Evidence & Policy invites contributions to a Special Issue on

**Advancing evidence-based sustainable development policies: new approaches addressing the science-policy interface**

*Guest Editors: André Martinuzzi, Institute for Managing Sustainability, WU Wien
Gerd Scholl, Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW), Germany*

**Submission of extended abstracts (max. 500 words): April 1st, 2015**

Sustainable development policies gain momentum. The world awaits a global consensus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the year 2015. SDGs are to be universally and globally applicable goals that will shape policy agendas worldwide in both, the developed and developing countries for many years. Sustainable development is thus quickly becoming the norm underpinning of policies for societal wellbeing. As such it connects policy areas that have often been compartmentalised – social wellbeing, public health, environmental sustainability and thus acknowledges that social issues are often inherently connected to or affected by environmental issues. With climate change posing greater threats and the world leaders acknowledging the need for a policy agenda that encompasses the social, environmental and economic goals in one, new approaches to evidence based policy for sustainable development will be required.

Evidence based sustainable development policies face several challenges. Firstly, sustainable development draws on a broad array of disciplines to derive solutions. These disciplines differ in terms of their evidence base. Secondly, it often entails trade-offs between policy goals in different areas and requires policy makers to make judgements and prioritize between policy concerns in different areas. Thirdly, sustainable development requires policies with a long term view, e.g. policies we put in place now will have an impact on the environment, our natural resources for years to come even after the policy makers have changed. Long term view proves difficult within the short term tenures of policy makers or when other policy concerns are more immediate and have a more direct impact on citizen’s lives. Lastly, intragenerational and intergenerational justice is at the core of sustainable development, addressing values, ethics and fairness. These challenges call for innovative and smart ways for organising the evidence-policy interface that go beyond practices currently available in other policy areas.
Four recent tracks of scientific debates on the evidence-policy interface could serve as conceptual framings for individual contributions:

- **Conceptualising different types of evidence** (e.g. statistical data, research, evidence from citizens, evidence from practice, monitoring and evaluation) and the consequences for their use as evidence in the policy process.

- **Showing how boundaries between science and policy are strategically created** by actors in power thereby shifting the attention away from pre-existing social structures towards activities and practices that are constantly structuring social reality and, thus, reproducing it in time.

- **Examining the pathways of research findings translating into policy** and capturing what happens at the intersection of science and policy, where particular scientific arguments and political forces meet and how specific scientific knowledge is ‘passed along’ (or not).

- **Focusing on intermediary structures, specific boundary organisations and arrangements** between science, policy and the public, the knowledge brokerage processes and activities conducted on their boundaries, and highlighting the context of these activities.

In this Special Issue we aim to assemble original research papers that address and critically assess the evidence-policy interface in the area of sustainable development. Submissions to this special issue could address the following topics:

- **Case studies** providing detailed insights into the variety of ways to enhance the connectivity between research and policy-making for sustainable development.

- **Contributions addressing evidence and policy in different sub-domains of sustainable development**, such as energy and climate policies, resource efficiency, water management, sustainable consumption and production, etc.

- **Contributions covering experiences from different European countries**, thereby taking account of regional knowledge brokerage contexts.

- **Conceptual papers** contributing to further developing the theoretical understanding of the rationales and logics behind contemporary science-policy-interface practices.

The decision on full paper contributions for the special issue is done in a two-step process: Authors are invited to submit an Abstract of up to 500 words to the editors by April 1st 2015. On the basis of this abstract, the co-editors will invite a number of authors to submit Articles (full papers) which will undergo a double-blind peer-review process.

### Schedule

- Call for extended abstract issued: January 2015
- **Submission of extended abstracts (max. 500 words): April 1st, 2015**
- Invitation for submission of full papers: May 2015
- **Submission of full papers: Sept 1st, 2015**
- Planned publication: September 2016

Prospective contributors are invited to discuss their ideas informally with the special issue editors. Please send your abstracts until April 1st, 2015 to: andre.martinuzzi@wu.ac.at
About the Journal

Evidence & Policy is the first peer-reviewed journal dedicated to comprehensive and critical assessment of the relationship between research evidence and the concerns of policy makers and practitioners, as well as researchers. International in scope and interdisciplinary in focus, it addresses the needs of those who provide public services, and those who provide the research base for evaluation and development across a wide range of social and public policy issues.

Evidence and Policy is the ideal journal for putting forward the debate on the evidence-policy interface in the area of sustainable development...

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Managing Editors:
Annette Boaz, Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences,
St. George's, University of London & Kingston University, UK
David Gough, Institute of Education, University of London, UK.
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Contact information of guest editors

André Martinuzzi
Institute for Managing Sustainability,
WU Vienna University of Economics and Business,
Welthandelsplatz 1, A-1020 Vienna, Austria
email: andre.martinuzzi@wu.ac.at
phone: +43-1-313 36 4698

Gerd Scholl
Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW),
Potsdamer Str. 105, D-10785 Berlin, Germany
email: gerd.scholl@iow.de
phone: +49-30-884 594-20