



ESEE News

Newsletter of the European Society for Ecological Economics

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ESEE News is published by the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE). Its purpose is to inform ESEE members of developments both within the Society and in other areas that are of potential interest. It is published four times a year and is sent free to ESEE members. The views expressed are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society as a whole.

The European Society for Ecological Economics is a not-for-profit organisation devoted to the development of theory and practice in ecological economics in Europe. Membership is open to all interested individuals working in Europe or in other areas on request. For membership details please contact the Secretariat.

TunISEE 2002 conference brings together international crowd

The Seventh Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ecological Economics was held from 6-9 March 2002 in the historic regional centre of Sousse, Tunisia. It brought together delegates from all five continents with a packed programme, and diverse topics ranging from governance and deliberation to regional perspectives on ecological economic issues. Papers have been collected for production on CD-ROM, and will be available soon.

With over 100 presentations, a conference dinner involving local entertainment as well as local cuisine, and simultaneous translations of plenaries in three languages, it was a great feat of organisation to which successive speakers paid tribute, as well as a memorable gathering. Details of the programme can still be reviewed online at www.ecoleconeurope.org/ISEEtunisia2002.html

John Proops, as incoming President, addressed his remarks specifically to young researchers and encouraged them to follow their interests and instincts for fun, from out of which he suggested good research led by enthusiasm would follow. He recounted his experiences of Ecological Economics society meetings around the world, suggesting that the Europeans adopt a distinctively academic approach. He said he saw the ISEE as finally

moving through its adolescent stage, and is looking forward to a more mature future with the foundations now established, paying much respect to Dick Norgaard's previous work as ISEE President for two full terms.

Charles Perrings, as President-Elect for 2004, outlined his views of the future and anticipated the further growth of the society as the need for effective applied interdisciplinary research continues in the face of ecological problems. In particular, he stressed his hope that at future conferences there would be more representatives from the natural sciences in the audience.

The Kenneth Boulding Award for outstanding contribution to ecological economics was presented at the conference to Robert Ayres. In his acceptance speech, he warned against exaggerating the extent of environmental problems, and stressed that there remained so many areas for pressing research and action that there was no need to invent new concerns.

In closing the conference, John Proops thanked the conference organisers Sylvie Faucheux and Martin O'Connor, and their army of helpers, for their tremendous efforts in managing all aspects of the conference, and in a distant location. Certainly for many delegates who did manage to make the journey, it was a highly stimulating event,

General Meeting in Sousse maps out ESEE plans

The General Meeting of ESEE held in Sousse on Friday 8 March was attended by 40 delegates, a very gratifying representation given the numerous distractions that were on offer! Clive Spash opened the meeting, and Juan Sanchez Garcia enthused everyone with early details of the 2003 Frontiers Tenerife Conference (see page 9 for details). The main issues then covered were presentation of accounts and membership fees structure by

Arild Vatn; outlining of preliminary plans for a Summer School by Paul Safonov; and research committee initiatives provided by Innes Oman (see page 2). Jesus Ramos Martin outlined future web site options; Sigrid Stagl opened the topic of the 2005 ESEE conference venue, and Irmi Seidl spoke on fundraising, asking members to contact her with potential funding opportunities which she will then pursue.

COMMITTEES

Developments in ESEE Administration and Committee Work

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Research Committee: Update on present initiatives

Fritz Hinterberger

At the General Meeting of the ESEE, in Sousse, Ines Omann reported on behalf of Fritz Hinterberger, chair of the ESEE Research Committee, on the Committee's current work.

The main task at the moment is to make sure that the research themes of Ecological Economics are included in the 6th Framework Program of the EU, and to position Ecological Economics as an important scientific community in Europe. Whereas the first calls for projects will be out in about one year, the time to lobby for our themes to be included in the program is now. We are currently working on an expression of interest for our field, probably for an integrated project on something like 'governance of sustainable development'. A 'network of excellence' was also considered, but seems less likely to be successful given the constraints of the EU's new research policy.

The current status of this work will be updated at <http://www.seri.at/esee-rn/>
If you have any suggestions please send an email to: ines.omann@seri.at

External Affairs Committee: Current thoughts on ESEE links and other societies

Felix Rauschmayer

From the beginning of ESEE, questions about the relation of ESEE and national/monolingual societies have been present. At some stages, there had been tensions between the German-speaking VOO that tried to become a chapter of ISEE, but which was confronted with the contemporary foundation of ESEE. Nowadays both societies exist with partly the same membership without an institutional relationship.

Apparently, as we can see in Germany, but also in other countries, it is seen to be useful to have monolingual or national groups of ecological economists: communication is facilitated, education as well, joint national research initiatives are easier to develop, as is lobbying for EE. The creation of more national societies for Ecological Economics makes EE more present at the national and by this way, also on the European or international level. This is the reason why the European Society explicitly encourages foundations of new national or monolingual societies within its 'sphere' (i.e. Europe without Russia, Belorussia, Ukraine, and Moldavia).

Relations between national societies and the ESEE may be different, but ecological economics might best progress with some

links between all societies for EE. ESEE is willing to provide a roof, i.e. it encourages and facilitates perspectives, networks and opportunities for ecological economics on the European level, which is often entangled with the national level. Co-operation enables us not to lose contact so that the different activities within EE can be adjusted to each other in order not to get too fuzzy over what is the meaning of EE. Calling ESEE a roof does not mean that ESEE tries to define EE in Europe, or that all members of national societies should be members of ESEE (as is the case with ESEE and ISEE). ESEE provides a wider context and possibilities for multi-national co-operation. This can become tangible in joint conferences, in national/mono-lingual sessions within ESEE conferences, but also in European research initiatives, and in education structures (as the existing 3E-SDP Master and PhD. program, for example).

