



Dissemination Conference

2014, April 1st-2nd
Brussels, Belgium

Key messages from the LIAISE Network of Excellence (FP7)

and the

Final Event

Knowledge for Decision Making

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Background:

- ❑ Increasing importance of evidence based policy making to achieve a sustainable development
 - ❑ Funding of research in support of decision making
 - ❑ **But:** Under-utilization of research reservoir
- ▶▶ Network of Excellence of research institutes committed to IA for SD
 - ▶▶ With the ambition of structural permanence
 - ▶▶ In dialogue with relevant stakeholders
 - ▶▶ Providing a shared toolbox and shared research agenda

Initially 15 research institutes (environmental sciences, economics, social sciences), including further (associated) partners in the course of the network

Currently:

- ❑ Not described at all: Lack of documentation
- ❑ Technical descriptions: understanding requires disciplinary skills
- ❑ Focus on methods and less on possible applicability and results
- ❑ Lack of integration across disciplines
- ❑ User needs not well understood and implemented

The LIAISE approach:

- ⇒ Development of a **standard to describe models:**
The Reference Model for Impact Assessment Tools (RM-IAT)
- ⇒ Describing knowledge in the **context of IA** to ensure relevancy of knowledge
- ⇒ User requirements analysis with IA users to develop new and improved tools
- ⇒ Integrating and linking different types of knowledge in the context of IA for SD

Case study: Impact assessment

- ❑ **Ultimate goal:** better decision making for sustainable development
- ❑ **LIAISE objective:** investigate the practice of impact assessment as a knowledge system in different ways
 - Review of state-of-the-art
 - Study developments in the future
 - Investigate the possibilities of modern information technology and social media
 - Investigate the durability of the network
 - Try different set-ups of knowledge delivery
- ❑ All under the assumption: there is a possibility of delivering more scientific knowledge to decision making which leads to sustainable development

LIAISE tested IA tool use and knowledge exchange in 6 real-world cases to:

- ❑ Create a realistic understanding of the requirements of knowledge users in relation to possibilities of knowledge production:
 - *in what circumstances, contexts, certain knowledge brokering approaches are fit for purpose?*
- ❑ Investigate procedures for interaction between researchers and policy-makers
 - *when step-wise approach of interaction in IA is suitable?*
- ❑ Examine current use possible uses of existing impact assessment tools
 - *what IA results were used and unused?*

- ❑ Collaboration in IA increases the use of IA results in policy-making **but requires trust and credibility** based on previous cooperation, or built during (long) IA process
- ❑ **Openness about limitations** of a tool increases credibility
- ❑ **Long-term exchange on knowledge claims** is expected from researchers by policy-makers rather than short-term IA support (in-house or consulting task)
- ❑ Ex post IAs, individual policy-measure (relatively narrow) IAs and **emerging policy areas are more open** for high level knowledge exchange - learning

Lessons learned for co-design of knowledge II

- ❑ It is challenging to develop a new tool for real-life ongoing policy-process – time and political constraints
- ❑ Iterative **co-design of knowledge is enabled by tools** that are
 - Already existing
 - Easy-to-apply/ transparent
 - Time-saving for policy actors
 - Procedural but allowing choices, and
 - Including an element of co-tailoring relevance by policy-makers' questions
- ❑ Communicative and adaptive **IT platforms, like LIAISE KIT**, can facilitate knowledge exchange when recognised by both research and policy actors

Methods

- ❑ Realisation that there is no ‘one size fits all’ approach, as the users of IA tools are inherently diverse and have complex requirements.
- ❑ 1:1 **interviews** typically provide the richest data, but are time consuming and require a substantial buy-in of users.
- ❑ **Workshops** and **focus groups** compromise in insight, but provide viable options and allow for follow-up with individual users later on.
- ❑ **Questionnaires** and **electronic communication** facilitate outreach and allow for gathering of input from a wide range of users.

A key element to improve the utilisation of research-based models and tools is the development of user-friendly tools, with better interfaces tailored to the needs of the anticipated end-user

Types of Knowledge (examples)

- Models (ca. 100)
- Publications (ca. 370)
- Experts (ca.60)
- Projects (ca.130)
- Methods (ca. 44)
- Datasets (external sources)

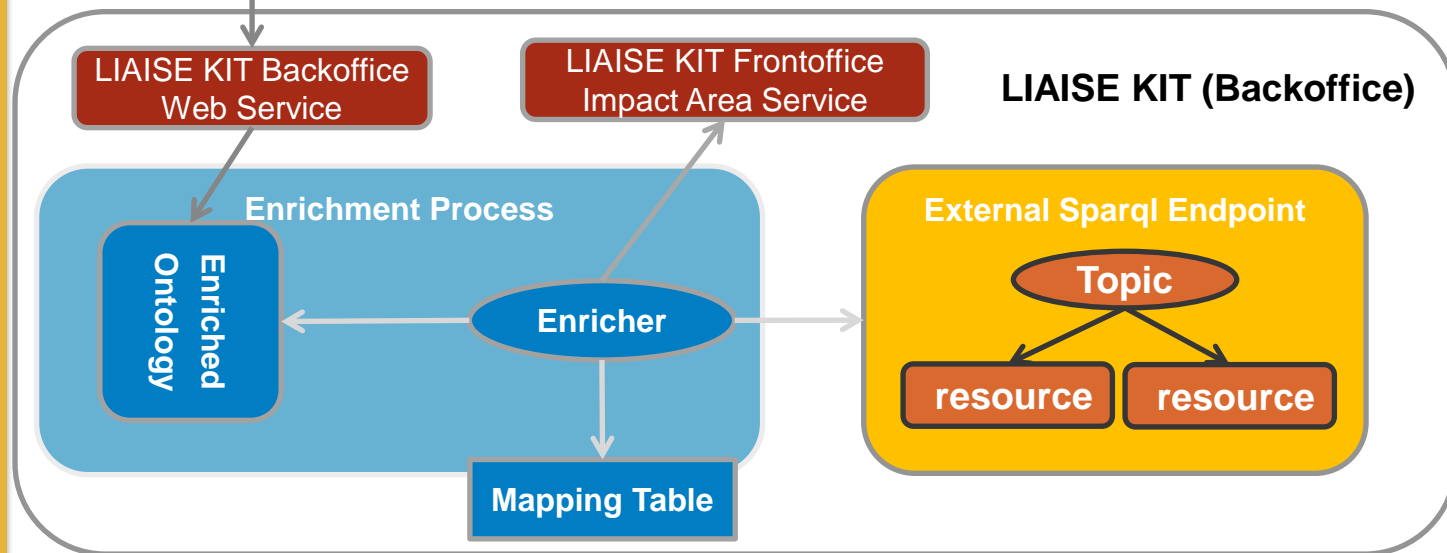
Taxonomies (examples)

