



Workshop

Institutionalising Sustainability Assessment: The Case of Land-Use Decisions

June 25th – June 26th 2009
Helmholtz-Centre for
Environmental Research – UFZ,
Permoserstr. 15,
D-04318 Leipzig, Germany

Project Homepage: <http://www.wi-n.org/en/104.php>

Workshop Background

There is a widespread and increasing feeling among politicians, scientists and the general public that in far-ranging decisions aspects of sustainability in the way how humans act towards nature and how they are responsible towards one another and future generations need to be accounted for.

Day-to-day decisions in different areas of life impact the economy, the environment and society in the form of social costs which have hitherto been neglected in narrow economic and cameralistic calculations and in practical decision-making. This is especially true in the case of land-use decision, where the continuing consumption of untouched natural land to make way for residential and commercial development is a major stumbling block on the road to sustainable development. When deciding what areas are to be built over, as well as in other far-reaching investment decisions, scant attention (if any at all) is explicitly paid to nature and its life-preserving functions.

This has spawned a grave challenge throughout the world, especially for the USA and the European Union and its Member States where people on account of their high economic productivity achieved bear a particular responsibility to protect nature for future generations.

Consequently, in the case of land-use, the EU set up a Soil Thematic Strategy with the aim to ensure an adequate level of protection for all soils in Europe. Specifically, it calls for the application of sustainability concepts and methods as part of an integrated policy to prevent further soil degradation and to increase the re-use of brownfields.

Although the overall desirability of revitalising derelict sites (like the urgent need to limit land consumption for the good of sustainability) is gaining more and more political credence, the practical implementation of this aim hinges on whether the costs of the negative impacts on society of the overexploitation of nature are expressed in a way that it can influence land-use decisions.

A set of sustainability assessment tools has been developed to support sustainability assessment (SA) in land-use decisions. However, the development of such methods is constantly beset by the trade-off between impartiality (is sustainability required which has been deemed scientifically objective?) and extensive democratic participation taking into consideration diverse local interest groups, aims and conditions. Moreover, it seems that in their current form none of the methods have been convincingly integrated into institutional planning processes.

In the workshop, methods of sustainability assessment shall be compared in terms of their conceptual approaches and methods. Furthermore, general criteria to measure the quality of SA tools based on the participating experts experience shall be identified. This shall help to figure out the so far missing institutional embeddedness, where obstacles could be seen in the methods themselves but also in the willingness to implement sustainable development among political mandate holders and decision-makers.

The workshop is convened by SynWiN – a research project aiming at synthesising existing diverse economic approaches within the German Ministry of Education and Research funding programme “Economics for Sustainability (WiN)” and beyond.



Final Programme

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Thursday, June 25th, 2009

- 02.00 pm **Opening and Welcome**
Prof. Dr. Bernd Hansjürgens
UFZ, Head of Department of Economics and Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg
Prof. Dr. Reimund Schwarze
University Innsbruck and UFZ;
WiN-Project: SynWiN
- 02.30 pm **Session I**
Detlef Grimski
UBA – Federal Environmental Agency, Germany
“Brownfield Redevelopment in Germany – An Issue of Sustainability?”
Verle Hansen, PhD – United States
Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)
“US EPA Sustainability Management Approach”
- 03.45 pm Coffee break
- 04.15 pm **Session II**
Stephan Bartke and Prof. Dr. Reimund Schwarze – UFZ; WiN-Project: SynWiN
“Sustainability in Land-Use Decisions: A Survey of Methods and Tools”
Prof. Dr. Christian Küpfer – StadtLandFluss
Wolfschlugen & Nürtingen-Geislingen University;
WiN-Project: Spiel.Raum
“Simulating a Market for Tradable Development Certificates (TDC) and Definition of Indicators”
Ruth Delzeit – Institute for Food and Resource Economics ILR; WiN-Project: NaRoLa
“Comparison of assessing environmental effects by agricultural sector models and the LCA-approach”
Dr. Cornelia Ohl – UFZ; WiN-Project: FlächEn
“Regional spatial planning for wind power development and criteria for feed-in tariffs”
- 06.30 pm **Excursion** “Leipzig quayside”
- 08.30 pm **Workshop Dinner** “Restaurant SAFARI”

Friday, June 26th, 2009

- 09.30 am **Session III**
Alena Bleicher – UFZ: Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology
“Putting Sustainability in Context: the Integrative HGF-Concept of Sustainable Development”
Gernot Pahlen – RAG Immobilien AG
“Challenge of sustainability – A developers perspective”
Prof. Paul Syms PhD, RICS
Former National Brownfield Advisor, UK, Centre for Urban Policy Studies, Department of Planning & Landscape, University of Manchester
“Strategic Approaches to the Re-Use of Land”
- 11:30 am Lunch Break
- 12.30 pm **Session IV**
Dr.-Ing. Uwe Ferber – Projektgruppe Stadt und Entwicklung, Leipzig
“Land Management and Land Recycling in Transition Regions”
Jan Votoček – Institute for Sustainable Urban Development IURS Prague
“The Role of SA for Brownfield Revitalization in the Czech Republic”
Ann Vega – US EPA - National Risk Management Research Laboratory (NRMRL) Revitalization Research Program Manager
“Decision Support Framework (DSF) for Planning Land and Resource Use to Sustainably Maintain Healthy Ecosystem Services and Communities”
- 02.30 pm Coffee break
- 03.00 pm **Panel Discussion:** Lessons learnt?
- 04.00 pm Closing

Venue: Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, Building 1.0 Lecture Hall Left

<http://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=1415>

By plane: From Berlin airports go by rail to Leipzig Central Station (app. 90 min). From Leipzig/Halle Airport take the train (regional express) to Leipzig Central Station (3,20 Euros one-way). For further way Central Station to UFZ see below.

By rail: From Leipzig Central Station take tram 3 (heading for "Sommerfeld") or 13 ("Taucha"). After 15 minutes alight at stop "Torgauer/Permoserstraße", cross the street and take Permoserstraße in eastern direction. After app. 200m you will find the main entrance of the UFZ.

By taxi: A taxi from Leipzig Central Station to the UFZ will cost about EURO 10. The fare from Leipzig-Halle Airport is about EURO 30

By road: On A14 motorway take exit marked "Leipzig-Ost" and heading for Stadtzentrum (City Centre).