So, the conclusion is that there are topics of Ecological Economics which can better be dealt with at a national or monolingual level. As ESEE want to further the development of Ecological Economics, it consequently encourages the emergence of smaller entities involved with ecological economics wherever necessary. As ESEE also feels responsible for

*News from the
Community Research and
Development
Service*

COMMISSION NEWS

EU reaches year 2000 stabilisation target for greenhouse gas emissions

The EU has met its commitment under the United Nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) to stabilise emissions of greenhouse gases by the year 2000, according to figures published by the European Environment Agency (EEA). The EEA report shows that total emissions of the gases were 3.5 per cent lower in 2000 than in the base year 1990. But most Member States are still well above their target path for meeting the Kyoto Protocol commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 8 per cent below 1990 levels by 2008 to 2012.

Emissions of carbon dioxide, which accounts for around 80 per cent of the EU's total greenhouse gas emissions, were 0.5 per cent lower in 2000 than 10 years earlier. Spain is furthest away from keeping to its share of the EU target - its 2000 emissions stood 33.7 per cent higher than a decade earlier, more than double the 15 per cent increase it is allowed between 1990 and 2008 to 2012. At the other end of the scale Germany, the largest EU emitter, has achieved the greatest emissions cut among the big Member States, recording a 19.1 per cent decrease over the decade. This is not far from the 21 per cent reduction from 1990 levels that Germany is required to show by 2008 to 2012.

The report is available on the EEA web site at the following address:

http://reports.eea.eu.int/technical_report_2002_75/en

Children most at risk from environmental pollution, say experts

Children throughout Europe are exposed to unacceptable health risks from environmental pollution, according to experts from the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). A report published by the two organisations, 'Children's health and environment: a review of evidence,' says that up to 40 per cent of the global burden of disease attributable to environmental factors is estimated to affect children below the age of five.

Children are especially vulnerable for a number of reasons: as developing organisms, they are particularly sensitive to the long-term consequences of early exposure; they are uniquely susceptible to specific chemicals; they are exposed to substances in their

environment through picking things up and putting them in their mouths; and they have a higher uptake of potentially toxic substances because in proportion to their body weight they breathe, eat and drink more than adults. In addition, children have no choice about the factors they are exposed to.

Details of the findings can be found at the following web address:

<http://www.euro.who.int>

ESC calls for GMO information campaign

A European Commission information campaign is necessary to inform the public of the risks and benefits of genetically-modified organisms (GMOs), according to the Economic and Social Committee (ESC). In an opinion on the Commission's proposals for the traceability and labelling of GM produce, the committee says information from independent bodies about GMOs in food, animal feed and the environment would help people make informed choices about the foods they eat and the technologies used to produce them.

The ESC states that existing legislation in this area does not fully ensure consumers' right to be informed and make informed choices. It warns that some areas of the proposal remain unclear, such as differentiating between products which use GMOs in the manufacturing process and those which are manufactured from GMOs. The committee also calls for urgent clarification of the liability regime for environmental damage caused by GMOs and accidental contamination of organic farming.

For further information see:

<http://www.ces.eu.int>

EU offshore wind technology ready for application

The technology for the construction and operation of offshore wind farms is ready for large-scale application, according to a Commission-funded project which examined ways of making the technology more cost effective and environment friendly. The Concerted Action on Offshore Wind Energy in Europe (CA-OWEE) project involved participants from 13 European countries, and aimed to boost the role of offshore wind energy as a key source of renewable energy

for Europe by gathering information about the current state of offshore wind technology and research in Europe and appraising existing knowledge on its effect on wildlife and the environment.

Europe's largest offshore wind turbine park is based at Middelgrun off the coast of Copenhagen in Denmark, with a capacity of 40 megawatts. Experts predict that by the end of the decade, European offshore wind parks with a total capacity of thousands of megawatts - enough to supply power to millions of homes - will be in operation. Sweden, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, the UK, and Ireland all have advanced plans to build wind turbine parks on their shores.

The CA-OWEE project lasted two years, finishing at the end of 2001. A final report on the CA-OWEE project is available at:

<http://www.offshorewindenergy.org>

Parliament demands higher profile for environment in SD strategy

The European Parliament has demanded that the environmental aspects of the EU's sustainable development strategy, which was established at the Gothenburg Summit a year ago, be reinforced and placed on an equal footing with economic growth and social cohesion. In a resolution passed on 28 February by a majority of 490 votes to 12, the Parliament demands a commitment to the development and mainstreaming of environmental policy and targets to measure the reversal of unsustainable trends. MEPs want more indicators established to assess the environmental aspects of sustainable development and ensure that the environment, which was made the third component of the EU's sustainable development strategy at the Gothenburg Summit of June 2001, carries as much weight as its economic and social components. They are calling for an indicator for resource consumption so that progress in breaking the link between economic growth and resource use can be measured.

The Parliament welcomed the new biotechnology action plan presented by the Commission for the Barcelona Summit, but regrets that the Commission sees the reservations of citizens about GMOs and stem cell research as 'a lack of acceptance'. The Parliament also wants to see rules on compensation liability in environmental



PROFILE

A fire-side chat to a leading figure in Ecological Economics about life, the universe and everything

Fritz Hinterberger was born and grew up on the rural fringe of Schwanenstadt, a small town in Upper Austria. He studied economics and statistics at the Universities of Linz (Austria) and Giessen (Germany), and was subsequently a lecturer at several universities in Austria and Germany. From 1993-2000 he was leader of the working group for Ecological Economics and Ecological Economic Policy at the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, and Energy, in Germany. In 1999 he became Founding President of the Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI), based in Vienna, where he remains President; among many other roles he is also Chair of ESEE's Research Committee. He currently

What was your impression of your local environment when you were a child?

I don't think I had any impression then. Now I would consider it a nice cultural landscape with some little patches of wilderness.

Can you identify a point when you realised you wanted to work on environmental problems?

The first point was my reading of the 'Limits to Growth' Report in 1972, and then the Austrian referendum against nuclear power in 1978, which 'politicized' especially young people and eventually was won by those opposing nuclear power, which led to a societal anti-nuke-consensus which is still holding in our country.

Who were the most influential writers for you when you were a student?

