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At a Glance

Highlights

- 01\ ISOE Report 2006
- 02\ Virtual Water Trade
- 03\ Strengthening the Practice of Transdisciplinary Research
- 04\ Practical Quality Assurance & Management in Health Promoting Settings
- 05\ Urban Wasteland as a New Challenge
- 06\ MOVILIZATION - towards accessible cities
- 07\ Water 2050 - Sustainable Innovations for a Global Market Orientation
- 08\ Integrated Water Resources Management in the Cuvelai-Delta, Northern Namibia
- 09\ Renewed EU-Strategy for Sustainable Development

Publications and Downloads

- 10\ Quality Criteria of Transdisciplinary Research published in print version
- 11\ Transdisciplinary Research from a Social-Ecological Point of View
- 12\ Gender Mainstreaming in Eifel National Park
- 13\ Population Dynamics and Conflicts on Water Resources in the Jordan River Basin
- 14\ Coping with Risks of Chemicals: Formal Models as Facilitators for Social Learning

Highlights

01\ ISOE Report 2006

The institute's latest report in English language is now available in the world wide web. The report provides information on research projects, their development and latest findings, publications, conferences, cooperations, and much more. Please find it on our English website:

<http://www.isoe.de/english/bericht06.htm>

02\ Virtual Water Trade

For any production much more water is required as the product contain at the end. The water is called virtual because in the consumption phase, most of the real water needed for production is no longer actually contained in the product. Virtual water trade focuses on the perspective that when goods and services are exchanged, so is virtual water. During recent years this concept has gained more significance within the scientific as well as the political debate. For a better understanding and evaluation of the concept's potentials the ISOE held an international workshop. The documentation of the workshop provides a detailed summary of the contributions. The documentation is available for download: http://www.isoe.de/ftp/vwt_documentation.pdf

Further informations on the workshop and its presentations:

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

The UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education has mentioned the workshop as a milestone in this debate: <http://www.waterfootprint.org>

03\ Strengthening the Practice of Transdisciplinary Research

Transdisciplinary research teams often face the problem of having only limited knowledge of tested methods, procedures and modes of operation for transdisciplinary research and its quality control. The reason is not a lack of information about given research fields; the problem rather lies in the

lack of an established tradition and of appropriate overviews, in which tested methods and procedures are collected in a manner that permits their transfer to the widest possible range of transdisciplinary areas of application. In addition, there are too few invitations to guide and monitor research projects and their conceptual planning and evaluation. The new project aims to support the conception, implementation and quality control of transdisciplinary research designs by putting together a comprehensive overview of theories, concepts, methods and procedures relevant to the practice of transdisciplinary research. For more information go to:

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

04\ Practical Quality Assurance & Management in Health Promoting Settings

Disease prevention and health promotion have become increasingly important to society during recent years. Numerous committed participants are striving to sustainably improve the population's health and quality of life through myriad innovative projects and programmes. High societal expectations for progress in achieving positive health related effects accompanied by simultaneous cost reductions in the health sector raise a crucial question: How can these programmes be put into practice most efficiently and effectively? Goal of the new project is therefore to develop a practice-oriented set of measures that will ensure the quality of health promoting programmes and projects in the setting of a neighbourhood. Further project information under:

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

05\ Urban Wasteland as a New Challenge

Cities are changing. They grow through new development projects; shrink when residents move away; their neighbourhoods age. In the past these processes ran their course without problems: established neighbourhoods were filled with new dwellers and functions. Today, demographical and structural changes are causing economic and social problems. Growing suburbs and exurbs increasingly occur at the expense of inner-city neighbourhoods. The project "Demand-driven Life-cycle Management" is to develop an array of tools that can be used by municipalities to evaluate the advantages of implementing urban revitalization or area renewal projects rather than using open land for construction. Further project information: <http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/refina.htm>

06\ MOVILIZATION - towards accessible cities

The project funded by the European Commission aims at implementing promotion measures for bicycle use in European and Latin American cities. By means of developing a toolkit for cities, which contains campaign materials, realization of (simple and cheap) traffic measures, and the development and dissemination of traffic education materials, this project aims to improve cycling conditions and therefore the cycling climate in the participating cities.

Activities of the MOVILIZATION project are the preparation, development and launching of educational, promotional and traffic campaigns combined with the implementation of relatively simple and cost effective traffic measurements. Read more under:

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

07\ Water 2050 - Sustainable Innovations for a Global Market Orientation

Around the globe, and especially in threshold and developing countries water is a burning issue for the future. German utility companies, sanitary equipment manufacturers, technology producers and consulting companies - despite their reputation for high quality work - have not tapped into this new market potential. The research project "Water 2050" aims to identify integrated solutions which will permit a clearly improved level of sustainability for water supply and sanitation systems. Find further information under: <http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/watervis.htm>

08\ Integrated Water Resources Managment in the Cuvelai-Delta, Northern Namibia

In Namibia, the most arid country south of the Sahara, water is a valuable and scarce resource. The joint research project CuveWaters aims to further the conceptual development and practical implementation of an integrated water resources management concept. The research focus is to secure and develop the endogenous resource potential of the region supported by technology transfer adapted to the regional conditions, knowledge management and stakeholder participation.

