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Highlights

01\ ISOE Report 2005

We have revised the concept of our institute's report to further strengthen our international orientation. With the new offer of an electronic version of our report in English you now receive a brief outline of the institute and its development, of our research projects, current publications, events, cooperations and networks. Please find the English version on our English website:

<http://www.isoe.de/english/index.htm>

02\ Quality Criteria of Transdisciplinary Research now available in English

The Evaluation Network for Transdisciplinary Research has spent four years working on the question of how the quality of transdisciplinary research processes can be secured and evaluated. As the central result, the "Guide for the Formative Evaluation of Research Projects" was published in German at the end of 2005. The Guide is now also electronically available in English:

http://www.downloads.isoe.de/literatur/evalunet_e.htm

The foreword by Thomas Jahn can be downloaded at:

http://www.downloads.isoe.de/public_html/evalunet_foreword.pdf

For additional information see our Press Release:

<http://www.isoe.de/english/press/evalunet.htm>

Further information on the research project Evalunet at

<http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/evalunet.htm>

03\ INVENT - Sustainable Management in the Tourism Sector

The final project results of the joint project INVENT were presented on 27th/28th September in Brussels where there were discussed with stakeholders from policy, industry and science, who are

engaged in the implementation of sustainable tourism. The proceedings of the Brussels conference "Beyond the Eco-Niche: Mainstreaming Sustainable Tourism" you can download at <http://www.invent-tourismus.de/daten/texte/konferenz.html>

Further information on the research project INVENT:
<http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/invent.htm>

04\ Rhetoric and Realities - Analysing Corporate Social Responsibility in Europe

Seven leading research facilities from all over Europe are taking part in a groundbreaking project analysing the impact of Corporate Social Responsibility in Europe. Funded within the EU's Sixth Framework Programme and conducted by the Öko-Institut e.V. - Institute for Applied Ecology the project aims to improve the understanding of the effectiveness of Corporate Social Responsibility as a policy instrument and how it can actually benefit sustainable development in the EU. The RARE project invited experts on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to meet at a Brussels Workshop to discuss scientific and practical challenges in analysing CSR impacts and success factors. Further information on the workshop you will find on the RARE project website at:

<http://www.rare-eu.net/index.php?id=7>

05\ Systemic Risks in Supply Systems - Strategies for the Management of Pharmaceuticals in Drinking Water

The quality of water resources is affected by a multitude of anthropogenic factors. In this context increasing attention is attracted by pharmaceuticals and their metabolites, which enter the hydrologic cycle primarily via human egesta. In fact pharmaceutical agents are detected in numerous surface waters as well as in ground waters. In drinking water specific pharmaceuticals have up to now been found only sporadically and at trace levels. With the aim of developing strategies for the management of pharmaceuticals in drinking water a new research project has taken up work. Read more about the new project:

<http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/systris.htm>

06\ Sustainability Science for Global Problems - Call for Papers

Sustainability research has to cope with new cognitive and organisational challenges. The joint conference is focussing on key issues such as the integration of natural and social sciences: theoretical and conceptual challenges, the integration of natural and social sciences in global research programmes and communities: policies and organisational patterns, the function of modelling and simulation as a knowledge base in sustainability science. Further details on the conceptual framework of the joint conference taking place in Karlsruhe from 6-8 July, 2006 are available at:

http://www.isoe.de/ftp/tagungen/Sustain_Science_Conf.pdf

You will also find information on the submission of papers at this address (call will be open till 15th of February 2006). The conference is organised by the German Sociological Association (GSA), Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS), Research Center for Sustainability Studies (artec), University of Bremen and the Institute for Social-Ecological Research.

07\ Integrated Water Resources Management as an International Challenge

The preliminary studies on integrated water resources management (IWRM) in Northern Namibia and Central Iran have been successfully conducted. For Esfahan and the basin of the Zayandeh Rud river in Central Iran, the potentials of a situation-specific IWRM as well as its restrictions were worked out and based on an analysis of the situation a concept incorporating IWRM principles was developed in cooperation with the Iranian authorities and stake-holders:

http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/iraniwrm_concept.htm

The study in Northern Namibia (Cuvelai-Delta) analysed potentials and obstacles for further development of an integrated management of water resources and their linkages to other natural resources like land and energy:

<http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/namibiwrm.htm>

New Publications and Downloads

08\ EcoTopTen: New Market Surveys published

The EcoTopTen initiative comprises two sub-activities: a research project conducted by the Öko-Institut e.V. - Institute for Applied Ecology - and the Institute for Social-Ecological Research which aims at initiating product and service innovations and the EcoTopTen consumer information campaign aiming at promoting sustainable products and sustainable consumption patterns. The EcoTopTen initiative publishes market surveys which supply the consumers with concise recommendations for attractive products and sensible purchase decisions with regard to ecology, quality and costs. Read more on the latest market surveys on the EcoTopTen website:

http://www.ecotopten.de/projekt_englisch.php

Further information on the research project and ISOE's consumer research therein are available on our website:

<http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/topten1.htm>

09\ Joint Emissions Trading as a Social-Ecological Transformation (JET-SET)

Since the adoption of the Kyoto-Protocol in the year 1997, both the design and the implementation of so called flexible mechanisms - and herein especially emissions trading between industrial countries - have played an important role in (inter-)national climate policy. The joint project JET-SET analyses the possible institutional designs of emission trading systems (ETS) - as well as the assessment of their potential social and ecological impacts. ISOE's participation in the project involves work on "Gender Impacts of Climate Protection and ETS." The main objective of this work is to mainstream a gender perspective into the project's overall research activities and to identify potential impact areas of ETS on gender relations. You will find a summary of the JET-SET working paper on climate policy and gender at:

<http://www.isoe.de/literat/kurzdp21.htm>

The working paper itself which is published in German can be downloaded:

<http://www.wupperinst.org/download/3214/gender.pdf>

10\ Implementing Gender Mainstreaming: National Park Eifel as Pilot Project

The research project scientifically accompanied and monitored the introduction of the gender mainstreaming strategy within the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection in North Rhine-Westphalia as exemplified by the National Park Eifel. A summary of the report "The Pilot Project Gender Mainstreaming in the National Park Eifel - the Development of Implementation Instruments" is available in English:

http://www.isoe.de/ftp/nrwgender/summary_nationalparc.pdf

11\ demons Working Papers now available for Download

The project "demons - demographic trends, needs & supply systems" now offers its working papers for download. Please note that these papers are only available in German as yet. Further information on the project development in English you will find on the project website:

http://www.demons-project.de/en_index.html

Electronical newsletter "Social Ecology" of the Institute for Social-Ecological Research (ISOE) (twice a year). To unsubscribe please send an email to isoenews@isoe.de with the reference "unsubscribe isoenews". If you wish to receive the electronical newsletter free of charge please order at <http://www.isoe.de/english/service/newsform.htm>

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