



# TIAS Quarterly

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## The Society

The Integrated Assessment Society is a not-for-profit entity created to promote the community of inter-disciplinary and disciplinary scientists, analysts and practitioners who develop integrated assessment. The goals of the society are to nurture this community, to promote the development of IA and to encourage its wise application.

### Integrated Assessment Defined

Integrated Assessment (IA) can be defined as the interdisciplinary process of integrating knowledge from various disciplines and stakeholder groups in order to evaluate a problem situation from a variety of perspectives and provide support for its solution. IA supports learning and decision processes and helps to identify desirable and possible options for addressing the problem. It therefore builds on two major methodological pillars: approaches to integrating knowledge about a problem domain, and understanding policy and decision making processes. IA has been developed to address issues of acid rain, climate change, land degradation, water and air quality management, forest and fisheries management and public health.

## Feature

### A new interactive tool provides orientation in the jungle of Green Economy Indicators

by Marius Hasenheit, Ecologic Institute, Berlin

To many policy makers, policy advisers and scientists it is clear: indicators play a crucial role in measuring success in policy making and implementation and also in identifying obstacles to policy measures. However, for measuring progress in greening society and making it more inclusive, there are challenges in selecting the appropriate indicators for what are still relatively new goals. Other than the challenge of identifying the most suitable indicators and promoting Green Economy Indicators, one has 'the agony of choice' among thousands of potential indicators.

#### A new tool to select potential measures of progress

In the European-funded FP7 project, NETGREEN - Network for Green Economy Indicators (<http://netgreen-project.eu/>), a consortium of six institutions, led by Ecologic Institute, has developed a systematic and consistent overview of the existing efforts to measure sustainable development and the transformation to a green economy. The project team not only created a databank of indicators, but has also made them accessible via an interactive online tool.

Using this tool, which can be found under [measuring-progress.eu](http://measuring-progress.eu), the user can identify suitable indicators for his/her own needs with the help of various search mechanisms. To create a user-friendly tool while maintaining scientific depth, three different search mechanisms were developed: full text, topic, and keywords. All indicators are presented with information on data quality, possible misinterpretations, geographical scale and related considerations, and can be filtered according to one or more of these criteria. The user can also save a selection of preferred indicators. The combination of selected indicators

is displayed according to the extent to which they are a measure of Green Economy goals: 'Environmental Sustainability', 'Social Justice', 'Quality of Life', 'Economic Sustainability and Resilience' and 'Effective Governance'. For example, the user interested in indicators that focus on Eco-innovation can simply type this term in the keyword search field. This results in the following indicators:

- Innovation Union Scoreboard
- Global Innovation Index
- Green Competitiveness Index
- Green Patents (Index 1990=100)
- Global Cleantech Innovation Index

All the indicators that are displayed can be filtered according to data quality, frequency of updates, geographic scale, methodological transparency, indicator source and cost of accessing data. Furthermore, the results can be narrowed down by adding another keyword as a filter.



Since not all potential terms are included as keywords in the databank, the user, in this example, can also simply type "Eco-innovation" in the full text search, which yields the same indicators. In cases where the user is interested in indicators associated with a broader topic or field, the topic search can be used. In this case, the user selects among the five themes comprising Green Economy: Effective Governance, Economic Sustainability and Resilience, Quality of Life, Social Justice and Environmental Sustainability. By selecting one of the themes, subtopics will appear which can be selected. As with the keyword search, multiple topics can be selected. The tool thus provides a large pool of indicators with ample information and thus a well-documented case for each of them. For each search, the tool proposes appropriate indicators sorted by their combined relevance to the selected topics.

## Evidence-based dialogue

While creating this tool over the past two years, NETGREEN began serving as a *de facto* EU focal point for the dialogue on the measurement of the Green Economy. Its key intent has been to promote the understanding of the landscape of indicators, their specific uses and interpretations. For example, to foster the debate on the appropriate use of indicators on Green Growth, the Green Economy and Beyond GDP, the tool is promoted among journalists who can use it for their research, publications and broadcasts. Hence the tool is not only of importance for governmental and nongovernmental organisations at the national, regional and international levels, but it is also useful to the media in that it promotes an understanding of the underlying data.