This project started in November 2006, and background information can be found on

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

09\ Adapted EU-Strategy for Sustainable Development Emphasizes Transdisciplinary

Research

The European Council has adopted a renewed "European Strategy for Sustainable Development". It builds on the Gothenburg strategy of 2001 and is the result of an extensive review process that started in 2004. The adapted strategy sets out a single, coherent strategy on how the EU will more effectively live up to its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development. It is setting up overall objectives, targets and concrete actions for seven key priority challenges for the years until 2010 such as climate change and clean energy, sustainable transport, sustainable production and consumption, public health threats, better management of natural resources, social inclusion, demography and migration as well as fighting global poverty. The strategy also points out the importance of promoting inter- and transdisciplinary approaches involving social and natural sciences and to bridge the gap between science, policy and implementation. Read more: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st10/st10117.en06.pdf>

Thomas Jahn gave a presentation entitled "Integrated Knowledge for Sustainable Innovations - a Transdisciplinary Perspective" to the issue on the occasion of the first European-wide discussion of the 7th Framework Research Programme at the conference "What Science - What Europe" hosted by the Greens/European Free Alliance (EFA) in the European Parliament in May 2005. Download: http://www.isoe.de/ftp/tagungen/thj_efaconference05.pdf
Abstract: http://www.isoe.de/ftp/tagungen/thj_efaconference05abstract.pdf

German private, non-profit research institutions have collaborated to draft comments on the forthcoming Seventh Framework Programme, and in particular on the proposed rules for participation. The results point out the need for measures to facilitate the participation of non-profit organisations through increased funding and the awareness of a general need for more transdisciplinary research. The document is available on the pages of the European Commission under: ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/fp7/docs/german_nonprofits_fp7_rules.pdf and on the page http://www.cordis.lu/fp7/debate_regional.htm#nat_stakeholders.

The CORDIS News Service has published a report on the comments under http://icadc.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=25570

Downloads and Publications

10\ Quality Criteria of Transdisciplinary Research available in print version

"Quality Criteria of Transdisciplinary Research. A Guide for the Formative Evaluation of Research Projects" which was published as the central result of the "Evaluation Network for Transdisciplinary Research" in 2005 in German language and at the beginning of this year in an electronic version in English which is now also available in a print edition. Further information on the guide: <http://www.isoe.de/english/press/evalunet.htm>. For orders please use our order-form: <http://www.isoe.de/english/service/bestform.htm>
For further information on the research project "Evaluation Network for Transdisciplinary Research": <http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/evalunet.htm>

11\ Transdisciplinary Research from a Social-Ecological Point of View

Diana Hummel opened the 3rd International Conference on Urban Ecology "Shrinking Cities - Ecological Consequences and Challenges for Urban Development" in September 2006 in Berlin and held a lecture on "Transdisciplinary Research from a Social-Ecological Point of View". Her presentation can be downloaded: http://www.isoe.de/ftp/tagungen/dh_berlin2006.pdf

12\ Gender Mainstreaming in Eifel National Park

Doris Hayn contributed the experiences of gender mainstreaming in this German National Park for the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization report "Time for Action. Changing the Gender Situation in Forestry" (p. 130-134). Download of the report: <ftp://ftp.foa.org/docrep/fao/009/a0549e/a0549e00.pdf>

13\ Population Dynamics and Conflicts on Water Resources in the Jordan River Basin

On the occasion of the "Third Environmental symposium of the German-Arab Society for Environmental Studies" on September 18th/19th 2006 Diana Hummel held a presentation on "Population Dynamics and Conflicts on Water Resources in the Jordan River Basin" based on the

findings of the project "demographic trends, needs & supply systems". The presentation can be downloaded: http://www.isoe.de/ftp/tagungen/dh_popdynamik_2006.pdf (7,7 MB pdf-file)
Further information on the project: http://www.demons-project.de/en_index.html

14\ Coping with Risks of Chemicals: Formal Models as Facilitators for Social Learning

Florian Keil, Stefan Liehr, and Immanuel Stieß discussed the role of formal models in stake-holder processes dealing with contested knowledge in the environmental risk assessment of chemicals at the Osnabrück workshop "Formalised and Non-Formalised Methods in Resource Management", September 21st, 22nd, 2006. Paper under:
http://www.intafere.de/download/Paper_Keil_Liehr_Stiess.pdf

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