

SERI Annual reports

Annual report 2005

Vienna, 28th of July 2006

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Foreword

Another busy and successful year for SERI is over. We have celebrated our fifth anniversary with a series of lectures and events on our central themes. And we have started, finished or continued several interesting research projects.

This annual report gives you an overview of our activities during the past year, including research projects, events organized by SERI, publications and presentations at conferences or workshops.. We present activities of the members of the society "Verein zur Förderung eines Sustainable Europe Research Institute" during 2005 and hope that you enjoy reading it.

With the beginning of 2005, the newly founded SERI Nachhaltigkeitsforschungs und -kommunikations GmbH took over all Vienna-based projects. The company currently employs 12 persons, most of them researchers. The Viennese team was assisted by several highly motivated interns from various fields during the year, who brought in a lot of effort, ideas and support.

The "Sustainable Europe Research Institute Germany e.V." was established in Germany in 2006. It is registered according to the German law as a non-profit association. The focus is on German research projects towards sustainability as well as on research on sustainable consumption. So far it combines the former independent SERI research units SERI Overath and SERI Bad Oeynhausen.

If you have any questions or just want to know more about us, please do not hesitate to contact us or visit our webpage at www.seri.at - which has just been completely relaunched. If you happen to be in Vienna, please give us a call and/or visit us. We would be happy to welcome you!



Dr. Friedrich Hinterberger

President, Verein zur Förderung eines Sustainable Europe Research Institute

Vienna, 28th of July 2006



Mission Statement

What we do:

The Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI) is a Pan-European think tank exploring sustainable development options for European societies. It was set up in September 1999.

Sustainability strategies must be integrated or they are not sustainable. SERI therefore aims at a comprehensive view of sustainability both empirically and in its policy recommendations.

Comprehensive means:

- SERI integrates the ecological objective to reduce environmental space use with elaborated economic, social and institutional sustainability strategies;
- SERI develops strategies on the macro, meso, micro and meta levels of economies/societies;
- SERI looks at the impact of activities and policies in Europe on other parts of the world;
- SERI's work is based on methodological pluralism.

On the other hand we are far from working on everything important in the field of sustainable development. While integrating ecological, social, economic and institutional dimensions, SERI focuses the notion of environmental space (in terms of resources, energy and land-use) and the measurability of social and economic dimensions of SD. Indicator-based policies are therefore important for our recommendations.

How we do it:

SERI is a virtual internet-based institute. From our pool of staff and members comprising a broad spectrum of qualifications we can select appropriate teams for each project.

The research carried out by members of SERI supports the dialogue on sustainable development within European civil society. It specifically aims to further develop the exchange of ideas between environmental organisations, governments, trade unions and industry. SERI member offices are in Vienna, Austria and Bad Oeynhausen, Germany. The affiliated academics and researchers live throughout Europe. The policy dialogue that SERI aims to engender is supported by a webpage, conferences, meetings and publications

The Sustainable Europe Research Institute

- investigates environmental, economic, social and institutional conditions for sustainable development
- develops and disseminates information on through-put limits and makes possible steps towards sustainability apparent
- develops scientifically accurate and practical policy solutions which allow sustainable development to become a reality in Europe (and beyond). SERI addresses all relevant agents: businesses, households, civil society agents, administrators and politicians.

SERI's work is structured along the four dimensions of sustainable development: environmental, social, economic and institutional. Together with our work on improving methodology and a group of cross-cutting themes, this makes up the general framework, within which we deal with the more specific themes.

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Projects (www.seri.at/projects)

New projects

In 2005 SERI started 13 new projects, ranging from EU-financed projects with a duration of several years to short-term projects of some months only. The themes cover a wide field of sustainability relevant aspects such as energy, consumption and resource efficiency, or deal with integrated aspects of all dimensions of sustainability.



MATISSE

duration: April 2005 - March 2008

funding: EU, 6th Framework Programme

SERI is a core partner of this Integrated Project funded under the 6th Framework Programme of the EU. The objective of MATISSE is to achieve a step-wise advance in the science and application of Integrated Sustainability Assessment (ISA) of EU policies. In order to reach this objective the core activity of the MATISSE project is to improve the tool kit available for conducting Integrated Sustainability Assessments.

The first project meeting was held in the Netherlands in April. This was followed by several workpackage meetings, a meeting of the Core Group in Paris in September and a second full project meeting in Barcelona in November. SERI set up the web-based project communication tool and provided training. Guidance on the involvement of stakeholders was also provided by SERI.

For further information see www.matisse-project.net or contact Jill Jäger at jill.jaeger@seri.at.

Development of GEO Training Modules

duration: Mid-2005 - mid-2006

funding: UNEP through the Regional Environmental Centre, Szentendre, Hungary

The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is the flagship product of the United Nations Environment Programme (www.unep.org). The next GEO will be published in September 2007, 20 years after the Brundtland Report "Our Common Future". It will review the state of the environment, environmental policy and scenarios for the future in the context of sustainable development.

A parallel activity to the process of producing the GEO reports is capacity building. For this purpose a training manual is being produced and tested under the leadership of the International Institute for Sustainable Development, Canada. Using this training manual, instructors will be able to guide people to develop national GEO processes. Jill Jäger (SERI) is leading the development of the training module on scenarios and the training module that provides an introduction to the GEO process and the general area of integrated environmental assessment. She is also contributing to the module on developing an impact strategy.

In 2005 the lead authors of the training modules met in Copenhagen (April) and Winnipeg (November). Drafts of all of the training modules have been produced and intensively discussed. Some of the modules have also been tested in training sessions and further tests are planned. Under the leadership of Jill Jäger, the scenarios module has been drafted with the help of a writing team interacting through regular teleconferences.

For more information see www.unep.org/geo or please contact Jill Jäger (jill.jaeger@seri.at)

***Sufo:trop Sustainable Food Consumption in Austria:
Trends and Options***

duration: October 2005 - September 2006

funding: Austrian Academy of Science - Global Change Programme

Project Partner: Wegener Center Graz, Dr. Birgit Friedl

The project focuses on food consumption patterns in Austria, and by relating them to economic data from households, it will make policy recommendations related to sustainable food consumption. Current trends suggest that the fraction of food consumption in total household expenditures is declining (in Austria 20% in 1970 and 12% in 2002). The daily calorie intake is, however, increasing, as does the proportion of meat and sweets, two highly energy intensive food categories. Hence, food consumption has evidently become less sustainable during this period. In the project, different groups of food will be considered: meat vs. vegetables; conventional vs. organic production; regional vs. more distant production; etc. The second focus is on the household specific consumption patterns, taking household income, family structure and household location into account. Simulations with respect to different consumption patterns will provide the basis for policy recommendations regarding sustainable food consumption.

After the project kick-off meeting in October, the first workpackage started. The aim of this WP was to compile a literature survey on trends in food consumption and the associated environmental effects. This work was finished in December.

For further information see www.seri.at/sufotrop contact Ines Omann (ines.omann@seri.at)

***Development of a handbook for peer reviews of national
sustainable development strategies***

duration: May 2005 - December 2005

funding: European Commission, DG Environment

Together with the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), SERI was commissioned by DG Environment to develop a guidebook for conducting peer reviews of national sustainable development strategies (NSDS) in the EU. The purpose of this project was to design the template, method, and core specifications of such peer reviews, which should allow a similar approach to be taken in reviews of different NSDS and enable exchanges of good implementation practices, while respecting the cultural diversity of EU member states in developing, implementing and reviewing NSDS.

The preliminary results were presented at a seminar of UNDESA in New York, a conference on sustainability research and policy held in Kaliningrad and organised by Baltic 21, a joint government initiative of the Baltic countries, and at the sustainability think tank meeting of the Council of Europe in Paris. Few critical remarks emerged, and the support was rather broad, confirming the SERI approach to integrate existing good experiences into the suggested methodology as much as possible, and to make it as flexible as possible to accommodate the diversity of countries and cultures.

For more information see www.seri.at/nsds_evaluation or contact Joachim Spangenberg (Joachim.Spangenberg@seri.de)

SERI book: Die Zukunft der Menschheit

duration: September 2005 - June 2006

funding: Stiftung für wissenschaftliche nachberufliche Bildung

A series of books, to be published in 2007, aims to describe in accessible language, the human-caused changes of the earth system and the steps that are needed to achieve a sustainable future. Jill Jäger has been commissioned to write the first volume of the series, which will provide an overview of the material in the other volumes and an introduction to the topic of global change and sustainable development. In June 2005 a meeting of most of the authors was held in Frankfurt. Subsequently, material was collected for the overview volume.

For further information see www.seri.at/SERI-buch (German only) or contact Jill Jäger (jill.jaeger@seri.at).

Ecological Footprint Game

duration: The game is online: www.einefueralle.at/index.php?id=spielen

funding: Greenpeace CEE is fully funding SERI's contributions to the game

In early 2005, Greenpeace CEE initiated the creation of a computer game with the aim to raise awareness concerning people's Ecological Footprint. The player has several options to adjust his/her environmental impact, while trying to increase his/her happiness. SERI was contracted to deliver ecological footprint data based on Austrian and international statistics. All of SERI's inputs were finished in 2005.

For further information see www.seri.at/bigfoot or contact Friedrich Hinterberger (friedrich.hinterberger@seri.at)

GEO 4 - chapter 8

duration: 2005 -2007

funding: UNEP through SCOPE

The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is the flagship product of the United Nations Environment Programme (www.unep.org). The next GEO (GEO-4) will be published in September 2007, 20 years after the Brundtland Report "Our Common Future". It will review the state of the environment, environmental policy and scenarios for the future in the context of sustainable development.

Jill Jäger is a Co-ordinating Lead Author of Chapter 8 of GEO-4. The chapter deals with well-being and vulnerability and the policy options for improving well-being, and reducing the vulnerability of the human-environment system. Meetings were held in Costa Rica, the Netherlands, Nairobi, Kenya and Thailand, in order to discuss and write the chapter. A first draft of the Chapter was completed in December. Sophie Strasser, SERI, joined the writing team in June 2005 and contributed to writing the section on broad patterns (archetypes) of vulnerability.

For further information see www.unep.org/geo or contact Jill Jäger (jill.jaeger@seri.at).

Environment and Innovation

duration: December 2005 - November 2006

funding: Environment Committee of the European Parliament

Environment and Innovation: new environmental concepts and technologies and their implications for shaping the future EU environmental policies

The EU Parliament issued a Call for Tender for a small project on emerging environmental concepts and technologies and their implications for European environmental policy. The Tender submitted by SERI with their partners in the Netherlands (MERIT) and Finland (FFRC) was selected for funding. In December 2005 the team began by drafting and discussing a Scoping Paper due for submission to the EU Parliament three weeks after the contract was signed.