NETGREEN Project Reports available from <http://netgreen-project.eu/>

Members of the public who may be skeptical of general assertions on the progress being made towards a greener society are another audience for the NETGREEN indicators. Let's take Germany for example, a country with a strong green movement. Who would have believed, for example, that despite its high level of environmental awareness<sup>1</sup>, the amount of waste produced per person has been rising steadily since 2006? During the same period, countries like Croatia, Estonia and Cyprus have reduced their waste generation tremendously.<sup>2</sup> The measuring-progress tool provides evidence for a given country's progress in addressing social, economic and environmental challenges through policy making and regulatory mechanisms.

### Measuring progress of the SDGs

Green Economy indicators are useful for another highly important field: the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which consist of 17 goals and 169 targets. Since these SDGs are meant to be applied in all countries, a political process is necessary to identify the most urgent national challenges and the respective indicators for each country.

Since the 'Green Economy' takes a rather broad approach, there are many perceptions and definitions of what it is or should be that have also surfaced during the NETGREEN project. However, the advantage of having such a holistic - some would say unwieldy - concept, is that most of the targets associated with each of the SDGs are included in the NETGREEN databank of Green Economy Indicators.

### Taking Green Economy indicators further

The databank and the interactive 'search engine for indicators' is freely available at [measuring-progress.eu](http://measuring-progress.eu). Furthermore, the project team is open to feedback and proposals for new indicators will be identified and/or implemented. Generally, the number of indicators and the keywords that can be used to identify indicators can be extended in the measuring-progress tool.

National and regional strategies for a Green Economy in Europe, including best practices, the SDGs link and the measuring-progress tool will be addressed in an upcoming a conference in Brussels on the 15th of October. Registration is open and the event is free of charge. Conference details are available on the Ecologic site: <http://www.ecologic.eu/12453>

1. UBA. Umweltbewusstsein in Deutschland 2014. Ergebnisse einer repräsentativen Bevölkerungsumfrage. <http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen/umweltbewusstsein-in-deutschland-2014>

2. Eurostat. Generation of waste excluding major mineral wastes, 2004-2012. <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=0&language=en&code=tsdpc210&tableSelection=>

For more information on NETGREEN indicators and measuring progress, contact Marius Hasenheit, Ecologic Institute: [marius.hasenheit@ecologic.eu](mailto:marius.hasenheit@ecologic.eu)

## New IA Initiative

### Integrated Assessment welcome in Wallonia

By Marie Bourgeois, Julien Piérart, Françoise Warrant  
Dept. of Sustainable Development, Public Service of Wallonia, Belgium

Conducting integrated assessment, particularly with regard to public policy, is actually about dealing with knowledge and institutional change. Regarding knowledge, experts in charge of specific policy domains often think they have sufficiently covered all of the important aspects when preparing a policy plan. However, integrated assessment is about linking different knowledge spheres that have influence on a specific sector or domain. It implies taking a step back and questioning the underlying premises and frameworks. The IA approach introduces another way of managing knowledge.

This process of involving multiple disciplines in order to improve policies also implies institutional change. One of the obstacles is the lack of familiarity with integrated assessments in the public sector. This requires that its added value be clearly communicated. How can we convince policy makers and officials working on policy proposals to engage in this process?

The 'independent advisory unit for sustainable development' within the public administration of Wallonia in Belgium is currently facing this challenge. Since the beginning of 2014, the unit provides advice on how to integrate sustainability, and thus an integrated approach, as well as proposals for potential policies.

Here are some of the features of this new instrument:

- Policy proposals in the very early stages (global policy overview) are submitted to the advisory unit by policy makers.
- All other policy proposals may be submitted to the unit, either by policy makers or by officials from the administrations in charge of policy design.
- The unit may also put forward its own proposals on any relevant subject to policy makers..
- The resulting assessment contains recommendations for improving the policy proposal.
- Governmental ministers are obliged to provide arguments when recommendations are not taken into account.
- The integrated assessment is carried out on the basis of sustainability criteria, grouped in five categories, which

are then refined using a holistic approach including:

- horizontal and vertical integration,
- intra- and intergenerational equity,
- participation

The advisory unit is eager to exchange views with other organisations carrying out integrated assessments on public policies. **Please contact us:**

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## TIAS News

### Annual General Meeting 2015

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 TIAS held its **Annual General Meeting**. One of the agenda items of this meeting was the planning of activities in 2015 and 2016, including the organization of a conference. This item evoked lively discussions regarding the feasibility and desirability of (co-) organizing our own conference versus organizing sessions at other (recurrent) conferences, workshops or events. It was agreed that, as a first step, the executive board will prepare and circulate a list of conferences, workshops and events where TIAS members could run – preferably on a recurrent basis – a session that is co-organized by TIAS.