I studied Keynes, Kalecki, Sraffa and my teacher Krut Rothschild, whom I admired, but also some of the early 'environmental' economists such as Kapp, and Binswanger, Frisch, and Nutzinger.

Have your research interests changed since you first started working on environmental issues?

Not really: I was always most interested in the macroeconomic and global aspects, including the growth question and those sorts of issues.

Which environmental problems concern you the most at the moment?

For me this would be global environmental change. More specifically those aspects relating to land use and material intensity, biodiversity and growth.

If you had a year off to do whatever you

wanted, what would you spend it doing?

Well if there was that opportunity, I'd live with my family in a house on the beach in Southern Europe, and write a book without any economic or organisational pressure!

Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic about the future? Has your view changed over time?

I am optimistic, in the sense that our work for sustainability does matter.

What sort of local environmental problems are you faced with where you live now?

Vienna is really a relatively nice place to live. Traffic is probably the most pressing problem.

Which figures from the past do you most admire (not just in the environmental field), and why?

Fighters for peace and civil rights such as Nelson Mandela.

What advice would you give young researchers just starting out in ecological economics?

I would say work and discuss with colleagues and outsiders (especially stakeholders) about what you, or rather I should say we, are doing.

Do religious beliefs influence your life and work?

No.

Do you think of yourself as a rural or as a city person?

I am definitely a city person, who likes rural areas (that is, cultural landscapes) for relaxing and recreation.

What kinds of music do you listen to?

I listen to everything from classical through jazz to world music and pop, rock and soul.

How do you relax at the weekend?

Playing, or doing something together with my family (40, 6, and 0.2 years of age!), either staying at home or going out to hike, cycle, visit other places, going to exhibitions, or attending events.

Do you have a favourite motto or saying about the environment?

A gift to the future:

Learning to Live Better...
on a Smaller Footprint

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What is the best piece of advice you've been given?

In your work, always consider the 'next desk' - meaning think of those who will further use your work. This is crucial in a networking environment.

The Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI) is a Pan-European think tank aiming to explore sustainable development options for European societies. SERI's research agenda and methodology is based on work carried out by Friends of the Earth and the Wuppertal Institute under the Friends of the Earth's Sustainable Europe Campaign. The Institute aims to develop the concept of environmental space and show ways to reduce the material through-put of modern industrial societies. It produces a SERI-Infomail, which you can subscribe to by

RESEARCH NOTES

News, reviews, reports and meetings from the European ecological economics research

'Mother nature and father state - Perspectives and possible arrangements of a difficult relationship under the influence of sustainability'

Report on annual meeting of the Vereinigung für Ökologische Ökonomie (VÖÖ), the German speaking society for Ecological Economics, 25-27 April 2002, Heidelberg, Germany.

Felix Rauschmayer

Jürg Minsch (Vienna, formerly St. Gallen) introduced the debate about a European constitution which has no consideration of natural resources. He sees two major tasks for Ecological Economics: (a) normalisation of sustainable development (SD), i.e. its integration into questions of liberalism and of democracy; and (b) radicalisation of SD through the identification of the driving forces for natural destruction. Therefore, we need both analytical knowledge of institutions as well as knowledge of how to shape them.

Christiane Busch-Lüthy (Munich) illustrated one of three key fields for state activity on the way to SD, namely human

potential. Here, she focussed on the enormous change in structure and size of population in Germany over the next 50-80 years. Throughout the discussions it was not clear whether the shrinking population should be evaluated positively or negatively for SD. Participants agreed that this is question has not been adequately dealt with up to now.

Karl W. Steininger (Graz) illustrated a second, more classical field for state activities: the policies of traffic and energy. He discussed why the state should be active here, how this is currently done and how it should be done.

Eva Lang (Munich) presented a four point program for sustainability in fiscal policy: (1) Correct the allocation biases in price relations via a structural reform of taxes (2) Create an institutional self restriction of society in order to limit state debts (3) Correct the distributional bias of the tax system (4) Reorganise the subsidy system.

The final introductory statement was a reflection on these topics from the president of the German Friends of the Earth, Angelika Zahrt, who, as founding member and

supporter, has been present throughout the history of VÖÖ.

Beate Weber, mayor of Heidelberg, invited the participants not only to the old town hall, where the philosopher and biologist Werner Ingensiep, Essen, talked about materialistic philosophy and nutrition. The mayor also told us in a very stimulating way about recent developments in Heidelberg's journey towards SD. Another evening's event was the award of three Schweisfurth research prizes of Ecological Economics for the promotion of young researchers.

The second day was mainly devoted to working group sessions on (1) the use of the metaphors mother and father and of other metaphors, and (2) on the development of a culture of sustainability. Both groups presented their results. The meeting's results were integrated in a presentation by Adelheid Biesecker, Bremen, on the next morning. Here, the interest of ESEE towards national/mono-lingual societies for EE (see page 2) was very welcome, and concrete ways of furthering co-operation were discussed.

Workshop of the EU Thematic Network project 'REGIONET'

CALL FOR PAPERS

'Regional Sustainable Development - The Role of the Structural Funds'
9-11 September 2002,
Schloss Seggau, Austria

The Workshop intends to highlight the practical influence of European Structural Funds, including as themes:

- o The relation between the national context, regional sustainable development and Structural Funds
- o Experiences with policy measures for regional sustainable development
- o Regional development and the interface between economic growth, environmental protection and social cohesion.
- o The interaction between different structural funds related developments in practice.
- o The future of sustainable regional development after 2006

Deadline: 31 May 2002

Review of a special issue of Zeitschrift für Angewandte Umweltforschung (Journal of Environmental Research)

Irmi Seidl

Vom Wert der Vielfalt, Zeitschrift für Angewandte Umweltforschung (Journal of Environmental Research), Sonderheft (special issue) 13/2001, Ed. H. Spehl and M. Held (All contributions are in German with English summaries). (<http://www.zau-net.de/>)

