Dear ESEE members, dear conference participants,

I cordially welcome you to this year’s 11th International Conference of the ESEE on “Transformations” at the University of Leeds. ESEE 2015 explores solutions for the transformation to a sustainable society, a very relevant topic to the European Society of Ecological Economics and its members.

Research and education are core for the transformation to sustainable societies, they play a key role in this transformation process and are even seen as drivers of transformation, as the German Advisory Council on Global Change put it in its 2011 flagship report on a “World in Transition – A Social Contract for Sustainability”. Our host, the University of Leeds, is also a flagship actor in this respect: supporting interdisciplinary transformation centres and themes including energy, water, food and cities. Students can enrol here at the University of Leeds in a Master’s Programme on International Social Transformation, as well as, from 2016, on a new Master’s Programme on Ecological Economics. And just to mention one more concrete example: Realising transition pathways to a low-carbon electricity system and infrastructure transformation in the energy sector belong to the major research fields of Tim Foxon, the chair of this ESEE 2015’s local organising committee.

So it comes with no surprise that transformation in all its facets is greatly reflected in the conference programme. It’s the focus of this year’s pre-conference summer school, it guided the choice of outstanding plenary speakers and their topics presented, it’s reflected in many of the conference themes and sessions, and last, but not least, in the mix of people participating and event formats chosen. ESEE 2015 is a meeting point for researchers, teachers, practitioners, students and even citizens, as the public is also invited to some of the keynote lectures.

I do wish the organisers of the 11th ESEE conference in Leeds all the best for a very successful event. The local organising committee not only made a great effort to organise a scientifically exciting event, they also offer occasions to explore various practical transitions to sustainability in the city of Leeds and its surroundings during and after the conference. Looking into the programme, I am quite confident that this will be an inspiring conference with a lot of stimulating presentations, round tables and opportunities for networking. Enjoy the conference, meet old and new friends, and become change agents to a more sustainable society!
Dear ESEE Members,

Last year, we had elections in ESEE. At the end of this year, we have elections again! This time the terms of office of the President, 2 Vice-Presidents, 3 Board Members, and 1 Student Representative is ending after 3 years.

We of course hope that the Board Members whose terms are expiring will stand again. However, we also hope for a broad feedback among the larger ESEE membership and count on your interest in playing an active role in the ESEE Board and get nominated for the election later this year. To be elected to the Board provides an opportunity to influence the direction of the Society and Ecological Economics in Europe and to work in a well-motivated team. Active engagement in the work of the sub-committees shall be considered as a matter of course.

As only paid ESEE Members are entitled to stand for elections and vote for the ESEE Board (exceptions apply to our student representatives who are elected by all Student Members), we encourage you to renew your membership as soon as possible.

An official call for nominations together with a more detailed timetable for the elections and information regarding the procedure will be made in the September newsletter.

Best wishes,

BEGUM OZKAYNAK
ESEE Secretary

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES IN ESEE BOARD

As you know, work in the ESEE Board is largely organised in sub-committees. With our newly elected and re-elected board members, in the ESEE electronic board meeting in February 2015, we partly reorganised the sub-committees. Here is an update regarding the assigned tasks:

- **Education committee**: Juha Hiedanpää (chair), Tatiana Kluvánková-Oravská, György Pataki (agenda: summer schools, ESEE training institutes, student prices, educational courses and programmes in Ecological Economics)

- **Fund raising and membership committee**: Nuno Videira (chair), Nina Eisenmenger (treasurer), Erik Gomez-Baggethun, Jasper Kenter, Ellen Stenslie (agenda: country contacts, membership, fund raising)

- **Conference and meetings committee**: Olivier Petit (chair); Timothy Foxon, György Pataki (for ESEE 2017), Irene Ring, Leslie Carnoye, Ellen Stenslie (agenda: ESEE conference venues, planning and supervision; ESEE workshops and meetings; ESEE supported events)

- **Publications and publicity committee**: Lenka Slavíková (chair); Begüm ÖzKaynak (EPG), Felix Rauschmayer, Jasper Kenter (Intranet), Leslie Carnoye (Facebook, students) (agenda: website, newsletter, relations with journals, marketing and PR)

Please do not hesitate to contact committee chairs in case you have questions, comments or inputs relating to the agenda topics below. Relevant contact information is listed on the ESEE webpage:

www.euroecolecon.org/governance/
THE ESEE CONFERENCE 2015 ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The ESEE 2015 conference is being organised by members of the School of Earth and Environment, School of Geography and Business School at the University of Leeds, together with the University’s Conference Office, MeetInLeeds. All three Schools have active research programmes in areas relevant to ecological economics.

