

ESEE 2013 - *Ecological Economics and Institutional Dynamics*

10th International conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics

Ecological Economics and the EU-policy making:

which interactions ?

A Policy - Science preconference event

Tuesday, June 18 2013

9:15am to 14:40pm (timing remains indicative)

Venue: European Parliament, rue Wiertz - Brussels

Registration: <http://igeat.ulb.ac.be/fr/presentation/esee2013-brussels/>

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Rationale

In line with the focus given to ESEE 2013 (European Society for Ecological Economics conference, 18-21 June 2013, Lille) on the institutional dynamics, a pre-ESEE 2013 conference Policy Event will take place in Brussels focusing on the evolution of the modes, forms and depths of the institutionalisation of the (main) research foci of Ecological Economics. The opportunity will be grasped to explore more specifically the linkages of Ecological Economics to the EU-level environmental policy making, including the EU's research area.

The *Policy – Science Event* strives towards rendering a more inclusive comprehension whether the core messages, paradigms and methodological stances of Ecological Economics find an echo in policy agendas, policy discourses, policy instruments at EU-level. In other words: how and to what degree Ecological Economics is percolating into the institutions at the EU-level? The question is exploratory, hence the format of the event will be facilitating co-exploration: the event will be structured around a series of debates via moderated round-tables and Question-Answers from the audience.

Exploring this question asks to organize the debates and discussions around what Ecological Economics “is” and what it “represents” potentially for policy; arguably a difficult question. We distinguish 3 layers of reading of Ecological Economics: 1° as an academic society and institution on its own that runs journals-conferences-meetings; 2° as a series of research results explored in particular projects; 3° as a series of tools and concepts generated and manipulated by Ecological Economists. The policy event will hence be organised around 3 thematic round-tables; a “projects”-roundtable, a “tools and concepts”-roundtable and a “ESEE/ISEE societies”-roundtable. Each

roundtable will host a series of members of the wider Ecological Economics' community of scholars and will invite EU-level policy-makers/actors to act as discussants. A preliminary program is given below.

The underlying questions might go as far as to include issues such as: Has heterodoxy in (economic) thinking about Nature-Society relationships been institutionalized, as a valid alternative to orthodoxy? Where are the most important interactions (and of what kind?) created today between Ecological Economics and the EU-policy configuration and the EU-policy thinking in environmental decision-making? Are these interactions created along principles and concepts (e.g. incommensurability, strong sustainability), or along people and scholars (e.g. J. Martinez-Alier, S. Funtowicz), or along research groups and their tools (e.g. the ones around Marina Fischer-Kowalski and Material-flows), or along policy problems (e.g. such as 'rebound effects' or 'valuation of ecosystem services'), or along policy - science processes (e.g. such as TEEB)? What is the role and influence of research projects and more targeted policy studies (e.g. such as EXIOPOL, ALARM, CEECEC, PolicyMix)? What influence do the Ecological Economics -societies develop at the interface with policy-making (e.g. with regard to configuring Horizon2020)? What is the policy role of the Ecological Economics journals, and in a wider perspective reports, publications and books from the community of scholars (e.g. "Prosperity without Growth" by T. Jackson)? Is there a particular representation and perception of Ecological Economics in the EU-institutions w/r to Ecological Economics -people, -ideas, -principles, -tools?

Outcomes and aims

The aim of the event is to provide for a setting to develop a series of self-reflective/xive moments that are driving part of the Ecological Economics' Community. The operational aim is to engage into a dialogue with one of the most influential policy levels when it comes to the governance of environmental issues, not at the "daily" level of specific policy questions and domains, but on the more structural question of developing an effective interaction between policy and science actors. In this respect, the event – as articulated in particular in the underlying questions above – wants to be understood also as a contribution to the on-going reflections and activities at EU-level on Science in Society, or the Knowledge society.

Target group / audience

The targeted participants to the policy event will be participants to the ESEE2013 conference, in particular those working on applied, policy-related research agenda and research projects for/at the EU-level, and participants interested in the institutionalisation of Ecological Economics. The event will be announced in parallel also to policy actors in the EU-sphere in Brussels (ranging from the Institutions per se, NGOs, think tanks...) and might thus attract an additional set of non-ESEE2013 participants. We target around 80 participants in order to keep the organisation feasible, but above all in order to allow some form of dialogue to emerge between the participants of the round-tables and the audience.

Program

The round tables on “projects” and “concepts and tools” will be each seeing a set of synthetic presentations by their main Ecological Economics’ scholars. The content of these presentations will be a short description of the content of the project (or concept and tools), but will focus around the interactions the project (or concepts and tools) wanted and did create with policy actors and policy design at large. Presentations will be followed by an intervention by a designated panel of discussants from within the EU-level Institutions. The third round-table on the role of ESEE/ISEE as an academic society will stage a discussion with representatives of the respective societies and between the round-table and the audience at large.

Venue

The Policy-Science event will take place in the premises of the European Parliament. An access map can be retrieved here: <http://igeat.ulb.ac.be/fr/presentation/esee2013-brussels/venueaccess/>

Security registration

Access to the European Parliament is regulated by a strict security policy. In order to have an access badge prepared for you, we need to ask you to register in advance by following this link: <http://igeat.ulb.ac.be/fr/presentation/esee2013-brussels/registrationcontact/>.

Connection to ESEE 2013 - Lille

Timing of the event is scheduled to allow ESEE2013 participants to join the opening ceremony of the ESEE2013 conference in Lille on time (18 June 06:00pm). Trains depart from Brussels’ Midi Station at 3:17pm or 4:17pm and arrive at Lille-Europe Station 34minutes later. You should consider booking in advance for this trip, and can do so via: <http://www.b-europe.com/Travel>.

- 9:15 Welcoming address
Philippe Lamberts, Member of Parliament, The Greens
Introduction
Tom Bauler, Université Libre de Bruxelles
- 9:30 Setting the scene: 'History and trends in Ecological Economics'
Inge Ropke, Aalborg University
- Reaction:**
Agnès Hubert, Bureau of European Policy Advisors - BEPA
- 10:00 Round table 1 - **PROJECTS**
Reforming impact assessment and monitoring methodologies for environmental
Research&Innovation activities
Klaus Kubeczko, Austrian Institute of Technology
PolicyMix – Assessing the role of economic instruments in policy mixes for biodiversity
conservation and ecosystem services provision
David N. Barton, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research - NINA
- Reaction:**
Birgit de Boissezon, Head of unit 'Environment – Horizontal aspects' - DG RTD (tbc)
- 11:00 Short Break
- 11:30 Round table 2 – **TOOLS & CONCEPTS**
TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
Patrick Ten Brink, Institute for European Environmental Policy, Belgium
Working at the Science-Policy interface: the FP7 Scientific Advisory Group
Janne Hukkinen, University of Helsinki
- Reaction:**
Strahil Christov , DG Environment , Unit B2 - Biodiversity
- 12:30 Break – Lunch
- 13:00 Round table 3 – **ESEE/ISEE: the roles of the societies**
Panel participants: Bina Agrawal, University of Manchester (president ISEE), Irene Ring,
UFZ (president ESEE), Sigrid Stagl, WU-Wien (former president ESEE), Marina Fischer-
Kowalski, Institute of Social Ecology Vienna (president elect ISEE)
Moderator: Géraldine Thiry, Université Libre de Bruxelles
- 14:15 Farewell

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