen as key to overcome trade-offs and to develop synergies between the food system and the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, and species. The conference seeks to attract scientists from basic and applied research. It involves policy makers and other stakeholders concerned with biodiversity and food security themes who are interested in developing new solutions and strategies. It will connect researchers and stakeholders from natural sciences, social sciences, economics, humanities, technology and related fields.

Poster contributions are invited about all topics relevant to the conference theme – the scientific committee will consider these quickly after submission, in terms of pertinence as well as available space. The organisers will inform you about acceptance of your contribution as soon as possible after submission.

More information: <http://biodiv2014.sciencesconf.org/>

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## Oxford Summer School in Ecological Economics

25-29 August 2014

This course explores the cutting edge methods and policy applications in ecological economics, an interdisciplinary field emerged in response to global sustainability crisis.

Registration fee £700  
Accommodation fee £300

More information: <http://www.isecoeco.org/oxford-summer-school-in-ecological-economics/>

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## ESEE 2015: Transformations

The 11th biennial conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics will be held at the University of Leeds, UK, from 30 June to 3 July 2015. The conference theme will be Transformations. The conference is organised by an interdisciplinary team encompassing researchers from the School of Earth and Environment, School of Geography, and Leeds University Business School.

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