Academics and researchers from the Sustainability Research Institute in the School of Earth and Environment (including Tim Foxon, Julia Steinberger, Dan O’Neill, Jouni Paavola, Paul Brockway, Lina Brand Correa, William Goulart de Silva, Rachel Huxley and Marco Sakai) are undertaking research on low carbon transitions, links between resource use and human wellbeing, steady state economics, environmental governance, energy-economy interactions, energy services, sustainability of agri-food systems, sustainable cities and macroeconomic modelling, see www.see.leeds.ac.uk/research/sri/

Academics and researchers from the School of Geography (including Jon Lovett, Frances Drake, Oliver Fritsch and Gordon Mitchell) are undertaking research on institutional economics of natural resource management, climate change discourses, EU water governance and environmental planning, see www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/

Academics and researchers from the Economics Division in Leeds University Business School (including Giuseppe Fontana, Gary Dymski and Malcolm Sawyer) are undertaking research on monetary economics, applied economics and financialisation in relation to economy, society and sustainable development, see www.business.leeds.ac.uk/

Opportunities exist on PhD and Masters programmes including MSc in Climate Change and Environmental Policy, Environment and Development, Sustainability and Business, and Sustainability and Consultancy in the School of Earth and Environment; MA in Global Urban Justice in the School of Geography; MSc in Economics in the Business School; and, from 2016, a new MSc in Ecological Economics, jointly run by the School of Earth and Environment and Leeds University Business School.
PARTICIPATION, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BY JASPER KENTER:
UNIVERSITY OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

Value pluralism, participation, bottom-up governance and deliberative democracy have been important topics for ecological economics research since its inception and there continues to be an on-going stream of papers on topics such as participation in environmental management and deliberative valuation.

The rhetoric associated with this has become increasingly mainstreamed in environmental management through the principles associated with the Ecosystem Approach, coined by the Convention on Biological Diversity, where management of ecosystems is seen as a matter of societal choice that should be devolved to the lowest appropriate level, involve all relevant stakeholders and consider all forms of relevant information, including local knowledge.

With all the rhetoric, in practice the term participation can be misleading, as it covers a wide spectrum of different levels of engagement. There are different ways of classifying participation. A foundational differentiation was made by Arnstein (1969) who distinguished between tokenism, where participation would in practice mean informing people with token consultation, and citizen power, where the public is able to genuinely engage with decision-making through partnerships or by directly taking control of decisions.

Pretty (1995) distinguished various tokenistic forms of participation: (1) ‘manipulative participation’, where people ‘participate’ through arbitrary representation; (2) ‘passive participation’, where people are ‘consulted’ in a unilateral way without any real opportunity to give input; (3) ‘participation by consultation’ where participants get to respond more, but do not influence what questions are asked of them; (4) ‘participation for material incentives’, where participation is focused on exchange of resources, e.g. participants might contribute their time and labour in return for material reward, but with little space for learning; and (5) ‘functional participation’, where there may be some genuine interaction and potential for shared decision-making, but where objectives are still pre-defined and participation is a means to achieve project goals.

Pretty also distinguished two forms of participation that are akin to Arnstein’s ‘citizen power’. In ‘interactive participation’, participation is seen as right rather than a means, and people participate in joint analysis, action plans, or strengthening of institutions. Finally, ‘self-mobilisation’ involves people take control of the process and make decisions independently of external institutions, though they may be supported in this by governments or NGOs.

While there are more recent and also different ways of distinguishing between types of participation, Pretty’s ladder provides a useful framework to consider institutions put forward by ecological economists and by environmental managers. For example, when a new payments for ecosystem services scheme (PES) is being set up, this is usually because there is some kind of catalyst agency, such as a conservation NGO, who sees PES as a means to generate income that otherwise would not be available to conservation, or as a way to provide land owners with incentives. Thus, the type of participation that is likely to be induced is functional (conservation as the end, participation in PES as a means) and material. The problem is then that this kind of participation only lasts while the incentives are there and may crowd out other types of participation where there is more emphasis on knowledge exchange and experimentation. To address this, the agency instigating the scheme would need to intentionally move more towards interactive participation and open up original premises to discussion. Thus, in the footsteps of Arnstein, recent frameworks for participation often emphasise participation as a means to catalyse learning and social change (e.g. IPCC, 2007).