- Impact Areas (ca. 170)
- IA Activities (ca. 30)
- Economic Sectors (NACE)
- Countries (world wide)
- Policy Areas (54) and instruments (11)

- ❑ Review of publications and projects
- ❑ Contributions by researchers
- ❑ Lead editors for methods and impact areas
- ❑ Integration in web of data: Example of EEA datasets

Future: Natural Language Questions: e.g.

“What model could I use to assess critical load exceedance of air pollutant depositions?”



Bas Eickhout (MEP):

- ❑ Politicians **accept models as black boxes** (have no time to look into its backgrounds) and accept results of Impact Assessments/Integrated Assessments as given (*unless a model is discredited such as the PRIMES model*).
- ❑ Scientists are often insufficiently aware that the European Commission is a political body (*with certain political goals*). They must be more suspicious and aware of potential misuse of scientific knowledge.
- ❑ For new issues (such as shale gas extraction or biofuels) politicians are often guided by 'trusted' scientists (or scientific advocates). Uncertainties become politicized and if no scientific body is sufficiently trusted to end the debate.

Bas Eickhout (MEP):

- ❑ Don't underestimate the power of vested interest groups. Learn from them: **framing of the problem is essential**, the positive or negative association of certain words, focus on simple indicators that are crucial for the political debate (instead of complex indices or long lists of variables).
- ❑ The political debate focuses **on solutions and measures** and not on problem analysis. Scientists tend to focus too much on problem analysis and contribute little to policy formulation.
- ❑ Scientists should **participate more actively in the co-decision** phase, as the compromise is often dominated by lobbying (= information exchange) from the most active stakeholders.

The screenshot shows the LIAISE KIT website interface. At the top, there is a browser address bar with the URL 'beta.liaise-toolbox.eu'. Below the browser, there is a navigation menu with links for 'Content', 'Structure', 'People', 'Configuration', 'Reports', and 'Help'. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a large green banner for the 'LIAISE CONFERENCE "IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS FOR THE FUTURE"' held from 05-03-2014 to 1-2 April 2014 in Brussels. Below this banner, there is a section titled 'THE LIAISE KIT FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT' with a sub-section 'WHAT IS THE LIAISE KIT?'. This section describes the website's purpose and lists two services: a library of models and methods, and a community platform for collaboration. On the right side, there is a sidebar with 'LIAISE COMMUNITY NEWS' containing two news items: 'NEW MODEL: ERGOM' and 'TIAS NEWSLETTER 01/2014 PUBLISHED'. A left sidebar contains a menu with links for 'HOME', 'KNOWLEDGE FOR IA', 'PROCESS OF IA', 'LIAISE COMMUNITY', and 'TOOLBOX MANUAL'.

HOME

KNOWLEDGE FOR IA

PROCESS OF IA

LIAISE COMMUNITY

TOOLBOX MANUAL

LIAISE CONFERENCE "IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS FOR THE FUTURE"

(05-03-2014) The Network of Excellence LIAISE cordially invites you to the conference on "Impact Assessment for Sustainable Development: Knowledge Systems for the Future", 1-2 April 2014 in Brussels.

[READ MORE](#)

THE LIAISE KIT FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

WHAT IS THE LIAISE KIT?

This website contains descriptions of different types of knowledge which can be used in the context of policy impact Assessment. It has been developed in the context of the FP7 [LIAISE Network of Excellence](#). With this site we aim to provide two different services:

- **Library** of models, methods, good practices, experts: Different sources of knowledge are described and can be queried using keywords from the domain of policy Impact assessment
- A **community platform** to collaborate in the field of Impact Assessment: you

LIAISE COMMUNITY NEWS

NEW MODEL: ERGOM

(25.3.2014) A new model Ecological Regional Ocean Model ([ERGOM](#)) as been added to the LIAISE-kit.

[READ MORE](#)

TIAS NEWSLETTER 01/2014 PUBLISHED

(25.3.2014) The Integrated Assessment Society (TIAS) has published its [latest newsletter](#).

[READ MORE](#)

NEW MODEL: APIS

(19-03-2014) A new model (APIS) has been added to the LIAISE kit.

As a **researcher** or **consultant**, you are invited to upload your expertise and become expert, upload examples of IAs, related projects or publications, descriptions of models or methods. You may also become a **lead editor** for an impact area or a family of methods! Do you miss anything in the LIAISE KIT? liaise@zedat.fu-berlin.de