The recently published special issue of the Journal of Environmental Research with the title 'About the value of diversity' collects contributions and papers given at a conference of the German speaking group of Ecological Economics and the Protestant Academy of Tutzing. This conference in 2001, titled 'About the value of diversity: Diversity in economics and ecology' aimed at bringing together economic and ecological approaches to diversity and to inspire each other. The special issue starts with an overview about the functions of diversity written by the editors after the conference. This is followed by two contributions of key note speakers on the ecological side of the debate (Kirchhoff/Trepl) and on the economic approach to homogeneity and diversity (Kubon-Gilke). Three sections with various contributions follow: The first section is concerned with the ecological dimension and includes papers on topics such as biodiversity in industrial waste lands or the consumption of water and biodiversity. The second section looks at diversity in economics; it includes papers on globalisation and economic diversity, the role of diversity for innovation and the role of diversity for sustainable consumption. The last section focuses on the region and federalism and collects papers on regional diversity through interregional competition and on new diversity through subsistence activities of migrants in Germany. The publication concludes with a co-authored summary about the conference by an ecologist (Schmid) and an economist (Biesecker), and a bibliography about diversity.

In Brief

Opportunity for e-dialogue on world poverty reduction

The European Commission (DG Development) jointly with UNDP, World Bank and DFID (UK) have prepared a consultation paper on 'Linking Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management'. A first draft has been presented at the Preparatory Committee meetings in January and March 2002 (PrepCom II and III) in New York, and the next step is the consultation of a wider public, including NGOs and civil society, by e-dialogue. This 'e-dialogue' on 'Linking Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management' from Worldbank/DFID/UNDP/EC will be open up to June 2002 and can be joined on: <http://wbweb4.worldbank.org/nars/eworkspace/ews004/mydevforum1.asp>

UK Cabinet split over seeking GM crops review

According to a report in *The Independent*, the UK cabinet is split over whether to consult with the public before undertaking full-scale planting of genetically modified crops. The article states that science minister David Sainsbury and Downing Street are keen to base the planting of GM crops solely on the results of the farm scale evaluations. It reports that environment ministers Margaret Beckett and Michael Meacher, are opposed and want public consultation.

Swedish PhD

Eva Friman, lecturer at Ecological Economics at Malardalen University, is defending her doctorate 'No Limits: The 20th Century Discourse on Economic Growth' at Umea University on June 6, 2002. The thesis can be ordered from Dept for Historical Studies, Umea University, 901 87 Umea, Sweden.

New Graduate Environmental Policy Program

AINOVA (Slovakia) is offering a new one-year post-graduate programme in environmental policy, taught and examined in English. For further details contact Project Administrator: Teimuraz Mtibelashvili.
E mail: temower@Netra.ainova.sk,
Academia Istropolitana NOVA
Prostredná 13

LOOK ROUND

Each issue we pick up national environmental news from around Europe. This week

Holland

Baz van der Bilte, post-doctoral researcher at Imperial College, London, reviews a mixed year of Dutch environmental statistics.

Last summer the Dutch environment ministry published its environmental outlook not just for the year ahead, but to 2030, as part of the fourth national environment policy plan (NMP4). According to NMP4, more international environmental agreements need to be negotiated, including some on issues 'barely explored' to date, such as a global network of nature reserves and buffer zones by 2020. The list of 2030 targets includes ambitious emissions cuts (from 1990 baseline) for carbon dioxide of 40-60 per cent; and nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxide of 80 and 90 per cent respectively.

However the NMP4's headline targets will not be legally binding (although many of its detailed targets are). They have been set to demonstrate what needs be achieved over the next 30 years if the Netherlands is to approach environmental sustainability. NMP4 also sets out seven major environmental problems that policy makers should anticipate as the century wears on: loss of biodiversity, climate change, over-exploitation of natural resources, threats to health, threats to external safety, harm to the human environment, and possible uncontrollable risks.

On specific issues, the Netherlands leads the EU in ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. The lower house accepted proposals to endorse the treaty, which needs the final stamp of approval from the Dutch parliament's upper house, and commits to reducing carbon dioxide output by six percent from 1990 levels by 2012. Both the Dutch government and industry are confident of meeting the country's Kyoto targets, although independent researchers contradict the government's up-beat assessment. Currently emissions are up some 3 per cent on 1990 levels.

In fact, with high population density and modest renewable energy resources, the

country is expected to rely heavily on emissions trading to fulfil its commitment. Indeed, the government assessment panel claimed in February that, for maximum economic efficiency, the EU policy of achieving at least half of emission cuts through domestic action rather than international trading would have to be abandoned in Dutch policy. Also in February, the Dutch cabinet agreed to launch a greenhouse gas emissions trading system, designed to operate within a European framework. It will begin with CO₂ in 2005.

In September last year the annual assessment of the Dutch environment was published by the national environmental research agency RIVM. It concluded that evidence of decoupling of environmental impacts from economic growth can now be seen in some sectors such as waste generation trends, landfilling and eutrophication. The big success story of 2000 was a sharp reduction in agricultural nitrate inputs to soils. After dropping only 9 per cent over 20 years, last year saw an 18 per cent cut, apparently due to behavioural changes by farmers under the influence of the Netherlands' novel (and controversial) Minas nutrient accounting system, which carries the threat of fines if farmers exceed nutrient loss limits. The European Commission has challenged the system in court, alleging it breaches the EU's nitrates directive, partly by failing to respect a fixed limit on manure application to land. A large minority of farmers have indeed been fined for exceeding nutrient emissions targets under the system.

A few other issues are worth noting. Ecotax revenues have hit an all-time high, accounting for more than 14 per cent of total tax revenue last fiscal year, confirming the Netherlands as an EU leader in environmental taxation. However most people now recognize that further increases will be more difficult as few sizeable opportunities for new green taxes remain. The government has banned lead and zinc pellets for clay pigeon shooting on environmental grounds, saying they release 200 tonnes of lead plus other metal and plastic residues into soils. And all levels of Dutch government agreed in July to join forces and substantially increase the amount of power generated by land-based wind

ND EUROPE

the Netherlands and Finland make the headlines.