However, this is not to say that citizen power end of the participation spectrum is by definition superior or preferred to less far reaching participation. Rather, it is important to recognise institutional constraints, and to clarify aims explicitly and to be transparent about the type of participation that is being engendered. For example, I recently facilitated a series of qualitative multicriteria analysis workshops with fishermen, recreationalists, conservationists and other stakeholders on how two newly designated marine protected areas (MPAs) on the south coast of England should be managed. The workshops were co-organised as an informal consultation process for the local fisheries authority that would have to decide on what measures to implement. Nonetheless, we made it clear from the outset that we were not going to discuss the legally binding conservation objectives of the site (protecting particular habitats and species), that options put forward for consideration were limited to those that were compatible with achieving those objectives, and that the aim of the participation was to try and find solutions to reduce conflict and increase buy-in within those parameters. Thus, this was a clear example of functional participation. Many of the fishermen resented that the MPAs were designated in the first place, the transparency about the nature of the participation contributed to that participants felt, in the end, that it was a worthwhile process where they had been taken seriously.

Often, in environmental management and also in valuation researchers themselves are unclear about their moral premises. Conservation biologists state as their basic premise that ‘biodiversity is good’ and more of it is better, and that the work they do serves this moral compass. In contrast, the fundamental principle underlying economic valuation of the environment and the use of economic instruments such as PES is to improve economic efficiency. Thus the position of many environmental economists is somewhat schizophrenic, and the tension is tolerated through a firm belief that if ‘proper’ values were assigned this would lead to better conservation outcomes. While ecological economists recognise a hierarchy of ecological, social and economic systems, in local environmental management this provides little practical guidance. Participation can make things quite complicated: are deliberative ecological economic institutions about conservation, about efficiency, or should it be left to participants to set the parameters?

Being clearer and more explicit about this helps us to decide what kind of participation is appropriate, and being transparent about the type and aims of participation to those who are being asked to participate can help to avoid much frustration and make the process more effective and gratifying.

JASPER KENTER
Jasper.kenter@sams.ac.uk; www.jasperkenter.com

REFERENCES
OPEN TOPIC

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE: COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR THE WELL-BEING OF EUROPEAN CITIES?

TATIANA KLVÁNKOVÁ, EVA STREBEROVÁ, MICHAL MACO:
SPECTRA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE, SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND SLOVAK UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

In recent decades urbanisation has been rapidly increasing, 54% of the world’s population was living in urbanized areas by 2014 and this number is projected to increase to 66% by 2050 (UN 2014). The majority of human activities are concentrated in cities and urbanized areas, making them the motors of economies and centres for cultural and social exchange. On the other side, such dynamics are resulting in irreversible changes to the Earth’s systems, such as the disequilibrium of the Earth’s energy balance, and the rise in greenhouse gas concentrations.

The urban population of the European Union is currently 70% (World Bank, 2013). Besides the already well-known negative impacts of urbanisation (such as increased demand for water, pollution, surface sealing, etc.), urban populations face new threats related to climate change. Such threats especially include urban heat islands, periods of drought, and other extreme weather events.

The concept of green infrastructure is seen as a major instrument by the European Commission in addressing the global challenges of climate change, as well as supporting the quality of life in cities (COM, 2013). The benefits of investing in green infrastructure in urbanized areas are twofold. In the first place citizens can benefit from multiple ecosystem services that green infrastructure provides, especially in terms of regulation services (air and water flow regulation, local climate regulation) and cultural services (recreation and community activities, scientific, spiritual and educational services, etc.). Secondly, green infrastructure is being promoted as a more cost-effective alternative than ‘grey’ infrastructure, or a complementary solution to land use changes in urban settings (DG Environment, 2012, Mazza et al., 2012).

The tragic experience of European cities in the past decade are alarming that traditional (governmental and centralised) activities to increase the capacity of city parks and other large green areas in cities are no longer capable of guaranteeing an adequate response and protection against the negative effects of climate change. In response, many European cities and regions have been developing strategies for the management of risks and challenges that climate change brings. In this context, the crucial question is how to increase the adaptive capacity of urban biophysical systems against disturbances, and how to protect their sustainable development?

Open public and semi-public urban spaces, such as residential gardens and urban gardens are studied in CE SPECTRA to indicate their potential to mitigate CO2 and increase the well-being of urban populations. Collective action in semi-public green spaces with equal and transparent rights and responsibilities is seen as a promising and more effective strategy to trigger behavioural change of ecosystem service users and producers to increase the climate regulation of urban green areas. According to the theory of collective management by Ostrom (1990, 2005, 2010), by crafting their own institutions the users of common pool resource regimes cooperate in maintaining their institution in the long term, and minimise costs for reaching their collective goals. Thus they have a more effective strategy than when an authority simply imposes rules. Self-governance, local knowledge, increased trust, and the willingness of communities to follow their own established rules, as Lin Ostrom said throughout her life.