For further information see www.seri.at/eu-inno or contact Friedrich Hinterberger (friedrich.hinterberger@seri.at)

ESEE Website

duration: November 2005 - October 2007

supported by: Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

SERI maintains the website of the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE) and publishes the electronic ESEE newsletter. ESEE is a non-profit, member-governed organisation dedicated to advancing understanding of the relationships among ecological, social and economic systems for the mutual well-being of nature and people. You can visit the webpage on www.euroecolecon.org.

For further information contact Andrea Stocker (andrea.stocker@seri.at).

FX EU - Faktor X and the European Union

duration: September 2005 - January 2006

funding: Aachen Foundation Kathy Beys

Together with Martin Rocholl from Friends of the Earth Europe and Kai Schlegelmilch from Green Budget Germany, Munich, SERI was commissioned by the Aachen Foundation Kathy Beys to prepare a study on "Factor X and the European Union".

The study identified policy fields of high relevance for resource and energy efficiency and developed options for the Factor 10 Network and other stakeholders of civil society to influence policies towards the realisation of Factor X targets. The report was submitted in January 2006.

For more information on this project, please see www.seri.at/FX-EU or contact Stefan Giljum (stefan.giljum@seri.at).

SPACES

duration: 2005-2007

funding: David and Lucile Packard Foundation

The goal of the SPACES (Sustainable Production and Consumption Systems) project is to arrive at an improved framework and agenda for research and action on the sustainability of production and consumption systems. It focuses on answering two kinds of questions: 1. What knowledge is most needed for societies to pursue sustainability through the integrated management of production-consumption systems? 2. Where appropriate knowledge already exists, but is not being effectively used, what could be done to narrow the knowledge-to-action gap? And, where the needed knowledge appears to be absent, how can research be re-oriented to address the sustainability problems in the production-consumption system?

The SPACES project is part of the larger project of sustainability science "from knowledge to action" described above.

In 2005, the main structure of the project was established. A working group was set up with 15 members and broad international participation. During its first meeting in Siegburg, Germany the group agreed on a common format for case studies describing good examples of production consumption systems, as well examples of typical pitfalls and their solutions.

For further information see www.seri.at/spaces or contact Sylvia Lorek (sylvia.lorek@seri.de).

***Modelling sustainable energy scenarios***

duration: December 2005 - December 2007

funding: Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology in the programme „Energy Systems of Tomorrow“

The project investigates possible economic, social and environmental effects of an increasing use of renewable energy resources for heat and power. A macro-econometric, multi-sector model is used to simulate five different energy scenarios with a focus on renewable energy technologies for Austria until 2020.

The process of scenario modelling (from the development of scenarios to the dissemination of the modelling results) integrates participative elements, since stakeholders (representatives of interests, politicians, experts) in energy policy and supply are actively involved in the scientific work. Therefore, the research and decision process not only builds upon work of researchers, but also integrates knowledge, expertise and preferences of stakeholders. For further information see www.energiemodell.at or please contact andrea.stocker@seri.at.

Ongoing projects



Biodiversity assessment and analysis of pressures on biodiversity (ALARM)

duration: February 2004 - January 2009

funding: EU, 6th Framework Programme

ALARM is essentially a project to improve the instruments for assessing the threat to and the loss of biodiversity in Europe, and on this basis to derive suggestions about how to stop the negative trends. 54 institutes from all over the European Research Area and beyond are working together for five years. SERI is responsible for the co-ordination of the socio-economic module (in charge: Joachim Spangenberg) including four socio-economic institutes Universite Versailles St.-Quentin-en-Yvelines, Universitat Autònoma Barcelona, Stockholm Environmental Institute Tallinn and SERI, and for analysing the socio-economics of climate change and its impact on biodiversity (Ines Omann).

After running successfully for one year, the ALARM project was evaluated and had to be defended in a 2-day presentation and discussion on April 25-26 (Joachim Spangenberg supported the coordinators of ALARM). Since this kind of assessment is new to EU projects, there were no specific rules, but the project coordination representatives managed well: the first year report was accepted, and the general comments on the project were positive, although - as always - there is room for improvement, including in the socio-economic deliverables which have subsequently been revised. The evaluation was helpful in providing a project identity and further enhancing the project quality.

In three meetings in Osnabrueck (the famous city of the Westphalian Peace) in April, June and September, Andrea Stocker, Joachim Spangenberg and Ines Omann met with Prof. Bernd Meyer and his team to sketch out how the three scenario story lines developed for ALARM can be simulated and to run simulations as well as to discuss the results. The model which was used is a result of the MOSUS project (see www.seri.at/mosus). The scenarios will be made available for public discussion (in particular the 'shock' or 'wild card' scenarios may benefit from it) at the beginning of 2006.

An ALARM Consultative Forum was established: As a project dedicated to sustainable development and biodiversity conservation, ALARM cannot but include elements of post-normal science like uncertainty science, extended peer communities, deliberative decision making and transdisciplinary discourses. One important element in this respect is the establishment of the Consultative Forum (CF), consisting of an interdisciplinary scientific and a societal stakeholder board (members come from science and humanities, politics and administration, business and trade unions, consumers and environmental NGOs). So far, the CF met twice (on June 30th/July 1st, in Brussels and in November in Cologne), providing substantial input to the ALARM scenarios and case studies.

For further information see www.seri.at/alarm or contact Ines Omann (ines.omann@seri.at) or Joachim Spangenberg (joachim.spangenberg@seri.de)



Modelling opportunities and limits for restructuring Europe towards sustainability (MOSUS)

duration: February 2003 - January 2006

funding: European Commission, DG Research, FP5

MOSUS applied a global ecological-economic simulation model to quantify the interrelations between socio-economic driving forces and the state of the environment and to evaluate the economic and social impacts of key environmental policy measures in the EU. MOSUS formulated EU development scenarios and evaluated the economic and social impacts of key environmental policy measures in order to present quantified policy recommendations for responding to environmental challenges and changes.

In 2005, the modelling exercises were carried out and the different scenarios were evaluated with regard to their consequences for economic, environmental and social indicators. The mix of environmental policy measures simulated in the different sustainability scenarios showed that the implementation of policies primarily geared towards decoupling economic activity from material and energy throughput can actually be conducive to economic growth. These results are contrary to the

popular assumption that such policies will mainly raise costs for enterprises, decrease competitiveness and thus have an opportunity cost in terms of foregone output. The scenario results support the view that increasing resource and energy productivity can actually improve the position of European industries on world markets and thus also lead to the creation of new jobs. From this perspective, environmental policy becomes one of the key strategies to reach the goals of the Lisbon Strategy.

For further information please see www.seri.at/mosus or contact Stefan Giljum (Stefan.Giljum@seri.at).



Sustainability strategy: Improvement of sustainability strategy elaboration for economic, environmental and social policy in Europe

duration: May 2003 - October 2006

funding: European Commission, DG Research, FP5

The objective of the sustainability strategy project is to use the diversity of scientific approaches to the problems of sustainability as a resource for improving the European Sustainability Strategy, its further elaboration and implementation. This requires the creation of a trans-disciplinary network focused on sustainable development, bringing together technical, economic and political science insights, and capable of monitoring the European Sustainability Strategy, while building a bridge to experts' and civil society networks committed to European policy co-ordination. The creation of such a thematic network would not only contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in Europe, including the policy co-ordination objectives of dynamic economic development, full employment and stronger social cohesion and of integration of environmental issues into all policies. Its functioning as an integrated discursive space would furthermore strengthen the governance structure of the European Union, by making it more accessible to its citizens, and reinforce the basis for a constructive role of the EU in global partnership.

Throughout 2005, the project held a series of meetings in Berlin, York and Brussels. The network developed an in-depth analysis of the EUSDS II and its political environment (including the role of national SDS and the Lisbon process), which has been used to derive suggestions for improvement the policy process. A comprehensive Integrative Model, as a feasible alternative to the Commission suggestions for the future work on sustainable development was prepared for discussion with stakeholders in spring 2006, before being published in autumn 2006. One key step in this process was a three day workshop held by the Sustainability Strategies project in Brussels in July 2005, where participants received up to date information regarding the revision of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EUSDS II).

The most important weakness of the EUSDS II identified in this project is the missing interface to the revised Lisbon Strategy.

For further information please visit www.seri.at/sustrat and www.sustainability-strategy.net or contact Joachim Spangenberg (joachim.spangenberg@seri.de).



Assessment of Renewable Energy Technologies on Multiple Scales (ARTEMIS) - A Participatory Multi-Criteria Approach

duration: June 2003 - June 2006

funding: Fonds zur Förderung Wissenschaftlicher Forschung

The aim of the research project is to apply, critically assess and develop further participatory multi-criteria evaluation (MCE) of selected future energy scenarios, and of individual renewable energy technologies (RETs), based on sustainability criteria of different dimensions (social, economic, environmental, institutional) in Austria.

2005 was a crucial year for the project. On the national scale two workshops took place with national stakeholders associated with renewable energy. In the first workshop in May 2005 pre-developed

energy scenarios and evaluation criteria were discussed. The second workshop aimed at discussing the intermediate results of the national ARTEMIS case study. In particular, four topics were presented by the research team: (1) the five renewable energy scenarios until 2020, (2) the final set of evaluation criteria, (3) the impact matrix, and finally (4) the alternative rankings of the scenarios resulting from a MCE.

On the local scale two Eastern Styrian communities were selected for the case study: Raabau and Lödersdorf and a cooperation was started with the "Energierregion Oststeiermark" and the LEA (Lokale Energieagentur Oststeiermark). The participation process started in May 2005. 18 local energy-experts, mainly from Raabau und Lödersdorf, discussed and specified four local energy scenarios. Two further workshops with local citizens were held in June to develop and weigh the criteria for the MCE. During summer and fall SERI modelled the scenarios and evaluated them with a multicriteria approach (Promethee) according to sustainability criteria and social preferences given by the citizens. The final workshop in November 2005 discussed the results and their further implementation with participants in the process. In a public meeting the results were presented to interested citizens and representatives from local media.

For further information please see www.project-artemis.net, www.seri.at/artemis or contact Ines Omann (ines.omann@seri.at).



***Nachhaltige Entwicklung zwischen Durchsatz und Symbolik
(NEDS, Sustainable Development between Throughput and Symbolism)***

duration: October 2002 - March 2006

funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research; Research Programme Social Ecological Research (SÖF)

The project analyses natural, economic, discursive, and spatial aspects of sustainable development for the metropolitan regions of Hamburg, Vienna and Leipzig. We will present methodological facets with an emphasis on the method of Material Flow Analysis (MFA) and how discourse analytic approaches can be applied in connection with this method of accounting for physical flows of the economy. One of the main research questions of the project is: how do we get from ideas and concepts to policy and, finally, to material effects on the environment? In order to understand the links involved here, the project combines methods that focus on the economic and biophysical side of our society (material consumption, land use) and methods that focus on social aspects (discourses and networks).