Finland

Markku Lehtonen, PhD student at C3ED, Versailles, finds energy issues are high on the

Nuclear power has been the centre of controversy in Finland following government support for the building of the country's first nuclear power plant for more than 20 years by the energy group Teollisuuden Voima (TVO). The decision to move ahead with plans for the country's fifth reactor provoked a 5000-strong demonstration in the capital Helsinki in April, but the Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen has repeatedly voiced strong support for the nuclear option. It makes Finland the only country in Europe to be expanding nuclear capacity, which currently produces around one third of the country's energy needs. The EU Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstrom criticized the government's position, suggesting that there were cheaper and safer alternatives to a nuclear route, but Finland is energy-resource poor and is looking for ways to avoid dependence on imported Russian energy. In April, 700 Finns, mostly women, voted 'with their wombs' by signing an internet petition saying they would not have children for four years if parliament approved the fifth reactor.

In spring last year the government also upset green campaigners by approving plans for the country's first permanent underground radioactive storage facility. The dump will be located 500m underground beside one of the country's two main nuclear complexes on the West coast. A 1990 law forbids the export of nuclear waste which was previously shipped to Russia, and storage to date has been on a temporary basis. An almost unanimous vote in favour of building the dump included support from prominent greens, who said the country had to find a solution to temporary storage. The plan is long-term, with building not expected until 2010 and the first waste deposits not expected until 2020.

One resource with which Finland is blessed is forested land, and the timber industry is

frequently in the news. In March this year a delegation of Sami herders called for a halt to timber harvesting on state-owned Forest and Parks Service lands, which they claimed is affecting the survival of reindeer by removing habitat and blocking migration routes with waste and dykes. Only around 7000 of Finland's 5.2 million population are Sami, but this accounts for 10 per cent of the Sami population spread across Northern Norway, Sweden and Russia. Before Christmas the timber trade was sluggish but forest industries were quietly pleased in November when high winds and heavy snowfalls felled nearly 2 million cubic metres of wood, 5 per cent of the annual timber harvest; it was expected that the salvage operations would help to bring more timber on to the market.

Moving on to food, and Finland had the bad luck in December to find its first case of BSE, in the same week as Austria. It left Sweden as the only European country to be completely free of the disease. Meanwhile the government research agency in charge of GMO research, SKYE, has called for more experiments to investigate the potential effects of GMOs in cold climates. The bulk of research to date has been in warmer regions; some scientists voiced fears that GM seeds might lie dormant for long periods in cold climates and reactivate at a much later date. Research in Finland has also included work on timber species such as spruce, and opponents fear such work may damage Finland's 'clean forest' image. Meanwhile a surprising new conventional crop is being trailed on the West coast: vineyards. Plastic pipes carrying cooling water from the Olkiluoto nuclear plant have been laid underground to thaw the soil all year round, making it potentially feasible to grow more temperate crops.

Turning to environmental protection, and in July last year the Nordic Investment Bank, part-funded by the Finnish government, backed a 63 million dollar project funding waste-water treatment facilities for Kaliningrad, one of the chief point-source polluters of the Baltic. A 21 million dollar project for St. Petersburg has also been approved. Finnish delegates also teamed up with eight other Arctic country leaders at a summit of the World Wide Fund for Nature in Toronto in September last year, calling for increased protection of the Arctic and the

In Brief

First report of EU Project: AIRP-SD

Four months after starting the AIRP-SD project on 'Stimulation of Innovation in Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Processes for a Radical Improvement in the Sustainability of Production-Consumption Systems', SERI have published their first milestone report, containing summaries on:

- the identification of sustainability-oriented RTD programmes, actors and innovations,
- the analysis of what sustainable development implies for RTD processes, in terms of special qualities, capacities and challenges and
- development of a first-version evaluation methodology.

They have established a board of stakeholders, comprising members from the following categories: science, SME, industry, government, international organisations, trade unions, NGOs, European Parliament, agriculture and consumer groups. The first Milestone Report has additionally been put on the project website (www.airp-sd.net) in order to make it available to the general public. SERI invite everybody interested in the field to review it and comment on it by filling out the attached questionnaire.

Work on thermodynamics

Jing Chen has set up a new website covering his work on thermodynamic theory and ecological economics. His approach aims at an analytical theory directly modelling the extraction of low entropy natural resources and the diffusion of high entropy environmental waste to provide an analytical framework for ecological and environmental economics.

Jing Chen can be contacted at:

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in particular. Finally, as the pioneer of the mobile phone industry in Europe, Finnish mobile phone producers are looking with interest at the new EU Recycling Directive, which comes into force in 2004. It will require recycling of all domestic electrical appliances, and mobile phones are an important market. An estimated 800 million people use mobile phones and consumers on average change their handsets every two years, with a vast number of sets therefore falling into disuse every year. Market leader Nokia has also been experimenting with promises of biodegradable phones, but researchers are so

BOOKS

Please note that the details of books listed here are provided by the publisher.

Nature and Agriculture in the European Union: New Perspectives on Policies that Shape the European Countryside

Floor Brouwer and Jan Van der Straaten (eds.)

Edward Elgar, 2002

Hardcover: £65.00 ISBN: 1 84064 235 1

Nature and agriculture both shape the European countryside and one of the main challenges for the years to come will be to strengthen their interaction for the future development of rural areas.

The book identifies the dilemmas facing European agriculture and explores their economic and ecological consequences. The authors believe a better understanding of these problems will be crucial in recognising the potential options for the future role of agriculture and nature policy and will guide

identification of suitable policy instruments. They highlight current threats to the relationship between agriculture and nature - such as abandonment and intensification - and demonstrate how these problems can be resolved in a rational policy mix. The book also provides extensive empirical evidence from four case studies and concludes by scrutinising the major changes in market conditions and the Common Agricultural Policy which could upset this important but fragile balance between agriculture and nature.

Contents

Part I: Methodology.