REFERENCES
COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

To ease information sharing, contact and group discussions between all ESEE members, three main communication channels currently exist: a LinkedIn group, an email list and a Facebook group. Posting on either is open to all subscribers!

The LinkedIn group includes today more than 300 members. It is particularly useful for discussions and requests – e.g. you may be looking for useful paper references, you may be looking for help or feedback in preparing teaching materials, you want someone to informally review a paper, you may be looking for funding sources etcetera.

The email list and Facebook group are particularly meant for sharing events and announcement that may be useful to all ESEE members (new Master programs openings, PhD scholarships, summer schools, conferences and call for papers, Postdoctoral positions, recent publications, job offers etcetera.) The ESEE Facebook today includes more than 770 members!

On either channels, you are more than welcome to join us! Web links for subscriptions can be found in the ESEE website, Students section.

SPECIAL SESSION AT ESEE 2015S: ESEE EARLY CAREER SCIENTISTS NETWORKER MEETING

Four ESEE student members are arranging a special session for young researchers and students in Leeds. This special session is an opportunity to contribute in setting the future agenda for the ESEE and for young researchers and students to share their needs, wishes and dreams.

As early career researchers and students, we are the next generation and our voices deserves to be heard. The session is organised using Open Space and will contribute to the networking, development and self-governance of young researchers within ecological economics. We encourage you to join in on Thursday 2nd July.

ESEE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Remember – students can become ESEE members for free!

http://www eurocolecon.org/membership/

If you have any thoughts or concerns you would like to share with the student representatives on the ESEE Board, please get in touch with Leslie Carnoye (leslie.carnoye@gmail.com) or Ellen Stenslie (ellen.stenslie@gmail.com)
THE NORWEGIAN NETWORK FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS (NNEE)

The Norwegian Network for Ecological Economics (NNEE) was established 11. February 2014 in a meeting at Kjerringøy Brygge, outside Bodø. The network is open for students, researchers and other people that are interested in Ecological Economics. The initiative for the network was taken by students at the MBA in Ecological Economics at the University of Nordland. The MBA has run for 4 years, and consists of courses in circulation economics, eco-philosophy, CSR, ethical and sustainable banking, environmental leadership, industrial ecology and some more ordinary MBA courses. App. 50 students are either in or has finished a 90 ects MBA. The idea behind the network was to establish an arena for discussion and a meeting point for people interested in ecological economics, spread knowledge about ecological economics and participate in the public debate.

During the 10-years anniversary for the Centre for Ecological Economics at University of Nordland; Gunn Marit Christenson presented the network for the attendees, this was a great opportunity to identify new members and also people that could contribute. Arild Vatn (former president of ESEE) introduced ESEE and their structure. Oddbjørn Olsen, MBA student, entrepreneur and farmer presented how they had try to implement ecological economics in their work with ecological farming and food production (http://www.kjerringoygard.no/). The session was closed by Gunn Marit, which used the last part to discuss how the network could develop, find more member and become an actor in public debates.
EDUCATION AND NETWORKS

ESEE COUNTRY CONTACT NETWORK UPDATE

The ESEE is proud to announce its updated Country Contact Network to facilitate the transfer of information between the membership and the Board of ESEE. Country Contacts have been re-confirmed or nominated by the Board of ESEE in the following countries:

- **Austria**
  - Christian Kerschner
  - christian.kerschner@gmail.com

- **Germany**
  - Matteo Roggero
  - matteo.roggero@staff.hu-berlin.de

- **Slovakia**
  - Veronica Chobotova
  - verochobo@gmail.com

- **Belgium**
  - Tom Bauler
  - tbauler@ulb.ac.be

- **Greece**
  - Panos Kalimeris
  - pkalimeris@eesd.gr

- **Slovenia**
  - Andrej Udovč
  - andrej.udovc@bf.uni-lj.si

- **Belarus**
  - Maria Falaleeva
  - faloleeva_mariya@mail.ru

- **Hungary**
  - Gyorgy Pataki
  - gyorgy.pataki@uni-corvinus.hu

- **Spain**
  - Maria Jesús Beltrán
  - mjbeltran@upo.es

- **Bulgaria**
  - Filka Sekulova
  - fisekulova@gmail.com

- **Iceland**
  - Brynhildur Davísdóttir
  - bdavids@hi.is

- **Sweden**
  - Eva Friman
  - eva.friman@csduppsala.uu.se

- **Croatia**
  - Igor Matutinovic
  - igor.matutinovic@gfk.hr

- **Italy**
  - Tommaso Luzzati
  - tluzzati@ec.unipi.it

- **Switzerland**
  - Ivana Logar
  - ivana.logar@eawag.ch

- **Czech Republic**
  - Lenka Slavikova
  - slavikova@ieep.cz

- **Latvia**
  - Tatjana Tambovceva
  - Tatjana.Tambovceva@rtu.lv

- **Turkey**
  - Pinar Ertor
  - pinarertor@yahoo.com

- **Denmark**
  - Inge Røpke
  - ir@plan.aau.dk

- **Poland**
  - Zbigniew Dokurno
  - zbigniew.dokurno@ue.wroc.pl

- **Ukraine**
  - Maria Nijnik
  - m.nijnik@macaulay.ac.uk

- **Finland**
  - Nina Honkela
  - nina.honkela@helsinki.fi

- **Portugal**
  - Rita Lopes
  - ritajlopes@gmail.com

- **United Kingdom**
  - Marco Sakai
  - ee08masd@leeds.ac.uk

- **France**
  - Gaël Plumecocq
  - gael.plumecocq@toulouse.inra.fr

- **Romania**
  - Ioan M. Ciumasu
  - ciumioan@yahoo.com

The Country Contacts will:

- Provide the first port of call to present and prospective ESEE members in their countries;
- Promote ESEE membership in their country;
- Provide and channel news, announcements and other information to ESEE Newsletter;
- Represent the membership in a country towards the Board.

The ESEE will:

- Facilitate and foster collaboration among the members through the Country Contacts;
- Seek consultation and advice of country contacts and membership in their countries in matters where geographic representation is important, such as preparation for elections;
- Use the Country Contact network for fact-finding and dissemination;
- Support national activities and events of members in different countries on the basis of requests from national contacts by adopting, marketing and publicising them.

The ESEE Board meets country contacts in advance of conferences. The first meeting was held before ISEE 2014 and this practice will continue for ESEE 2015 and beyond to increase exchange between country representatives and ESEE members in the various countries.

The board of ESEE is happy to consider proposals regarding the appointment of Country Contacts for additional countries.

ERIK GÓMEZ-BAGGETHUN
EDUCATION AND NETWORKS

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

RSEE 2015: Natural Resource Management & Environmental Protection
7-11 JULY 2015
KAZAN, RUSSIA
For more information go to http://www.rsee.org.

XI National Meeting of the Brazilian Society for Ecological Economics
8-11 SEPTEMBER, 2015
ARARAQUARA – SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL
For more information go to http://www.ecoeco.org.br/.

CANSEE and USSEE Joint 2015 Conference
OCTOBER 1-4, 2015
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
For more information go to http://www.canussee2015.org.

ANZSEE 2015: Thriving Through Transformation – Local to Global Sustainability
19-22 OCTOBER 2015
ARMIDALE, NEW ENGLAND, AUSTRALIA
More information in due course.
For more information go to http://anzsee.org/anzsee2015conference/.

VII Conference of the ASAUEE
10-13 NOVEMBER, 2015
NEUQUÉN, NORTH PATAGONIA, ARGENTINA
For more information visit the ISEE Homepage.
EXECUTIVE BOARD

IRENE RING
PRESIDENT
irene.ring@ufz.de

TATIANA KLUVÁNKOVÁ-ORAVSKÁ
VICE PRESIDENT
tana@cetip.sk

ERIK GÓMEZ-BAGGETHUN
VICE PRESIDENT
Erik.Gomez@uab.cat

BEGUM OZKAYNAK
SECRETARY AND ESEE EDITOR OF EPG
begum.ozkaynak@boun.edu.tr

NINA EISENMENGER
TREASURER
nina.eisenmenger@aau.at

BOARD

TIMOTHY FOXON
t.j.foxon@leeds.ac.uk

JUHA HIEDANPÄÄ
juha.hiedanpaa@rktl.fi

LENKA SLAVÍKOVÁ
slavikova@ieep.cz

OLIVIER PETIT
opetitfr@yahoo.fr

NUNO VIDEIRA
nmvc@fct.unl.pt

JASPER KENTER
jasper.kenter@abdn.ac.uk

GYORGY PATAKI
gyorgy.pataki@uni-corvinus.hu

FELIX RAUSCHMAYER
felix.rauschmayer@ufz.de

ELLEN STENSLIE
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
ellen.stenslie@nmbu.no

LESLEI CARNOLY
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
leslie.carnoye@hotmail.fr