The analysed regions are the metropolitan regions of Hamburg, Vienna and Leipzig – including the cities and their surrounding provinces. The analysed period runs from 1992-2001. The project focuses on the analysis of discourses, networks, material flows and regional structures by inter-disciplinarily combining different methods from various scientific domains. SERI contributes to the project with the MFA for the three regions.

On September 13th, mid-term results of the NEDS project (Sustainable Development between Throughput and Symbolism, see www.seri.at/neds) were presented at a status seminar in Bonn, organised by the Socio-Ecological Research Programme of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (see www.sozial-oekologische-forschung.org). External experts took up and approved the results produced by the NEDS team with great interest. Final results of the three regional material flow analyses will be available in 2006 and published on the NEDS project website (www.neds-projekt.de).

Results of the project were also presented in Vienna during the 5 years SERI event series (see events).

For further information see www.seri.at/neds, www.neds-projekt.de or contact Mark Hammer (mark.hammer@seri.at).



www.nachhaltigkeit.at

duration: December 2003 - November 2005

funding: Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

The Austrian sustainability website of www.nachhaltigkeit.at has been extended. Every month a new "theme of the month" was prepared by one of the participating institutions, ÖIN, IUW and SERI. Themes prepared by SERI in the past year (texts are available in German only):

January 2005 – Media and Sustainable Development

This month's theme focused on the connection between the media, communication and public debate. The role that the media (especially mass media) plays in spreading information on sustainability was analyzed. Interviews with different actors in the media and sustainability sectors gave an insight in the dynamics of their cooperation. The main purpose behind this monthly theme was to find out how sustainability can find a lasting place as a concept in public debates.

March 2005 – Religious Institutions and Sustainable Development

Churches and religions are important elements of society, not only because of their spiritual and moral powers but also because of their large size (as employer, landowner, etc). Thus, religious institutions and networks are considerable sources for societal changes. The concept of sustainable development can be discussed through this network of socially, ecologically and economically engaged actors, and also gives actors outside the church the chance to connect and create useful synergies. This in turn will provide opportunities for political action on sustainable development. This monthly theme showed examples of the diverse activities of Christian churches. .

August 2005 – Art and Sustainability

In the debates on sustainable development the aspects of art and culture get little attention compared to those of economy, ecology and social issues. This month's theme focused on the relationship between sustainability and the arts. It mainly revolved around how art can convey the current state of society, and also how art can contribute to seek new paths to change society in terms of sustainability. Artists' roles as visionaries of a more just, happier humanity which respects natural limitations was given great importance. In this respect artists could be considered as messengers of the future.

September 2005 – 5 Years Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as adopted at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000, are subject to a number of international, regional and national reviews. The "Topic of the Month" September 2005 summarised the most important of these reviews and gave insights into development, implementation and evaluation of the MDGs. In the run-up to the Millennium+5 Summit that took place in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005, the Topic presents selected initiatives in support of the MDGs and features prominent guest commentators such as Luis Michel, Vandana Shiva and Franz-Josef Radermacher .

For further information see www.nachhaltigkeit.at/reportagen.php3 or contact Doris Schnepf (doris.schnepf@seri.at).

Finished projects



Intelligent Cities (INTELCITIES)

duration: January 2004 - June 2005

funding: 6th Framework Programme of the European Union, Section for Information Society Technologies (IST).

INTELCITIES addressed the EU policy objective of the “Knowledge Society” by 2010 in the context of cities, through the implementation of the FP5 INTEL CITY roadmap project (IST-2002- 37373), by developing an integrated citywide ICT information system continuously accessible to all (planners, developers, politicians, designers, engineers, transport and utility service providers, AND individual citizens) to enable more inclusive decision making and support more sustainable life-styles.

An Integrated Open Systems City Platforms (IOSCPs) was developed, on which all subsystems (such as development control) were built. The underlying multidimensional databases were configured to provide intelligent analysis for users.

Thus, the project went beyond provision of information to provide citizens and city managers with “intelligent environments” supporting new, more inclusive and educational planning processes. It ensured much more rapid and consensual urban re/development decision making that balances public and private interests. This more agile governance aided rapid business development whilst enhancing citizens’ rights in urban decision-making via advanced visualisation, forecasting, simulation, and sustainability evaluation of re-development proposals.

Within work package 11 SERI participated in studies concerning urban sustainable e-governance systems as well as in the integration task.

For further information please see www.seri.at/intelcities/ or contact Doris Schnepf (doris.schnepf@seri.at)



Faktor X Webpage

duration: Dezember 2004 - April 2005

funding: Aachen Foundation Kathy Beys

The Aachener Stiftung Kathy Beys set up a webpage with background information on factor X and dematerialisation. The page features links to institutions and persons working in this field and provides actual documents for download. SERI is one of the participating institutes of this initiative.

For a link to the page please go to www.faktor-x.info or contact Mark Hammer (mark.hammer@seri.at).



Best Practice Examples for Product Service Systems (PDL Leuchttürme)

duration: February 2004 - April 2005

funding: Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology; Research Programme Factory of Tomorrow.

This project was co-ordinated by SERI and contributed to strengthening the market for sustainable Product-Service-Systems (PSS) by clearly identifying success factors and hindrances. Restraining factors and basic conditions were worked out on the basis of best-practice examples. From this, as well as from the experiences of the project team, strategic recommendations for action (for political decision makers) were derived.

The project was finished in April 2005 and results will be published as a book in 2006.

For further information see www.seri.at/leuchttuerme, www.serviceinnovation.at or contact Mark Hammer (mark.hammer@seri.at).



Concerted Action on Trade & Environment (CAT&E)

duration: Dec. 2002 - Nov. 2005

funding: European Commission, DG Research, FP5

The trade and environment policy and research agendas have expanded rapidly in recent years. Following conclusion of the Uruguay Round, the agenda of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) expanded to incorporate a number of environment-related issues. The rapid expansion of the trade and environment agenda has created a major area of research that is attracting researchers in virtually all EU member states. By organising a series of workshops and conferences on selected issues in the field of trade and the environment, CAT&E aimed to enhance the debate between relevant research centres and between science and policy makers. The concerted action was structured around a series of substantive questions and responded to the dynamics of this evolving research agenda, generating new impulses for research. The major issues addressed were issues arising from existing trade agreements, issues arising from related environmental policies and institutional issues.

CAT&E was funded by the 5th Framework Programme of the European Commission and co-ordinated by IVM Amsterdam, Ecologic Berlin and IDDRI Paris.

In May 2005, one internal meeting of the CAT&E team was hosted by ECOLOGIC in Berlin, the last open conference within CAT&E took place in Paris from 20-21 October, 2005 and discussed possible WTO Contributions to Sustainable Development Governance. For more information on this conference click www.iddri.org/iddri/html/themes/archi/cate_conf_oct05.htm.

For further information on CAT&E see www.seri.at/cate or contact Stefan Giljum (stefan.giljum@seri.at).



eCommunity
democratic urban planning

e-System for Real Time Democratic Land-Use Planning of Urban Environment - Pilot Action in Narva Community (Estonia)

duration: September 2002 - November 2005

funding: EU LIFE programme

SERI was a partner in the project "e-System for Real Time Democratic Land-Use Planning of Urban Environment - Pilot Action in Narva Community (Estland)" (eCommunity) that aimed to apply innovative web-based software solutions, promoting the concept of e-democracy by enabling exchange of opinions and information.

SERI's tasks in the project were to:

- monitor the project deliverables with respect to sustainability issues,
- evaluate results of the project and
- act as an advisor providing guidelines and background information so that the project can actively contribute to a sustainable development of the region.

For more information on the platform go to www.seri.at/ecommunity, <http://ecommunity.narva.ee/> or contact Doris Schnepf (doris.schnepf@seri.at).

Modelling the economic impacts of climate policy

duration: January – December 2005

funding: Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

On behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and in cooperation with the Austrian Institute for Economic Research (WIFO) SERI investigated the economic impacts of climate policy measures for Austria, which are intended to reach the Austrian Kyoto target (13 % reduction until 2010 in comparison to 1990). After a busy December, the project was finalised at the end of the year 2005.

Within the project SERI was responsible for modelling foreign trade and quantifying the Carbon leakage effects. "Carbon leakage" refers to the possible increase of greenhouse gas emissions in countries that did not undertake climate policies in response to the mitigating efforts made by countries applying climate policy measures. These indirect impacts of climate change policies occur because the environmental benefit of reduced emissions in countries with climate policies may be offset by higher emissions in other countries, reducing the environmental effectiveness of the abatement.

The results show that the 7 investigated Austrian climate policy scenarios have neither great effects on foreign trade nor generate big CO₂ leakage effects. For further information see www.seri.at/klimamodell or contact andrea.stocker@seri.at.

Sustainability Science: From Knowledge into Action

duration: December 2004 - November 2006

funding: Subcontracted from Prof. William Clark, Harvard University. Funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

As part of an international initiative, the aim of this project was to organize an International Dialogue on Science and Practice for Sustainable Development. In 2005, an International Planning Committee was set up, co-chaired by Jill Jäger, SERI, and met in Vienna in May. The web-site for the Dialogue was set up (www.sustdialogue.org) and was used to disseminate a call for poster and session proposals. Funding proposals for the organisation of the Dialogue were submitted. In January 2006 the Oversight Committee for the project as a whole reviewed the responses to the call for session and poster proposals and to the funding requests and decided that a major refocussing of the activity was required. It was decided that instead of a major Dialogue event, two smaller and focussed dialogues on the topics of "Sustainable Consumption and Production Systems" and "Resilience and Vulnerability" would be organized.

For further information contact Jill Jäger (jill.jaeger@seri.at).



Upcoming projects

PSS Strategies - Implementing product service systems

duration: February 2006 - January 2008

funding: Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology; Research Programme Factory of Tomorrow.

Following the project "Best practices for examples of product service systems", this project will present the results of the previous project to companies in a workshop series and will elaborate strategies to implement sustainable PSS together with the companies.

For further information see www.serviceinnovation.at or contact Mark Hammer (mark.hammer@seri.at).

FORESCENE: Development of a forecasting framework based on robust and scientifically sound scenarios to support the EU Sustainable Development Strategy

duration: December 2005 - May 2008

funding: European Commission, DG Research, FP6

FORESCENE will develop an analytical framework for consistent environmental sustainability scenario building in areas such as water, soil, biodiversity, waste and natural resources. There will be a focus on backcasting, to identify different scenarios leading to the achievement of future targets. FORESCENE will achieve this aim through description of environmental problems, review of associated policy objectives and indicators, the definition of goals for integrated sustainability scenarios, determination of the methodology for their measurement, and development and evaluation of scenarios such as Business-As-Usual (BAU), example projections (forecasting), and alternatives. The results will be recommendations for future policy development, regarding the sustainability strategy of the EU, and the regulatory framework for Extended Impact Assessments; recommendations for the improvement of official information systems, and concrete proposals for the use and extension of existing simulation models. Problem issues and priority policy fields, such as agriculture, infrastructures, land use, industry and economy will be selected through close contact with the EU Commission.