### Webinars

We look forward to two **webinars** by members of our advisory board: one on the **co-production of knowledge** by Marcela Brugnach and one on the implementation and monitoring of the **Sustainable Development Goals**. Both webinars will take place in November (we will shortly announce dates and times). We welcome proposals for future webinars!

### Social Impact Assessment Working Group

The **TIAS working group on Social Impact Assessment (SIA)** submitted a pre-proposal to the Rockefeller Foundation focusing on SIA in relation to resilience and climate change in Africa and Asia. If a positive response is received – expected soon – the working group will elaborate its plans in a full proposal.

### TIAS Elections

At the end of October elections will be held for TIAS President and Vice-Presidents. Nominations have been requested and members will receive information about the online poll by mid-October.

To learn more about these and other TIAS activities, contact the secretariat ([info@tias-web.info](mailto:info@tias-web.info)).



(Ulli Meissner ©)

## IA News

### 1st Joint JRC-IIASA Summer School on optimizing the use of scientific evidence in policy making

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and IIASA held a three-day Summer School earlier this month bringing together researchers and policymakers to learn how to optimize the use of scientific evidence in policy making. The opening lecture, “*Why Should Scientists Work with Policymakers and Why Should Policy makers Care?*”, was given by Dr. William Colglazier, Senior Scholar in the Center for Science Diplomacy at the American Association for Advancement of Science. His lecture slides and corresponding article can be downloaded from the summer school home page:

<http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web/home/about/events/150902-JRC-IIASA-Summer-School.html>

TIAS Vice President, Leen Hordijk, a past director of IIASA, also participated in the programme leading a session on “*Using and Challenging Modelling – how to gain confidence in what models say*”

The JRC-IIASA academic training event will be continued on an annual basis.

### GWSP conference on Water-related SDGs

In preparation for last month's international conference “Sustainable Development Goals: A water perspective” (hosted by Global Water System Project in collaboration with Future Earth and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research) in Bonn, a summary statement was prepared ([sdg2015.gwsp.org/fileadmin/images/SDG\\_CONF/Towards\\_a\\_Sustainable\\_Water\\_Future.pdf](http://sdg2015.gwsp.org/fileadmin/images/SDG_CONF/Towards_a_Sustainable_Water_Future.pdf)). The statement identifies the main barriers, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the water-related SDGs. It makes a set of core recommendations to institutions and individuals engaged in science, governance, management and decision-making on water and related resources to promote water stewardship. These recommendations include: institutional capacity and transparency, financing mechanisms, technology diffusion, engaging the private sector, assessing and measuring sustainability, technical readiness and human resources, and interlinkages between water-related targets. The full set of outcomes of the conference will be made available at: [sdg2015.gwsp.org](http://sdg2015.gwsp.org)



(Ulli Meissner ©)

### Climate Governance Fellowships

**INOGOV (Innovations in Climate Governance) Visiting Fellowships (Short Term Scientific Missions): call for applications** to strengthen existing and fostering new collaborations. Funds are designated for researchers to visit an institution in another COST country. The mission must be fully completed by 30 June 2016. **Deadline for applications: 26 October 2015**

More information:

<http://www.inogov.eu/participate/visiting-fellowships-stsms/>

## New Publications

S.E. Jørgensen, B.D. Fath, S.N. Nielsen “**Flourishing Within Limits to Growth - Following nature's way.**” Earthscan. The book describes how nature uses three growth forms: biomass, information and networks, resulting in improved ecosystem functioning and co-development. Read more: [https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138842533?utm\\_source=outlook&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=SBU3\\_mbs\\_4mx\\_1em\\_9env\\_rnl15\\_x\\_X](https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138842533?utm_source=outlook&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=SBU3_mbs_4mx_1em_9env_rnl15_x_X)