Part II: Cases on the Interaction between agriculture and Nature

Part III: Mitigation and Regulation

Part IV: Outlook

320pages

Further details on-line: <http://www.e->

Water Wars: Pollution, Profits and Privatisation

Vandana Shiva

Pluto Press, 2002

ISBN 0 7453 1838 X (Hard: £45)

ISBN 0 7453 1837 X (Soft: £12.99)

Vandana Shiva, a world-renowned environmentalist and campaigner, examines the 'water wars' of the twenty-first century: the aggressive privatisation by the multinationals of communal water rights.

While drought intensifies around the world, corporations are aggressively converting free-flowing water into bottled profits. The water wars of the twenty-first century may match - or even surpass - the oil wars of the twentieth. In *Water Wars: Pollution, Profits and Privatisation*, Shiva shines a light on activists who are fighting corporate manoeuvres to convert this vital resource into more profits for the elite.

Shiva uses her knowledge of science and society to outline the emergence of corporate culture and the historical erosion of communal water rights. Using the international water trade and industrial activities such as damming, mining and aquafarming as her lens, she exposes the destruction of the earth and the disenfranchisement of the world's poor as they are stripped of rights to a precious common good. Shiva calls for a movement to preserve water access for all, and offers a blueprint for global resistance based on examples of successful campaigns.

Have you recently published a book, either as author or editor? If so, please send details to the editor, Ben Davies, including publisher, date, ISBN number, price and a Table of Contents.

JOBS

Applications are invited for the following posts within the Socio Economic Research Programme (SERP) headed by Professor Clive L. Spash, to whom informal enquiries can be made at c.spash@macaulay.ac.uk.

Research Group Leader - MA14/02

We seek an experienced and committed person to develop research activities of international excellence on the socio-economic analysis of environmental policies. An interdisciplinary research agenda would be conducted by the post holder to develop and improve techniques for environmental management. A track record in publication and managing research grants is required, and ability to communicate results widely. The

post holder will have specific responsibility for the ecological and environmental economics group within SERP.

Candidates should possess a PhD and graduate degree in Economics, Political Science, Environmental Policy or equivalent. Where the PhD is outside a field of economics a second degree or equivalent training in economics is required.

Researcher - MA13/02

Specialising in Ecological, Environmental or Rural Economics

Researcher required to assist on and develop interdisciplinary research agenda in the areas of either Ecological & Environmental Economics or Rural Economics.

Candidates should possess a degree in economics (PhD preferred), specialised in either environmental or rural policy issues; experience in multi-criteria analysis desirable.

Starting salary depending upon qualifications and experience. Non-contributory Superannuation Scheme.

The Macaulay Institute receives funding from the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department.

Further particulars and application forms can be obtained from Personnel, The Macaulay Institute, Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen, AB15 8QH Tel 01224-498200, Fax 01224-311556, E-mail Personnel@macaulay.ac.uk to whom

*Details of EE-related
conferences from around
the world*

Call for papers
FRONTIERS 2

See <http://www.euroecolecon.org/frontiers> for the draft programme

Contributions are sought in the form of papers and posters on the themes listed below. Preferences will be given to new and unpublished contributions of high standard.

*Theme 1: Environmental Planning:
Scientific-Political Decision Processes*
Focussing on local/regional applications on participatory decision processes and on community development; on the large/macro scale on socio-economic and ecological dimensions of sustainability; and on environmental change accounting.

*Theme 2: Environmental Management:
Applying the Strong Sustainability
Concepts*
Applications of the strong sustainability concepts in environmental management; in-depth analysis of the European perspective.

*Theme 3: Innovative Forms of Education
and Cooperation*
Looking in detail at higher education and business and industry applications.

Theme 4: Developing and Testing Tools
Looking at the robustness of currently used tools and the status of developing new approaches/tools; topics such as modelling, non-market valuation and multi-criteria mapping.

SCHEDULE

10 October 2002: Final date for submissions of contributions (abstract and synopsis)

15 November 2002: Notification of acceptance/rejection of contributions.

16 December 2002: Registration deadline.

20 December 2002: Deadline for submissions of final/revised papers.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Details are in preparation and will be provided later on in the ESEE website.

CONFERENCES

ESEE FRONTIERS 2 CONFERENCE

The European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE) is organising a second 'mini-conference' on ecological economics, supported under the European Commission, High-Level Scientific Conferences, Human Potential Programme, 1998-2002.

FRONTIERS 1 already took place at New Hall, Cambridge, UK, 4-7 July 2001. The aim was to address fundamental issues concerning ecological economics. See the website <http://www.euroecolecon.org> for more information.

FRONTIERS 2: European Application in Ecological Economics will take place at Hotel Maritim, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain, 12-15 February 2003 and will focus on state-of-the-art applications of ecological economics for environmental planning and management, in education and for testing the robustness of research tools.

Its aim is to promote scientific excellence by (i) allowing senior researchers to impart their experience to younger researchers; and (ii) creating a framework for networking of EU researchers with scientists outside the Member and Associated States. Numbers are limited to 100 participants to allow for good focus and interaction.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Selection of participation will be based on submitted suggestions for contributions in the form of papers and/or posters. Young researchers are particularly encouraged to participate. EU grants for young researchers (up to age 35) are available in the form of low participation fee and accommodation costs.

Please send a letter of request and 2-page CV including a list of your publications together with your proposed contribution: an abstract plus a 2-page synopsis. For the list of sub-themes, visit the conference website (<http://www.euroecolecon.org>).

Enquiries to:

Federico Aguilera Klink/Juan Sánchez García

Tel. +34 922317022

FRONTIERS 2- Local organisers

Fax. +34 922253742

Departamento de Economía Aplicada.