In 2006, SERI will host one of the policy workshops.

For further information see www.seri.at/forescene or contact Stefan Giljum (stefan.giljum@seri.at).

Governance and Well-being

duration: December 2005 - June 2006

funding: Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

One key objectives of European governance is to improve quality of life for its citizens.

In the course of the preparation of the revised European Strategy for Sustainable Development, SERI in cooperation with Harald Hutterer, Karuna Consult produced a background document on the concept of well-being in the long-term vision of the European SDS. This information will be used as input for a Focus Group on "Well being and Governance", which will take place in June 2006 and is organised by SERI and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management.

For further information see www.seri.at/wellgov or contact Friedrich Hinterberger (friedrich.hinterberger@seri.at).

„Effects of resource savings on environment, employment and economy in Austria“

duration: January 2006 - January 2007

funding: Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

This project addresses the question, which environmental, economic and employment effects occur if firms increase their investments in resource productivity.

Together with the project sponsor and experts some scenarios will be defined, which specify the possible development of an increased dematerialization. Afterwards the scenarios will be simulated until 2020 using an integrated ecological-economic model.

For further information please see www.seri.at/resa or contact Andrea Stocker (andrea.stocker@seri.at).



Cooperations

Sustainability in the online version of the newspaper "Der Standard"

In cooperation with the Austrian newspaper "Der Standard", SERI presents one or two new topics related to sustainability every month in the online version of the newspaper.

For further information see <http://derstandard.at/standard.asp?ressort=Nachhaltigkeit> or contact Doris Schnepf (doris.schnepf@seri.at).



Collaboration with EOI Escuela de Negocios

In July 2004 SERI and EOI Escuela de Negocios, a recognised Spanish business school and pioneer in environmental management training, signed a collaboration agreement that will enhance the pursuit of common objectives in training and research. In May 2005 Friedrich Hinterberger and Mark Hammer provided a teaching module on sustainability in the productive sector for the "International Master in Sustainable Development" recently launched at the Spanish Business School. See www.eoi.es for details.

A Joint Committee was set up to plan and monitor additional collaborative activities in the future.

For more information contact Friedrich Hinterberger (friedrich.hinterberger@seri.at).



„The forest of tomorrow“ - participative art project at www.nachhaltigkeit.at

Within the topic of the month August "art and sustainable development" at www.nachhaltigkeit.at, SERI designed the participative internet art project "forest of tomorrow" together with the German multimedia artist Herman Josef Hack. The project ran during the whole month August. Its idea was based on the old ritual act of engraving (love-) messages in barks of trees to entrust them to the future. Trees are the guardians of such secret messages, sometimes for many hundred years. A virtual forest was designed where each visitor could entrust messages to the future.



Events



5 years SERI: lectures and conferences

In autumn 2004 SERI celebrated its fifth birthday. We started a series of events on the major topics that constituted our work for the past years. The events took place at different places. Each event had a different character and was accompanied by a cultural/musical surrounding. The first two events – a plenary discussion on the topic of eco-efficiency and an interactive workshop on the topic of responsibility – took place in 2004 in Vienna.

April 25, 2005: „Potenziale für eine nachhaltige Regionalentwicklung. Zwischen Ressourceneffizienz und Bürgerbeteiligung.“ This event on sustainable regions took place in Vienna. We presented the results from our research project "NEDS - Nachhaltige Entwicklung zwischen Durchbruch und Symbolik (Sustainable Development between Throughput and Symbolism)" and discussed them with the broader public. External presenters completed the picture concerning the implications for regional sustainable development.

May 9, 2005: The event "Closing the global sustainability gap" was organised in cooperation with the Heinrich Böll Foundation (www.boell.de). It took place in Berlin and was a big success. Around 75 participants from science, business and public administration discussed the impulse statements given by Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, Hermann Ott, Reinhard Loske, Stefan Giljum and Martin Rocholl concerning policy strategies to reduce economic, environmental and social inequalities between North and South. You can download the presentations and a background paper prepared by SERI and Friends of the Earth Europe and see photos of the event at www.sustainableeurope.net/gap.html.

June 14, 2005: Workshop - Debate on "Cooperation on Sustainability": In the course of its 5-year anniversary, SERI initiated this event in Lisbon with its main Portuguese partners. Organised by the National Institute of Industrial Engineering and Technology (INETI), the meeting was held on 14 June 2005 at the Centro de Estudos sobre Economia Portuguesa (CISEP) of the Technical University of Lisbon. It highlighted past achievements and future research opportunities of the cooperating institutions. For more information, please contact Arno Behrens (arno.behrens@seri.at).

June 30, 2005: Symposium „Between efficiency and justice“. This event featured the presentation of the new book from the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy, entitled "Fair future. Limited resources and global justice" (in German), which was edited by Wolfgang Sachs and Tilman Santarius. Furthermore, contributions related to the issue of global sustainable development were made by S. Wallner, A. Riedmann, E. Dessewffy, H. Hutterer, W. Tertschnig, S. Giljum, K. Feiler and W. Pekny.

For further information see www.sustainableeurope.net or contact Mark Hammer (mark.hammer@seri.at).



5 Years SERI: the Party

Beside the organization of a series of lectures and conferences, our 5th birthday also gave us reason to host a big birthday party to which we cordially invited all our colleagues and friends to celebrate with us. The party was accompanied by (live) music and buffet, but also by a "Vernissage" presented by Bärbel Nowitzki. It took place on April 22nd in our office in Vienna – Garnisongasse 7/27; 1090 Vienna. The revenue went entirely to the self help group "Down Syndrome Vienna and Lower Austria" (www.down-syndrom.at/wien).



SERI contributed to "Lange Nacht der Forschung"

On October 1st, 2005 the first „long night of science“ took place in Innsbruck, Linz and Vienna, Austria. Under the theme „into science!“ more than 70 research institutions opened their doors. SERI was one of them, showing where research happens, how research questions are generated and how society is influenced by current research.



As the event took place for the first time, it was an experiment for participating institutions and the organizers. But nobody anticipated that it would be such a success: We counted 300 visitors in our office rooms in Garnisongasse! This makes it the biggest SERI-event ever. Adults and children alike participated in the sustainability tour through our office - weighing the water needed to produce a t-shirt, judging their personal ecological footprint by their consumption habits, distributing their weekly time with candy, and discussing whole-heartedly about happiness and sustainability.

For 50 persons, we were the first institution they visited. 15 participants (and many more interested) took part in a decision making process in the "future of energy" workshop. 60 participants were counted in the happiness-lounge (and many more interested). SERI certainly plans to take part in the second "long night of science" in 2007.

Find updates and material on www.seri.at/langenacht. Check out also the page www.langenachtderforschung.at, where you can find a radio interview with Friedrich Hinterberger.

For further information contact Lisa Bohunovsky (lisa.bohunovsky@seri.at) or visit www.seri.at/langenacht.



SERI Brownbag Seminars

In 2004 the SERI Brownbag seminar series continued.

In this series of lectures, we want to discuss our own work and that of our colleagues. Location: SERI's office in Vienna.

January 2005

Heinrich Tschochohei on "Pros and Cons of mass-orientated regulation – the example of REACh": Currently, European Chemical Regulation is facing substantial changes. Under the so-called REACh system (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation of Chemicals) the European Union aims to combine those measures conceptualised to deal with environmental uncertainties and risks stemming from recombination of substances. The underlying mass-orientated regulation attempt is similar to the basic axiom of substance flow economics. Against that background the question (again) rises whether such a "ton ideology" is an adequate approach for environmental and sustainability policy, respectively. As an important criterion for evaluation (referring to new institutional economics) the transaction cost approach was introduced.

March 2005

Andrea Stocker presented the results of the project "Eco-efficiency and Sustainability", supported by the OeNB Jubiläumsfonds. The project analysed past developments in eco-efficiency and sustainability of the Austrian economy by applying an extended make-use model. The framework provides methodological insights for connecting existing environmental data with monetary input-output data. The model was used to perform a comparative-static analysis disaggregated into 55 sectors in order to show the development trends of social, economic and environmental indicators between 1995 and 2000. In addition, the underlying driving forces of changes in these indicators were

identified using structural decomposition analysis. The comparative-static analysis and the structural decomposition analysis were supplemented by an evaluation of the sustainability of the Austrian economy by applying minimum conditions for sustainable development. With the help of this framework we investigated whether the development of the Austrian economy fulfilled these minimum conditions in the time period 1995 to 2000. Moreover, the possibilities of integrating stock-flow relationships in structural models were discussed. The fact, that to a large extent material flows (as energy) can be substituted by stocks (as improved thermal stock of buildings) offered the motivation to search for guidelines concerning these flow-stock relationships that are compatible with sustainability criteria. In this context the theoretical role of stocks and an overview of international and national efforts of extending the flow concepts with stocks was provided.

April 2005

Jill Jäger presented the "International Dialogue on Science and Practice in Sustainable Development - Linking Knowledge with Action". The Brownbag seminar on 26 April first discussed a series of international activities that have taken place over the last 5 years on enhancing the role of science and technology in sustainable development. These have led to the current project, which is part of a larger international project, funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, on "Sustainability Science and Technology: Linking Knowledge with Action," in which international partnership teams will work to identify action-related knowledge needed to facilitate solutions to sustainability problems. The plans for the "International Dialogue on Science and Practice in Sustainable Development" were then discussed. (see Finished Projects)

Fred Luks talked about "Everything We Don't Know About Sustainable Development". The goal of sustainable development not only raises social, ecological, political, cultural and economic questions but also problems that literally go beyond these fields. Especially if one tries to combine „material“ and „symbolic“ problems and moves along the borderline of science and policy, one is easily confronted with „meta-economic“ questions.

September 2005

Friedrich Hinterberger, Harald Hutterer and Jill Jäger presented the topic Well-being, happiness and social politics. The contemporary normative concept of sustainable development was introduced about twenty years ago. It gives rise to the question; „How should economic and societal changes meet the increasing changes in biogeochemical cycles on a global level? The core of this concept is to secure and increase the quality of life for all people a prerequisite for individual happiness. (www.gosd.net). Summarized in a very general manner the goal could be: a good life for everyone forever. The most important task for all decision makers in politics and elsewhere is to support people in finding their meaning of life and self-fulfilment. Providing and maintaining natural and social systems necessary to survival is also a part of this. This Brownbag seminar informed about different currently running as well as planned projects concerning individual happiness and well-being.

Oktober 2005

Stefan Giljum and Arno Behrens on „MOSUS – European sustainability scenarios until 2020“.

The project MOSUS (see www.mosus.net) simulated and evaluated development scenarios until 2020 focusing on economic, ecological and social impacts. This was done with a global economic-environmental model. At the core are environmental politics, covering the following issues:

- Ecological efficiency of material consumption in key economic sectors (construction, energy and agriculture)
- Complete implementation of emissions-trading schemes set by the Kyoto Protocol
- Changes in demand for mobility and housing.