M.R. Khan. 2014. “**Toward a Binding Climate Change Adaptation Regime - A Proposed Framework**”. Routledge. Scientific consensus is that the impacts of climate change are increasing, as evident from the greater frequency, intensity and magnitude of climate disasters in recent years. This book asks why anticipatory and planned measures for reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change should not be regarded as a global responsibility as mitigation is. Read more: [https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138941588?utm\\_source=outlook&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=SBU3\\_mbs\\_4mx\\_1em\\_9env\\_rnl15\\_x\\_X](https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138941588?utm_source=outlook&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=SBU3_mbs_4mx_1em_9env_rnl15_x_X)

C. Pahl-Wostl. 2015. “**Water Governance in the Face of Global Change: From Understanding to Transformation**”. Springer. This book offers a comprehensive treatment of multi-level water governance, including a conceptual and analytical framework that captures the complexity of water governance systems while also introducing various approaches to comparative analysis. Specific attention is given to governance reform, adaptive and transformative capacity and multi-level societal learning <http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319218540>

S. Rosewarne, J. Goodman, and R. Pears. 2014. “**Climate Action Upsurge - The Ethnography of Climate Movement Politics**”. Routledge. The book provides an insight into an important period in climate movement politics, drawing on the perspectives of activists who were directly engaged in the mobilisation process. Through the interpretation of these perspectives the book illustrates important lessons for the climate movement. Read more: [https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138941595?utm\\_source=outlook&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=SBU3\\_mbs\\_4mx\\_1em\\_9env\\_rnl15\\_x\\_X](https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138941595?utm_source=outlook&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=SBU3_mbs_4mx_1em_9env_rnl15_x_X)

### Publications to look out for

The UNCCD “**Global Land Outlook**” (GLO) is to be produced every four years by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. The publication will facilitate debate and discourse on a new and transformative vision for land management policy, planning and practice at global and national scales. The first issue is expected in late 2016 or early 2017. Read more: [http://www.unccd.int/Lists/OfficialDocuments/cop12/misc1en\\_g.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/Lists/OfficialDocuments/cop12/misc1en_g.pdf)

The “**European Nature Outlook**” is a scenario-based study focused on securing the future of nature and optimum development of related policies in Europe. The study, due out in Spring 2016, is being conducted by the Netherlands Environment Assessment Agency with the support of the European Centre for Nature Conservation. (Source: <http://www.ecnc.org/>) More information: <http://themasites.pbl.nl/natureoutlook/2016/>

## Events

15 October 2015. Conference: **Accelerating the transition to a green economy in Europe: National-regional strategies and the new Sustainable Development Goals.** Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels. More information: <http://www.ecologic.eu/12453>

11-13 November 2015. **Systems Analysis 2015.** Hosted by IIASA in Laxenburg, Austria. More information: <http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web/home/about/events/151111-SystemsAnalysis.html>

17-19 Nov. 2015. European Conferences on Biodiversity and Climate Change (ECBCC): **Nature-based solutions to meet the challenge of climate change in urban areas and their rural surroundings.** Bonn, Germany. More information: <http://www.ecbcc2015.com/>

16-18 Dec. 2015. **1st Global Forum on Green Economy Learning**, OECD Conference Centre, Paris. Organised by the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) in collaboration with the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training. **Deadline for registration: 15 Oct.** More information: <http://www.un-page.org/resources/1st-global-forum-green-economy-learning>

10-13 May 2016. **Adaptation Futures 2016.** 4<sup>th</sup> biennial conference of PROVIA (Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation). Rotterdam, Netherlands. **Abstract submissions accepted until 4 Oct. 2015.** Early bird registration till 15 March 2016. More information: [www.adaptationfutures2016.org](http://www.adaptationfutures2016.org)

7-9 September, 2016. **Sixth International Conference on Building Resilience.** Auckland, New Zealand in conjunction with Massey University, NZ; Auckland University; University of Huddersfield, UK and UNISDR. Abstract submissions accepted until **15 Nov. 2015.** More information: <http://buildresilience2016.nz/>

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