E-mail: FRONTIERS2.ESEE@ull.es

Universidad de La Laguna

Website: <http://www.euroecolecon.org>

Campus Guajara

38071 La Laguna (Tenerife)

Canary Islands, Spain

Australia New Zealand Society for Ecological Economics (ANZSEE) 2002 Conference December 2-4, 2002

University of Technology, Sydney (Broadway campus)

Theme: Strategies into action: regional and industry policy applications of ecologically sustainable development

If you would like to contribute a paper, please send, for consideration, a 200-300 word abstract to Mark Diesendorf <mark@sustainabilitycentre.com.au> by Friday 28 June 2002. Abstracts will only be accepted as plain text located in the body of emails (ie. not as an attachment). To find out more about the conference or to register (discount before 26 July 2002) visit the conference website: <http://incres.anu.edu.au/anzsee/ANZSEE2002.html>

If you want to be informed about the ANZSEE 2002 conference you can subscribe to an announcement list. You don't have to be registered for the conference to be on this list. To subscribe send a message to: ANZSEE2002-subscribe@yahoo.com

CALENDAR EVENTS

June

June 2-7, 2002

Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environmental Systems.

Dubrovnik, Croatia.

<http://powerlab.fsb.hr/Dubrivnik2002>

June 12-14, 2002 (**NEW**)

Sharing the Planet: Population, Consumption, Species.

Groningen, The Netherlands.

Organised by Pugwash Netherlands, part of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs.

<http://www.puwash.nl/sharing>

June 12-15, 2002

Protecting Nature on Private Lands - From Conflicts to Agreements.

Lahti, Finland.

International Workshop organised by the University of Helsinki and European Forest Institute.

email: paivi.tikka@helsinki.fi

http://www.efi.fi/events/2002/Protecting_Nature

June 13-15, 2002 (**NEW**)

Sustainable Justice? Implementing International Sustainable Development Law.

Montreal, Canada

Organised by Centre for ISDL.

<http://www.cisd.org.conference/index.html>

June 13-16, 2002

'The City in a Garden: Producing and Consuming Food in the New Millenium'

Chicago, USA.

Joint Annual Meeting: Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS) and Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society (AFHVS).

<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/rhaynes/afhrs/2002call.html>

June 17-21, 2002

12th European Conference and Technology Exhibition on Biomass for Energy, Industry and Climate Protection.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Organised by ETA Florence and WIP-Munich.

http://www.wip-munich.de/conferences/biomass/amsterdam_2002/amsterdam.html

June 25-30, 2002

Third International Conference of Critical Geography.

Bekescsaba, Hungary.

Programme details from Conference

Secretary: 3rd.iccg@durham.ac.uk.

email: conleth.cunnane@nuigalway.ie

July 9-12, 2002

The Institute of Australian Geographers Conference 2002.

Canberra, Australia.

Preliminary details from Dr Richard Baker:

July

July 1-3, 2002

Tenth International Conference on Modelling and Management of Air Pollution.

Segovia, Spain.

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/air02/>

July 1-3, 2002

Renewable Energy Expo 2002.

Cologne, Germany.

In association with the World Renewable Energy Congress.

<http://www.renewenergy.com/page.cfm>

July 3-5, 2002

The Sustainable City 2002.

Second International Conference on Urban Regeneration and Sustainability.

Segovia, Spain.

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/urs02/>

July 3-5, 2002

Second International Congress on 'Environment and Identity in the Mediterranean'

University of Corsica, Corsica.

Social, economic and scientific themes.

http://www.univ-corse.fr/actu/identite_medit.htm

July 4-8, 2002

1st World Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition.

Berlin, Germany.

Organised by the World Wind Energy Association (WWEA).

<http://www.world-wind-conference.org/>

July 8-10, 2002

Celtic Water in a European Framework: Pointing the Way to Quality.

Venue:tbc.

Information from Professor Con Connane,

August

August 19-22, 2002

IIFET 2002: Fisheries in the Global Economy.

Wellington, New Zealand.

Organised in association with Deloitte, Touche, Tohmatsu.

<http://www.deloitte.co.nz/>

August 20-22, 2002

Fourth Conference of the Asian Society of Agricultural Economists (ASAE): 'New Challenges facing Asian Agriculture under Globalisation'

Kedah, Malaysia

Organised by Institute for Economic Research (INSPEK) and Malaysian Agricultural Economics Association (PETA).

<http://202.184.25.3/confasae2002/home.htm>

August 21-28, 2002

IFOAM 2002 Organic World Congress. 'Cultivating Communities'.

Victoria, BC, Canada.

Organised by Canadian Organic Growers for International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)

<http://www.cog.ca/ifoam2002/index.htm>

August 25-31, 2002 (**NEW**)

Third European Conference on Restoration Ecology. 'Challenges of the New Millenium: Our Joint Responsibility'

Budapest, Hungary.

Organised by Institute of Ecology and Botany, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, with Society for Restoration Ecology and Ecology Departmen of Hungarian Biological Society.

<http://www.botanika.hu/restoration/index.html>

August 26-September 4

World Summit on Sustainable Development. UN Conference

CALENDAR EVENTS

Johannesburg, South Africa.

<http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/>

Where possible items are listed with website details. If you experience difficulty with any of the sites listed,

September

September 2-4, 2002

Brownfields 2002.

International Conference on Prevention, Assessment, Rehabilitation and Development of Brownfield Sites.

Cadiz, Spain.

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/brownfields02/>

September 4-6, 2002

Waste Management 2002.

International Conference on Waste Management and the Environment.

Cadiz, Spain.

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/brownfields02/>

September 15-19, 2002

Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture for Dry Areas for the Second Millennium.

Shijiazhuang, Hebei, China.

Organised by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

<http://res2.agr.ca/lethbridge/hebei/confindex.htm>

September 19-23, 2002

International Year of Mountains 2002

Conference on GIS and RS in Mountain Environment Research.

Krakow, Poland.

Email: confe2002@environmount.uj.edu.pl

<http://www.enviromount.uj.edu.pl>

September 24-26, 2002

Waste 2002. Integrated Waste Management and Pollution Control: Research, Policy, Practice.

Stratford-upon-Avon, UK

Organised by The Waste Conference Ltd.