In this Brownbag seminar we presented and discussed the results of these simulations, focusing particularly on material consumption and resource productivity in Europe.

November 2005

Katherine N. Farrell on „Inter-disciplinary Deliberative Democracy: Accountability, Representation and Citizenship of Scientists”: Scientific knowledge is now an explicit form of political power. New modes of democratic representation are required that situate expert knowledges as democratically legitimate. In addition, the complexity of 21st century political problems renders assumptions of objective ‘truth’ and rational consensus obsolete. It may be argued that earlier contributions concerning deliberative democracy and reflexive modernisation have addressed the need to accommodate this increased complexity. However, while these contributions are important, they do not go far enough. Looking specifically at the environmental governance task ‘environmental value articulation’, the speaker proposed that in addition to self-reflexive science, this task requires other-reflexive science, in order to take into account the dynamic embeddedness of political processes and value articulation activities, as parts of the wider complex system of humanity and its environment. This embeddedness renders Beck’s proposal for reflexive science incomplete. Without rejecting the concepts of self-reflexive science and deliberative democracy, it was proposed that what is required is a combination of the two. In order to accomplish this, new governance structures and institutions of government proper are required. Drawing on Dryzek’s early works, Barry’s concept of collective ecological management was developed, through reference to insights from the post-normal science discourse. The speaker proposed the outlines of a new democratic theory / post-normal science methodology specifying a set of representative structures that make a democratically legitimate, inter-disciplinary system of deliberative democracy possible.

For further information on the Brownbag seminar series please contact Lisa Bohunovsky (lisa.bohunovsky@seri.at).



Participation in workshops and conferences



GOSD preparation meeting, Vienna

SERI organised a preparatory meeting for a project proposal in January 2005 in Europahaus in Vienna. Friedrich Hinterberger, Stefan Giljum, Sophie Strasser, and Jill Jäger discussed with 15 European members of the GOSD network (www.gosd.net) a project proposal for EU FP 6 on governance for sustainable development, which was submitted in April 2005.

Sustainable Consumption: The Contribution of Research

From 2002 to 2005 a Japanese project brought together a broad range of scientists working on sustainable consumption to spread knowledge and to build up closer research relationships. The final workshop was held in Oslo from 10th to 12th of February 2005. Sylvia Lorek and Joachim Spangenberg presented the paper "Overcoming the implementation gap - Chances and limitations of a common research agenda". During the conference participants agreed on the "Oslo Declaration on Sustainable Consumption", a major document highlighting the importance of sustainable consumption research. Meanwhile it is signed by over 200 researchers worldwide. www.oslodeclaration.org
The proceedings of the workshop can be found at: www.indecol.ntnu.no/indecolwebnew/publications/reports/rapport05/rapport1_05web.pdf



eCommunity
democratic urban planning

eCommunity - Presentation of the project at the CORP 2005

Sophie Strasser from SERI Vienna presented the eCommunity project and interim results on eParticipation and sustainable urban planning at the CORP 2005, Geo Multimedia 05, meeting place for planners, the 10th international symposium on information & communication technologies in urban & spatial planning and impacts of ICT on physical space. The meeting took place from the 22nd to the 25th of February 2005 at the University of Technology Vienna. This conference attracts over 400 planners from all countries and is one of the most well known conferences in this field. The conference offered a unique possibility to discuss interim results of the project with experts and practitioners working in the same area of ICT use. The paper contribution of Sophie Strasser and Doris Schnepf can be downloaded at www.corp.at.

PASARELAS

The PASARELAS network, funded by the EU's INCO program for international research co-operation focuses on information exchange around issues of how to develop tools (e.g. indicators and deliberation support tools) for sustainable development while explicitly taking into account a situation of uncertainty and unavoidable ignorance. SERI contributed papers and discussion elements to a workshop held 2005 in Corte, Corsica. The project is coordinated by Martin O'Connor at the C3ED research centre of the Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines. The SERI contribution was prepared and delivered by Joachim H. Spangenberg (Contact: Joachim.Spangenberg@seri.de).

ETUC Economics Conference

On March 1st, the European Trade Union Confederation ETUC held a conference on the need for a new macroeconomic basis for a sensible economic policy for Europe. During the discussion in Brussels in which Joachim Spangenberg participated, there was a broad consensus that such a revival of macroeconomic thinking is needed, but there was a certain degree of helplessness regarding how to bring it about and make it effective. In particular, there seems little convergence between "traditional" Keynesianism and new economic thinking e.g. in institutional, evolutionary and ecological economics.

Germanwatch and Worldwatch Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Competitiveness

Brussels, 2nd of March 2005: Germanwatch and Worldwatch Institute organised a roundtable discussion. The purpose was to elevate the sustainable consumption agenda in the context of the mid-term reviews of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and the Lisbon Strategy. It was intended to increase the political will to operationalise WSSD sustainable consumption commitments in the context of the Marrakech process on sustainable consumption. Participants identified individual and collective commitments to help advance the sustainable consumption agenda. Sylvia Lorek from SERI took part in the meeting. Download of the final report: www.germanwatch.org/rio/consum05.pdf

European Consumer Day in Brussels

Sustainable consumption is becoming a major issue, thanks not least to the efforts of the ecological economics community and SERI in particular. Sylvia Lorek, our key consumption expert gave a presentation at the European Economic and Social Committee's public discussion to celebrate European Consumer Day in Brussels, 15th of March 2005, with members of parliament and Commission staff present. The opening speech on growth and sustainable consumption (after introductory remarks by the Environment Commissioner and the Chairwoman of the EESC) was given by Joachim Spangenberg. SERI Partners present included Morton Olsen and Gerhard Scherhorn.

http://backupcese.qwent.es/sections/int/conferences/15_03_05_consumerday/index_en.asp



Sustainability Strategy Workshop in York, UK

Workshop 7 in the series of the Thematic Network Sustainability Strategy was held in York from 17th to 19th of March 2005. The UK Meeting on "Sustainable consumption and production: is it real, does it matter and what is the role of governance" was hosted by John Whitelegg and his colleagues from the Stockholm Environmental Institute at the University of York. Presentations and discussions about Sustainable Consumption with a focus on the Yorkshire region were held, and insights into governance issues of Yorkshire given. The third part of the workshop dealt with "changing behaviour issues". More information on the project can be found under: www.sustainability-strategy.net.

Conference on "Pathways to Sustainability"

The German ministry for education and research BMBF held a conference on "Pathways to Sustainability" in Bonn on the 5th of April. A broad range of socio-environmental research projects were presented, focusing on the issue of sustainable infrastructure development (with specific emphasis on the framework conditions like demographic change and globalisation). For more details contact Joachim.Spangenberg@seri.de.



SERI at the Evangelische Akademie in Loccum, Germany

On April 9th, Stefan Giljum gave a presentation on "Decoupling economic growth from resource use as a new paradigm?" prepared together with Arno Behrens for a colloquium on "Reducing Poverty through Environmental Policy" (see www.loccum.de/program/p0516.html). The presentation included an overview on global resource extraction and showed how trade affects resource use patterns across different regions of the world. With a short review of past and current resource prices and their effects on resource extraction and resource use, the presentation concluded with policy recommendations on how to best tackle poverty and environmental problems associated with increasing resource use in different parts of the world.

Sustainable Consumption: Utopia or Business Strategy

Sustainability and especially sustainable consumption becomes increasingly important for business decisionmakers and politicians. On 12th of April 2005 the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany organised an economic and environmental forum in Berlin discussing the question: "What can business do and which challenges will they meet?" Sylvia Lorek gave a presentation "How to reach sustainable consumption – and how not". The presentation can be downloaded at www.amcham.de/index.php?id=42#1241 (German only)



MATISSE kick-off meeting

The kick-off meeting of the European MATISSE project on integrated sustainability assessment (ISA) took place from 12th to the 15th of April in Nordwijk, NL. The aim of MATISSE is to assess sustainability at the EU-level, using the best available current ISA-tools (models) in a more advanced manner, but also developing new ISA-tools (models) in process of co-production with stakeholders. For more information see www.matisse-project.net.



MOSUS: 3rd internal project meeting

The 12 partners of the MOSUS project (www.mosus.net) held their 3rd internal meeting at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) from 14th to the 15th of April, 2005. First results of the baseline scenario runs (including projections of European and global material and energy use) up to the year 2020 were presented and discussed. The consortium also agreed on a set of policy targets and instruments to be implemented in the two policy scenarios (weak and strong sustainability scenario) in order to identify possible paths towards sustainable development in Europe.



Conference on the future European sustainable development strategy

On 14th and 15th of April, the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Council held an open space conference on the future European sustainable development strategy in Brussels. Amongst the participants were a number of SERI members and partners, including Thomas Ruddy, Frieder Otto Wolf, Harry Lehmann and Joachim Spangenberg, participating in groups on indicators, material flows and globalisation. The conference provided input to the internal deliberations of the Commission.

SERI at the International Workshop on Sustainable Taiwan

From 18th to the 21st of April the Sustainable Development Research Committee of the National Research Council of Taiwan hosted an International Workshop on Sustainable Taiwan: Visions and Strategies. Jill Jäger delivered a Keynote Speech on "The Role of Science in Transitions to Sustainability".

Meeting of German post-autistic economists

From the 5th to the 7th of May 2005, the German post-autistic economists held their meeting in Kassel, discussing a broad spectrum on heterodox economic theory approaches. Joachim Spangenberg presented ecological economics as one integrative and diverse school of economic thinking.

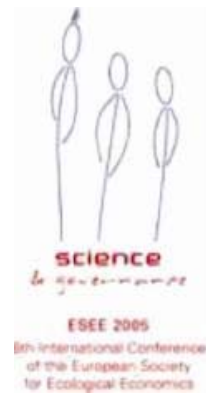
Workshop on sustainability education indicators

On 23rd of May, Joachim Spangenberg represented SERI in an expert workshop on sustainability education indicators: a discussion of the zero draft of the German government's report on the issue. The University of Lueneburg, which is drafting the report for the government, had invited 20 well-known sustainability indicator experts to Hanover.



Meeting at the European Science Foundation

On the 6th of June Jill Jäger participated in a meeting at the European Science Foundation in Strasbourg. The main aim of the meeting was to draft a theme proposal for EUROCORES. This activity builds on ESF's "Global Change Forward Look", which was completed in 2002 and called inter alia for interdisciplinary, policy relevant research and a small number of flagship projects in the global change area. The theme proposal focussed on the challenges of achieving a sustainable low carbon economy in Europe.



SERI at ESEE 2005

The 6th International Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics took place in Lisbon, Portugal from the 14th to the 17th of June 2005. The themes addressed at the conference related to sustainable development and the environmental policy current research agenda within the overall theme of science and governance.

A number of SERI members participated in different sessions of the conference. More information and download of presentation at www.seri.at/eese2005.

Wednesday, 15th of June 2005

14:30-16:00 Special Session II: The Scientific Construction of Sustainability Concepts - Performative Relationships Between Scientific Knowledge Production and Governance for Sustainable Development (Fred Luks) LUKS, Fred: Producing Relevant Realities - The Role of (Ecological) Economic Theory for the Practice of Governance

14:30-16:00 Special Session III: Innovation and Environmental Policy (Henry Leveson-Gower, Sigrid Stagl)

16:30-18:00 2: Paths to Sustainable Futures - From Local to Global Assessment and Strategies VIEIRA, Ricardo, STAGL, Sigrid: Resilience and Adaptability for Assessing Urban Sustainability

16:30-18:00 Special Session V: Integrating Climate Change, Land Use, Socio-Economic Scenarios in ALARM. Lessons from the ALARM Project SPANGENBERG, Joachim: Towards Coordinated Long-Term Scenarios for Assessing Biodiversity Risks OMANN, Ines, STOCKER, Andrea: The Links of ALARM Scenarios and the Socio-Economy in Europe: Qualitative and Quantitative Aspects

Thursday, 16th of June 2005

09:00-10:30 3: The Role of Corporate Responsibility: Confronting Perspectives SPANGENBERG, Joachim: Corporate Social Responsibility - Applying a bottom-up/top-down Assessment Methodology in Germany

09:00-10:30 Special Session VIII: System Innovation, Co-Evolution and Governance (Friedrich Hinterberger, Rene Kemp) Friedrich HINTERBERGER (with Christian RAMMEL): After the European Constitution: Governance for Sustainable Development as a Way Out?

14:30-16:00 3: Participation and Governance - Actors, Institutions and Processes in Environmental Decision-Making LUKS, Fred, SIEBENHÜNER, Bernd: The Contribution of the Socio-Ecological Research Initiative to Sustainability Governance - Transdisciplinarity as a Case of Social Learning

14:30-16:00 Special Session X: Integrated Development of Agricultural and Rural Institutions in Central and Eastern European Countries I - Learning for Socio-Ecological Resilience and Diffusion of Innovations STAGL, Sigrid: Institutional Change and Learning in Complex Social-Ecological Systems CHOBOTOVA, Veronika, STAGL, Sigrid, KLUVANKOVA-ORAVSKA, Tatiana: Promoting Rural Tourism in Slovenský Raj National Park - Aiming for Robust Social-Ecological System

16:00-17:00 Posters

SPANGENBERG, Joachim: Is the Information Society Sustainable?

Friday, 17th of June 2005

09:00-11:00 1: Evaluation Methods and Processes IV BEHRENS, Arno, GILJUM, Stefan, KOVANDA, Jan, NIZA, Samuel: Global Patterns of Natural Resource Extraction - Implications for Sustainable Resource Use Policies in North and South

14:30-16:00 Special Session XII: Using Participatory Multi-Criteria Appraisal Techniques to Evaluate the Sustainability of Future Energy Systems STAGL, Sigrid, BOHUNOVSKY, Lisa, KOWALSKI, Katharina, MADLENER, Reinhard, OMANN, Ines: Participatory MCE of Renewable Energy Technology Scenarios in Two Different Scale Levels - The Case of Austria

Training Course on "Modelling and Production for SD-related Environmental Indicators"

Andrea Stocker was invited as a lecturer for the modelling session at the MEDSTAT-Environment third training course, held in Cannes from the 20th to the 24th of June 2005 and organised by Plan Bleu. The main objective of the training course is to share a common understanding on sustainable development and especially on the related sustainable development indicators of the environment pillar.

Symposium "Governance for Sustainability" in Norwich

An International Research Conference was held on 23rd to the 24th of June 2005, organised by CSERGE, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK. Jill Jäger presented a paper on Science for Sustainability. The paper will be published in the conference volume in 2006.

2nd Summer School on Developing Toolkits on Integrated and Participatory Analyses of Sustainability

From the 17th to the 23rd of July, 2005 Sophie Strasser participated in the 2nd Summer School on Developing Toolkits on Integrated and Participatory Analyses of Sustainability, which took place in Murcia, Spain. The main goal of the school was to integrate methodologies that analyse and characterise systems and their evolution, with those methodologies that help to structure the decision process in a social context. The school aimed to present a complete picture, in theory and practice, of recently developed analytic approaches toward sustainable development. For this purpose, both lectures and hands-on case-studies formed an integral part of the summer school. For more information on the annual summer school, please refer to: www.liphe4.org/school.html

A European Statistics Meeting

Was organised by Eurostat and the Austrian statistical office on August 22nd in Alpbach, parallel to and part of the Alpbach Forum. Interesting facts emerged (the US growth of per capita wealth or GDP was not higher than the EU one if the differences in accounting are taken into account), and future challenges became obvious. Joachim Spangenberg contributed a paper on indicator systems for sustainable development strategy monitoring.

MATISSE Core Group Meeting

The Core Group of the EU project MATISSE (Methods and Tools for Integrated Sustainability Assessment) met in Paris from 8th to 9th of September 2005. The main priority for the meeting was to draft a definition of "Integrated Sustainability Assessment (ISA)" to guide the work of the project as a whole. Jill Jäger attended the meeting. For further information see www.matisse-project.net or contact Jill Jäger at jill.jaeger@seri.at.

The First Global and Regional Scenarios Workshop of GEO-4

The purpose of this meeting on 11th to 15th of September was to begin the development of regional scenarios for the next Global Environmental Outlook (GEO), UNEP's flagship product, which will be published in 2007. Taking the scenarios developed in GEO-3 as a basis, Jill Jäger facilitated the Asia-Pacific regional group in discussing what the region would look like in 2050 under the four scenarios: Markets First, Policy First, Security First and Sustainability First. This was followed by development of timelines and discussion of quantitative indicators. For further information please see www.unep.org/geo

Finnish future research for sustainable consumption

On 19th of September 2005 the Finnish environmental ministry hosted a workshop to discuss recent research and practical approaches towards sustainable consumption. Beside a presentation of the "National Sustainable Consumption and Production Framework" the meeting intended to identify adequate questions for further research. The successful meeting indicated the good and close links SERI has to Finland. As one of the two international guests Sylvia Lorek gave a key note presentation on "Consumption and the Environment in Europe: Trends and Futures". The Finnish based SERI member Adriaan Perrels presented findings from his recent work "Exploring Sustainable Consumption Scenarios for Finland". Presentations' download:

Lorek www.ymparisto.fi/download.asp?contentid=42489&lan=fi and
Perrels www.ymparisto.fi/download.asp?contentid=42492&lan=fi

The Dobbiaco Colloquia 2005

The 2005 edition of the "Toblacher Gespräche" entitled "Rebuilding the future", was held at Grand Hotel Toblach, 22nd to the 24th of September. It dealt with the fundamental issue: how to prepare our building heritage, our cities and villages for the Solar Age, well aware that in a few generations time fossil fuels will be depleted or no longer affordable. Urgency requires tackling this problem and realising that the fossil fuel age will soon be but a brief episode in the history of mankind. The conference provided an opportunity to discuss prospects, strategies, new standards and concrete solutions and present "best practice" examples drawn from different sectors. According to the tradition the conference concluded with the "Dobbacio Theses". www.toblacher-gespraechen.it/downloads/Toblacher_Thesis_2005.doc As part of setting the stage for the conference Hildegard Kurt and Sylvia Lorek reflected on the issue: "More well-being with less resources: the beauty of constraints". It is summarised as paragraph 12 of the theses.

SERI at the Environmental Accounting Conference in Prague

Arno Behrens and Stefan Giljum spoke at the conference on "Environmental Accounting and Sustainable Development Indicators", which took place from the 26th to the 27th of September at the Charles University Environmental Centre in Prague. Arno Behrens' speech focused on the global extraction of natural resources and its implications for international development policies. In the same working group, Stefan Giljum talked about the quantification of indirect natural resource requirements with a global input-output model.

ERSCP Session on policy design for sustainable consumption

During the European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (the former European Roundtable on Cleaner Production) from 5th to the 8th of October in Antwerp SERI members Adriaan Perrels and Sylvia Lorek chaired an information exchange session and following workshop on "Policy Design for Sustainable Consumption". Further information on the conference: www.vito.be/erscp2005/

Kick off meeting for the SPACES Project

The SPACES working group, created to help strengthen frameworks and agendas for research and action on sustainable production and consumption systems, met in Siegburg, Germany, on the 15th and 16th of October 2005. The purpose of the meeting was to debate and come to agreement on the scope, purpose and priority activities for the next 15 months. This included discussion of potential case studies, the needs for better articulation of key concepts and review of earlier efforts, ways to engage practice and what that meant, and ideas for preparation and communication of findings. Project website: www.sea-user.org/uweb.php?pg=47

MATISSE Project meeting

At the second project meeting of the MATISSE project, held on the 2nd and 4th of November in Barcelona, Jill Jäger and Sophie Strasser represented SERI, which is responsible for the workpackage on dissemination and training, as well as a project partner in some of the case studies. In addition to providing training on the project communication tool and providing guidance on stakeholder engagement in the project as a whole, they participated in the discussions of the plans for the coming six months, including the development of scenarios to be used in the project. www.matisse-project.net

World Science Forum, Budapest

On the 11th of November, Jill Jäger gave a presentation on "Sustainability Science: Building Bridges between Science and Society" at the World Science Forum in Budapest. The Forum, organised by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in association with UNESCO and ICSU, had the theme of "Knowledge, Ethics and Responsibility". The sessions were broadcast live on the internet. www.sciforum.hu

MOSUS: Presentation of final results, Brussels

On the 13th of December 2005, around 40 participants from EU institutions (DG Environment, EEA, EUROSTAT, etc.), research institutes and NGOs met for the presentation of the final results of the MOSUS project. The workshop presented the simulation model, the different scenario packages and underlying assumptions, the economic, social and environmental evaluation of the scenarios as well as derived policy recommendations (all presentations can be downloaded from the project website at www.mosus.net). The project team received very positive feedback and valuable suggestions for further improvement of the model and the scenarios. The importance of such integrated modelling exercises for the identification of best policy mixes for a transition towards sustainable development was highlighted by many participants. Furthermore, links to other outlook activities on the EU level, such as by EEA Topic Centers, have been established.

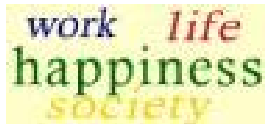


Communication

Website on co-operation partners launched

A website has been launched portraying SERI's co-operations with related organisations. SERI's partner institutions, project partners and contracting institutions include a large number of institutions concerned with research on sustainable development cooperating with SERI in a number of different ways.