<http://www.thewasteconference.com/>

September 30 - October 1, 2002

(***CHANGED DATE***)

International Conference "Governance and Sustainability - New Challenges for Government, Companies and Civil Society" *Berlin, Germany*

Organised by: Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW, Berlin, Germany)

in cooperation with Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (Berlin), Science Center Berlin.

Contact: governance@ioew.de

Web: www.ioew.de/governance

October

October 1-4, 2002 (**NEW**)

GHGT-6. Sixth international Conference on Greenhouse Gas Control Technologies.

Kyoto, Japan

Organised by Research institute of Innovative Technologies for the Earth (RITE), IEA Greenhouse Gas R&D Programme and Japan Society of Energy and Resources (JSER)

<http://www.rite.or.jp/GHGT6/index.html>

October 7-10, 2002 (**NEW**)

Bringing Back the Forests. Policies and Practices for Degraded Lands and Forests.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Organised by APAFRI, Forest Research Institute, Malaysia.

<http://www.apafri.upm.edu.my/reconf/index.html>

October 16-19, 2002 (**NEW**)

Aquaculture Europe 2002. Seafarming Today and Tomorrow.

Trieste, Italy.

Organised by European Aquaculture Society.

<http://www.easonline.org/agenda/en/aquaeuro2002/default.asp>

October 26-28, 2002 (**NEW**)

Third International Symposium

'Agroenviron-2002'.

Cairo, Egypt

Organised by the National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences, Cairo.

For info email: sirahaman@intouch.com

October 31-November 2, 2002

(**NEW**)

Ireland's Transition to Renewable Energy. *Tipperary, Ireland.*

Organised by FEASTA, the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability, and the

November

November 11-13, 2002 (**NEW**)

The European Research Area and the Framework Programme.

Brussels, Belgium

European Commission conference presenting objectives and priorities of the EU's Sixth Framework Programme.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2002/index_en.html

November 13-15, 2002 (**NEW**)

Third International Sustainable Forest Management Network Conference.

'Advances in Forest Management: From Knowledge to Practice'.

Edmonton, Canada.

Organised by the Sustainable Forest Management Network.

<http://sfm-1.biology.ualberta.ca/english/events/enetconferences.htm>

Feb 2003

February 12-15, 2003 (**NEW**)

FRONTIERS 2. European Applications in Ecological Economics.

Tenerife, Spain

Organised by ESEE with University de la Laguna, Tenerife.

<http://www.euroecolecon.org>

Take Note

FRONTIERS 2 - TENERIFE

February 12-15, 2003

Announcement and call for papers

See the full details on page 9

METRON research reports published

The results of the completed socio-economic research project METRON (Metropolitan Areas and Sustainable Use of Water), funded by the EC-DG Research and co-ordinated by the Environmental Planning Laboratory of the University of the Aegean, are now available to the public. The project involved inter-comparative research on the sustainability of water supply and use in five metropolitan areas (Amsterdam, Athens, London, Seville and Tel Aviv) and the preparation of policy guidelines at an EU level. To download all final reports visit the project web-site: <http://www.aegean.gr/enpl/newpage119.htm>

South set to catch up with North as European

The number of online users in Europe is expected to reach more than 200 million - 67 per cent of the population - by the end of 2006, according to a new report released by US based Forrester Research. Although the Scandinavian countries will continue to achieve higher levels of online penetration than their southern European counterparts, the latter will experience dramatic growth in the next four years, according to the report.

Regular internet use in Europe was measured at 19 per cent of the population in 1999 and 39 per cent (119 million people) in 2001. Further growth, predicted to continue until 2006, is expected to be based on falling hardware and connection prices and a continued spreading of the perception that Internet use is a vital means of communication.

Southern European markets - France, Italy, and Spain - bring European online rates down at the moment with an average 30 per cent of citizens regularly using the Internet. The Nordic markets remain in the lead with access rates of between 60 and 70 per cent. However, more than 30 million new, regular users will materialise in France and Italy over the next five years, according to the report. Italy will experience the most dramatic

growth, reaching 68 per cent online penetration in 2006. France will be slightly slower, with 64 per cent of its population online by 2006. Internet penetration in Scandinavia should reach saturation at 70 per cent from 2003 onwards.

Most European surfers connect from Germany or the UK - the two largest online populations in Europe with 30 million and 20 million users respectively. The report says that Germany will increase to 48.5 million regular users (70 per cent of its population) by 2006. The UK will achieve 68 per cent penetration or 32.8m regular users in the same period.

Austria and Switzerland will continue to grow from 2004 onwards - a result of their high income levels and high number of technology optimists. Their total online penetration will reach 75 per cent by 2006. Most regular online users connect from home - only 13 per cent of users have access from work alone. The location that users connect from impacts on their behaviour - for instance, work-only users are online for five hours per week, 1.7 hours less than home-only users.

Fifty percent of the 119 million Europeans that currently use the Internet regularly are

Food for Thought:

Arne Naess

(1912 -)

'If professional ecologists persist in voicing their value priorities, their jobs are often in danger, or they tend to lose influence and status amongst those who are in charge of overall policies. Privately, they admit the necessity for deep and far-ranging changes, but they no longer speak out in public. As a result, people deeply concerned about ecology and the environment feel abandoned and even betrayed by the experts who work within the establishment.

In ecological debates, many participants know a lot about particular conservation policies in particular places, and many others have strong views concerning fundamental philosophical questions of environmental ethics, but only a few have both qualities. When these people are silent, the loss is formidable...

The time is ripe for professional ecologists to break their silence and express their deepest concerns more freely. A bolder advocacy of deep ecological concerns by those working within the shallow, resource-oriented environmental sphere is the best strategy for regaining some of the strength of this movement among the general public, thereby contributing, however modestly, to a turning of the tide.

Conservation strategies are more eagerly implemented by people who love what they are conserving, and who are convinced that what they love is intrinsically loveable. Such lovers will not want to hide their attitudes and values, rather they will increasingly give voice to them in public. They possess a genuine ethics of conservation, not merely a tactically useful instrument for human survival.

from 'The Deep Ecological Movement: Some Philosophical Aspects';

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