For further information see www.seri.at/cooperation/



The "Happiness" Webpage

The normative concept of sustainable development is already well established at nearly all political levels and scales. However, transitions to sustainable societies lag far behind the concept. At a societal level it is very often associated with negative notions concerning a degree of personal material lifestyles, decreasing consumption, etc. The discourse of sustainable development is mainly driven by scientific and technical forms of communication. In order to reach broader discussions at the society level, the concept urgently needs to integrate emotional aspects. Socio-political concepts neglecting those aspects fail to be successful at a broad level, since they neglect liberty and dignity of individuals and the society as a whole. SERI aims to start a dialogue on emotional aspects focussed on the concept of happiness. Through the website www.work-life-society-happiness.net we invite all interested people to participate in the dialogue on integration of happiness and satisfaction into the concept of sustainable development. The website is co-ordinated by SERI and Karuna Consult, a Vienna based coaching and consulting company. An English version is in preparation.



SERI @ the media



Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI).
Forschung und Kommunikation zu nachhaltiger
Entwicklung. Soziale Technik 3/05, S. 15-18
download at:

www.ifz.tugraz.at/index.php/filemanager/download/661/2005_3.pdf

Oberösterreichische Nachrichten am 22.10. 2005



*Ein Schwanenstädter leitet in Wien ein Institut für
Wirtschafts-Nachhaltigkeitsfor-schung mit 15
Mitarbeitern. Es arbeitet für die EU und hat auch die
italienische Regierung beraten.....*

von Karin Haas

The week the climate changed

15 October 2005 | NewScientist | 53

**"Villach was the turning point," says Jill
Jaeger, a young researcher dragooned into
editing a report for the meeting. Bill Clark of**

In October 1985 a conference in Villach, Austria, pushed the issue of climate change onto the international scientific and political agendas. 20 years after the event, Fred Pearce reflects in the New Scientist (15 October 2005) on what it was that made that meeting so significant. Based on a

range of interviews (including with Jill Jaeger, SERI, who helped write the background report for the meeting together with Bert Bolin and his colleagues in Stockholm), Pearce concludes that it was important that the scientists met in Villach as individuals rather than as representatives of governments or large scientific bodies. Since then, he notes, the scientists were "put back in their cages" through the establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Zwei Orte, eine Zukunft für die Energie

Several press releases on the occasion of the presentation of the local ARTEMIS case study:

Kleine Zeitung (30.11.2005, Regionalteil

Feldbach), Kronen Zeitung (1.12.2005), NOEST newsletter

Publications (www.seri.at/publications/)

SERI Studies

SERI Studies

SERI Studies is a series of in-depth reports from our projects.

The papers can be downloaded at www.seri.at/publications.

SERI Study No. 3 (March 2005):

Daniela Jölli, Stefan Giljum: Unused biomass extraction in agriculture, forestry and fishery

This study summarises the research on unused biomass extraction in agriculture, forestry and fishery undertaken in the project MOSUS (Modelling opportunities and limits for restructuring Europe towards sustainability, see www.mosus.net). Our research was based on literature reviews and internet searches and aimed at elaborating procedures for calculating unused biomass extraction in material flow analyses on the national level.

In most material flow studies published so far, the category of unused biomass extraction was disregarded or calculated based on a small number of estimated factors. However, amounts of unused biomass extraction are huge and have to be considered, if the total material extraction of a national economy is assessed. Due to the fact that this issue has only recently gained more attention, only a few publications exist so far which report amounts of residues of agricultural, forestry and fishery activities.

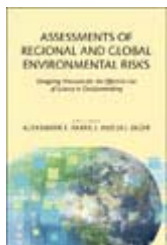
We have to emphasise that several aspects could not be considered in this study due to lack of data and time. One important point is the difference in unused extraction due to different forms of cultivation, which depend on the cultural, climatic and environmental context. Furthermore, we were not able to include differences between social conditions of countries, which are important with regard to use and reuse of biomass residues. Finally, aspects related to differences in climate and vegetation could not be taken into account.

Therefore, the calculation procedures only allow a rough estimation of worldwide amounts of unused biomass extraction. More appropriate estimation results require the availability of country and species-specific data.

The paper can be downloaded from

www.seri.at/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=28&Itemid=39

Books and book sections



Assessments of Regional and Global Environmental Risks. Designing Processes for the Effective Use of Science in Decisionmaking. Alexander E. Farrell and Jill Jäger, editors

November 2005/316 pages

As environmental challenges grow larger in scale and implications, it is increasingly important to apply the best scientific knowledge in the decisionmaking process. Editors Farrell and Jäger present environmental assessments as the bridge between the expert knowledge of scientists and engineers on the one hand and decisionmakers on the other. When done well, assessments have a positive impact on public policy, the strategic decisions of private firms, and, ultimately, the quality of life for many people.

This book is the result of an international, interdisciplinary research project to analyze past environmental assessments and understand how their design influenced their effectiveness in bringing scientific evidence and insight into the decisionmaking process. The case studies in the book feature a

wide range of regional and global risks, including ozone depletion, transboundary air pollution, and climate change.

Assessments of Regional and Global Environmental Risks offers several important contributions. It provides a clear account of the choices faced in the design of environmental assessments and a clear description of the lessons learned from past assessments. It illustrates why assessments are social processes, not simply reports. And, while they identify no universal, one-size-fits-all design, the authors find that, to be effective, environmental assessments must be viewed by those who produce and use them as being salient; credible in their scientific support; and legitimate, or fair in design and execution.

Ordering Information: www.rff.org/rff/RFF_Press/Ordering_Information.cfm.



Die Wende der Titanic. Wiener Deklaration für eine zukunftsfähige Weltordnung. Herausgeber: Herbert Rauch und Alfred Stringl. Mit Vorworten von Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, Mathis Wackernagel und Tobias Moretti, und einem Beitrag von Friedrich Hinterberger.

Warum ähneln die weltweiten Entwicklungen in vielem dem Titanic-Kurs so erschreckend? Diktiert die Wirtschaft mehr denn je der Politik den Kurs und vergessen die Kapitäne die ihnen übertragene "vorsorgende Sicherheit"?

Globaler Freihandel und Privatisierungen besiegen Hunger und ökologische Misere nicht! Die Kluft zwischen Arm und Reich wächst stetig - regional, national, global. Steuern wir unweigerlich auf eine nicht mehr abwendbare Katastrophe zu?

Eisberge sind bereits zu spüren, aber noch könnten wir den Kurs ändern: Wenn wir die Bedrohung begreifen und den Mut zu einer tiefgreifenden "Wende" aufbringen.

Die Wiener Deklaration ist im Diskurs eines breiten Netzwerkes von Theoretikern und Praktikern, ehrenamtlich Arbeitenden und Entscheidungsträgern aller Gesellschaftsbereiche entstanden. Die Autoren sprechen ungeschminkt Tabus wie die Wachstumsdoktrin an und versuchen damit ein ahistorisch gewordenen System zu entlarven und die "kollektive Trance" zu durchbrechen. Sie suchen Lösungen für ein zukunftsfähiges 21. Jahrhundert und formulieren reale, griffige Forderungen wie eine Wirtschaftsverfassung mit ressourcengestützter Währung, eine nachhaltige Nord-Süd-Kooperation, eine Grundsicherung, eine Verbreiterung von Demokratie, einen Naturregenerationsplan, eine gestärkte Welt- Innenpolitik, aber auch vertiefte regionale Subsidiarität, solidaritätsgetragene Konfliktkultur und vieles mehr.



Joachim H. Spangenberg (2005) Die ökonomische Nachhaltigkeit der Wirtschaft; Theorien, Kriterien und Indikatoren ISBN 3-89404-524-8 edition sigma Berlin.

Economists have to say a lot about how economic, social and environmental criteria should be implemented in all policies but economic politics. However, there is an urgent need to re-embed marauding economic policies into a broader framework, including in particular economic, but also social, environmental and institutional criteria to identify sustainable economic policies, and in particular economically sustainable ones. The book (in German) derives criteria from the analysis of co-evolving systems, suggests and tests corresponding indicators.

Sylvia Lorek and Joachim H. Spangenberg: Consumption and Savings; in Encyclopaedia of Social Measurement, Vol. 1, Elsevier Inc., San Diego, CA, USA, 471-480

The Encyclopaedia contribution summarises the history of an old conflict in economics and discusses its current relevance.



"Fair Future": Begrenzte Ressourcen und globale Gerechtigkeit von Wuppertal-Institut für Klima, Umwelt, Energie (Herausgeber)

Wolfgang Sachs, member of SERI's scientific advisory board, is one of the editors of the new report published by the Wuppertal Institute, entitled "Fair future. Limited resources and global justice". This book analyses conflicts over limited natural resources in a globalising world, discussed barriers towards a more sustainable world society and outlines perspectives for a policy of resource justice.

More information about this book can be found at www.wupperinst.org/Publikationen/buecher/fair-future.html.

W. Blaas, editor (2005): Multi-Level Governance for Sustainability (Technical University Vienna), 78 pages, 5.80 €

Published as volume 1-2/2005 of the Research Memoranda series of the Department for Fiscal Science and Infrastructure Policy of the Vienna Technical University, this bilingual volume contains eight papers on sustainability governance. It is essentially the result of a workshop held in Vienna in March 2004 as part of the Sustainability Strategy project coordinated by FU Berlin and SERI. The authors, friends and members of SERI, include Paul M. Weaver, Meike Spitzner, Frieder Otto Wolf and Joachim H. Spangenberg. Ordering information: www.ifip.tuwien.ac.at



"Governance for Sustainable Development" Special Issue of the International Journal for Sustainable Development (IJSJ); edited by Joachim Spangenberg and Stefan Giljum

SERI members Joachim Spangenberg and Stefan Giljum edited this IJSD volume (Vol. 8 , No. 1/2, 2005) as a Special Issue on "Governance for Sustainable Development". The Special Issue is part of the GoSD research initiative led by SERI (see www.gosd.net) and contains nine contributions from international experts on institutional, social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainability governance. Several SERI members served as authors and co-authors of articles

for this issue. You find the full list of papers plus abstracts from contributions by SERI members at www.seri.at/ijsd/.



Aachener Stiftung Kathy Beys (Hrsg.): Ressourcenproduktivität als Chance - Ein langfristiges Konjunkturprogramm für Deutschland. ISBN 3-8334-3463-5. Book on Demand, Norderstedt

The Aachener Foundation Kathy Beys has recently published a book on resource productivity entitled "Ressourcenproduktivität als Chance - Ein langfristiges Konjunkturprogramm für Deutschland" (Resource Productivity as an Opportunity - A long-term Programme for Stimulation of the German Economy). The book includes a chapter by Arno Behrens, Friedrich Hinterberger, Markus Stewen and Andrea Stocker of the Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI) on the potentials of a material input tax (MIT) to reduce material use and to create jobs.

The results presented in the book emphasise the positive effects of increased resource productivity on economy, state and society. The Aachener Scenario, for example, promises about one million new jobs, while taking pressure from the federal budget. This scenario includes measures such as the introduction of a MIT allowing for a simultaneous and budget neutral reduction of income taxes. Similarly, the study quantifies the effects of a shift of VAT away from services to the use of materials.



Hammer, Mark; Friedrich Hinterberger, Ines Omann, Andrea Stocker (2005). From micro to macro: eco-efficiency from the economic point of view. In: Sergienko, O. and H. Rohn (ed.). *Basics of the eco-efficiency theory*, pp. 121-149. (In Russian).

In this book section we give an overview on eco-efficiency issues on various economic levels. Chapter 2 starts on the micro level, introducing eco-efficiency concepts for products and companies. Here we also present an overview of the possible contributions of product service systems to sustainable development and increased eco-efficiency. In chapter 3 we look at implications of eco-efficiency on the regional and sectoral level. Chapter 4 focuses on the macroeconomic level and discusses the interrelations between macroeconomic policy and new models of work. It starts with a description of the rebound effect. Further it links the issues of work, unemployment and ecology and shows how these issues could be solved altogether in a sustainable way. It also discusses the possibilities of a material input tax in this context. Chapter 5 concludes with the introduction of measures and instruments for an ecological economic policy.

Journal articles

Behrens, A., Giljum, S. (2005): Erste Zeichen einer Entkoppelung. Die materielle Basis der Weltwirtschaft und ihre globale Ungleichverteilung. In: *Ökologisches Wirtschaften*. 1/2005, pp. 28-29 [in German].

Recent studies carried out by SERI revealed that the use of natural resources of the world economy is continuously growing. While industrialised countries use resources most efficiently, they also have the highest numbers for per capita resource extraction. Absolute decoupling of economic growth from resource use must be achieved, in order to ensure wealth and well-being in all regions of the world.

For more information see www.oekom.de/verlag/german/periodika/oekowirt or contact Arno Behrens (arno.behrens@seri.at).

Luks, Fred (2005): Innovationen, Wachstum und Nachhaltigkeit. Eine ökologisch-ökonomische Betrachtung. In: *Innovation und Nachhaltigkeit. Jahrbuch Ökologische Ökonomik 4*. Marburg: Metropolis [in German].

For more information see www.metropolis-verlag.de/Innovationen-und-Nachhaltigkeit/497/book.do or contact Fred Luks (LuksF@hwp-hamburg.de).

Andreas Bockermann, Bernd Meyer, Ines Omann, Joachim Spangenberg (2005):

Modelling sustainability: Comparing an econometric (PANTA RHEI) and a systems dynamics model (SuE). *Journal of Policy Modeling*, Volume 27, Issue 2, March 2005, Pages 189-210.

Based on some theoretical considerations, this paper defines minimum conditions for sustainable development. It presents and compares two models suitable for simulating sustainability strategies. One (PANTA RHEI) is a highly sophisticated econometric model for the German economy. The other one (SuE) is a less disaggregated system dynamics model for the EU 15 economy. Both include the measuring of energy and material consumption and are thus well suited to indicate the linkage between economic development and environmental impact. Similarly, both calculate the employment effects of a given policy, thus, permitting the inclusion of a key social concern in the evaluation of sustainability policies as well.

Reinhard Madlener and Sigrid Stagl (2005): Sustainability-guided promotion of renewable electricity generation; in: *Ecological Economics*, Volume 53, Issue 2, 15 April 2005, Pages 147-167.

In this paper, the authors propose a methodology for the design of renewable energy policy instruments that is based on integrated assessment. [Abstract: www.sciencedirect.com]

Josef Settele et al. (2005) : ALARM: Assessing large-scale environmental risks for biodiversity with tested methods. *GAIA* 14(1): 69-72

The paper provides a brief overview of the questions dealt with in the ALARM project, and its organisational structure.

Joachim Spangenberg (2005). Nachhaltigkeit - Konzept, Grundlagen, Herausforderungen, Anwendungen. UTOPIEKreativ 174, April 2005: 327-341 download available at: www.rosalux.de/cms/fileadmin/rls_uploads/pdfs/Utopie_kreativ/174/174Spangenberg.pdf

Rodrigues, J., Giljum, S. (2005). The accounting of indirect material requirements in material flow-based indicators. ICFAI Journal of Environmental Economics III (2), 51-69. Reprint of SERI Working Paper No. 3.

One important question in the field of Material Flow Accounting (MFA) is the accounting of indirect material flows, via an appropriate indicator and computation methodology. Several indicators and computation methodologies are currently in use, which complicates the articulation and comparison between different empirical studies. In this paper we present an input-output model that puts different MFA indicators in a common framework. We present a methodology for the computation of MFA indicators that assigns indirect material requirements to economic flows and is valid at both the macro and the micro levels. We argue that our socio-economic methodology is superior to purely physical approaches because it avoids methodological problems connected with physical input-output analysis, requires less problematic data acquisition and is theoretically more satisfying. From our model a new indicator arises, Total Material Production (TMP), a counterpoint to the familiar indicator of Total Material Consumption (TMC). TMC and TMP are the only indicators (of those discussed) that account for indirect material requirements and are additive.

Fuchs, Doris A. and Sylvia Lorek (2005) Sustainable Consumption Governance: A History of Promises and Failures. Journal of Consumer Policy 28(3), pp. 261-288

What are the implications of the current international political and economic settings for consumer policy, and, in particular, those regarding sustainable consumption? The paper traces the differences between the two dimensions of sustainable consumption - efficiency of consumption and changes in consumption - with respect to the work of the major international governmental organizations (IGOs) engaged in developing sustainable consumption governance. It argues that the lack of commitment to strong sustainable consumption among IGOs can be explained by their "weakness" as actors in global governance and the existence of strong opposing interests among consumers and business actors.

Other articles

Friedrich Hinterberger (2005): "Che ricchezza è se distrugge l'ambiente?" Article in the Italian journal Reset No 90, July/August 2005, pp. 41-43

Unemployment and environmental disruption seem to have the same causes and have to be dealt with in a joint effort. The concepts of happiness and "work-live-society-balance" could serve as a guiding principle for new (sustainability) policies in Europe - integrating economic, environmental, social and other policies towards a joint overall objective. The article is part of an 18 pages section on the economics of happiness and its role for policy, including an interview with Sir R. Layard. (www.caffeeuropa.it/reset/numero90/primopiano.html). (www.reset.it).

SERI and Friends of the Earth Europe (2005): "Europe's global responsibility. Environmental space, international trade and factor X" (in German). Background paper for the Event "Closing the global sustainability gap". 9 May 2005. Heinrich-Böll-Foundation. Berlin.

Europe must become the most energy and resource efficient economy in the world, in order to take its global environmental responsibility and push the Lisbon process into a sustainable direction.

New data on global resource use reveal that material and energy use and emissions of greenhouse gases are still far above a sustainable level. Furthermore, an externalisation of environmental costs from Europe to so called developing countries is taking place, as many Southern countries increasingly specialise in environmental-intensive economic activities (such as mining, agriculture and fisheries). Realisation of sustainable development in Europe thus requires the implementation of new concepts of environmental policy and broader support of the goal to make Europe the most energy and resource efficient continent.

[Download: www.seri.at/documentupload/seri_foee_europas_globale_verantwortung.pdf]

Wiedmann, T., Moro, M., Hammer, M. and Barrett, J. (2005). National and Regional Physical Accounts (Material Flows) for the United Kingdom. REAP Report No4. Stockholm Environment Institute, York.

This report – the fourth in the REAP Report series from the Ecological Budget UK project – describes the methodology that was used to compile national and regional material flow accounts. For the first time, a complete account of material supply and demand is presented for all commodity groups (economic sectors) and all Government Office Regions in the UK. While this document describes the methodological approach, the accompanying spreadsheets with regional mass balance tables are available as an e-Appendix under www.ecologicalbudget.org.uk.

Download: <http://sites.wwflearning.co.uk/data/files/reap-report-4-326.pdf>

Das Richtige über das Wichtige wissen. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Albert Einsteins death, the German journal W&F (Science and Peace) has published a special issue 3/2005. Joachim Spangenberg contributed a paper on sustainability science as a challenge to the system of science.

Conference papers

For information on papers presented at conferences and workshops see the section “events” in this annual report.



Personalia

Ines Omann received the “Josef-Krainer-Förderungspreis 2005” (Josef-Krainer-Award 2005) for her PhD-thesis.

The award was given to her on 18.3.2005 by Mrs. Waltraud Klasnic (former prime minister of Styria).



Wedding of Joachim Spangenberg and Sandra Striewski

In a gorgeous ceremony Joachim Spangenberg and Sandra Striewski said “I will” to each other. The wedding of two vital SERI members took place on 30th of April in Cologne. The whole SERI team sincerely wishes them all the best for their joint future.

On May 27th, Joachim celebrated his 50th birthday, entering “the next half century of his life”.

Sylvia Lorek co-chairs Production-Consumption Partnership Team

Sylvia Lorek was invited to co-chair a project on Consumption-Production Systems. The “Production-Consumption Partnership Team’s” task is to articulate key science needed to facilitate solutions to sustainability problems in the area of integrated management of production/consumption systems. The P/C Team is located at Chiang Mai University and part of a larger project coordinated by Harvard University.

SERI Bad Oeynhausen in new office space

Not even a year after opening an office in Bad Oeynhausen, Joachim Spangenberg and Dorothea Schüler had to announce a new address: in the "Industriestr. 15" SERI Bad Oeynhausen found a new residence. Water used to extinguish a fire in the building made the old office unusable, a relocation was unavoidable. The new office was opened in September. Phone, fax and ZIP remain unchanged.

Stefan Giljum invited as external reviewer for two material flow projects

Stefan Giljum has been invited as an external reviewer for two projects devoted to accounting and modelling of material flows and ecological footprints. The first project is commissioned by WWF UK and provides a feasibility study for assessing resource flows and ecological footprints of industries within a global context. It is carried out by the "Stockholm Environment Institute at York" and "Best Foot Forward".

The second project is carried out by the Topic Centre for Waste and Material Flows of the European Environment Agency (EEA). The Topic Centre has developed a macro-level model for prospective analysis of future trends of waste quantities and material flows in Europe. First results of the model simulations have been included in EEA's recent Environment and Outlook Report 2005 (see http://reports.eea.eu.int/eea_report_2005_4/en).

For further information please contact Stefan Giljum (stefan.giljum@seri.at).

Joachim Spangenberg member of the Baltic University Urban Forum Scientific Advisory Council

By appointment of the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Dr. Joachim H. Spangenberg has become a member of the Baltic University Urban Forum (BUUF) Scientific Advisory Council for the sector of socio-economy.

Joachim Spangenberg member of the editorial board of the Int. J. Innovation and Sustainable Development

A new journal relevant for the sustainability research community, the International Journal of Innovation and Sustainable Development IJISD has been launched. Published by Inderscience Publ. (details see www.inderscience.com), it is edited by Delyse Springett, New Zealand; Joachim Spangenberg has been appointed member of the editorial board.